



THE FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION, INC.

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BETTINA BIEN

November 21, 1968

Professor Frank W. Fetter
8 Smith Road
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Dear Professor Fetter:

There are three quotes attributed to Lenin, that we have tried to track down over the years -- (1) "We shall force the United States to spend itself into destruction," (2) "We will not have to attack it [the United States]; it will fall like an overripe fruit into our hands," and (3) the one you mentioned which is traceable to Keynes' reference. Although speakers and authors occasionally cite specific volumes and page numbers of Lenin's works for the first two references, none of these citations has proved to be reliable. As a matter of fact, we wrote to William Henry Chamberlin in connection with the first one and he replied that he had never been able to locate it in all his readings of Lenin. As you may be interested, we enclose a copy of this correspondence.

We have used the excerpt from Keynes referring to Lenin's supposed remark in THE FREEMAN (April 1965) and a copy of this issue is enclosed. Our interest in this quotation of Lenin's was in trying to find out when he first said it, or wrote it, so that we have not tried to accumulate references to it during the 1920's and 1930's. However, we do find that it was reprinted by Keynes himself in 1932, in the collection of Essays in Persuasion, published by Harcourt, Brace and Company of New York. Perhaps it was this reprinting of that particular excerpt from The Economic Consequences of the Peace, which led to its revival in the 1940's. In any event, this might be a theory worth working on.

We are sorry we cannot be of more specific help in citing references to the Keynes-Lenin quotation, which appeared in the 1920's and 1930's. From our point of view, it is perhaps more significant to attribute this insight into the effects of inflation to Keynes, whose influence today remains so enormous, then it would be to trace it to Lenin, recognized as a spokesman for Marxist-Communism, whose views would generally be discounted.

We trust these comments will be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Bettina Bien