



The Other Economic Summit

by Alanna Hartzok,
Chambersburg, PA

"Working Alternatives, A World that Works," was the 1997 headliner for The Other Economic Summit (TOES) convened at the University of Colorado, in Denver, Colo., June 20-22, 1997. While seven G-7 nation's representatives were joined by non-member Russia down the street, TOES convened with several hundred people from throughout the U.S.A., Canada, Europe and Central and South America. TOES had met nearly every year since it was first organized

in London in 1984 to provide a stage for presentation and discussion of alternatives to the official agenda of the heads of the leading industrialized nations. Conference Chair Ward Morehouse says, "TOES is an international forum for the presentation, discussion and advocacy of the economic ideas and practices upon which a more just and sustainable society can be built—an economics as if people mattered."

Nearly 100 workshops and seminars were included on this People's Summit program. A TOES Media Center, Video library and screening room, the Indigenous Peoples Genocide Memorial, an Oxfam sponsored Hunger Banquet, and a March for Justice from downtown Denver to the Capitol steps were also included in the conference venue.

The theme of Day 1 asked the question, "What is Real Wealth?" Panelists explored issues concerning working alternatives to neoliberalism, envisioning a post-corporate society, ecological economics, creating community currencies, understanding debt and the World Bank and IMF structures. Alanna Hartzok was featured in a panel on Day 1 (see related article on page 12).

During the Day 2 theme of "What Is Real Sustainable Community?" events, workshops explored G-8 policies in Central America, international activist strategies to combat globalization, responsive local government structures, Gandhian economics, African perspectives on economic policy, microfinance strategies and numerous other alternative approaches. Bill Batt participated in a Day 2 panel and also David Giesen enacted a speech by Teddy Roosevelt (see articles on pages 1, 2).



Giesen and Johnson participate in TOES

On the second day of The Other Economic Summit, David Giesen, actor and education director of the Henry George School of Social Science in San Francisco, enacted a speech by Teddy Roosevelt wherein he expressed his strong commitment for establishing public lands and protecting natural resources against the profit motives of America's early land barons. When Teddy Roosevelt declared that natural resources should be regarded as public utilities, he asserted that meant that there would be payment for the rights enjoyed and continuous benefit (for the public) use. Regretably, Roosevelt fell short of his goal of over-seeing legislation that would

have recognized natural resources as public utilities.

The following day, Giesen in mustache, beard and brown suit, gave spontaneous vignettes from speeches by Henry George. Giesen is also a member of Common Ground-USA, and took with him extra GroundSwell copies and CGUSA membership brochures for a literature table.

The geonomics literature table at TOES was organized and maintained by Paul Johnson, Board President of the Henry George School of San Francisco, thereby furthering land and taxation economics education to those at TOES. Among the highlights of the tabling effort was an extended dialogue with David

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