

Richard Noyes, Editor

COMMON GROUND USA

GROUNDSWELL
PO Box 2,
Salem, N.H. 03079

Friday, May 10, 1991

Dear Ed,

Just as an example:

Here are copies of the first two pages and the sixth page of a five-times-a-year publication the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy gets out.

Stan sent them to me.

Note that LILP is endorsing a study by Solomon J. Benjamin which says, essentially (in the words they chose to headline it) "Escalating Land Values Create Jobs and Wealth in Developing Countries."

A quote from the bottom on the middle column on page one: "As manufacturing expanded in Viswas Nager, local land values rose: such increases stimulated even greater productivity, and the cycle of the successful growth continued."

Now, we know, of course, and understand, the phenomenon he is addressing here. Yes, rising land values may in fact have benefited the Shanker family (as detailed in the right column on page two), and given their enterprises a shot in the arm.

Land developers will tell you they don't make any money building houses or condos. They make it on the rise in land values.

But we are all living with the end product of those rising land values right now. So will India if Benjamin and the LILP have their way.

The real reason developers can make money only on the rise in land values is that government takes away all the honestly-earned profit as fast as it can arise.

Benjamin's point is only skin deep. It is the anti-thesis of

(over)

geocracy. And LILP is not only preaching it, but publishing Benjamin's book.

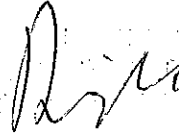
Who is going to take the time and trouble to find out from Joan Youngman, as the new Resident Senior Fellow (see item bottom of left column on page six, and top of next), with the responsibility for "coordinating and participating in all tax policy programs," where she stands on taxing labor, industry and land values?

Also Tustian and "development of the Institute's new national comparative study of growth management"?

They're talking POLICY here. Let's keep an open mind. Maybe these new policy makers, funded with \$100 million, are in fact going to be consistent with Henry George's construct. (What to bet??)

Who's going to find out?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'D. R. ...', written over a faint background of a letterhead or form.