

LOCAL TAXATION REFORM: LONDON CONFERENCE ON THE RATING OF LAND VALUES

At the L.C.C. County Hall, Saturday, 22nd January, 1955

ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES

Following is the text of a letter of invitation sent November 3 by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Ltd., to the Clerks of the local authorities in London and the Home Counties.

LOCAL TAXATION REFORM

CONFERENCE ON THE RATING OF LAND VALUES

(With Representatives and Members of the Local Authorities in London and Home Counties and of Municipal Societies and Associations)

IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE COUNTY HALL
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE, LONDON, S.E.1
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1955

Dear Sir,

The United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values cordially invites your Council to send representatives (not more than six in number including any principal officers) to take part in the

CONFERENCE ON THE RATING OF LAND VALUES

which the Committee is convening for Saturday, January 22, 1955, to be held in the Conference Hall of the L.C.C. County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1—Morning Session at 11.0; Afternoon at 2.30.

Similar invitation is being conveyed to all Local Authorities in London and Home Counties and to certain municipal organizations concerned with local government finance.

The Conference will be welcomed by the Rt. Hon. the Chairman of the London County Council, Mr. VICTOR MISHCON, D.L., J.P.

Chairman: Rt. Hon. LORD DOUGLAS OF BARLOCH, K.C.M.G.
Speaker: Mr. A. W. MADSEN, B.SC.

The Conference is strictly *non-party*. It will be devoted to considering the reform of local taxation by causing the rates to be assessed upon the value attaching to land exclusive of, and therefore exempting, buildings and improvements. The maximum available time will be given to open discussion, the Conveners recognizing the importance of affording adequate opportunity for dealing with the many questions of principle and of practice that surround the subject.

Each representative will receive a free admission ticket and a copy of the Conference Paper on which the discussion will be based. Using the enclosed form, which should reach me not later than January 5, please intimate the names and addresses of your appointed representatives.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM E. BLAND,
Conference Secretary.

Invitation to appoint not more than four representatives has been extended also to a number of organizations concerned with local government finance.

Visitors' Tickets. A limited number of tickets may be available for readers of LAND & LIBERTY and other interested persons. Early application should be made to avoid disappointment.

Membership of the Conference

As we go to press 27 local authorities have accepted invitation to participate and have appointed 67 representatives. Of these 35 are officials, and 32 are Aldermen and Councillors. Decision whether or not to appoint representatives has yet to be taken by a considerable number of the councils that have been invited. Seventeen local authorities have decided not to support the Conference.

Bodies that have appointed representatives

Corporation of the City of London.

County Council: Hertfordshire.

Borough Councils: Barking, Bethnal Green, Canterbury City, Chatham, Chelsea, Kensington, Ramsgate, Reading, Reigate, Richmond, Rochester, Wanstead and Woodford, Wood Green, Woolwich.

Urban District Councils: Banstead, Carshalton, Chorley Wood, Crayford, Ruislip-Northwood, Sheerness, Welwyn Garden City.

Rural District Councils: Tendring, Wantage, Welwyn, Wokingham.

British Road Federation, London Leaseholders' Association, National Association of Parish Councils.

Authorities that have declined invitation

Boroughs: Camberwell, Deal, Hove, Leyton, Maidenhead, Paddington, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Southwark, Stoke Newington, Wembley.

Urban Districts: Brightlingsea, Bushey, Coulsdon and Purley, East Barnet.

Rural Districts: Cuckfield, Ongar.

Continuous Municipal Agitation

Hundreds of municipalities in Great Britain have declared their approval of the rating of land values over a period of very many years—at least 80 of them since the last war. We give here a list of those Councils in London and the Home Counties that have adopted resolutions in favour of land value rating since 1936. It may not be complete.

Acton, Barking, Battersea, Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Bexley, Bexleyheath, Camberwell, Dagenham, Dartford, Deptford, Dover, Ealing, East Ham, Edmonton, Erith, Essex C.C., Feltham, Fulham, Gravesend, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith, Hayes and Harlington, Hendon, Holborn, Hornchurch, Islington, Lambeth, Leigh, Leyton, London C.C., Portsmouth, Reading, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Southall, Southwark, Sunbury, Tottenham, Walthamstow, Waltham Abbey, Wembley, West Ham, Willesden, Wood Green, Woolwich.

A Request to our Readers

The organizers invite the co-operation of all readers in London and the Home Counties in making this most important Conference as widely known as possible. Particularly is the assistance sought of readers who are resident in areas where representatives have not yet been appointed or where the Council has decided not to participate. Write to the Clerk of your Council, to your municipal representative and to your local newspaper recommending in the strongest possible terms that your Council should send representatives. *This is a first-class opportunity effectively to promote true rating reform.*