

November 1. It was as if I had never played golf. Posted an 88 and lost \$5 playing with Ed Moore (13) against Si Klauck (8) and Dr. Mueller (15).

Our week-old milk strike is over. It takes a strike against an industry like milk to make it plain even to the discerning that the strike is an instrument of stupidity. If the grievance is real, which in many cases it is not, then the strike is only what stupid persons would use to effect a cure.

Took Ag and Frances to see Kathryn Grayson play the life of Grace Moore. I recall, 13-15 years ago when some of us were having luncheon with Louis B. Mayer of M-G-M Studios, he had a 14-year old gal sing to us, a discovery he claimed for himself. She had a lovely voice, but I shall always remember the big space between her two front teeth and at the time I wondered how they would patch that up. The gal was Kathryn Grayson. The show is good but not great.

November 2. Ben phoned about Carl Hess of Newsweek. I called Hazlitt and phoned Ben back: thumbs down.

Phoned Bill Book in Indianapolis about the committee to examine the International, governmental banks. Told him that unless the question were raised about their existence, no study of them was warranted. He seemed to agree and said he was getting some study under way. Told him to call on me if a critique were needed.

Phoned Jim Mussatti in San Francisco about his book "Constitutionism." I have in mind a new edition including a study guide.

Approved for a Clipping an excerpt from Grover Cleveland's message vetoing a \$10,000 appropriation for the distressed people of Texas.

Disapproved a nomination of Dick Cornuelle's parable in the October issue of Faith and Freedom written under the pseudonym of Charles Richards. I hate pseudonyms and bet Dean two bits that the Readers Digest wouldn't use an article thus signed. Lost. Am sending the article to the R.D.

Ruth Sheldon Knowles had a good two-page article "Research for a priceless ingredient" in the October issue of World Petroleum. The trouble is that most oil men who decide on contributions won't see it. Somehow we should exploit the piece.

Walter Pater of "The Renaissance" writes, "Rossetti, I believe, said that the value of every artistic product was in direct proportion to the amount of purely intellectual force that went to the initial conception of it." The value to which he refers cannot, of course, be the market concept of value. It would have to be value in a subjective sense. This is, though, an important thought.

2 - 1953

November 3. Phoned Levin Campbell who had planned to be at Board meeting. His 94-year old Dad went to the hospital with a strangulated hernia. Serious.

Maybe the best word to describe governmental action is "limitation." Once the point is established that police power can only limit activity there remains only the task of examining what activities should and should not be limited.

On phone with Claude Robinson about tomorrow. He says the tariff issue is really a "doozy," that the businessmen are no different about their subsidies than are the farmers and others. He is right.

Ag did a Swiss steak for dinner.

November 4. At FEE by 7:00 AM, unshaved, slacks, T-shirt, cooking my chix dish for 40 folks, and finished by 10:15. Lanfear, Fairchild, Hutchinson, and McBain came early. Other Trustees on hand by noon:

T. Jefferson Coolidge  
Henry Hazlitt  
Pierre F. Goodrich  
Ben Moreell  
J. Howard Pew  
Claude Robinson  
Leo Wolman  
George Champion  
Robert B. Snowden  
Laurence M. Gould  
Jasper E. Crane

Guests were Frank Chodorov, Vic Milioni, and Ed Opitz. The luncheon seemed to go off all right, my associates performing so well the whole thing appeared effortless.

After a talk with Pierre Goodrich, in which obviously he wants me to please Morgan of Ayrshire Collieries to the point where Morgan will want to give FEE greater support, I talked to Hazlitt about a preliminary memorandum questioning the existence of the Export-Import Bank etc., which he agreed to do for us. If this succeeds in getting Capehart's Committee to examine the broader question, then we shall do a thorough critique on the subject.

Hazlitt, who has many times during my acquaintance with him yielded to expediency, said at luncheon, and wholly on his own, "Every time I have departed at all from the libertarian philosophy I have later been sorry for it.

The Board meeting seemed all right but I felt that it didn't "go over" too good.

