Henry George **NEWS**

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From the GEORGE notebook . . .

(The following clipping was found yellowing in an old file. It was a column by the late Harry Golden that appeared in some publication now defunct. It is, however, of poignant interest.

EDITOR)

My secretary was gathering my political correspondence. I have helped Southern campaigners write speeches since 1946. I even went out once and helped one congressional candidate ring doorbells in the wrong district. He won anyway – the history of the South. In the midst of this I remembered my first campaign. I helped Oscar Geiger run for senator in New York in 1920 on the Single Tax ticket.

The Single Tax was the solution to poverty introduced to the world by Henry George. He argued that while population increased, land values appreciated, and that labor and land were the only sources of wealth.

The poor man labored, then handed over his money to the landowner who had done nothing to increase its value. The way out of all this was a tax on the unearned increment of land value. Along with this, Henry George also proposed a 40-hour week, Social Security, a minimum wage, public housing, and abolition of child labor. Naturally people called him a lunatic.

Oscar Geiger, my good friend and mentor, was George's most loyal disciple. He had seen Henry George almost win the mayoralty of New York in 1890 [presumably he meant 1886] and had been with him when the economist succumbed to apoplexy in the next campaign. The man was dead, but the work went on.

In an old deserted grocery market on the West Side of New York City, sawdust still on the floor, Oscar Geiger to the tumultous cheers of perhaps 300 people accepted his party's nomination. He was perhaps 50 then. I not yet 20. As he was George's disciple, so was I. Off we we armed with Henry George's book, "Pr ress and Poverty." We would show Ta many.

We set up soapboxes. Geiger, of cou was a natural orator and could hol crowd even though he was discussing unearned increment of land values. T rest of us weren't so lucky. I wanted make a point once and suddenly exhor the small crowd, "Look at that shoe st over there." I pointed. Everyone look

Right in front of the store were t pretty women, both with parasols, ch ting away, oblivious to my harangue. N of the men ever turned back to me. In fa looking at those girls, I forgot my point it's just as well.

After the campaign was over, we alw called Geiger "The Governor." We w quite sure he would have succeeded to Senate in Washington if only his Dem cratic opponent hadn't been Royal Co land, Hearst's man.