

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL REPORT:

GEORGIST CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON ACTIVISM, NEW MEDIA

Some 100 Georgists recently converged on the Holiday Hills Conference Center in Pawling, New York to assess events of the year past and examine new avenues of acceptance for the future.

FACT-FINDING BY STATE REPS.

The annual Georgist Conference kicked off on Thursday evening, July 26, with a program on the New York State law which calls for a study of the implications of a land value tax in the state. Conference Chairman Robert Clancy noted that previous conferences focused to some extent on Georgist activity in the host state.

"To be truthful, we had already chosen New York as this year's site before we had the study bill, but we are nonetheless happy to continue the tradition," Clancy said.

Felice Gruskin, chairwoman of the New York State Incentive Taxation League, moderated the program, which included remarks by Albany activist Al Hartheimer, Ellen Everett, legislative aide to Assemblyman Daniel Feldman (the bill's sponsor), and Larry Farbstein, of the Temporary Commission on Real Property Taxation, which will undertake the study.

Other commission members were also in attendance, as were members of the State Board of Equalization and Assessment.

"A TALE OF FIVE CITIES"

The session was followed by a sneak preview of "A Tale of Five Cities", the new documentary produced by the Washington-based Center for Public Dialogue. The 30-minute film, which describes the evolution of incentive taxation in Pennsylvania, was widely-praised by those in attendance as one of the most impressively-packaged Georgist films to date.

An impromptu critique involving state officials, Professor Steven Cord and New York Director Stan Rubenstein followed. Commission members were generally intrigued by the film's content, but reserved judgement on its relevance to New York until after their investigation.

Walt Rybeck, who wrote the script and supervised production, announced that "A Tale of Five Cities" would be available for rental or purchase in 16 mm. or on video cassette later in the fall. For further information, contact the Center for Public Dialogue, 10615 Brunswick Avenue, Kensington, Md. 20895.

REPORTS FROM HENRY GEORGE ORGANIZATIONS

Progress reports from Georgist organizations throughout the United States dominated the early sessions on Friday. Some two dozen groups and individuals reported on what they had been working on during the previous twelve months. The emerging picture was diverse:

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