

# HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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## SPECIAL EDITION:

### ANNUAL GEORGIST CONFERENCE

The 1985 Annual Georgist Conference of North America was held July 17th - July 21st on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

The site was appropriate on several counts:

-- having met in Goleta, California in 1983 and Pawling, New York in 1984, a midwestern location was "due";

-- Missouri has been coming closer by the legislative session to adopting legislation supporting a land value tax referendum;

-- this is a Mark Twain anniversary year (150th of his birth, 100th of his masterpiece, Huckleberry Finn, and 75th of his death). According to several scholars, Twain was supportive of George's theories.

More than 80 Georgists attended the conference, which was longer and, in the opinion of many participants, more productive than any in recent years.

### "HENRY GEORGE WEEK IN ST. LOUIS"

The conference got underway with an official presentation designating the week of July 15 - 21 "Henry George Week" in St. Louis. George Collins (Henry George School of Philadelphia) chaired the first session, which consisted of progress reports from Georgist organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada. His keynote address derided the defeatist attitude which dogs much of the movement and, through the use of recent press accounts of Georgist accomplishments, refuted the notion that "nothing much is going on." The subsequent reports provided additional evidence.

### STRATEGIES & QUESTIONS

Thursday consisted of a series of presentations which probed avenues of advance for Georgist activists. Taken together, they amounted to a marathon strategy session. Taken separately, they pointed out the extraordinary diversity of thought within the movement.

Colin Bonner (Prosperity Action Committee of Canada) spoke on the "Power of Public Opinion", pointing out that opinion polls show that people are far more concerned with unemployment than tax reform, and arguing that a sensible Georgist approach ought to emphasize that concern.