

As the subtitle of this study indicates, it deals with *prospects for reviving West Virginia's economy*. Edited by Walt Rybeck, this 63-page large format paperback offers a Georgist perspective on this Appalachian state. The paradox, like that of progress and poverty, is "That an area so richly endowed with natural and human resources is so economically depressed."

In his preface, Rybeck makes a sobering observation in this era of cold war victory:

"Many nations, after decades of mindless bureaucracies and centrally-dictated production, hasten to call for free markets. Then, as they take a closer look at capitalism, some ask if this means they must face the poverty and high unemployment seen, for example, in Appalachia. We can't sell what we haven't got. If we have no answer for the poverty of West Virginia, how can we sell an answer to Russians or anyone else?"

And so, in December 1990, in Charleston, seventy West Virginian economists, business people, labor leaders, public officials, religious leaders and community activists met with twenty national experts to examine the obstacles to progress and the steps to overcome them.

This thirteen-chapter account of the proceedings covers a wide and deep range of issues: the problems and strengths of West Virginia; the state's poverty in the midst of its rich natural resources; how subsurface wealth has been taxed and how to make appraisal more equitable; efforts to update property taxation; basic rules of good taxation and how to raise revenue from land and natural resources without depressing incentives for work and prosperity; and tax issues related to school funding, farming, timber and housing.

Among the ninety participants, several familiar Georgists are quoted in this study, including George Collins, Steve Cord, Ed Dodson, Mason Gaffney, Ted Gwartney, C. Lowell Harriss, Sein Lin, Richard Noyes, Arthur Rybeck, Erika Rybeck, and John Strasma.

This work is dotted with nine case studies, or success stories. For example, Success Story #6 by John L. Kelly tells

*"How It Plays in Peoria: Everybody Knew Plan Would Not Work, But It Did"*. This, perhaps, sums up the experience of site value taxation over the years. Everybody knows it won't work.... This book explains how and why it does!

***From Poverty to Prosperity by 2000***

can be purchased from the Center for Public Dialogue, 10615 Brunswick Ave., Kensington, MD 20895 (Tel: 301-933-3535). Prices are \$12.95 each; \$10 each for 10 to 24 copies; \$9 each for 25 to 49 copies; and \$8 each for 50 or more.