

Annual Conference Stresses Practical Approach to Reform

by Harlan Trott

"The great end in life," Aldous Huxley insisted, "is not knowledge but action." Something of this viewpoint is implicit in the policy changes taking place throughout the Henry George schools.

National and local leaders of these schools from cities across the United States and Canada—and from the Dominican Republic and the Panama Canal Zone—heard President Arnold Weinstein explain the new thrust in the work of the School at the opening of this year's national conference in San Francisco in July. It was the theme carried through to the inspiring remarks by Perry Prentice at the closing banquet.

During a Thursday morning session devoted to action reports by regional school leaders, Mr. Weinstein explained how it is that the entire movement presents a "better balance between the analytical and the functional." He implied the day is past when school leaders everywhere are satisfied merely with debating the fine points of Henry George's philosophy. Rather, he remarked, they are engaged in the practical applications of those principles, too.

Delegates followed up Mr. Weinstein's opening statement by describing successful school practices where in Port Credit, Ont., for example, site-value analysis and site-value assessment is in the demonstration stage.

Speaking for the Henry George School in Los Angeles, Harry Pollard reported some 5,000 high school students have received basic economic education

through a program that his organization has worked out in cooperation with public school officials throughout the greater Los Angeles area. And a similar undertaking was reported to be unfolding in New York on Long Island.

Highlights of the Robert Schalkenback Foundation's property-tax reform program were discussed by its executive secretary, Miss V.G. Peterson. A four-page folder just published by the Foundation, "Uptaxing Land and Untaxing Homes and Other Improvements," contains statements by 23 economists; real estate developers and tax officials urging exemption of improvements and heavier taxation of land values as a means of attracting private capital to the tremendous job of rebuilding our decaying cities. A new Spanish edition of "Progress and Poverty" has been published and work on a third motion picture is in progress.

Since last September, Miss Peterson reported, Foundation President Prentice has made numerous speeches on tax reform to chambers of commerce, notably in St. Louis, Buffalo, N.Y., and Harrisburg, Pa.

Morning and afternoon workshop meetings, Friday and Saturday, gave further relevancy to the trends pinpointed in Mr. Weinstein's report.

Lively panel discussions and question periods open to participants on the floor focused on such pressing issues as how to deal with inflation, conservation and community planning, public school financing and land reform.

In keeping with a "tradition" begun

(continued on page 2, column 3)

Annual Conference

(continued from page 1, col 3)

by the Henry George School of Northern California under Executive Vice President Robert Tideman, the Saturday noon luncheon program was given over to the presentation of annual media awards. This year's newspaper citation went to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Graeser, co-publishers of *The Montclarion*—an independent weekly newspaper serving the Oakland area. The 1972 Writer's Award went to Peter Barnes of Berkeley, West Coast Editor of *The New Republic Magazine*, for his perceptive series of articles dealing with California land reform.

A delightful reception Thursday evening at the San Francisco home of Miss Catherine G. Covell, President of the Henry George School of Northern California, saw the national conference off to an amiable beginning. Sightseeing and shopping excursions in the bracing sea air of San Francisco in July were woven around the more serious topics of the conference program at the Japanese Cultural and Trade Center's imposing new Miyako Hotel.

Immediately after the conference, Mr. Weinstein explained for Taiwan and a grassroots look at land reform in that flourishing Far East island republic.