

INTERNATIONAL GEORGIST CONFERENCE SET

The 16th International Georgist Conference will be held at Selwyn College, Cambridge, England from August 4 to August 11, 1984.

The International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade, which is sponsoring the conference, is accepting early reservations for the week-long event. There is a \$60 non-returnable deposit required to secure accommodations. Georgists who make their deposits prior to January 4 will receive a substantial discount on the \$37.50 conference fee.

There are a wide-range of accommodation packages available, for day visitors and week-long participants, each reasonably priced. (Please note that all charges are being converted from British Pounds, and are subject to currency fluctuations.)

The conference program is being left open to allow participants to take advantage of late-breaking topics of concern. However, in accordance with requests made at the General Meeting in Holland last summer, more program time will be set aside in which members can discuss matters of special interest.

The program calls for a one-day outing to the Sandringham Estate, provided no members of the Royal Family are in residence. In addition, a six-course banquet will be served to all participants on the last evening.

Selwyn College offers single-room accommodations, a wood-panelled chapel, a large dining hall, a bar, a TV room and a large, attractive garden.

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE CONDUCTS SYMPOSIUM ON FATHER MCGLYNN

A symposium on Father Edward McGlynn, who was excommunicated for his support of Henry George, was held in the New York School on November 5. Sponsored by the Henry George Institute, the session "re-evaluated the McGlynn case," according to President Robert Clancy.

Father McGlynn, pastor of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church, was an advocate of Henry George's teachings and supported George's 1886 bid for Mayor of New York City. He was warned by his superior, Archbishop Michael Corrigan, suspended, then excommunicated. He was later reinstated following an inquiry.

Duane Whelan offered a biographical portrait of Father McGlynn from a deeply personal perspective -- he is McGlynn's grandnephew.

Father James Gilhooly, of Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, spoke on issues raised by the McGlynn case, particularly the backlash against intellectual activity and independent thought among priests in the years following the McGlynn episode.

George Collins, director of the Henry George School of Philadelphia, read "Religion and Robbery," a speech given by Father McGlynn at a meeting of the Anti-Poverty Society, which he founded during his excommunication.

(Continued on page four)

DEATH OF STANLEY SINCLAIR ANNOUNCED

Services were held on Wednesday, November 30, for Stanley Sinclair, a member of the Board of Trustees and a long-time associate of the Henry George School.

Mr. Sinclair died suddenly on Sunday, November 27.

The Henry George School extends its deepest sympathy to Mr. Sinclair's family.

Henry George Newsletter
published by
Henry George School
of Social Science

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Subscription: \$5 yr
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THE SOARING NATIONAL DEBT

Although our skyrocketing national debt is cause for concern, very few economists fear a United States default. However, on the international scene, borrower nations are fast approaching the outer limits in financing. Whether monies are borrowed from the International Monetary Fund or private corporate banks, the stakes are high in these troubled waters. A case in point is Latin America.

Collectively, the region's debt has soared to over \$350 billion -- the eight most indebted nations owe in excess of \$285 billion. And three important nations in size and global impact -- Argentina, Brazil and Mexico -- head the list. If any one of them was to default it would rock the financial community, sending shock waves around the world.

Recognizing the need for capital and the presence of a strong profit motive, international organizations and banks have readily lent these nations the money needed to improve teetering economies. As dependency increased these economies have lurched closer to bankruptcy. A 14 percent interest rate on their loans comes to some \$40 billion annually. Is it any wonder they can barely keep up with their interest payments?

Importing foreign capital may seem an attractive solution to the problems of underdeveloped nations. Admirable intentions notwithstanding, it amounts to little more than a quick fix, delaying the inevitable day of judgement. How prophetic were the words of Henry George on the subject of capital:

If bad governments rob the laborer of his capital, if unjust laws take from the producer the wealth with which he would assist production, and hand it over to those who are mere pensioners upon industry, the real limitation to the effectiveness of labor is in misgovernment, and not in want of capital.... To give a circular saw to a Terra Del Fuegan, a locomotive to a Bedouin Arab...would not add to the efficiency of their labor....So no greater amount of wealth will be used as capital than is required by the machinery of production and exchange under all existing conditions -- intelligence, habit, security, density of population, etc....The social organism secretes, as it were, the necessary amount of capital just as the human organism in a healthy condition secretes the requisite fat.

