

School Notes

Henry George
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TRUSTEES RE-ELECTED

At the February meeting of the Henry George School Board of Trustees, Edward J. Dodson was re-elected to serve another one-year term as President of the Board. Other officers re-elected are Oscar B. Johannsen and Fryda L. Ossias as Vice-Presidents, and Lancaster M. Greene as Treasurer. George L. Collins resigned as Secretary and Constance Weinstein was elected to succeed him. Mr. Collins has served as Secretary since 1977; in September he will succeed Stan Rubenstein as Director of the New York headquarters. Mrs. Weinstein has served as a Trustee for six years, and is a former teacher of English as a second language for the New York City School System. She retired in 1982 after twenty-eight years of teaching. Other Trustees re-elected for another term are: Richard Barbuto, Steven Cord, William P. Davidson, Felice Gruskin, R. Dean Meredith, Sydney A. Mayers, Paul S. Nix, Jr., C. Matthew Ossias and Si N. Winters.

PHILADELPHIA GOES TO LONG ISLAND

"The Philadelphia Story" is the theme of the public forum sponsored by the Long Island Extension, to be held on May 10th from 8 to 9:45 PM at the Plainview Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview. Last year, with the support of Mayor Goode, Philadelphia came close to adopting a two-rate property tax system allowing land to be taxed separately from improvements. The bill will be reintroduced sometime this May, and if it passes, Philadelphia will become the largest city in the US to tax land and buildings separately. (The current title is held by Pittsburgh.)

Stan Rubenstein, Director of the Long Island Extension, will open the program with introductory remarks which will include a preview of the summer International Henry George Conference to be held in Philadelphia [see front page]. George Collins, Philadelphia School Director, will be the main speaker and will also answer questions from the floor. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited, free of charge. The Plainview Library is 1/4 mile east of Oyster Bay Expressway.

CHICAGO UPDATE

Sam Venturella, Director of the Chicago School, reports that classes organized this past winter included Fundamental Economics (using George's *Progress & Poverty*) and Applied Economics (*Protection or Free Trade and Social Problems*). Richard Grossman led the former; Mr. Venturella, the latter. Mr. Venturella also recently called in to, and spoke over the air on, WGN radio on the possible sale of the world's tallest building in Chicago (the Sears Tower) to a Japanese consortium. He called attention to the distinction between owning a building and owning land — and why the latter should be taxed, but not the former. Mr. Venturella followed up his call with a letter to Bob Collins, the WGN radio host.

School Notes

CALIFORNIA: GREENS, TEACHERS, NEWSLETTERS & DINNERS

Another class for the San Francisco Greens began in January with Bob O'Donnell, former President of the San Francisco School, teaching. This is part of an ongoing program launched in the Bay Area to educate ecological and social reform groups in the fundamentals of economics.

The New York and California Schools participated in the March Convention of the California Council of Social Studies Teachers. Stan Rubenstein presented a half-day workshop on using the Land & Freedom series developed for American History, World History, and Economics. "Why the Market Fails" was explained by Harry Pollard, Director of the Los Angeles HGS. Wendell Fitzgerald, Education Director of the San Francisco School, headed a section meeting using Appalachia as a case study of relating land and poverty. E. Robert Scrofani, Executive Director of the SF HGS and veteran teacher at Berkeley High School, led a workshop on Jamestown and Disneyland as models for teaching the factors of production. The Henry George School also participated in the meetings and reception of Calnet, the network of California Economics teachers.

Booknotes, published by the World Affairs Council, has recently published Mr. Scrofani's review of *The Peasant Betrayed: Agriculture and Land Reform in the Third World* by John Powelson and Richard Stock (published by Lincoln Institute of Land Policy). The premise of the book, following a survey of over twenty-five nations, is that neither leftwing nor rightwing regimes have served the interests of the peasants. Land reform in these countries, Scrofani writes, "is not implemented to give the peasant a place in society. The pattern in most Third World countries is to centralize power in the State and then transfer the agricultural surplus to the State. The result, almost without exception, is that output decreases and the peasants are impoverished." For a copy of this full-page review, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Bob Scrofani, c/o 2246 Milvia, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Dr. Bob Harris, Economic Education Consultant to the California State Department of Education, addressed a dinner sponsored by the Sacramento Extension of the Henry George School on Thursday, January 26th, at the Sierra Inn in Sacramento. The Theme of his talk was "Tragic Choices." Dr. Harris came to the attention of the Henry George School with his call to teach values, choices, and controversial issues, "not pre-digested reality." [See the January 1989 issue of this Newsletter.]

Two Chinese Republics — on the mainland and on Taiwan — was the subject of the Los Angeles School's February Dinner held at Les Freres French Restaurant. Are the two Republics headed toward a Georgist economic system? This question was addressed by Dr. Mason Gaffney and Dr. Asiz Khan. Dr. Gaffney, recently a key presenter at the Taiwan Institute of Land Reform, is a leading expert in land reform and economic development. Dr. Khan, who left Oxford University to teach economics at University of California, Riverside, dealt with emerging land-use patterns and economic trends in the People's Republic.

PHILADELPHIA: GEORGE "AFTER DARK"

After Dark, section two of Philadelphia's weekly *Welcomat*, featured a roundtable discussion on economics in its January 25th issue, under the heading "Moneyworks." Participants quoted in this several-page transcript are: Carol Cunningham, Manager, Vanguard Intermediate Bond Funds; Richard Duboff, Professor of Economics, Bryn Mawr College; and George Collins. Mr. Collins called attention to the role of the land market in Japan as one of the causes of increased Japanese investment in the US, and to the role of high land prices in causing economic depressions. The discussion ranged over a whole series of interwoven issues: inflation and interest rates, the decline of US domination of the world economy, US trade and budget deficits, investing in collectibles — and in real estate.