

INSPIRING FAITH

By FRANK D. WALKER (Redlands, Calif., USA)

Time magazine, in a recent article detailing the leftward tilt of Britain's Labour Party, mentions the impact of "a loosely organized group of Trotskyites called the Militant Tendency. Militant Tendency runs its own weekly newspaper, maintains a full-time paid staff of 66 whose prime task is to recruit students to the cause, and controls some 2000 regulars. Now why are Trotskyites able to accomplish this, but Georgists cannot? It is because they have been able to inspire faith in the truth of what they say, and we have by and large been unable to do that. And where there is belief, support will follow.

We can talk about site value taxation all day long but that is not going to inspire faith. Faith is going to come when people understand what rent is and why it is uniquely suited as the proper object of taxation. When people understand this and see how much better a place this world would be in the wake of such a reform, then support will inevitably follow! Just as Henry George did in his day, we need to express the message in a form which will attract the interest of the contemporary reader, which will start with the factors of production and the distribution of wealth, which will trace out the impact of taxation and show that the single tax is both desirable and practical. When we've done that, but not before, then we'll have achieved the breakthrough in public acceptance we've been seeking. If we want to win our case, we've got to prepare it first. We have as yet to really do that.