

WILLIAM W. NEWCOMB, PRESIDENT

May 26, 1981

Sam Venturella
 4721 North Hermitage Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60640

Dear Sam:

When I write a form letter I have to structure my sentences to say as accurately as possible and as succinctly as possible the meat of the idea. Twelve states represent approximately one-fourth of the number of states in the Union; there are just under 50 million Catholics in the U. S. according to a 1977 census. Ten million Catholics in 12 midwestern states is probably a little high, because the only heavily populated areas would be Chicago and Denver.

Why did I not use the word "approximately"? Our Vice President, a priest of the local Liberal Catholic Church, edits everything I write for mass distribution. He is a fine writer, a man with several degrees, and he felt that getting rid of the "approximately" gave greater impact to the sentence.

On the back page of the enclosed pamphlet it is stated that almost 12,000 people reflected on and debated the draft statement. That is more people than you can get a consensus in the Georgist movement!

As a Catholic yourself, I am surprised that you have never read this pamphlet. I first read about it in NEW LEAF and ordered 50 copies. I have given over 30 away to people I felt should read it. In the same mail with this letter one copy is going with a letter to the Maryknoll Sisters in the belief that they might not have seen it.

Your thesis that Georgists make wild statements makes me think of those Georgist instructors in the HG School who argue fine points in their sessions at the Annual Conferences. One of the problems I have had in getting 25 sets of resolutions returned by Georgist Unitarians is their inability to sell LVT to their Unitarian friends to get a mere 10 signatures. I have repeatedly told them to get the Schalkenbach film or the BEE film, and show it to a forum of Unitarians. That is what I did -- and two lines of people came to a table at which the minister's wife and my wife sat, and FORTY people signed.

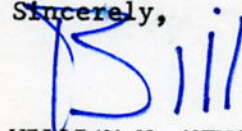
I have shown ONE WAY TO BETTER CITIES on TV all over Florida. I hold up the Schalkenbach folder "UPTAXING LAND AND UNTAXING HOMES" or "THE TWO TRILLION DOLLAR COST OF THE WRONG KIND OF PROPERTY TAX" in front of the camera just before the show is ended. On one NBC outlet I got 250 requests for the folder, with a stamped addressed envelope sent in all cases. It is too bad that there is no national membership organization to put such respondents to work. It is too bad that out of 100,000 graduates of the Henry George School (as of 1967, per Clancy), an alumni association has not turned into a viable Georgist membership organization.

Read David Broder's "Changing of the Guard". It shows how other organizations got national recognition, got laws passed in legislatures and in Congress -- and many of these organizations are less than 10 years old.

We've got the one true solution -- but we have never hired a real marketing expert to show us how to sell our product.

Incidentally, you have never sent us a contribution. ~~MYSELF~~ Media Foundation will have to close if Georgists don't support it better. I can't bail it out for ever with my SS checks.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM W. NEWCOMB, President