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RELIGIOUS LEADERS DISCUSS ECONOMICS, HENRY GEORGE, LVT

Six religious leaders participated in an ecumenical dialogue on economic themes which was conducted at the New York School last month.

The recent Pastoral Letter by the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the economy and the Henry George speech "The Crime of Poverty" served as starting points for the two-hour session, but they "did not restrict the free flow of ideas," according to Fryda L. Ossias, who organized the meeting as part of the Graduate Research Committee's series of spring events.

"The program was loosely-structured throughout," she said. "The only direction we agreed upon was to shift the focus back to economics whenever it seemed to move astray."

The participants included:

Monsignor Howard Basler, chairman of the Social Action Committee of Catholic Charities, Brooklyn;

Dr. Algenon Black, founder of the Society for Ethical Culture;

Rabbi Robert Gordis, editor of "Judaism", a philosophical quarterly;

Lancaster Greene, representing the Society of Friends;

Fr. Morton A. Hill, Morality in Media;

Rev. Wylie Young, moderator of the session.

Among the conclusions drawn by the clergymen in attendance was that the link between economics and religion was indeed strong, but that too few clerics were aware of the importance of the dismal science.

Father Hill saw larger implications. He proposed that a large-scale media campaign be undertaken to introduce land economics into the traditional labor-vs.-capital argument which informed the Pastoral Letter.

Algenon Black also looked toward the Big Picture. He proposed that the March meeting serve only as the first in a series of sessions which would unite young theologians with economists.

Mrs. Ossias: "What was especially rewarding was that Algenon Black formulated the very plan I would have advanced: A series of monthly colloquies linking priests, ministers and rabbis with theologians. Of course, there would ideally be different participants each month and, perhaps, we could open the sessions up to observers."

'PERSPECTIVES ON THE PROPERTY TAX' THE FOCUS OF HENRY GEORGE LECTURE AT ST. JOHN'S

While the eyes of most students were riveted on St. John's march through the NCAA basketball tournament last month, a good many of them took time out to attend the Spring '85 Conference in the Henry George Lecture Series on March 18.

"Perspectives on the Property Tax" was the topic of the two-hour program.

William K. Block, New York City's deputy commissioner of finance, shared the podium with David H. Gaskell, executive director of the State's Division of Equalization and Assessment and Professor Steven Cord.