

Pollard Speaks To CA, KC Educators

Harry Pollard, Director of the Los Angeles School, gave the keynote speech at the California Association of the Gifted Annual Conference, held in San Diego.

Pollard said:

"The Interstudent High School Program concentrates on teaching the knowledge of truths. Though it may be important for young people to know about things, it is vital for them to understand why and how those things come about. An understanding of truths will enable them to make reasonable, effective and proper choices in the years ahead".

Before he appeared in San Diego, Pollard traveled to Kansas City, at the invitation of the Economics Department of the University of Missouri, where he gave a series of lectures to university classes on Public Finance, Urban Economics and History of Economic Thought. He also conducted a luncheon seminar with eight faculty members while on the campus and was interviewed by students for both the university television and radio stations.

Pollard received televised coverage of his lecture at suburban Belton High School, addressed four classes at Barstow Senior High, an exclusive private school and held an all-day session at Shawnee Mission High, where the curriculum committee will be meeting soon to decide whether to use Pollard's Interstudent program.

As for additional media coverage, he was interviewed for a television news program on a major station. The large volume of calls from listeners of a popular radio program that Pollard appeared on prompted the station manager to invite him back for an extended 3 1/2 hour discussion/interview. He will return to Kansas City in the summer to follow up on these radio appearances.

(The following article, "Henry George Lives, Thanks to Harry Pollard", by Steve Rosen, appeared in the March 12, 1981 issue of the Kansas City Star and is being reprinted with the permission of the paper, c1981).

Harry Pollard was in Kansas City recently doing what he loves best—spreading the gospel according to 19th century American political and economic philosopher Henry George.

As director of the Henry George School, a non-profit organization based in Los Angeles, Pollard travels extensively in his quest to spread the philosophy of George, a social reformer, who attracted attention in the late 1800's with his idea that land is nature's free gift and everyone has an equal right to use it. George proposed to make the increase in the value of land the source of all taxation because he felt it would stimulate growth in the economy.

Pollard said he is at odds with many economists whom he faults for disregarding the social and political context of economic problems. "They are attempting to make economics scientific, but unless they have a decent premise they won't have good results".

One of Pollard's main concerns is the quality of economic education. "Many high school students are deplorably illiterate in the fundamentals of everyday economics. Kids go to college without a real understanding of how the free market works", he said. Since 1970, the Henry George School has made a concerted effort to get economics into the classroom. So far, some 200,000 junior high and high school students have participated in the program. The students become intensely involved in the program, Pollard said, because they are divided into teams and are given subjects to debate.