

Polly Roberts Speaks at CGO

Continued from page 3

Polly Roberts, past President of the Henry George School in San Francisco presented a paper based on her doctoral dissertation, "Consequences and Causes of Unequal Distribution of Wealth", at a meeting sponsored by the Council of Georgist Organizations, in New York.

Ms. Roberts pointed out some of the major differences between poor and rich people in her presentation. "Where richer and poor people occupy similar land, richer people improve it less", she said. The richer people get more production per worker on their land, even though they use fewer workers, and use the land less intensively.

The choice of land richer people prefer, tends to be prime agricultural land which appreciates in value. They often do not buy land like slums, but buy land on the edge of growing cities, or in the central business district.

Another important difference is that richer people are more future-oriented, and tend to sacrifice proportionally more for future benefits. This orientation allows these families to maintain their wealth from generation to generation; while the present orientation of poorer families similarly maintains poverty.

Ms. Roberts has had extensive experience in the field of economics, and particularly in land taxation. In 1970, following her graduation from Radcliffe, she worked on two Ralph Nader studies, one on the U.S. Dept of Agriculture and the other on land use in California. She served as HGS President in San Francisco in 1975, and organized a conference, "Urban Growth: Up or Out?", together with the Sierra Club and the sponsorship of the Association of Bay Area Governments. She has been a doctoral candidate in economics at the University of California at Berkeley since 1972. She now resides in New York.

Earth Day Conference

The Council of Georgist Organizations is sponsoring a one-day seminar, "The Economics of Peace: An Earth Day Conference", on Saturday, March 21, 1981, from 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Henry George School in New York.

According to Mark Sullivan, Council Secretary, participating groups include the New World Alliance, the Henry George School and the Institute, SANE, and Students for a Libertarian Society.

A full report on the conference will appear in a forthcoming issue of HGN. The public is invited to attend. For further information, contact Mr. Sullivan at the school.

whole, very attractive for those who receive the benefit of government programs and in large measure to those who must support them.

While new taxes are in themselves seldom popular, the projected revenue of the land value tax could be the subject of positive national discussion as to expenditure choices. It is clear in the proposal that infrastructure development, both urban and rural, would be a natural avenue for such expenditures, returning to the land the enhancement of its value, thus improving the revenue stream as a constantly growing source.

Three levels of the project are outlined in the proposal. The first would examine the implementation of the new tax and the utilization of the newly generated revenues. The second level would entail a complete estimation of land value by class and location of property, which would provide aggregate analyses of the effects of land value taxation on urban and rural, manufacturing, commercial and natural resource

Continued on page 8