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January 3, 1991

Mr. Benjamin Chinitz  
Director of Research  
Lincoln Institute  
The Raymond Moley House  
26 Trowbridge St.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Mr. Chinitz:

Persons interested in the principles of Henry George have sent me a copy of the enclosed undated letter sent by you to Graham Hart, to determine whether it will be necessary to institute litigation pertaining thereto.

In this letter, you state that "The Lincoln Institute has long ago abandoned the posture of being an advocate of Henry George's land policy."

It is my understanding that the Lincoln Institute obtained its funds and assets from the Lincoln Foundation established by John C. Lincoln, and that it is a subsidiary of the Lincoln Foundation.

As you know, the stated purpose of the Lincoln Foundation, as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation was "to teach, expound and propagate the ideas of Henry George as set forth in his book, *Progress and Poverty*, in such manner as the Board of Directors may direct."

There is no question that the Lincoln Institute is the creation of John C. Lincoln. I have before me a 221 page booklet issued by the Lincoln Institute in 1979, which refers in its introduction to "Henry George, whose work had inspired the patron of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy."

Having corresponded with John C. Lincoln during his lifetime and noted the devotion of that extraordinary man to the principles of Henry George, I am shocked that funds that he decided to expend for this cause, which was so close to his heart, should be diverted to other ends. The personnel of the Lincoln Institute now evidently feels that John C. Lincoln was ignorant or irrational in his devotion to the ideas of Henry George, and that therefore the views of this "patron of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy" should be ignored. But that is not a decision which you have a right to make, inasmuch as these trust funds are concerned.

I have been consulted relative to bringing a legal action against the directors, officers and managers of the Lincoln Foundation and the Lincoln Institute to compel it to undertake its obligations "to teach, expound and propagate the ideas of Henry George." and to recoup the funds expended for other purposes.

The refusal of your organization to follow its legal obligations would seem to be of special importance at this time, when our local, state, and federal governments are desperately looking for reform of their antiquated tax policies, when unbridled land speculation is destroying our savings and loan system, and endangering our banking and insurance industries, and when every country in Eastern Europe is looking for just the type of economic policies as those which "inspired the patron of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy."

If I am incorrect in my interpretation of the law and of the legal obligations of the Lincoln Foundation and the Lincoln Institute, please inform me on what basis I am mistaken. Otherwise, I will assume that litigation is essential

Very truly yours

  
Stanley M. Sapiro

cc: Lillian L. Howell  
David C. Lincoln  
Dr. Roland Smith