

## Meet the presidents at the Henry George School

Some 60 high school students and their teachers spent a day in May at the School going through urban problems in simulations and then measuring what they had learned against the real-world experience offered by three corporate presidents.

The 60 students and eight teachers attended an all-day Urban Workshop. The morning was spent working through the simulations known as New Town and Community Land Use Game (CLUG). Each of six separate exercises were conducted by a high school student who had been trained at the School by Stan Rubenstein and Ted Ehrman to conduct the games and to lead the participants in evaluation of their experience.

In this workshop, the students had been

informed of the topics that were to be dealt with by corporate presidents in the afternoon. Thus, the simulations and their analyses could be pointed toward specific questions.

After a buffet lunch, all six groups met together in the auditorium where they spent the afternoon in discussion with the businessmen, all members of the Metropolitan Presidents Organization.

Bernard Eichwald, president of B. Eichwald and Company, spoke of the responsibility a corporation has to the community as well as to its stockholders.

Morris Getler, president of Nepco Forged Products, discussed the problems of locating a business, with particular

attention to the tax situation in New York, the cost of utilities, and the conditions of the labor market.

George Ratner, president of Paragon Paint and Varnish Corporation, dealt with the climate for business, taking into account the monetary and fiscal policies of the federal government and the environment created by Keynesian thinking.

The Workshop offered students an opportunity to learn economics not from textbooks but from participation in simulations that gave concrete expression to abstract ideas of production, distribution and taxation, and then to hear from businessmen how these matters are handled in the real marketplace.

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### CONFERENCE (continued from first page)

bills to the state's legislature. One would make land value taxation mandatory in the state; the other would give any county the option to adopt such taxation. Having read George in college, Onweiler's own observations in the real estate business and his reading of reports from the Urban Land Institute launched him on his present campaign. He uses the Foundation's "One Way to Better Cities" film and a slide presentation of his own, presenting local scenes as examples of his argument in favor of his legislative proposals.

Concluding the first session was a brief report by Gaye Shaw of Alberta, Canada, who described their class activities and their work in preparation of briefs presented before provincial Government agencies, such as the Land Use Commission.

Tuesday afternoon was given over to a report from New York. Dean Meridith led off with a discussion of the Learning Committee's efforts to improve understanding of George and the development of a non-fragmented approach to the presentation of his ideas and analysis.

Glenn Weeks reported on the progress being made in research. We seek, he explained, to synthesize George's message with the realities of today's world, using current data to make a contemporary presentation of the problems of land use and the shifting of the incidence of taxes to the land. He called on Mal McCarthy, who displayed a land value map of the heart of Toronto as an example of how research is used to present land value taxation as a viable recourse for hard-pressed local governments. McCarthy made the interesting observation that the studies he has made in Toronto and its suburbs indicate that the

total market value of the land in these jurisdictions would come close to equalling, if it didn't indeed exceed, the aggregate of current assessments of land and improvements together.

Commenting on the problems of communication, Stanley Sinclair noted that George, who was a journalist, gave us a clear directive in saying we may "assert the common right to the land by taking rent for the common use" and proposing "the simple yet sovereign remedy . . . to appropriate rent by taxation." It is incumbent upon us, therefore, he said that we use all the media we can reach with our limited resources to communicate the necessity of achieving this property tax reform.

These reports were summarized by Arnold Weinstein, president of the School, who cited the division of labor among the active trustees enabling them to cooperate as equals in running the New York School. Thus, in handling what is becoming an increasingly complex task, he explained, the School has the advantage of multiple professional skills brought to bear on its day-to-day operations and is relieved of the expense of hiring executive personnel.

Wednesday (July 2) was devoted to reports on George Schools' activities in the high schools of their various communities. Talking about New York, Stan Rubenstein explained the role of the "alternative high schools," those innovations in the system that operate outside the traditional classroom, and commented on the success of game simulations in this area. George Collins, from the Philadelphia birthplace of Henry George, demonstrated CLUG, the Community Land Use Game that figures most prominently in this program.

Mal McCarthy of Toronto detailed how his School of Economic Science has been able to participate in local high school classroom work through the geography departments. With the aid of high school students, he said, the Toronto School has been compiling local realty maps that have been accepted by and paid for by the respective jurisdictions they depict.

William Filante, in the San Francisco Bay Area, told how he has been able to use his political clout to develop classes in "Environmental Economics" in local junior colleges.

Harry Pollard discussed his "Inter-student" program as directed toward cooperation in equality.

Wednesday afternoon featured a bus trip into Mexico.

Philip Finkelstein, director of the School's research program, presented a "Tale of Two Cities" as the theme of his remarks on Thursday morning (July 3). Proceeding with the assumption that problems are not the same in all places and at all times, he developed the idea of how theories we accept as valid apply to the problems we face in various jurisdictions today. (Finkelstein's paper on Jersey City and New York City is excerpted elsewhere in this issue.) In his analysis of Jersey City's plight, Finkelstein suggested that enough new revenue could be tapped from proper assessment of vacant and underused land to replace the recently-enacted payroll tax which is causing the city to lose businesses and is under attack.

Mal McCarthy also presented some of the findings developed by his research in Toronto and adjacent areas and discussed two articles by an associate that were writ-

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