

Linking Economics to Ethics in California High Schools

San Francisco HGS Director Robert Scrofani and a team of three California teachers presented the first draft of an "Ethics in Economics" Curriculum at the Conference of the National Council for Social Studies Teachers. Northern California HGS is a major sponsor of the project.

"The new curriculum is designed to increase teacher awareness of the ethical issues involved in or economic decision-making," according to Scrofani, who teaches social studies at Berkeley High School. "In general the Joint Council on Economics guidelines are limited to discussing 'what is,' rather than 'what ought to be.' In practice this means teachers guided by textbooks do not really consider the ethical consequences of our decisions."

Motivated by a belief that ethics is indeed integral to the teaching of economics, the group of teachers led by Scrofani and Robert Vaughan, from Harbor High School in Santa Cruz, sought support to begin series of workshops to supplement the "status quo" of the current economics

curriculum. Joining HGS in supporting the project are the Center for Economic Conversion and Educators for Social Responsibility.

Sections of the new ethics curriculum were revised for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers and presented recently at an "Economics Across the Curriculum" seminar sponsored by the Woodlands, California School District. A formal presentation will be made to teachers at the annual conference of the California Social Science Conference in March 1991. After testing by teachers and review by economics professors, it will be made available by the Center for Economic Conversion and the Henry George School.

Other materials, developed jointly by the New York and Northern California HGS for high school use, were distributed at various conferences during 1990, including Bay Area Global Education Program Summer seminar on "History Behind the Headlines" and a Stanford University Economics Workshop in August.

L.A. 1991 ESSAY CONTEST: Economics of Unilateral Free Trade

Henry George's philosophy and the realities of today is the theme of this year's college essay contest sponsored by the Southern California HGS. The theme of unilateral free trade raises the question: What would happen if the US, for example, institutes a policy of absolute free trade, no tariffs or quotas, even though other countries do not? The question can be extended to included unrestricted, or free, immigration of labor as well as wealth.

Entrants must be undergraduates in colleges or universities in southern California, and submit a typewritten paper not more than 15 double-spaced pages no later than April 30. Winners will be notified by May 30, 1991. Entrants will receive, through the faculty or department sponsor of their choosing, a copy of *Protection or Free Trade* along with a packet of support material. Anyone wishing further information, or to enter the contest, should contact HGS in Tujunga.

SCHOOL NOTES

Residents of Long Island, New York, gathered on the evening of November 28, 1990, to hear several speakers present their ideas on the current state of affairs with regard to local public finance. Sponsored by the Long Island extension of HGS, the panel discussion was held at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library.

Considering the fact that living on Long Island is more expensive than in almost any other area in the United States, the panelists addressed the questions of how to maintain this style of living, how to pay for it, and whether or not current methods of financing local government are effective and fair.

Stan Rubenstein, Long Island extension director, introduced each of the three panelists: Mr. Mario Colleluori, President

of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School Board and founder of Taxpayers Union of Long Island; Mr. Fred Gang, educator and founding member of H.E.A.R.T. (Honest Education and Responsible Taxation); and Mr. Albert Fink, Long Island HGS faculty and board member. A lively discussion ensued, and refreshments were served.

The Sacramento extension of the Northern California HGS co-sponsored a public forum on "Our Forests, Our Environment, Our Pocketbooks." Asking the question, "What will propositions 128, 130, and 138 really do?", the forum was held on October 15, in time to "cut through the rhetoric before we vote in November," according to extension Director Evelyn Friend.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue includes a feature on the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, our second in a series on Georgist organizations.

1991 Conference of the Council of Georgist Organizations: We will have all the necessary details concerning registration in our next issue. Lafayette College, as announced, will be the site of the Conference, with optional accommodations being arranged at a downtown Easton (PA) hotel. Dates, once more, are confirmed for Friday evening June 14 to Tuesday morning June 18. The conference will be preceded by Lafayette College's own scholarly Henry George Conference on Thursday June 13, to which CGO Conferees will be invited. A Common Ground USA post-Conference will follow from Tuesday morning June 18 to Thursday breakfast June 20.

The Council of Georgist Organizations now has for sale the videotape of "First the Bad News, Then the Good News (The Road to Peace)," an address by American Indian activist and libertarian Russell Means at the 1990 Georgist Conference in Santa Fe (see our September/October Newsletter). The address was enthusiastically received, and the color videotape is being sold as a fundraiser for the Council. If you wish to order copies, please send \$15 per tape plus \$3 per order to the Council of Georgist Organizations, 121 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016.

"Jai Bhim!" Progress & Poverty - Liberty & Justice in India: On Saturday, April 13, 1991, New York's Columbia University will honor the 100th birthday of Bhimrao R. Ambedkar, who rose from his Untouchable background in India, earned a Ph.D. in Sociology at Columbia in 1916, and was the chief architect of the Constitution of India when it won independence from Britain. Dr. Ambedkar is regarded as the liberator of the (now ex-) Untouchables. In his search for a way out of the oppressive Hindu caste system, he examined but did not embrace Marxism and violence even as he took inspiration from the democratic ideals of the French revolution: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. In his own lifetime and since his untimely death in 1956, millions of ex-Untouchables have followed his example by converting from Hinduism to Buddhism, in order to affirm their freedom and dignity as individuals and to lift themselves up as a community from poverty and oppression. For information, contact: VISION (Volunteers In Service to India's Oppressed and Neglected), 359 Morningside Ave., Fairview, NJ 07022 (Tel: 201-945-3774).