

land-rent in particular has had major fiscal consequences. The particular way in which the land has been privatized from one society to the next - and over time in any given society - has shaped the economy's distribution of wealth and income, the pattern of urbanization, freedom or slavery, and ultimately the rise and fall of civilizations and their religious responses to the economic imbalances associated with privatization.

The New York University conference thus outlined the extent to which the history of civilization will have to be rewritten to take account of the cuneiform and related archaeological discoveries made in the past few decades. A foundation was laid for placing the role of privatization of the land and economic enterprise at the centre of a new view of history's broad dynamics, the evolution of economic policy and the economic core of ancient religion.

The New York University symposium has defined a research agenda for the remainder of the decade. It has shown that privatization is more than just a shift in ownership from public to individual holders; it connotes a shift of social costs and other burdens from landlords and creditors onto the shoulders of the population at large.

One question to be addressed is whether today's resource owners and creditors will act differently from those of antiquity. Will they realise that there is a need for them to invest their revenue productively, or will they merely attach this income as interest-bearing debt to property? Will they strip assets in foreclosure proceedings and distress sell-offs rather than investing directly to bring new productive powers into being? Will landlords and creditors ultimately prove more efficient than public agencies in overseeing society's land, natural resources and other means of production? Or will they resist their tax obligations and deepen the fiscal crisis, as they have done so often over the millennia?

* Dr. Hudson is co-author of *A Philosophy for a Fair Society*, London: Shephard-Walwyn, 1994. See back page review.

OBITUARY

Robert Clancy

IT IS with deep regret that we report the death of one of *Land & Liberty's* distinguished contributors, Bob Clancy. The following is the report that appeared in the *New York Times* on February 18:

Robert Clancy, an educator who was director of the Henry George School of Social Science from 1946 to 1970 and founder of the Henry George Institute, died on Feb. 9 in Jackson Heights Hospital in Queens. He was 80 and lived in Jackson Heights. The cause was colon cancer, said George L. Collins, the executive director of the Manhattan school.

Founded in 1932, the school teaches the economic and social philosophy of the 19th century economist and philosopher Henry George, who saw land speculation as the scourge of the time and the cause of poverty and inequality.

George argued that society, not the landowner, was responsible for the increase in land value, and that the increase should be taxed and thereby returned to society. He saw such a levy as the only tax necessary and, thus, was an early proponent of a single tax. George twice ran unsuccessfully for mayor of New York City in the late 1800's.

Mr. Clancy expanded the school's role in adult education and through establishment of the institute set up a worldwide network of correspondence courses in subjects related to George's social and economic concepts. Students from more than 200 countries enrolled in courses. In 1952 he wrote a biography of the founder of the school, "A Seed Was Sown: The Life of Oscar Geiger." He was co-founder and chairman emeritus of the Council of Georgist Organizations, an international association of Georgist schools.

He is survived by a sister, Norma Hempe of Massapequa, L.I.

The Missing Clause in the Bill of Rights - Land for the People

21st International Conference
organised by

Den Dansk Henry George Forening
co-sponsored by

International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

Roskilde, Denmark, July 22-29, 1995

Papers are invited on the theme of "The Missing Clause" in declarations on human rights - the common right to rent.

Enquiries to:

Den Danske Henry George Forening,
Lyngbyvej 56 A,
2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark.