

MEB

Murray N. Rothbard

To: Leonard E. Read, President

FROM: Murray N. Rothbard

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SUBJECT: Recommendations for the future of The Foundation I would deem it essential to develop a journal and training institute as quickly as possible, even at the expense of delay in building up the mailing list.

A scholarly journal devoted to economic liberalism seems to me to be the primary need. The journal I would recommend would be open to articles of all types, either philosophical or based on detailed research, with the focal point the development and explanation of the economic liberalism thesis. I should like to see the journal patterned after the American Economic Review or the Journal of Political Economy rather than after American Affairs. In other words, each issue would consist of a few important articles of some length, rather than numerous jottings and brief statements. Particularly important would be an extensive book-review section, including reviews of articles appearing in other journals. This latter provision would be unique and very worthwhile. A great many articles of varying degrees of incompetence and socialist persuasion appear constantly in the scholarly journals--a continual critique in the Foundation journal would be of great significance in influencing professional economists, scholars, and the upper intellectual groups generally.

Although the articles should vary from the philosophical to the statistical or historical, it seems to me important to stress that the core of every article be the development of the economic-freedom thesis. This is in no sense a violation of "academic freedom", "journalistic freedom" etc; there are enough journals excepting socialistic articles or articles with no point of view at all. It must never be forgotten that the Foundation's function is to develop the economic freedom thesis in the most competent and scholarly way possible; its function is not to be "objective" or to disclaim any interest in, or responsibility for, any of its publications. Such disclaimers are unfortunately all too prevalent in other organizations.

The training-institute, or school as I would prefer to call it, is of course more of a long-range proposition. It is, however, extremely important. It would be an invaluable method in reaching the younger intellectual groups. A school is particularly useful because it exposes the student to an atmosphere of intelligence and liberalism for a long period of time, say one to four years. He can receive a Foundation pamphlet and neglect to read it at all or perhaps glance at it hastily; if he enrolls in a term of courses at a school with examinations, reading lists, etc. he has to discipline himself to pursue an extensive program of studies. The hope is, of course, that after he enrolls in these courses his interest will be whetted so that he will pursue these studies himself from then on.

Both of these projects I believe are so important that they should take precedence over any large expenditure of funds to expand the mailing list for pamphlets.

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