



Having reached the venerable age of ninety I am often asked how I account for my longevity. One reply might be that many of my ancestors were long-lived and that I inherited a good constitution; another answer might be that long ago I realized the futility of worry and try to divert my mind with reading or work. Like most people, I've experienced both hardship and happiness. Whenever possible I avoid acrimonious discussions, eat lightly and sleep well.

However, aside from all this, I sincerely believe that my inspiration to keep going is my conviction of the increasing need for the adoption of George's basic reform, namely, that all land (short word for all natural resources) *must be available at its true worth for its best use*. As long ago as 1879, in *Progress and Poverty*, George wrote: "Even now the pillars of the earth are trembling, and the very foundations of society quiver with the pent up forces that glow beneath."

Soon after I retired from the public school system, having taught over forty years, with licences in both home-making and English, I was fortunate enough to learn of the existence of the Henry George School in my native city of New York. I thereupon enrolled in its free courses in economics. Even before I had completed both its fundamental and advanced courses I was not only convinced that George was right but that his plan for giving everyone equality of opportunity to

earn a decent living was the only program to save the world from reverting to chaos. Thus for more than twenty years I've been a volunteer in teaching in the correspondence department of the school with many pupils not only in our own country but also in many others.

May the new generations succeed in making better conditions than the past ones!

MABEL L. REES
Brooklyn

The scars from my payment to the Internal Revenue Service and New York State Income Tax Bureau do not heal. They give me furiously to think!

They demand from us on the basis of "ability to pay." What is the difference between that approach and a hold-up man who says, how much do you have—hand it over. Ask him why and he answers that he needs it.

Karl Marx said that the income tax would destroy "capitalism," for it is based on the socialist slogan "from each according to his ability to each according to his need." This is a formula for disincentive to exertion.

How different is the request for our money from the supermarket. Each item displays its benefits and its price to induce us freely to give our earnings in exchange.

How could the principle of "benefits received" be applied to support the services of the community? All services and benefits of association make one location more in demand than another. This is rent. Collect this and you have a just, sound, tax policy.

LANCASTER M. GREENE
New York

Arnold A. Weinstein, President of the HGS, was the host on May 24th at New York headquarters to 234 students, faculty members, contributors and friends in the Metropolitan area. It was a happy occasion and the combination of George and champagne punch seemed to go over very well.