Following the meeting, Pew, Robinson, Crane, Wolman, Hazlitt, and I had a session on "Mr. Freeman." Agreed on Joe Ball if we can get him.

Claude Robinson stayed on for an hour to talk with me and Bierly mostly about the tariff problem. Claude, incidentally, has no use for

3 - 1953

Selvage and revealed that he would take any side of any issue for money enough, that his firm was now representing one of the communist countries. I'll get details on this one.

Phoned Fred Gurley's office in Chicago. Talked with his chief clerk, a Mr. Kamp, Fred being out of town, explaining I was sending some "Dangers of Treaty Law" for their meeting on this subject tomorrow.

Took Ag, Frances, and JB to Paris for dinner.

Hutch phoned at 9:15, saying he had just arrived home. Said it was the best Board meeting we had ever had; that we must keep on holding it at Irvington; that the session should start at 10:00 AM and go on later in the PM, in short, make a day of it; that the luncheon was "a work of art"; that there was merit to Pew's arguments on the tariff issue; that Chodorov's ISI was fine but that FEE should collect for publications used by ISI.

November 5. A note to the Trustees, copy appended.

Ed Opitz phoned saying that he and I have a date with Gerald Heard tomorrow.

Phoned Hazlitt suggesting the consideration of Ed Lipscomb for "Mr. Freeman."

Jasper phoned saying that he and Pew were talking about Joe Ball last night on the way home and weren't too enthusiastic. This morning he, Jasper, phoned Donald Cowling at Minneapolis and he was not favorable. Said that Ball had wobbled badly in the Senate, that his wife was quite socialistic.

A letter dated November 2 from Si Green of Rochester had an interesting last paragraph:

At a meeting last spring we were discussing the merits of certain publications, including FEE publications. Someone remarked, -- "Any resemblance between the authors and publishers of these other books, and Leonard Read and the group which surrounds him, is purely coincidental. Read and his group pray for understanding instead of more business." That is probably not an exact quotation.

Renewals are declining percentage-wise, therefore thought it proper to devise a wholly new letter. Copy of first draft appended.

Prepared a note to the P/L as follows:

Our title for this piece, "Dangers of Treaty Law," is mild indeed:

"...in the steel seizure case, the Chief Justice of the U.S. advanced the shocking doctrine that the United Nations Charter and other international commitments give the President of the United States authority -- nowhere granted to him either by the Constitution or by the laws of the country -- to seize private property."



THE FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION, INC.  
IRVINGTON-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK

LEONARD E. READ, *President*

November 5, 1953

MEMORANDUM

To: The Trustees  
From: Leonard E. Read

There were 16 Trustees at our meeting yesterday. The minutes will be sent you soon.

Enclosed is the October financial statement.

Please note on your calendar that the Annual Meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, May 18, 1954.

Mr. Hutchinson, after returning to Detroit, phoned me last night and voiced some opinions that were earlier expressed by Mr. Pew and others:

More time should be allowed for discussion. The day is lost for other purposes anyway, so why not make an occasion of it!

Accordingly, we will plan to convene at about 10:00 AM. After disposing of FEE business, we will program a few brief talks by Trustees on subjects of current importance, enough to evoke discussion, and continue into the afternoon as long as interest is sustained. After all, there are few gatherings having more thoughtful members than our own Board. Provisions will be made to capitalize on this fact.

If there isn't any marked disposition to the contrary, the Annual Meeting will be held in Irvington.



THE FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION, INC.  
IRVINGTON-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK

LEONARD E. READ, *President*

November 5, 1953

Mr. W. C. Mullendore, President  
Southern California Edison Company  
Edison Building  
Los Angeles 53, California

Dear Bill:

The red line represents the trend in number of our contributors from the time FEE began in 1946 to October 31, 1953 -- from zero to 4,218 donors.

While our total revenue has not increased due to the loss of some large donations received initially, this growth in the number of contributors signifies a vitality in free-market, limited-government thinking. For it is the rationale of this philosophy -- this and only this -- that we have been consistently presenting. Further, and this is important, the donations have been made in response to personal wishes, not as the result of pressured solicitations.

