



Booth at National Conference of State Legislatures hosted by P.R.E.C.

by Al Katzenberger, St. Louis, MO

Public Revenue Education Council (P.R.E.C.) with the support of Common Ground-USA had an exhibit booth at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures in St. Louis on July 28, 29, and 30, 1996.

More than 6,000 people attended the conference, including about 1,100 state legislators and twice as many state legislative staff personnel. The rest were other state officials who worked in administrative offices. There were representatives present from the Department of Revenue, Treasury, and Economic Development. There were fifteen foreign countries represented, mostly from the Organization of American States. Several of the delegates had their spouses with them, however, but very few children were observed in the exhibit area.

Land Value Taxation Promoted by Common Ground-USA Delegates at Habitat II In Istanbul

by Mary Rose Kaczorowski and Judith Vidaver, Ft. Bragg, CA

In June 1996, the United Nations Habitat II Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul Turkey was attended by Common Ground-USA delegates Mary Rose Kaczorowski and Judith Vidaver.

The themes and goals of the Conference were: Sustainable Human Settlements Development in an Urbanizing World" and "Adequate Shelter for All." The Habitat II conference was called because of the urgent need to address

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The conference is used by the state legislatures to exchange ideas and to learn what is and is not working in other areas of the country. Approximately half of the exhibitors were only interested in selling the states various products and services. The others were concerned with legislative issues from the very liberal social issues to the very conservative.

Our booth was very basic. We made an issue of the barrenness of our booth and several delegates were impressed. We told them we were selling a wonderful concept to help their constituents. Some asked us where we received our support, and when we informed them we were volunteers that really helped to get their attention.

The best thing we did to attract people was to display five signs that all said "BEST WAY TO PAY FOR GOVERNMENT".

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American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting Site of State Tax Philosophy Debate

by Richard Noyes, N. Salem, N.H.

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, under the leadership of newly-elected president Nicolaus Tideman, opened an important door for GroundSwell readers in July

The Schalkenbach Foundation, as a private-sector member, joined the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), "the nation's largest bipartisan association of state legislators with nearly 3,000 members across America."

Dr. Tideman's decision can, with your help, put land value taxation into the very heart of the public dialogue. It came just too late to make things

happen this year. The Schalkenbach Foundation became a member on the very eve of ALEC's 23rd annual meeting in Newport, R.I. when a key struggle in state tax philosophy took place.

As an elected Representative in New Hampshire's General Court, and as a public-sector member of ALEC's Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force, I found myself on the winning side of that struggle Friday, August 2. But much more could have been accomplished with enough help.

Things could be different when ALEC goes to New Orleans for its 24th

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