

INTERNATIONAL GEORGIST CONFERENCE

The bi-annual conference of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade was held the week of August 5 at Selwyn College in Cambridge, England.

Rather than give a chronological report on conference activities, we will seek to highlight some of the major sessions and workshops and invite the reader to contact the International Union at 177 Vauxall Bridge Road, London for any further information.

A day-long workshop on "Rent As Revenue" opened the conference. The sessions were devoted to practical considerations, such as Steve Cord's demonstration of how much revenue could be had from a land tax on a national scale.

Bob Clancy examined Nobel Prize-winning economists in a session entitled, "What's in the Prize Package?"

The land policies of iron curtain societies were examined in a presentation by professor W. R. Brazleton on "Private Land Tax Policies: The Eastern European and Socialist Countries".

~~A major practical workshop on "Property Tax Reform: Implementation" included a screening of the new film produced by Walt Rybeck for the Center for Public Dialogue, "A Tale of Five Cities". A series of reports from the United States were given by Stan Rubenstein, Bob Scrofani, Steve Cord and George Collins, each focusing on methods and results in local attempts to foster Georgist tax reform.~~

Ann Haila presented a paper on the "Effects of Land Value Taxes on Land Use" -- an important cause-and effect analysis.

Professor James Busey, a noted expert on Central America, addressed "Prospects for Social Transformation of Latin America." Professor Busey suggested that a Georgist effort in Central America could very well counteract the Communist movement, as the region is ripe for solutions to pervasive poverty.

Professor Robert Andelson presented a paper on "Henry George and Economic Intervention." Professor Andelson reflected on when -- and how -- the government might intervene in the economy.

Professor C. Mooney of Long Island's Nassau Community College spoke on Henry George and John Rawls -- "A New Look At The Ideal Of Justice As Fairness".

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GEORGIST CONFERENCE IN CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND (Continued)

A Georgist approach to the control and use of natural resources in international waters was the topic of two presentations. Professor D. R. Denman explored the Law of the Sea treaties in "Land Value Taxation in Deep Water" and John D. Allen narrowed the focus in his paper, "Tapping the Rent in the North Sea."

The place of Libertarianism in the Georgist movement and the place of Georgism in the Libertarian movement were the topics of a session featuring remarks by such Georgist/Libertarians as Dr. Oscar Johannsen, Harry Pollard and Fred Foldvary.

Dr. D. W. Pickard explored the Georgist solution from a rural perspective in a session dealing with the "Farmer's View". The application of George's ideas in farm communities and mixed urban/rural communities was examined.

In his remarks during a session entitled "Land Value Taxation and the European Community", Roger Pincham gave an overview of the practical problems inherent in getting politicians interested in accepting land value taxation.

Group meetings, executive meetings of the International Union, planning sessions for the 1986 conference in Vancouver, and a general discussion on "Where Do We Go From Here?" were held throughout the week.

Interdenominational chapel sessions were a regular morning feature at the conference, and there was ample time for individual meetings and impromptu group discussions. A trip to the royal estate of Sandringham was also included.

The conference concluded with an inspirational address by speaker Robert Andelson, who spoke about the future of the Georgist movement. A musical extravaganza by Barbara Sobrielo and Josie Mernane, in which Georgist lyrics were inserted to a medley of Broadway tunes, closed the Cambridge conference on a high note.