

OPENING STATEMENT

Mildred Loomis
Conference Chairman

Greetings and welcome. We are gathered primarily as members and friends of the Henry George Schools and members and friends of The School of Living. We share at least three aspects. Both Schools have had a long history, both have developed comprehensive and penetrating "solutions" to the modern economic and political crisis, and both are unsatisfied at the relatively small public acceptance given our ideas and our methods. We believe that our solutions warrant a larger place in public policy. We want to develop here ways and means to move into the front ranks of social reformers. We have the most of three days to think and plan together. We are a small group, forty-five participating, but we have here most of the members of The School of Living official board of trustees: Tim Ryan, Evan Lefever, Bob Allen, Art Rybeck, Grace Lefever and, of course, H.R. Lefever. Marga Waldek and W.B. Anacker, both of Heathcote Hollow are here. Of the Schools staff we have our new Directors, Willis and Lucile Hunting, and myself, Director of Education. A number of Heathcote student residents are here: Paul Griffen, Kevin Costigan, Anna Mullen, Bob Rothberg, Kathy Hogue and others. Many of our officers and staff count themselves among the Georgists.

Representing Georgists are John Weaver of the Pittsburgh George School and the long-standing Graded Tax League of that city; Dr. Steven Cord, professor of History at Penn State University, Indiana, Pennsylvania, sends us a message on taped cassette. From Philadelphia come George Collins, Director of the George School there whose headquarters at 413 S 10th, is in the original home of the Henry George family. With him is veteran Georgist Julian Hiccock, aged 85 and looking 50, who has been a Georgist since 1913, for sixty years! We are delighted to have them and the Philadelphia School's secretary, Lucia Cipollone. And from Arden Delaware, an early land value tax enclave are Mike Curtis and Penny Colgan. From Washington, DC we welcome Jim Taylor and Beth Furbush, employed at our friend Ollie Popenoe's natural food restaurant Yes. Also Walter Rybeck, friend from our Ohio days and head of Urban Institute, a private agency for land planning in Washington DC. Also Carl Shaw, Georgist and former assessor in West Virginia, now with the US Army band in Fort Meade. A late comer to our sessions was Clayton Loughran, a Quaker and worker in the peace movement, from Baltimore. All of you and any others not named here are welcome, and I hope ready to join in planning our move into a position of more responsibility and impact, a position to match the opportunity and carry the action which we agree is so important.

To set the stage for our deliberations, to give it the tone of urgency that many see in the present social conditions, I'd like to read a short paper from our Georgist friend, Mitchell Lurio, a life-long banker and businessman in Boston and for many years the head and guide of the Henry George School in that city.