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NEW YORK GRAD COMMITTEE BRINGS LVT MESSAGE TO HARLEM, OTHER COMMUNITIES

Some 50 Harlem residents attended a day-long program examining the implications of land value taxation in that community and other inner city areas last month.

"Progress Without Poverty for the People of Harlem" was an attempt to "spark an awareness among the people of this city of what incentive taxation has to offer," according to Richard Barbuto, one of the sponsors of the session.

"We tried to bring the school to the people, instead of just bringing people into the school," added Cyril Harvey, another sponsor.

The day began with a bus tour of Harlem, led by Dr. Rita Webb Smith. In addition to leading the fight to rid Harlem of drugs and to foster community development, Dr. Smith is a Georgist of long standing—a fact which was reflected in the tour.

The panel took place in the Harlem State Office Building. It began with a viewing of the documentary, *"A Tale of Five Cities"* which provides background on the LVT story as practiced in Pennsylvania. Barbuto then proposed that the New York City Council undertake a study similar to the one underway in Albany to determine if LVT would be an appropriate means for the city to collect revenues.

Joining him on the proposal panel were Edward Dodson, a mortgage officer and HGS board member, and Assemblyman Daniel Feldman, sponsor of the bill which authorized the New York State study.

The probe panel, made up of non-Georgists, consisted of the following people:

LeRoy Bowser, of the New York Urban League; Kathryn S. Wylde, executive vice president of the New York City Housing Partnership; Horace Carter, president of the Emmanuel Peterson Historical Society of Harlem; and Stephanie Pinto, from Assemblyman Jerrold Nadler's office.

In addition, Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, who was originally scheduled to participate in the panel segment before announcing his candidacy for mayor, spoke briefly during the panel, but did not specifically address property tax reform.

The panels debated the relative merits of the proposal and answered questions from the audience. George Collins, director of the Henry George School of Philadelphia, was the moderator.

According to Elizabeth Reeves, graduate research committee coordinator, the Harlem program was the first in a series designed to focus on specific neighborhoods. Plans are underway to bring the panel format to the South Bronx and, later, Brooklyn. In addition, Manuel Felix, a HGS teacher, will sponsor a similar presentation at the United Nations in May.

For further information on GRC programs, call Ms. Reeves at 212 697-9880