Georgists Attended Economics Conference in Cuba

The Second International Meeting of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems was held January 24-29, 2000, in Havana, Cuba, at the Havana, Cuba Convention Center and Palco Hotel. It was sponsored by the Association of Latin-American and Caribbean Economists (AEALC) and National Association of Economists of Cuba (ANEC).

Three Georgist economists affiliated with the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation of New York City were invited. Ted Gwartney, Amityville, NY, Executive Director of the Schalkenbach Foundation made a presentation about the work he and other Georgists have previously done with Russian officials toward implementation of public collection of land rent. Dr. Michael Hudson, President of the

Georgists Missionaries to Cuba

by Dr. Kris Feder, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

According to my letter of invitation from Dr. Roberto Verrier Castro, Vice President of AEALC and President of ANEC, "The purpose of the Meeting is to promote discussions on current tendencies in World Economy in the context of Globalization, from the most diverse theoretical and analytical point of view, essential require-

der), has given us permission to reprint his speech in GroundSwell (see page 6). Dr. Kris Feder, Professor of Economics at Bard College, accompanied the presenters at the request of the Schalkenbach Foundation Executive Committee, and wrote the observations.

Public Finance Alternatives - A Lancaster County Forum

by Alanna K. Hartzok, Scotland, PA

Public Finance Alternatives - A Lancaster County Forum was hosted by the Lancaster Greens on Wednesday, March 29th at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster, PA.

This was the first forum of its kind for Lancaster County to take a serious look at the "two-tier" property tax reform now in place in 20 municipalities throughout Pennsylvania.

A major concern for Lancaster County is controlling overwhelming sprawl while continuing to maintain economic development. The Lancaster Greens purpose in presenting this public forum was to educate political and community leaders about the potential of this new tax tool to curb sprawl by stimulating economic growth in depressed urban areas and encouraging good site use in already developed areas.

continued on page 5

Attending the Forum was a diverse group of local public officials, agency representatives, and community activists.

The Forum speakers were as follows:

Joshua Vincent, Director, Center for the Study of Economics, who opened with an overview of the benefits of this new tax reform for the municipalities that have implemented this policy approach. He explained that the two-tier tax harnessed the property tax in the right direction, decreasing taxes on buildings to promote improvements and good maintenance on existing structures while shifting the tax base onto land values to prevent speculation and keep land sites affordable. His organization is playing a leading role in consultation, implementation and research for this new policy approach.

Napoleon Saunders, Business Ad-

continued on page 2