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Land&Libertyannual

the printed compendium of the year's best writing

Land&Libertycommuniqué

the quarterly newsletter of the Henry George Foundation

letter to the editor

Sir,

I read the article 'The New Council Tax' (L&L 1214) and believe that we will not sell land value taxation to the public unless there is built into the proposal a way of helping those who are in need.

The public is familiar with a plethora of benefits for those who cannot work, those in want of work and even those in work on low incomes. They will expect something similar in any direct tax policy. Explaining the benefits on their own will not sell it. People are used to a safety net being in place.

I suggest HGF tries to develop an off-peg policy for this perceived problem. One which could perhaps be phased out or just left unchanged and eroded by inflation. I do not believe people will accept the idea that the council would automatically take an interest in a property if the owner was unable to pay.

At present people who rent can get financial help if they are poor. It should be similar for those who own or are asked to pay a land value tax. Any scheme of assistance should be kept at a level based on a very modest property, or perhaps a minimum allowance, so that those in homes which are too large for them are forced to consider trading down into something smaller.

John James,
Washford, Somerset, UK

diary

22nd to 23rd February 2006, London

Conference **Regenex 2006 -**

Delivering Sustainable Communities

Labour Land Campaign will host a day-long seminar on the 23rd with several leading land reform speakers - go to www.regenex.co.uk

15th March 2006, London

Seminar **Housing Affordability: Tackling the Causes Not the Symptoms**

Land Research Trust Director Fred Harrison is among the speakers - go to www.thewaterfront.co.uk

15th to 16th March 2006, Morris, Illinois

Illinois Land Values Conference

Sponsored by the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and the Illinois chapter of the Realtors Land Institute - go to www.ilfb.org

4th April 2006, London

Conference **How Affordable Housing Can Add Value to Residential Developments**

Toby Lloyd, former HGF deputy chief executive, will be among the speakers - go to www.thewaterfront.co.uk

2nd to 8th July 2006, London

25th International Conference of the IU

See front page news item - go to www.EconomicsofAbundance.info

21st to 24th September 2006, Chicago

2nd Annual AMI Monetary Reform Conference

Among the speakers will be Steven Bohnsack, Dr Nicolaus Tideman and Dan Sullivan - go to www.monetary.org

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Land&Liberty has chronicled world events for over 100 years. It has offered a unique perspective with its reports, analysis and comment on the core issues of political economy. And that uniqueness remains. **Land&Liberty** aims to explore how our common wealth should be used - and to demonstrate that this is the key to building the bridge of sustainability between private life, the public sector and our resources - between the individual, the community and the environment. **Land&Liberty** - putting people at the heart of economics.

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