

The President's Report

COURSE revision and a new approach to the academic community were the main points of School President Arnold A. Weinstein's report to the conference.

An overhaul of our "bread and butter" course was undertaken by Robert Andelson, former San Diego extension director and now Professor of Philosophy at Auburn University, and Stan Rubenstein, a high school teacher. This extensive work, based on the Madsen abridgment of *Progress and Poverty*, Mr. Weinstein explained, has been subjected to careful scrutiny by many of our own teachers and academicians such as Nicholas Tideman of Harvard (son of the San Francisco extension executive vice president). It is also being worked on by William Truehart, former Los Angeles extension director, now working on his doctorate in economics. "Because *Progress and Poverty* is not a textbook," Mr. Weinstein said, "I have asked Stanley Sinclair to develop a text on the ideas of Henry George, bringing them up to date. All in all I expect that we will produce a better course, but it will take time."

Mr. Weinstein outlined the program for the coming term as follows:

(1) This fall, the second semester of "History of Economics Thought" will be given by Jack Schwartzman. He will take up where he left off last June in his tracing of this subject from Biblical times to Keynes. "It was a remarkable success," Mr. Weinstein said, "and I don't think we have anything to lose by exposing students to other economists."

(2) We will repeat Stanley Sinclair's course on "Money Matters."

(3) We are introducing round-table discussion groups called "Economics for Today." These will involve sep-

arate groups of businessmen and young people who will be introduced to the ideas of George as well as to Samuelson, Friedman and Netzer.

(4) A new course, "The Philosophy of Henry George," is being developed by James Allen, who is a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University.

(5) On September 15th we will inaugurate a "first" for the School. It will be a 15-week lecture series titled "Economic Realities of Urban America," to be given by eleven professors and two former government officials. This roster will include such familiar authorities as Dick Netzer of New York University, A. M. Woodruff, Chancellor of the University of Hartford, and C. Lowell Harriss of Columbia.

"I mention this lecture series last," Mr. Weinstein commented, "not because that is the order of its importance but because I wanted to emphasize that great value should accrue to the School from activity of this kind. It is essential for the School to improve its relations with the academic community."

He commented that it was very interesting to observe the comments of those who saw the film "Better Cities," and to see how pleased they were by the endorsement of land value taxation ideas by professors and other academicians. "This is in pleasant contrast to those among us who so often have scorned the academic community," he said. "We should have learned by now that such an attitude brings no reward. The consequence has been that we are ignored by the community as a whole."

Mr. Weinstein also made reference to research being done at the HGS in New York by several bright young people, and expressed his confidence that they are developing material and

ideas which will be of great use to us. "I don't have any monopoly on ideas or brains," he concluded. "I would like to hear anyone's ideas that will make the School a more effective instrument."

Environmental Quality

THE First Annual Report of the Council on Environmental Quality prepared at the President's request, has been sent to Congress. In this exhaustive analysis it was noted that of all the problems facing the environment, misuse of the country's available land resources is "the most out-of-hand and irreversible."

The Council suggested a careful look at tax laws which "encourage exploitation and cheap construction, and it proposed a variety of other measures ranging from quick Federal purchase of available wilderness areas to more vigorous metropolitan planning to insure wiser use of public and private lands." According to an account in The New York Times (August 11th) the report's only major departure is "its

recommendation for what would amount to a national land use policy to match the country's available land resources to its rising population in an 'orderly' manner."

The Council's report stated that the property tax "encourages architectural design which leans more to rapid amortization than to quality. It may also encourage poor land use because of the need for communities to favor industrial development and discourage property uses, such as high-density housing, which cost more in public services than they produce in property taxes. Other taxes encourage land speculation and the leapfrog development that has become the trademark of the urban-rural fringe."