

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE FORUM

Simon Winters, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Henry George School, has inaugurated a long-range, broad-based educational initiative aimed at galvanizing the spread and dissemination of Georgist land-reform ideas. Implementing what he calls a "synergistic" approach, Si has formed an Advisory Committee of distinguished scholars to "promote interdisciplinary scholarship and advanced research" in an effort to establish "an integrated Multi-Media Communication Program." Using an "activist educational approach," the Forum has been geared to engage "leaders in Business, Education, Government, Economics, Religion, the Media and Arts," as well as the community-at-large, in a sustained discourse on the ideas of Henry George.

That the Social Science Forum has been formed in the wake of the collapse of the Eastern-bloc and during a time of great uncertainty and decline in Western economies gives it a unique opportunity to both broaden the scope and convey the special relevance of the Georgist agenda. The Forum sees the synthetic approach as the best way to seize this historical imperative lest we, as Si puts it, lose "the precious currency of our concern."

The scholars associated with the Social Science Forum have served with distinction in academia, research, and as government officials and advisers on public policy questions. They include Robert V. Andelson, Professor

Emeritus of Philosophy at Auburn University; Steven Cord, Executive Director of the Henry George Foundation and a Trustee of the HGS; C. Lowell Harriss, a long-time professor of Economics at Columbia; Jerome Heavey, member and past Chair of the Department of Economics at Lafayette College; Dr. Michael Hudson, a scholar of financial history as well as consultant to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; Nicolaus Tideman, Professor of Economics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Prof. William Vickery, President of the American Economic Association; and Gene Wunderlich, a Senior Agricultural Economist of the Economic Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. They have all published extensive research and theoretical work within their fields of expertise.

Over the next few months the Social Science Forum will be increasing its outreach endeavors - including an effort to bring together Henry George School alumni, pooling its physical and intellectual resources in an integrative encounter with the social problems of our times. The multimedia aspect of the project - the "integration of library, college, school, home and office via an integrated infrastructure of telecommunication technologies", as the Forum phrases it, - the commissioning and distribution of articles, scholarly papers and videos will ensure that "students and the public always receive the best, most informative and convincing material" the School can produce.

- David Domke