



BOOTH AT NCSL HOSTED IN CHICAGO

by Al Katzenberger, St. Louis, MO

The National Conference of State Legislatures' 2000 Annual Meeting and Exhibition was held in Chicago from July 15 to July 20. The theme was "Building Legislatures of the Future." This was the fifth NCSL Exhibition that Public Revenue Education Council has attended as a booth host. Al Lubin and Al Katzenberger of PREC have briefly spoken to more state legislators than anyone else in the Georgist Movement. This year Lubin and Katzenberger had the help of Charles Metalitz from the Henry George School of Chicago. This was "Chuck" Metalitz's first NCSL Exhibition, and he took the time to visit every exhibition booth in the convention center and, where appropriate, gave Georgist literature to the persons attending the booths. There were about 300 booths, so this was quite a task and Metalitz really seemed to enjoy visiting the other booths and helping at the PREC booth.

The PREC booth was a work of art in simplicity. PREC is very frugal. The corner booth worked well by being able to stop people coming and going in two directions. The usual signs "The BEST Way to Pay for Government" in English and Spanish were displayed. "Would Voters Like A 15% Property Tax Reduction With No Revenue Loss Or Other Tax Increases?" is still an attention getting sign. Lubin suggested next year that PREC have a banner stating, "We are the ONLY booth not selling a service or a product!" The booth was also decorated with big American flag bows on loan from the Jefferson Barracks Chapel Association in St. Louis. Thank you, JBCA. Candy to attract legislators and

others to the booth was donated by Pat Lubin, Al's generous wife. To rent a "skirt" for an eight foot exhibition table cost \$70.00. Sandra Cothran, Al Katzenberger's loving companion, donated a plastic table skirt for \$7.00, and no one noticed the difference. Thank you, Pat and Sandra. The St. Louis Teachers and School Related Personnel Union, Local 420, loaned an easel for one of the signs, thereby saving PREC \$28.25, the cost to rent an easel. Thank you, Local 420.

PREC continued to hand out the pamphlet from Common Ground-USA called "The Revenue Source Is Under Our Feet." When giving it to the legislators, they were informed that it was an updated publication showing the continued growth and improvement of the two-rate site value method of taxation. The Center for the Study of Economics provided a generous supply of Steven Cord's "44 Objections & Responses" booklet. PREC provided copies of Dr. Robert Andelson's booklet, "Henry George and the Reconstruction of Capitalism." Twelve copies of the booklet were given to twelve visiting legislators from Russia. The foreign visitors from China, Africa, Canada, and South America eagerly took all the information offered. The only group that showed any resistance came from Germany. They just marched by the booth, often not even returning a greeting of welcome or responding to "It's FREE useful information."

If you ever work a booth at an exhibition, you want Al Lubin in the booth with you. Lubin is an excellent backup and authority on the Georgist concepts. The new phrase he stressed at the booth was "tax shift." He repeatedly said, to not say "tax reduction" or "reduced taxes." Most of the legislators heard, "All we are asking you to do is simply "shift the taxes" from the improvement to the location. Then watch for the positive effects you will witness from such a simple tax shift."

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SITE TAX PUBLICIZED BY NADER

Ralph Nader, formally nominated as U.S. Greens Party candidate for President at their national convention in Denver in June 2000 is favorable to the site value tax, reports Alanna Hartzok, activist Greens member. Hartzok, of Scotland, PA provided a brochure, "The Earth Belongs to Everyone", for distribution at the Greens Convention in Denver, and it was distributed from a table staffed by Allen Butcher of Denver. (The brochure will be an insert in the Sept.- Oct. 2000 Ground-Swell).

In April 2000, Hartzok emailed to GroundSwell a download from the website, sfbg.com, of the San Francisco Bay Guardian quoting Nader in part:

"... It comes as no surprise that one of the major factors exacerbating sprawl is the automobile. Still, we subsidize the use of automobiles with highway budgets and tax subsidies for parking facilities. We also pay for automobiles with military expenditures that ensure the flow

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