

A New Way to Teach Politics

DR. Bernard Hennessy, director of the National Center for Education in Politics, New York University, in a talk to a group of teachers at the Henry George School, described the political process as the way people find for resolving conflict without violence, though not on a permanent basis. We get along even though we disagree, and the government works pretty well through the two-party system, which is more stable than a multiple party system. (He said that small parties in the U.S. function as pressure groups rather than as political parties.)

Not many college trained people are getting involved in politics, possibly because the college courses have consisted of traditional study which has been considered dull. Therefore the above foundation was established for the purpose of suggesting that students be given an opportunity for a taste of real partisan politics. It has been found that to teach this subject—even at the high school level—it is advisable to give laboratory experience, with safeguards. Openings can be made whereby students participate in local politics, possibly by assisting a candidate for ten weeks in the summer, along with academic work. Some may talk to lobby-

ists in Washington or join legislative sessions, where they become imbued with the idea that "politics is people." Some, in fact, turn into politicians.

Politics is considered by the NCEP to be essentially local, and all undergraduate programs are therefore locally administered. Books and seminars are important, and both are needed. Dr. Hennessy's talk gave rise to the suggestion that a course in politics be offered at the Henry George School.

It was suggested by the chairman, Robert Clancy, that although Georgists don't seem to "organize" very well, they do things in their own way; and an increasing number are finding their way into politics. "Our role," he said, "is chiefly to impart the idea to as many people as possible, and leave it to them to work it out in their own way." The Georgist movement can be considered two-fold: educational and political. When Henry George emerged as a candidate for mayor of New York an independent party was formed around him. He was a man of both action and thought—these need not be antagonistic. Enumerating some of the Georgists now in public life, Mr. Clancy said, "there'll always be a Georgist mayor some place."

The sympathy of Georgists everywhere is extended to V. G. Peterson, executive secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. Last September Miss Peterson became Mrs. Malcolm Graham, and on January 8th, her husband succumbed to a heart attack. This tragic bereavement, after three months of happy wedded life, saddened and shocked Mrs. Graham's many friends. "Pete" as she is affectionately known to us at 50 East 69th Street, is bravely continuing her work at Schalkenbach. She has not only our deepest sympathy but also our admiration and esteem.