

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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GEORGISTS LAUNCH NEWS MEDIA PROJECT

One of the tangible results of the Pawling Conference last July is a new effort to get the Georgist philosophy into the media.

The names of some 230 editors, journalists and news directors from eight states have been combined to produce a mailing list for press releases, Georgist statements and the like.

This was the first step in an attempt to form a "network" of writers and editors nationwide.

The effort began with a core group of extension directors and Georgist activists from non-school areas who wrestled with the problem of getting our message across more effectively. One problem, it was conceded, was lack of unity. Georgists had traditionally approached their local media with no knowledge of similar efforts elsewhere.

Also, there was no mechanism to respond to national or international news in a timely fashion.

Each member was asked to compile a list of daily and prominent weekly newspapers, influential columnists and television news directors from their own areas. These were to be combined at the New York School to form the basis of a media mailing list.

By using the school's computer, it would then be possible to send out press releases which gave local residents as contact people on stories of national importance. These Georgists, and their areas, are: Mitchell Chanelis and Anne Sayre, Boston; George Collins, Philadelphia; Mike Gavaghan, New York City; Stan Rubenstein, Long Island; Mary Davis, Atlanta; Stan Frederiksen, Missouri; Bob Scrofani, California; Earl Hanson, Utah; and Homer J. Fox, Detroit.

The system was first employed in response to the statement by the U.S. Catholic bishops on American capitalism last month. Within days of the statement, more than 180 print journalists received a three-page Georgist response which touched on the ethics of land ownership in our society. Professor Steven Cord and Richard Barbuto figured prominently in the Georgist statement.

Barbuto, who works closely with the New York School, is the executive secretary of the Guild of Catholic Lawyers, former program coordinator of the Office for World Justice and Peace of the New York Archdiocese, and a founder of the Bread for the World citizens' lobby in Washington. Cord is the foremost authority on land value taxation in the country and editor of the journal Incentive Taxation.

The press releases quoted Barbuto on the ethical aspects, allowed Cord to propose the remedy and included a statement from the appropriate local spokesman.