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"UNDERSTANDING ECONOMICS" BRINGS BASIC COURSE INTO THE LIVINGROOM

A new 12-part television series, "Understanding Economics", made its debut on four cable TV stations this fall.

Produced by the Henry George Schools of New York and Philadelphia, in cooperation with Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the series is the first attempt to put the basic Georgist course on television.

Each half-hour program features discussions between Stan Rubenstein and George Collins, which focus on specific aspects of the economy from a Georgist perspective, a panel discussion involving three university students, and closing remarks by Professor Steve Cord.

Each week, the course expands on material previously covered. However, each is also self-contained -- a newcomer to program six will understand most of what is covered and be able to continue. The program topics are:

1. "Money, Money, Money: Misconceptions About Wealth", examines the true nature of wealth and the fallacy of accumulated wealth.
2. "Dirt Cheap Isn't Cheap Anymore", explores patterns of land ownership and concentration, its unique role in urban and rural life.
3. "People: The Real Value Makers", which opens discussion of immutable economic laws.
4. "When Natural Allies Clash", focuses on the imagined war between labor and capital.
5. "Space Invaders: How Speculation Keeps Americans Out Of Work", describes how land speculation contributes to such problems as inflation, unemployment and recessions.
6. "Adding Up Our Losses -- The Cost Of Growth", examines the environmental crisis and inner-city poverty as a by-product of growth.
7. "Yes, Virginia, There Is A Remedy", explores the concept of a single tax on the unearned value of land.
8. "Taxing Land, Not People", applies Adam Smith's canons of taxation to a number of major taxes, including a land value tax, and assesses the results and implications of the exercise.
9. "Watching It Work", examines the record of land value taxation in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Alabama, Australia, New Zealand, etc.
10. "The New Slavery", finds land monopoly to be a major contributor to many economic crises.
11. "The Mother Of All Monopolies", views land monopoly from a historical perspective.
12. "Looking Forward: The Road To Economic Independence", views the choices we face in ensuring justice for everyone.

"Understanding Economics" was produced largely in-house. In addition to the contributions of those mentioned above, valuable help was provided by Mark Sullivan and Ed Dodson (for graphics, charts and other visual aids) and Mike Gavaghan (who prepared the 24-page study guide which will be offered free of charge to interested viewers).

Georgists who want more information about the series, and those who would like to explore getting "Understanding Economics" on the air in their areas, are invited to contact Stan Rubenstein at the New York School.