

THE BIG PICTURE By MASON GAFFNEY (Professor of Economics, University of California)

Something has been lost of the grandeur of Henry George's original concept, from being exciting to being dull. Have Georgists isolated themselves from the large majority of mankind? Some have concentrated on city planning or emphasize housing or urban renewal, property tax and assessment reform and minerals taxation.

These are stolid issues compared with those that Henry George wrote about. We must not lose that "spark in the belly" that made George so exciting. We must not let the movement be merely a middle-class exercise. By concentrating on making a better city for home owners, we appealed less to the renters and lost the young and the ethnic out-groups such as the organized Irish of New York who were so important to George. And we lost the labor unions. Along came Keynes, and we became a side-show.

Let's get back to George's big thinking. Let Georgists focus their attention on the big picture of unemployment and our other major problems.