It could be put in these terms: The Foundation's revenue is made up exclusively of "conviction money."

There are numerous opportunities for the extension of our educational work for which we have some competency but which must await an increase in total revenue. Regardless of this fact, we insist on sticking to the voluntary method in revenue affairs, and it is in this spirit that we attach a renewal invoice -- in blank, for you to fill out as your own conviction dictates.

We can make you only one promise: We shall devotedly seek a better understanding of the free-market, limited-government philosophy, attempt an ever-increasing clarity in explaining it, and release our findings to all we can induce to want them. This method is the only practical antidote to socialism known to us.

Cordially,

Leonard E. Read

LER:bf

Encl.

We can supply any number of copies you may want.

Received copies of our new piece "Conscription," copy appended.

Rosemary and Bob Huston came for dinner and an evening of gin rummy. We clobbered these very nice folks.

November 6. A note from Sewell Avery enclosing Ward's check for \$5,000.

Decided to send the new renewal letter, slightly modified to those on P/L who are not donors and to 1,000 others in FEE's prospect list.

Ed Opitz and I drove to New York, picked up Gerald Heard and lunched at a Longchamps restaurant on Madison. Heard comes close to being the most remarkable man I have ever met. There is no use reporting his philosophy here, it is in his many books, eight more of which I ordered immediately after our luncheon. His whole philosophy is built around man's emergence, therefore we were on the same general ground. His speciality is in the psychological field and mine is sociological, the two really merging into the same thing. He, however, is more advanced in his field and also in science as it relates to this field than anybody I have met or heard of. He is English, beginning as a fundamentalist, is facile and brilliant in speech, slight of build, red mustache and goatee, lives now in Santa Monica, writes prolifically and lectures constantly, making his living in this manner, I surmise. He has no use whatever for the Moral Rearmament movement, says that he knew Ouspensky well and that he was "a nice person" but that Gurdjieff, a man of fantastic powers, was a thorough "monster." It was as good a two hours as I have ever spent.

The first snow of the season and at nightfall everything beautifully white, 3 to 4 inches of it.

To show how memory should not be trusted too much, I quote the stanza from Omar after looking in the book:

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,  
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all your tears wash out a Word of it!

I discussed with Heard the differences in persons -- the possibility that we are not at all alike, that what we observe as likenesses is the mere fiction of our own imperceptibility. We are all agreed that no two things in creation are identical, not even finger prints or cells. How, then, can there be aggregated similarities composed of nothing else but dissimilar parts?

November 7. Jim Rogers had his first visible, financial success, a check for \$2,500 from his former employer, John Deere and Company.

Aside from some minor details, worked only on a special "Notes from FEE," dealing with tariff issue until 10:00 PM.

Mr. H. E. Fennell

November 18, 1953

589-page high school economics textbook by Fairchild and Shelly. This, however, took four years. We are, therefore, now engaged in preparing study guides for such good books as Essays on Liberty, Mainspring, Shirtsleeve Economics, Economics in One Lesson, and others. These books, if supplemented with study guides, become acceptable for classroom use. Copies of such a study guide for Economics in One Lesson are enclosed. These are prepared by one who has had 35 years of experience in teaching high school economics. You will readily see what a chore this is, but a vital one in my view.

The year ahead: A continuation of the course we are now on and expansion of our work if financially possible. I believe we are competent to do three or four times our present program. But we must be guided by our resources.

The above, already long, is a most sketchy account of our work and plans. If you want any additional specific detail, I shall supply it immediately.

Cordially,

Leonard E. Read

LER:bf  
Enclosures



10 - 1953

Bettina came into possession of an original Assignat, a collector's item. Appended is a copy of it.

Inx arrived on the 5:07.

Ben in New York phoned wanting me to meet with him on the morrow.

Did a Filet of Sole Ammadine, a lot of confab, and retired at 10:30, Inx spending the night, the most exciting item of the evening being the news that Herb is leaving Luhnnow to become PR head of Hawaiian Pineapple in Honolulu. Do not know what's behind it all.

