

# D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc.

PUBLISHERS SINCE 1848

120 ALEXANDER ST.



PRINCETON, N. J.

EDWARD M. CRANE  
PRESIDENT

December 16, 1958

Mr. Leonard E. Read  
Foundation for Economic Education, Inc.  
Irvington-on-Hudson, New York

Dear Leonard:

This is simply a note following our telephone conversation to inform you that I have placed your letter of December 9th in the file without any action and to tell you something about our plans for the new work on the Constitution by Mussatti.

While we discussed this many months ago, I was perhaps remiss in not keeping you informed on how the book was progressing. I am glad to say that it is now completely in manuscript and is about to go to our Manufacturing Department for production. It is an exposition of the Constitution, its background, its history and its significance, done as a reference text in language that should appeal to the high school student but without a study guide. We feel that it will have a more universal appeal this way and that we will be able to gain a far larger adoption list for it than we could for the trial edition. It is going to be a magnificent book, illustrated with sketches especially drawn for it and it is to be produced in two colors; yet we expect to keep the price at a minimum because we foresee a very substantial sale for it.

I will let you have one of the first copies off the press for I am sure it is a book that you can use. And I also believe that you can have every confidence that everything in it is in the best and soundest tradition. We have checked it carefully and we believe that Mussatti has done a wonderful job.

Ever sincerely,

Edward M. Crane

EMC:LAR

PLP

December 9, 1958

Mr. Theodore Crane, President  
D. Van Nostrand & Company, Inc.  
120 Alexander  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Ted:

How about your company making a donation to FEE in the form of the sale of the copyright to Mussatti's CONSTITUTION book, say for the nominal price of \$1.00?

I make this suggestion on the assumption that you folks do not propose another printing or a new addition and, thus, the book would come to an end unless FEE does something about it.

We won't do anything about it ourselves unless we can get someone to do a low-price offset, paper-covered job for us. We just aren't flush enough at present to do anything else.

Should you view this suggestion favorably, we would make new arrangements with the author as to royalties and so on.

The above is about the only way I can see to keep the book alive. I probably wouldn't have the temerity to make the suggestion were it not for the fact that we turned it over to you originally as a completed job.

All my best!

Cordially,

Leonard E. Read

12-6-58

LER-

I'm stuck at this point as to the next move on Mussatti's "Constitution". In my letter of Nov. 28 to Whitney, I tried to get some indication about copyright and royalty provisions, but he ignored that question.

My guess is that we'd have trouble getting permission to have the book printed by Sowers, though he'd probably do it for no more than half the figure Whitney quotes.

One possibility is to use up our 400 paperbound copies and call it a day on this book.

PfP