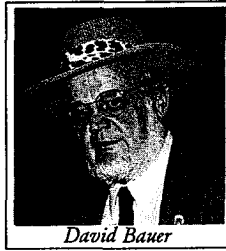


## Ukrainian City Officials Visit HGS To Study Public Rent Collection

A delegation of officials from the city of Lviv, Ukraine participated in a special all-day seminar on *Land Rent as Revenue* at the New York Henry George School on July 18th. The group is touring cities in the United States under the auspices of the Research Triangle Group in North Carolina, and their HGS connection came



David Bauer

by way of David Bauer, a consultant with USAID and graduate of the school.

The group listened to four speakers whose presentations were geared toward packing in as much vital theoretical and practical information as could be put in a single day. HGS Director George Collins chaired the program. Assistant Director Lindy Davies led off with a discussion of economic fundamentals and the Law of Rent. Then, questions of implementation were addressed by two professors who have traveled extensively in the former Soviet Union and learned much of land issues there, Dr. Nicolaus Tideman of Virginia Polytechnic & State University and Dr. Steven Cord of the Center for the Study of Economics. Prof. Tideman delivered a paper on specific implementation proposals for public collection of rent in post-Soviet cities; Prof. Cord followed up with a discussion of how to alleviate the "special-case hardships" that may arise in such a transition. Finally, Dr. Michael Hudson examined the ramifications of land ownership on the deepening financial problems of Ukraine and other former Soviet Republics. "When private individuals in the Ukraine borrow dollars to buy land," he noted, "they will get rich at public expense, because the loans will almost inevitably be paid back by inflating the local currency." Dr. Hudson warned the Lviv officials to be skeptical of the financial advice they are receiving from the West, and to consider the bad experiences of Argentina and other nations in Latin America.

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### Ukrainian City Officials Study at HGS...

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In the discussion period that filled out the day, all the presenters agreed that cities like Lviv could not afford to wait for national governments to make their public revenue decisions for them. For their part, the Lviv officials were heartened to learn about a sensible step that they could take toward a prosperous local economy, notwithstanding the economic and political chaos swirling around them.

At last, when all was said (for now), Deputy Mayor Anatoliz Kopata presented George Collins with a lovely photo album of Lviv. George Collins presented two sets of Henry George's works, one to the Mayor's Office and one to the Lviv Institute of Management, which conducts an MBA program, and Roxanna Senyshyn and Andriy Yekmovyvh, the two translators, are staff members. They plan to submit a proposal there for a Georgist lecture.