

## "BY GEORGE" PRESS COVERAGE CONTINUES

We have received several items of interest from Stan Frederiksen, Executive Secretary of the Public Revenue Education Council in St. Louis, including three letters by PREC Board Member Tom Lehmann, published in the *Alton Telegraph* on 8/30, 9/15, and 10/16/89. Each letter is a reply to a specific article or editorial. Mr. Lehmann quotes former Mayor of St. Louis John Poelker as a Site Value Tax advocate, and adds his own selling point: "Property owners will be able to compare taxes with their neighbors, eliminate much legal quibbling and expose errors of assessment." He cites other supporters of the site-value tax: Sam Venturella, retired head of Chicago's planning commission who now heads the Chicago HGS, and Jack Kemp, Secretary of HUD: "Property taxes could profitably be revised to fall more heavily on land, rather than as at present, penalizing property improvements."

Also received from Mr. Frederiksen is an article from the St. Louis Sun of October 24 by a former political editor of *Congressional Quarterly*, Neal Pierce. Pierce proposes a Puget Sound Land Trust strategy to save land near Mt. Ranier in Washington from inefficient and destructive over-development: "America's familiar land-use game would be stood on its head. The economic muscle and political pull of landowners and speculators would no longer determine who gets to develop and realize monetary windfalls." A letter to the editor by Neal S. Frederiksen appeared in the October 28th edition, and draws the connection to land value charges as a complementary way to return location value to the community.

Yet another article, this one

from the *Belleville News-Democrat* of November 15th, was sent to us by Mr. Frederiksen. Land taxes promoted is by John Cuniff, business writer with The Associated Press. Cuniff considers that a stigma, attached to Henry George by the academic establishment of his day (who he antagonized,) may be responsible for its lack of large-scale adoption. "George, nevertheless, has advocates, including academics. His philosophy is expounded by the Henry George School in New York, and by the non-profit Center for the Study of Economics, based in Columbia, MD..."

Finally, we received from Edward A. Hall, former student of HGSNYC now in Washington DC, a major article - on the front page of the *Money* section of *The Washington Times* on December 11th. It appears under a striking collage featuring Henry George and the New York skyline over the headline: *By George: Economist's tax theory lands in District*. Written by David R. Sands of the *Times*, the article considers upcoming hearings by the DC Council's Finance and Revenue Committee. The Committee will consider a proposal to cut the city's property taxes on four classes of residential and commercial buildings to as low as three cents per \$100 of assessed value, coupled with a steep increase in the tax on the land up to as much as 221%. "The idea makes sense," according to Peter Farina, spokesman for the Pro-Housing Tax Coalition, composed of 20 non-profit city organizations promoting the idea. "Mr. Farina [says that] 5,993 of the District's nearly 8,000 commercial properties would pay lower taxes under the coalition's proposal, while homeowners in the city's poorest neighborhoods would get

a major tax break." The two-page article is rich in history and data supporting land value tax, including comments by Steven Cord and Walter Rybeck. For more information on these articles, contact the New York school.

### BECOME YOUR OWN ECONOMIST AT THE CHICAGO HGS

Learning how to become your own economist is the promise of this semester's course offerings by the Chicago Henry George School. "What can be done about the homeless? What causes the increasing concentration of wealth? Why are taxes so high? What causes unemployment? We won't give you the answers; but we will give you the tools to answer these and other perplexing questions about the economy," reads the School's flyer. Classes begin the week of January 8th and meet once a week for ten weeks. Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy [Mon. & Wed., 7 PM; Tues., 1 PM]. Applied Economics [Tues., 7 PM]. And a new course on The Role of Land in History and Economics [Wed. & Sat., 1 PM; Fri., 7 PM] will use the School's video and study material on American Heritage - Story of the Land and Fred Harrison's book, *The Power in the Land*. A \$25 fee is required for this advanced course, in addition to the regular \$10 registration fee.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We hope you enjoy the new look of the *Henry George Newsletter*, which was designed "in-house". Special thanks to Lindy Davies, our man at the keyboard. We intend to continue improving the quality and variety of content with every issue. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.   
--Mark Sullivan

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