Let bankers and nations alike learn that unless fundamental changes occur in these nations -- changes that alter the current relationship of land, labor and capital -- the economies of the world will continue to falter on a foundation of quicksand.

--Stan Rubenstein

NEW YORK

On Tuesday, December 6, the film "For the Land is Mine" will be shown. During the Fall mailing, over 150 respondees indicated they were interested in school activities, even though they did not enroll for classes. This program is primarily aimed at this group.

Four county assessors associations in New York State have invited the New York School to speak on LVT at their monthly meetings. This was in response to a mailing to all 50 such associations in the state.

A Religious Network Newsletter -- the first -- has been mailed to all interested Georgists. Its purpose is to share information on the activities of Georgists in the religious outreach effort. Anyone wishing to receive the newsletter is invited to contact the New York School.

LONG ISLAND

On October 18, Stan Rubenstein addressed the Suffolk County Assessors Association at their monthly luncheon. More than 35 members attended and focused primarily on the impact of LVT on rural areas.

Lewis DeMott of Oceanside and other Georgists collected over 100 petition signatures supporting land-value taxation. Sent to the Hempstead Town Supervisor in Nassau County, it brought responses from several other officials, including the Director of Fiscal and Management Review of the Board of Supervisors, who said his staff was researching the subject.

SAN FRANCISCO

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Myles Horton, founder of the famed Highlander Folk School in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee, spoke at an Election Day program on Progress and Poverty in Appalachia. The Highlander School has been involving adults in labor organizing drives since the 1930s, civil rights movements since the 1950s and an effort to mobilize Appalachia's poor since the 1960s.

The program also included a videotape documentary of tax and land reform work in the Appalachian region.

SANTO DOMINGO

Fall classes consist of ten sections of Economia Politica Fundamental (P & P) and four advanced classes. The courses are being offered not only in Santo Domingo, but in four other Dominican cities as well. In addition, a teacher training course promises to graduate enough new instructors to enable classes in the cities of Azua and Monte Plata to be maintain their own teachers.

PHILADELPHIA

An Alumni Association is being formed for graduates of the Philadelphia school. A mailing went out to all graduates recently asking for input on how to set up the organization. Among the functions suggested for the association were presentations by Alumni to regular meetings, fundraising activities, lining up guest speakers for alumni meetings and the like.

GEORGISTS PREPARE RESOLUTION TO METHODIST CONFERENCE

Nadine Stoner, president of the Property Owners League of Beloit, Wisconsin, has launched an effort to submit a resolution on land value taxation to the 1984 United Methodist General Conference.

The drive stems from a meeting of ten United Methodists which Mrs. Stoner organized at the July conference in Goleta, California. At that time it was agreed that Nadine would write a first draft of the petition and send it to the other participants for feedback.

Several drafts have followed, the most recent urging that "information on land value taxation be published in various United Methodist periodicals by experts qualified in theory and practice of land economics."

The planned resolution is similar in intent to one introduced last year by the Unitarian Church.

United Methodists throughout the country are urged to contact Mrs. Stoner to help circulate petitions which are to be submitted to the General Conference petitions chairman by January 1984. Her address is 1118 Central Avenue, Beloit, Wisconsin 53511.

SYMPOSIUM ON FATHER MCGLYNN (CONTINUED)

Dr. C. Joseph Nuesse, Provost Emeritus of the Catholic University of America, discussed the possible influence of Henry George on the Vatican's decision to reinstate Father McGlynn, particularly George's open letter to Pope Leo XIII.

Robert Clancy cited later papal encyclicals which reflect a change in thinking on property-related issues which suggests an indirect Georgist influence.

Rev. Wylie Young, a Presbyterian minister, discussed the difficulty in getting George's message across in Protestant circles.

More than 50 people attended the symposium and the discussion which followed.

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