

"A co-ordinating and strengthening influence for the Georgist world is the International Union, with headquarters in London. Under its auspices, conferences are held every few years in different countries with representatives from all over the world.

"Many have adopted Georgists ideas in a diluted form. We must there-

fore keep alive the teaching in its purity and pass it on to others. We have to be topical, up-to-date in our approach to people. What George wrote is timeless, because he wrote about principles, but we must apply these to today's conditions, always keeping the great aim in mind — Social Justice."



ERIE JUNIOR CHAMBER ENDORSES LAND VALUE TAXATION

The building industry, building trades workers and all the extractive industries of the country will be aided by land value taxation, according to the Erie, Pennsylvania Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Charles A. Hall, chairman of the land value taxation committee of the Erie Jaycees, and a past president of the organization, said the Erie group is the first Junior Chamber of Commerce in the United States to endorse the idea of exempting buildings and improvements from property taxation, and shifting the tax to land values. This action is the result of months of study and research by a committee formed last May.

Mr. Hall said the Erie Jaycees will campaign to have the Erie city council adopt the tax shift, and will work with other local groups to have it done. Erie is one of 48 third class cities in Pennsylvania allowed to exempt buildings and improvements from local property taxation. He said Erie should use land value taxation to increase its prosperity, stimulate building, renew its downtown area, help industry expand and reduce taxes for most home owners.

"Untaxing buildings will just naturally produce more construction of every kind. This will not only put construction people to work, it will also result in more work for loggers, miners, truckers, factory workers, as well as those engaged in agriculture and livestock fields." The U.S. economy needs land value taxation to make it stronger, the committee chairman said, and there is an increasing awareness all over the country that land value taxation is overdue in the nation.

"So far, only two states, Pennsylvania and Maryland, have laws which allow buildings and improvements to be untaxed, but California, Texas, Michigan and Montana have groups which are pushing for the legislation. It is the hope of the Erie Junior Chamber of Commerce that Erie will adopt land value taxation. When Erie does so, other third class cities in Pennsylvania will follow. When that happens, other states will follow the lead of Pennsylvania, and the entire U.S. economy will be stronger." Mr. Hall believes land value taxation should be the backbone of the competitive enterprise system.

The Erie assessor's office is making a study of land value taxation, and the idea is also suggested in the Erie Workbook for Community Development Action, published by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

A LEAGUE TO UNTAX BUILDINGS was formed last month in Detroit with Joseph J. Pietruska as president, and Adam Kempa as secretary-treasurer. Its purpose is to inform citizens of the necessity of eliminating artificial barriers to the production and distribution of wealth and services. Voluntary contributions will be welcome. Membership dues are from \$3 upwards. Members receive bulletins informing them of tax developments.

A LAND VALUE TAXATION COMMITTEE organized in Boston by Herman Halpern, a recent graduate, meets regularly and sends out letters and printed material borrowed from the Incentive Taxation Committee of San Diego. Eventually they hope to press for an amendment permitting separate rates on land and buildings.