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April 13, 1993

Mr. Edward J. Dodson, President
Board of Trustees
Henry George School of Social Science
121 East 30th Street
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Dodson:

Thank you for your April 5th letter and the accompanying enclosure. As you noted, the Lincoln Foundation was an important contributor to the Henry George School for a number of years but in the early 1950's it seemed to us that the School was having little or no impact on people who determine policy. The narrowness of the curriculum was a contributing factor but the primary factor was that the School seemed to take the attitude that anyone who did not subscribe to the Henry George concepts was an idiot and the School didn't mind having this attitude permeate its dealings with others.

The Foundation embarked upon a program of experimentation in different formats and different venues and finally arrived at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. In our opinion this is a very successful format. It has a broader range of interests than the Henry George School displayed in the 1950's and we believe is a much better vehicle for teaching and examining the ideas that Henry George proposed in Progress and Poverty. The Institute has been quite successful in reaching people at the policy making level.

In our opinion it would be counterproductive to reallocate Foundation grants back to the Henry George School. The formats of the two organizations are different and I believe the levels of academic rigor are different, but there may be some areas where material from the Institute could be incorporated into School offerings or material from the School could be woven into Institute offerings. These would need to be explored.