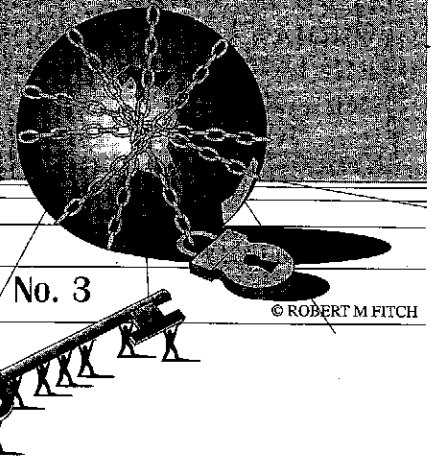


GROUND SWELL

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
COMMON GROUND-USA



MAY-JUNE 2004 / \$3.00

VOLUME 17, No. 3

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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)

INTERNATIONAL UNION MEETS IN SPAIN by Pat Aller, New York, NY

The International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade held its 24th conference in Madrid, Spain, 27-30 May, 2004. This was exactly 91 years after Georgists from all over the world met at a conference sponsored by the Spanish League for the Single Tax in Ronda, Spain, partly financed by industrialist Joseph Fels, who had supported major land value tax drives in the United States before World War I.

Unlike most previous conferences, arranged by IU headquarters staff in London, this was prepared by AEPERS (Asociacion Espanola para el Estudio del Regimen del Suelo y los Recursos Naturales), under the direction of Fernando Scornik-Gerstein, attorney and former advisor to the Argentine government, who lives and works in Spain and the Canary Islands, and serves as AEPERS president. Although the number of Spanish Georgists was decimated during Spain's civil war, Scornik has helped to rebuild the movement there. He also attracted Argentine Georgists to the conference. More than 50 people attended, from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, and the United States. Simultaneous translation was provided in Spanish and English.

Scottish Parliament Sends Greetings

The Scottish Parliament sent the following message, signed by ten members of Scottish Green, Scottish Nationalist and Scottish Socialist Party groups in the Scottish Parliament:

"We send you our best wishes and support in your deliberations in Madrid this year. Some of us enjoyed and took part in your last conference in Edinburgh in 2001.

"Scotland is in the throes of releasing itself from the shackles of a historical inheritance of landed privilege. You will know that the Parliament has committed itself to 'investigating the contribution land value taxation might make to the cultural, economic, environmental and democratic renaissance of Scotland.' We believe that the private appropriation of the value of our common resources—such as land— (continued on page 10)