

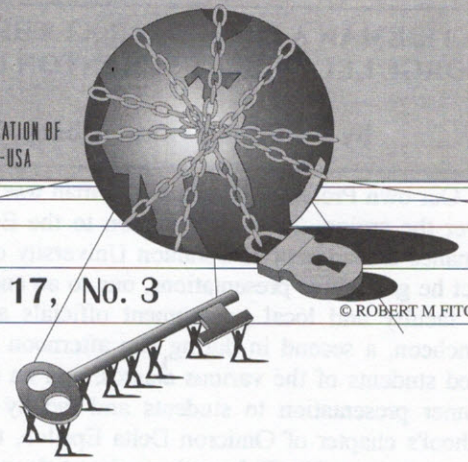
GROUND SWELL

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GEORGIST BOOTH AT GREEN PARTY CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE

by Tom Calloway, Milwaukee, WI

Perhaps spirits, who once toiled on earth for bread, keep watch over those now living, to see if we have learned to live better. If so, they came for a routine check at the Green Party Convention in Milwaukee. Here, they watched fresh discussions between fellow citizens, who considered the ability of land and natural resource value taxation to achieve clear justice and procure for each the fairest share in the fruits of their labor and in the use of the earth, our common birthright.

On Saturday, June 26, several volunteers from Better Cities Committee of Illinois (local chapter of CG-USA in Chicago) helped to pass out literature and answer questions at an exhibit sponsored by Common Ground-USA, while Green Party delegates deliberated their business. Eight hundred and thirty-six delegates came to discuss the party's platform, various resolutions, and the party's presidential nominee. The business of the delegates included a modified proposal on land value taxation from Oregon's Greens originally drafted in part by Jeff Smith of the Geonomy Society.

Various informational literature for the exhibit was generously provided by several cooperating organizations. The brochures for distribution included:

- The attractive and colorful centerpiece, "The Earth Belongs to Everyone," from Alanna Hartzok and GreenTax.net,
- * Common Ground-USA membership brochures,
- * Copies of "The Revenue Source Is Under Our Feet" brochure (CG-USA),
- * Notecards with Links to Georgist Web Pages (CG-USA),
- * Copies of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation's 2003 catalog of books on tax reform and economic justice.

Sample issues of GroundSwell (CG-USA), the Geonomist, books, and articles were available for perusal and as conversation items. A sign-up sheet was used to record names and contact information from interested visitors, in order to invite them to the Green Party online tax discussion list and to receive sample copies of the Geonomist and GroundSwell.

Chuck Metalitz, Bob Jene, Dash Lea, and Tom Calloway donated time to operate the exhibit. Sue Walton of BCCI handled the logistics for the booth. (continued on page 9)

GEORGIST BOOTH ... IN MILWAUKEE

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"Unfortunately, the total size of the conference was small—with few non-delegates visiting. The exhibit was assigned a disadvantageous location, off the mainstream of existing traffic to and from the auditorium.

All in all, we got around seven names for free copies of Groundswell and the Geonomist. It was a pleasant day, though not a very productive one in terms of numbers. Nonetheless, we passed out literature to many people and had some very long conversations with those who stuck around to talk. We can hope that even a few seeds may grow and increase the strength of our network."

Many thanks are owed to the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, Council of Georgist Organizations, the Common Ground-USA Executive Committee, Anne Goeke, Jeff Smith, Alanna Hartzok, Hanno Beck, and John Fisher. Donors were Art Scholbe, Bob & Ruth Kennedy, Chuck Metalitz, and Scott and Sue Walton.

More information on the Green Party national convention is available at: <http://www.gp.org/convention> (Tom Calloway may be emailed at forgottenhistory@juno.com<<

