

# Henry George Foundation of America

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*Our 60th Year*

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November 11, 1985

Dear Fellow Georgist:

Our 60th year - and picking up steam as we go!


• A new two-rate victory to report since my last year's contribution letter to you - Duquesne, Pa. Now we have 7 Pennsylvania cities in all and more on the line.

• COMMON GROUND, a new Georgist organization seeking to enlist reformers all over into local chapters, joins our older organizations - HGFA and CSE. The assets of all three organizations now exceed \$300,000.

• In 1986, I will be working FULL-TIME for HGFA/CSE/CC, thanks in large measure to grants from the Henry George School and the Schalkenbach Foundation.

So we look forward with confidence to the next 60 years! By "we," we mean you also because without the generous support of our loyal members, our growing overhead would stop our efforts zap! within two years' time. And more than that - sometimes this work gets lonely, sometimes the reverses pile up, and frankly we need your moral as much as your financial support. Without you folks out there, our energy level would subside.

So we have a partnership going and we're willing to represent you in the real Georgist battlefields across the nation - in the city councils and state legislatures across the land where every year decisions are made to raise or lower the tax on land values. The land speculators know this and are out in full force, but only HGFA (and soon, COMMON GROUND) are out there doing battle with them - and occasionally winning! We're outnumbered, and our only weapons are facts and logic, but sometimes that works.

 We calculate that almost \$200 million was transferred off the backs of building owners in our seven cities and onto the backs of landowners because of our efforts. AND YOU HAD A PART IN THAT (if you have been a loyal contributor). What do you say - are you getting you money's worth?

So please let us hear from you. This struggle for Economic Justice is not a one-year affair, or sixty years - it's a continuing Crusade. If you don't want the land speculators to outlast us, then return the enclosed envelope - today. And be sure to enclose your opinion questionnaire as well as your contribution.

Fraternally,



Steven Cord

P.S. Inner Circle Contributors (\$50 or more), Century Club members (\$100-\$1000), and Patrons (\$1000+) get free subscriptions to Incentive Taxation as well as a Special Membership Gift. All contributors get a General Membership Gift. These gifts are designed to help you promote the Georgist Idea among your friends and acquaintances.

The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be, it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured. But it will find friends--those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be, die for it. This is the power of Truth.

WITHOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS, VERY LITTLE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED

● Published Incentive Taxation for the eleventh year. It is now generating many promising leads. A libertarian publication and the Bluebird Letter are among those reprinting articles from it.

● Won adoption of a two-rate tax in Washington and Duquesne, PA, and got New Castle, PA's, two-rate tax extended--all effective in January.

● Testified at the request of the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce for a bill enabling new improvements to be property tax-exempted for five years--passed! (February)

● A visit to Oil City, Altoona, Greensburg, etc., at the request of officials in those cities.

● Prepared a study of the impact of a two-rate tax in Wilmington, Delaware, at the request of the City Council there (\$200 consultant's fee received--May).

● Met with officials of the New York State Property Tax Revision Committee in Scranton, PA (June).

● Testified before the Missouri State Senate (June).

● Working for passage of a local option two-rate bill for schools--visited state legislators in Harrisburg (like slogging through mud).

● Trained a field representative (Paul Laterza--didn't work out), after working with Frank Nelson, he has now become a fully competent field representative.

● Ran a booth at the Pennsylvania League of Cities Convention in Pittsburgh--new contacts made (June).

● The National Civic Review featured the advances in Pennsylvania in an article entitled "New City Adopts Two-Rate Tax" (February).

● Presented a slide lecture at the Pennsylvania Conference of Economists (June).

● Appeared on dozens of public-access TV shows across the nation as part of the RSF co-sponsored 12-part series entitled "Understanding Economics."

● Appeared on WIUP-TV interview show, "Issues of the Day"--many comments received.

● Participated in a new RSF co-sponsored 12-part TV series entitled, "Issues and Answers," based primarily on Protection or Free Trade and Social Problems (June).

● Helped make contacts with writer which eventually resulted in a feature article in the Christian Science Monitor (January).

- Brokered an article on Henry George's 1886 campaign in the "New Republic" for Gurney Breckenfeld (May).
  - Currently in contact with Robert Rodale of the Rodale Press.
  - Appeared on a panel in behalf of LVT at a symposium at St. John's University (March).
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- Presented the moral case for land value taxation at a Human Rights Symposium at IUP (April).
  - Researched the amount of land values in the U.S. (huge!) for an article soon to appear in the American Journal of Economics and Sociology.
  - Pace University published a pamphlet for mine entitled "George, Marx, Smith--A Trialogue." George got the last word (June).
  - Speech - Pa. Housing & Redevelopment Officials (Sept.).
  - Speech - Pa. Planning Assn. (Oct.).
  - Speech - Mayor's 100 Club - Pontiac, MI (200 in attendance - Oct.)
  - Registered with Civitex Data Base of the National Municipal League.
  - Prepared a full-scale research report countering a slanted study by the Pennsylvania Economy League on Pittsburgh's two-rate property tax.
  - Speech - Pa. League of Cities Convention (July).
  - Provided information which got incorporated in Tom Rose's textbook, "Economics from a Christian Perspective."
  - Testified before a committee of the New Jersey State Legislature on LVT Bill for Trenton (Oct.) - this has real possibilities for 1986.
  - Interviewed on NBC-TV, Johnstown, Pa.
  - Provided information for Rolland O'Regan's new book on LVT in New Zealand.
  - Set up a presentation in Lebanon, Pa. for other HGFA Trustees.
  - Have written literally dozens of letters a week in answer to inquir from college students (graduates & undergraduates) doing research, politicians in the U.S.A. and abroad, as well as our own members.
  - Plans for the future: A modest ad campaign in the American Heritage Foundation's Policy Review; a pamphlet on "Getting the Land Value Tax Actually Adopted--How To Do It"; and preparing a pilot direct mail campaign.