

Financing Planet Management

A fruitful collaboration has ensued between two forward-thinking women in the Georgist movement, judging by the Winter '93-94 issue of *The Mercury*, the newsletter of the Northern California HGS, edited by Mary Rose Kaczorowski, and *Financing Planet Management*, a new booklet written by Alanna Hartzok (and designed by Mary Rose). The theme is "Sovereignty, World Order and the Earth Rights Imperative," applying the paradigm of public land-rent collection to the accelerating international problems of the looming millennium.

A key document, reprinted in both publications (see page six), is the "International Declaration on Individual and Common Rights to Earth." The declaration was presented at last summer's CGO conference in Los Angeles, in the form of an impressive poster (which incorporated the graphic reprinted on page two). The document was first presented, however, at the 1949 International Conference for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade in London. New supplementary text, written by Mary Rose Kaczorowski, citing facts on current concentrations of land ownership and articulating a modern international Georgist message, forms the reverse side of this powerful document.

Alanna Hartzok recognizes that the notion of international sovereignty is not widely recognized, but she asserts that the need for it is strong enough that it will be, sooner or later. She quotes the conventional wisdom of Peter Hansen, Executive Director of the Independent (UN) Commission on Global Governance, "The United Nations cannot by the nature of things, have the formal attributes of (continued on page three)

Henry George News, March - April 1994

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sovereignty - which has been defined around a territory, around a [specific] population... because centralized control of a sovereign body with a given territory and population... [is not the same thing as a sovereign UN]. To assume that it would be is not a very meaningful way, in my opinion, to define the subject."

"It seems to me," Hartzok replies, "that the UN has in fact been defined around a given territory, that territory being the planet as a whole, as well as a specific population, which is all the planet's people."

At issue are two paramount contentions: that government exists, as Jefferson said, to secure the rights of the people - and that people have the right to live, and therefore the right to use the natural resources from which they must produce their sustenance. If international relationships threaten that right, then international sovereignty must be there to protect it.

Hartzok surveys ground rent policies that exist at various levels today, from local property taxation to the Law of the Seas and the treaty governing Antarctica. Then in that spirit she proceeds to explain how public collection of land rent can be practically administered by the various levels of government, from local to global. (See box.) Not only can this be done, she declares, it must be done. "If the present political structure of democracy were sufficient for the task, than Washington, D.C. would be the New Jerusalem, Philadelphia would truly be a city of brotherly love, and every slice of the Big Apple would taste sweet."

Copies of *Financing Planet Management* are available from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 41 East 72nd Street, New York, NY 10021. For *The Mercury*, contact the Northern California HGS, 1568 Schader St., San Francisco, CA 94117.