November 21. Inx, Opitz, Curtiss, Harper, Bierly, Rogers, and I confabbed at FEE this Saturday until 1:30 PM.

Ag and I left at 5:30, driving to the Waldorf where I talked with Ben about his Task Force. Ag was bedecked in her pretty new earrings received as a birthday present from the junior Reads. Went to 21 Club and had a fine dinner. Home by 10:30 PM.

November 22. Fog and smog give us zero-zero, worse than I have seen it. Golfed with MDs McKenna, Adie, and Farnum. The golf season is over and so is LER's golf, shooting an 89 and losing \$2.50. Mother joined in a birthday dinner for Ag on the possibility I might have to leave too early tomorrow on account of weather.

Hazlitt phoned saying he had dictated a memo on the Export-Import Bank and Int. Bank for Reconstruction and Development for me.

November 23. Business light. Sent papers to the American Consulate office in Munich, Germany to obtain a visa for Marianne Schubert, the German gal, formerly with Vida and Joe. This may be a mistake, at best a gamble.

Ivan drove Jim Rogers and me to La Guardia, Rogers to Syracuse, and I on AA's #225, 3:00 PM for Chicago. Routine, getting to Hilton Hotel at 6:10 PM. Went to MF suite which for the last four months has been in revamping. It is, to me, not as impressive as before but much more practical. Had phoned Ruth Taylor of MF earlier in the day to try to make a dinner date for me, having in mind employing my time most usefully but, on arriving, found a note saying she had been unsuccessful -- about what I had expected on giving such short notice.

Dined at St. Huberts, a lovely old English place in an alley back of the Union League Club, one of the two places in America where real mutton chops are served. Took with me as a companion Gerald Heard's "Creed of Christ" and he, Heard, even ascended in my esteem. Only a really profound thinker could write "It would seem as a matter of actual fact few of us are good enough to know much about evil."



11 - 1953

Phoned Ag and again wished her a Happy Birthday. She told of her dinner at the Virginian with Frances, Aunt Ruby, and JB, he bringing her a box of candy and a camellia.

During dinner, I got to thinking of some others who try to teach me how to behave and reflected on how differently they act toward me than they would have me act toward others. So I wrote in the back of my book:

When you get through telling me how I should treat others I ask myself how you have treated me. In the answer I find to this is the only honest advice you have to offer. In short, if in telling me I should be gentle to others you are rude in your advices to me, then it is only rudeness you truly recommend. You negate yourself and leave me to act not on your meaningless advices but, rather, on my own devices.

My own devices, however, need much improvement. For example, today, there came a chain letter message from my young dynamic friend Jerry Skibbins, whose thinking, until now, I have much admired. I returned his treason to reason with a note much too curt:

Chain letters are more antagonistic to my sensibilities than the New Deal, a national lottery, or Satan.

I hope you are well.

If the note frets the devil out of Jerry, which it may, my curtness will aid his progress if not our friendship.

November 24. Doug Durkin, my Canadian PR friend of some years, had breakfast with me in the suite. Sam Austin of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange came at 9:00 AM.

Called at MF and thence to Celotex Corporation for an hour with Chris Christensen. Finally have sold him on use of our material, this being a prerequisite to financial support. Very satisfactory, he and I seeing eye to eye on educational technique.

To Tavern Club at noon (333 So. Michigan) where I addressed monthly meeting of Public Relations Society, Chicago Chapter. About 70 present. Introduced by Sam Austin. Doug said it went off very well and that Reynolds of Standard of Indiana was much impressed, he being a leader of the flock and a big wig in a very big non-FEE supporting company. Several told me before the luncheon of their high impression of our C-B-E program and Russell C. Creviston of Crane invited me to call and meet some of his associates and to get some financial support.

12 - 1953

Phoned Pierre Goodrich at University Club in New York and set up dinner meeting for tomorrow with him, Mr. Morgan, and Henry Hazlitt. Phoned Bette about a mess of detail.

