

April, 1986

## **"RISING TIDE OF CHANGE" CONFERENCE**

**Organised by the Association for Good Government  
8th-9th March in Sydney**

**By G. HARDY**

*Purpose:* This conference was planned as an experiment to build a bridge between Georgists and other groups, to explore the possibility of joining forces: "Net-working" small groups to counter establishment resistance.

*Other Groups:* The aim was to contact young people, women, "wholeistic" groups concerned with more than just material values, groups concerned with poverty, and "new attitudes" to social problems. To find co-operation was difficult. Some contributors represented Rudolf Steiner's philosophy (Senator Jean Hearn; a group which channels investments into worthwhile projects at low interest — "Southern Cross Capital Exchange Ltd.").

The U.N. Association was represented. The Society of Emissaries proposed that a better world must begin with the individual.

*The Georgist Content:* Chris Whittle, a Sydney member, introduced our basic principles and I followed with a paper entitled "Prosperity and Incentive Taxation". This outlined practical tax reforms and beneficial consequences. Discussion followed questions from non-Georgists. Georgist views were stated, often forcibly.

### **Lessons Learnt**

*Attendance:* Up to 50 attended. It would be advisable to have other organisations bring several members, and to offer free tickets for a given number.

*Public Relations:* A firm was engaged (\$800) to obtain media reports, interviews, write-ups, etc. Nothing happened. The P.R. firm prepared a report saying that the media was not interested, did not find the subject newsworthy, did not hear about us. Suggested a campaign of letter-writing and direct approaches, such as talk-back radio.

### **Comments from Non-Georgist Participants**

Gained many specific points concerning incentive taxation, which need further thinking.

Lack of young people. This indicates troubles either with (a) the message, or (b) the way it is communicated.

The Georgist task appears too complex and too big to be undertaken by young people — they support simpler and more personal causes.