

A New National Publication

THE FIRST copy of a new quarterly newspaper, Equal Rights, has been published by the Henry George Foundation of America, at 336 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222. Steven Cord, professor of history at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania is editor, and James L. Busey, professor and chairman, Division of Political Science, University of Colorado, is associate editor.

The purpose of the quarterly will be to present the philosophy of Henry George as a major social reform aimed to achieve equal rights for all and special privileges for none. Letters and articles from readers are welcome and friendly discussion is encouraged. It is hoped that Georgists will respond generously to this new effort to reach an ever-widening circle of readers.

The Foundation, concentrating on education for political action, senses a revival of interest in land value taxation on the part of civic leaders and

planners. The Graded Tax League of Pittsburgh has been asked to aid city officials in Bradford, Pennsylvania, one of the 60-odd cities in the state rated as third class, where the tax reform could be adopted if the council agreed. Pennsylvania's second class cities, Pittsburgh and Scranton, have prospered for 50 years under the graded tax plan.

The HG Foundation has recently added three new trustees: Henry B. Cramer of San Diego; Dr. James L. Busey of Manitou Springs, Colorado; and William E. Walker of Erie, Pennsylvania. Four trustees have been re-elected for ensuing three-year terms: Lancaster M. Greene of New York, William E. Schoyer of Pittsburgh, Dr. Steven B. Cord of Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Heman Chase of Alstead, New Hampshire. William E. Schoyer is president of the HGF — Percy R. Williams of Pittsburgh is executive secretary.



PEOPLE UNITE FOR TAX RELIEF

In an interview with John Nagy in the December California Homeowner magazine, Dr. Hickman stated that the people deserved more than promises, and if they would help with the needed tax reform conditions in California could change without increased state and federal spending. Where now large fortunes are invested in poorly used land, under a proper tax structure those investments would be unprofitable. The proposed constitutional amendment would make good housing a profitable investment whereas the present tax structure makes poor housing a good investment.

"The largest single group to benefit from the proposed shift of the tax burden to land-only will be homeowners," said Mr. Hickman. With 2,546,407 claims for the present \$750 homeowner's exemption and 489,703 claims for the veteran's exemption, most of them on homes, one can assume that more than 3 million families, or 11 million people, will benefit in that category alone. All renters would benefit from lower taxes on good housing, since taxes, like other expenses, are passed on to the renters. Business and industry would certainly benefit with no taxes on their improvements and personality. Farmers would benefit by exempting their home, barns, dams, livestock, trees, vines, fences, irrigation systems and equipment from property taxes."

She also pointed out that farmers today do not determine the price of farmland, the land speculators do.