

Boston HGS Moves to Brookline

LAURENCE KOBAK, New York HGS faculty member, spoke to some 35 friends and graduates of the Henry George School at a meeting in Wellesley Hills, Boston, in January. They were welcomed by the president, Mitchell S. Lurio and French Brandon, the director; and announcement was made of the removal of the school's headquarters from Boylston Street to 1318 Beacon Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146. Six classes began early in February in Boston and environs—each will continue for ten weeks and is free to the public.

The single tax may yet gain wide approval and become the law of the land, notwithstanding the prevailing climate of opinion, Mr. Kobak said, although it is easy to draw pessimistic conclusions from the current direction of social development. Rising taxes, increasing government restriction of business and the preponderance of socialist thinking among educators, could all be taken as indications that the United States is heading toward the social suicide George Orwell depicted in "1984." But social development is rarely charted in straight lines. Merely because the country has moved more and more toward socialism in recent years is not proof that such leftward drift will continue.

As an example of faulty extrapolation, the speaker cited the analogy George used in *Progress and Poverty* in which Adam and Eve made a projection of the size their first child will attain. The projection is based on his growth from birth to six months. If the child continues to grow at that rate Adam and Eve calculate that he will weigh as much as an elephant by the time he is eight years old. When he is 21 he will weight as much as the entire planet.

Georgists should take heart from the renewed interest in land value taxation which has become evident in recent years among government officials. Even more encouraging is the resurgence of libertarian thought. Mr. Kobak queried, "isn't it exciting to note that there are elements of the New Left which are turning away from Marxism and demanding an end to big government?"

In spite of the libertarian movement's strides, its adherents are but a small fraction of the intellectual community. However, in relative terms, this growth is important and may well be the first sign of a new national consensus, he said.

Earlier in his talk Mr. Kobak discussed the failure of the single tax to win support. He dealt with the "hostility of economic vested interests," and dismissing it as an insignificant factor suggested that "after all, if the very rich wielded inordinate political power, measures such as the progressive income tax could never have been enacted."

JACOB HIMMELSTEIN
SYCAMORE COURT APTS
MERION PA 19066

But there is another vested interest—the vested interest of “established knowledge.” He observed that this was the force which was responsible for the persecution of Copernicus the astronomer, and Semmelweis the Hungarian obstetrician. “These men were working in the physical sciences. Can you imagine how much more powerful the vested interest of established knowledge must be in squelching economic heresies?”

Mr. Kobak went on to say, “there is little hope in trying to influence economics professors—the most zealous guardians of established knowledge. They may seek objectivity but they are emotionally incapable of it. In asking them to take George’s analysis as valid we are asking them to acknowledge that they have wasted their lives in espousing fallacies. How many men have the moral strength to make such an admission, even to themselves?”

The program opened with the film “One Way to Better Cities,” introduced by Robert Zwicker.



See San Francisco and live joyously for five days on the embarcadero with other jolly Georgists. There will be news to share of the increasing interest in improved tax methods plus the homecoming pleasure which conference visitors look forward to each year. The Holiday Inn adjacent to Fisherman’s Wharf will be your San Francisco address from July 7th to 11th when reluctantly you will have to leave the happy family.