

# Henry George News

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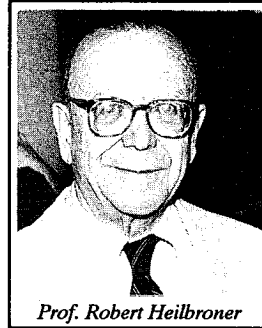
## HEILBRONER ADDRESSES H. S. URBAN WORKSHOP

by David Domke

On Monday, May 10, the School played host to the Twenty-sixth Annual High School Urban Workshop, jointly sponsored, as always, by the Henry George School and The New York City Council on Economic Education at Baruch College. The NYCEE is under new directorship; Arlene Geiger has replaced Dr. Albert Alexander, who retired after 20 years of distinguished service. Co-chairing the proceedings was HGS High School Program Director Stan Rubenstein.

The topic of this season's Workshop was "Our Economy Today and Tomorrow" - from the national deficit to New York's changing labor market to the impact of the world economy on the country at large.

Dr. Robert Heilbroner, Professor Emeritus at the New School for Social Research and author of *The Worldly Philosophers* and *The Nature and Logic of Capitalism*, among other works, addressed the perennial problem of the national deficit. Dr. Heilbroner challenged the currently fashionable notion that deficits are inherently bad, giving a cogent analysis of the human factors behind the "blind numbers" proffered by many politicians and economists. Prof. Heilbroner provided a theoretical perspective with which to evaluate the wealth of statistics that the following speakers offered.



Prof. Robert Heilbroner

Heilbroner's views on the deficit, for example, were directly relevant to the rather dire report given by Dr. Lariane Angelo, Chief Economist with the New York City Council Department of Finance. Dr. Angelo detailed what the recession and consequent loss of jobs mean in human terms. The city of New York receives roughly \$3 billion in revenues from personal income taxes a year. Since the beginning of the recession, New York has lost 180,000 jobs. In order to balance the budget (which the city is mandated to do by law) and cope with the resulting loss of tax revenues, the city has laid-off nearly 12,000 people, further shrinking the tax base. Dr. Angelo went on to say that 30 to 35 states in the U.S. are being directly subsidized by the Federal Government, which runs a deficit in order to meet the needs of those states. Many of the cuts in the City's budget can have a devastating impact on the citizenry. The present budget for day care meets only 2% of the city's day care needs; this part of the budget may be cut entirely. Fifteen million has already been cut from the prison health care system, leading, Dr. Angelo claims, to the current tuberculosis epidemic. Two million has been cut from the City's mental health program, leading to an increase of homeless people. The City cut all funding for the ASPCA, leading to the current rabies epidemic in New York City. And the City will most likely be cutting \$7 million from the CUNY system.

Next up to the podium was Jesse Benjamin, Associate (continued on back page)

**WORKSHOP***(from front page)*

Regional Commissioner, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mr. Benjamin presented the student audience with "real numbers" apropos the New York City job market: which jobs are declining and which fields are still experiencing growth. In 1991-92 the fields of finance, construction, manufacturing and transportation have all experienced major losses of jobs. Health and social services, on the other hand, have seen some increases. Employment areas that Mr. Benjamin sees growing into the next century include retail sales, electronic engineering and food service management.

Finally, Christine Shaw, Economic Affairs Officer with the United Nations Department of Social Information and Policy Analysis, spoke on the impact of the world economy on the United States, including the trade deficit and the possible ratification of the NAFTA treaty.

About 70 students and some fifteen of their teachers from all five boroughs attended this workshop. Response was enthusiastic, and many already look forward to the 27th workshop, planned for this fall.