

## New Social Group Organized

About 50 guests and graduates of the Henry George School were present at an informal get-together in the School's lounge on Tuesday evening, April 19th. After a short refreshment period, Mr. Paul Nix, the President of the School, delivered a few remarks. He reminded the group that possibly those who had taken the Fundamental course might have found it represented a turning point in their lives; not so much in the sense of a change in their careers or personal fortunes, but rather in the sense of a more acute perception of what is going on locally, statewide and federally.

One of the advantages of having a grasp of the fundamentals is that a better evaluation of any proposals made on items such as tax reform,

minimum wages, social security, price controls and energy crises can be made. But, it is not only a better understanding of political legislation that is possible, but also that a sounder knowledge of broader questions is obtained.

Mr. Nix urged that each one discuss his new knowledge with his friends. He cautioned them, however, not to expect instant converts. All of us have a vested interest in our own opinions so those of others must be respected. To be overly enthusiastic may lead one to be labeled as a fanatic.

He also suggested that letters be written to newspapers; that they be brief and factual, but not to expect overnight enthusiastic approval. As teachers are always at a premium, Mr. Nix encouraged

those interested to take advanced courses in order to qualify for the faculty.

He particularly emphasized that if the nation is to escape from the muddle it is in, inasmuch as dependence on politicians is futile, an educated electorate is needed. And to attain this end, one thing which all of us can do is to acquire as good an understanding as is possible of the fundamental principles of the free society which Henry George envisioned.

The group enjoyed the social gathering so much that it was decided to organize and to meet on a regular basis on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss the problems of the day as related to George's philosophy.

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## Public Transit and LVT

Dr. William Filante, President of LEAF (Land, Equality and Freedom) wrote the President urging him to use his leadership to encourage the development of public transit systems as a means of helping to alleviate the nation's energy problems.

Such systems, Dr. Filante stated, would help to solve local communities' transit problems as well as to reduce drastically energy requirements, pollution and cost-of-living.

He pointed out that such systems could be established "without subsidies by simply using the principle of local assessment of increased land values." He argued that a major improvement, such as a public transit project "results in an increase in surrounding land values that exceeds the cost of the project." By taxing such land value increases, the entire expenses involved could be recovered without the necessity of other nuisance taxes, as sales and income taxes.

Dr. Filante believes sending communications such as his to leaders of thought is an excellent means of spreading an understanding of Georgist principles.

## 241 Complete Fundamental and Advanced Courses!

A total of 59 adult students completed the course in *Progress and Poverty* held in the New York School this past Spring.

In addition, 47 adults took advanced courses. These were *The City, State and Region*, *Money and Banking*, and *Man and His Land*.

The High School Program consisted of 135 teenagers. Their work in the School, which gave them new insights into the theory of land value taxation as well as some grip of Henry George's ideas, is credited toward their graduation from their respective high schools.

So much interest was evinced by those who completed the various courses, that it is expected that in the Fall, additional courses will be given based on other major works of Henry George.

Altogether, a total of 241 youngsters and adults completed the fundamental and advanced courses.