

THE LONG ISLAND GEORGIST
NEWSLETTER

Winter 1982

ADVANCED CLASSES

Reagonomics is mentioned in the papers daily but its success is in doubt. Is a balanced budget a thing of the past? Should we limit Japanese products into the United States? These and other current issues are part of an interesting course offered to graduates of Progress and Poverty. "Contemporary Issues" focuses on many of George's ideas and its relationship to today's problems. Would you believe that George spoke to many of these issues?

"Contemporary Issues" will be offered at the following locations:

Plainedge School District
Sylvia Packard Jr. High
North Central Drive
Wednesday
February 24
Room 206

Bellmore-Merrick School Dis.
Mephram High School
Camp Ave.
Wednesday
February 3
Room 222

South Huntington School Dis.
Walt Whitman High School
West Hill Road
Tuesday
February 9
Room 314

All classes begin at 8 PM.

REACHING OUT

In our continuing effort to expose more people to our philosophy, we inaugurated a Speakers Bureau. Countless religious,

social, business and fraternal organizations were contacted, notifying them of our availability. What could be more appropriate than our subject on the property tax. Not only do we explain how the tax works, and recent revisions of the law, but also the advantages to homeowners of land value taxation. Based upon the location of the talks, data is presented detailing the projected savings for homeowners.

Because the legislature had a unique opportunity to correct abuses and inequities that had evolved for past years, and failed to act, our task is more important than ever. Full value reassessment, based on land value, will benefit most homeowners.

To date we have spoken to such diverse groups as the Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jewish War Veterans, Hadassah, ORT, Knights of Columbus, United Methodist Church and the Knights of Pythias.

This twenty five minute presentation has been well received. You can help with your local contacts. Why not contact a local organization, similar to those mentioned and tell them about our Speakers Bureau.

BUDGET HEARING

November 30, Dr. Samuel Scheck spoke before the Nassau County Budget Hearing and guess what his subject was? On the dias were the various Town Supervisors plus the County Executive. For some, it was the first time that they were exposed to the ideas of land value taxation.

Dr. Scheck recommended that

we model our system of taxation after that of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Explaining how Pittsburgh has prospered as a result of a heavier land tax, he demonstrated how Nassau County residents would gain as a result of this change in taxation.

HENRY GEORGE MAKES IT TO
CABLEVISION ALMOST, BUT
HIS IDEAS ON ASSESSMENT DO

Henry George's principle of land value taxation- tax the value of land, not the value of improvements thereon- received a boost on a recent cablevision broadcast (Cablevision, Channel 12, November 19th, 9:30 PM). Stan Rubenstein, director of the Long Island Extension, was the moderator of the panel program; Albert Fink, instructor at the Henry George School and Phoebe Goodman, executive director of the Nassau Citizens Budget Committee the panelists.

The panel discussed New York's property tax assessment tangle. The meat of the discussion began with the derivation of a taxing district's assessment rate; namely, the size of the district's budget divided by the assessed valuation of the district's taxable real property. Each property taxpayer's taxes can then be calculated by multiplying this tax rate by his assessed valuation.

Inequities that existed under the taxing practice heretofore, and which have not been eliminated in the new law were mentioned:

.Different assessment rates for different classifications of property (single family dwellings, multiple family dwellings, warehouses, factories, stores, etc.)

.Inequities within a given classification; for example, older homes and new homes assessed

at different percentages of their market values.

.Penalties for improving your home or business or factory, which Henry George deplored.

Finally, the panel discussed alternatives to current taxing practices; to tax

.the full value of land only.

.the full value of land and the current assessed value of the improvement.

.the full value of total property with a homestead exemption for one and two family dwellings.

The consequences to Nassau County taxpayers under each alternative as compared to current taxes were presented; homeowners gaining more as land values are taxed more heavily.

CHANNEL 21

Newsday, as well as other local papers, reported and commented on the passage of the recent assessment law. As a result of this increased interest, Stan Rubenstein was invited to appear on Channel 21's news report to discuss the new law and its effect on Long Island residents. Stressed was the continuance of the status quo and the lack of courage on the part of the State legislators to correct current abuses. The interview appeared on the 8 and 11 o'clock news on December 14.

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