Doug drove me to Kemper Insurance Building where I called on John Arnold, Ex. V.P. of American Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Company. Arnold came upon us through Hans Eggerss of Continental Can who had sent him my "Corporate Contributions for Education" and "Victims of Social Leveling." We had more than an hour together and then he brought in a Mr. Hill. These men are fine prospects for our work, much impressed, and want to lend a hand. Worth careful following.

Called on Jonathan Gibson, Gen. Counsel of Santa Fe, and spent an hour. He said, "Drop Fred (Gurley, Pres.) a note and ask him for some money, a specific amount, and do it within the next ten days. It will work I think." I inquired what I should ask for. He said, "Anything from \$1,000 to \$5,000." I'll follow instructions and ask for \$5,000. Back to suite at 5:15 PM.

Taxied to South Shore Country Club, next to Boca Raton, the damndest dump I have ever seen, and dined with Edith and Doug Durkin. We over everythinged after which they drove me back to the Hilton. I showed them the suite, and a nightcap and to hay at midnight, and what a day!

November 25. Phoned and cancelled proposed dates with Tex Shaver and Marian Allen, promising to see later. Went to MF and was given car and driver for forenoon.

Spent 50 minutes with T. V. Houser, Vice-Chairman and soon to become Chairman of Sears. This was an exceptionally good interview. Houser will have a growing interest in our work, the General's being only casual. Wants me to meet Clarence Caldwell, V.P. in charge of personnel, on next trip.

Drove to airport for UAL's #622, noon flight for New York. Routine. Max to meet me. Drove to Canadian Club where Pierre Goodrich, James Morgan, Henry Hazlitt, and Jim Inx were waiting. Cocktails and dinner together (Hazlitt unable to remain for dinner) discussing first of all Morgan's part on Capehart Committee and mostly FEE theories for benefit of Morgan. A good evening, adjourning at 8:45. Home an hour later.

November 26. Chauncey phoned Ag yesterday that Eve was in bed with virus pneumonia so the Thanksgiving dinner at their place was off. Ag hurried up a turk which we had in the shanty: Aunt Ruby, Frances, Mother, JB, Ag and LER. V.G.

Proposed a note for the P/L about Conscription:

To what extent should one, either personally or through the agency of government, attempt the involuntary actions of others? This question lies at the root of the ideological hassel going on in America and elsewhere.

The query can be examined in numerous areas but in none better than conscription. Here involuntary action is crystal clear. Also, the subject is extremely controversial; it is up for discussion; and it is attended more often by emotion than by reason.

Messrs. Webster and Hart supply some points of value.

Took Ag and Frances to see Edna Ferber's "So Big," a story that related a truth I hope everyone gets. I often wonder, however, if movies or novels have any power to convey important truths. They are, I suspect, absorbed as entertainment only.

November 27. Followers, by their nature, do not need to be sought. The problem is only one of creating leaders.

Fred Stanback sent us 21 shares of stock worth about \$80 per share. The Chrysler check came, \$10,000. Luhnnow will see me on December 16, revising my next western trip a bit.

Phoned Jeff Coolidge in Boston. He is for tossing out our international, government-run banks. Hazlitt phoned that he had prepared letters for Morgan. Also, that the Freeman problem was going to be resolved by making Kurt Lassen General Manager. Leo phoned. I phoned Jim Morgan in Indianapolis about Coolidge's position and Hazlitt's letters.

Herb Cornuelle writes that he is leaving the Volker Fund and going to Honolulu as PR director of Hawaiian Pineapple.

Elwyn Brown phoned from L.A. about purchasing 125,000 copies of "A Thought Starter" by Dean Russell. Phoned him back after checking with Dean and Ivan at printer's and saying that we cannot meet the deadline and, therefore, to print in L.A. OK.

Ag went to Dr. Raymond with her hand ailment. He insisted that a major operation was not necessary and, as a first step, hammered the hand without benefit of pain-killer, Ag saying she could "take it." Painful!

Mises phoned about a dinner on the morrow in honor of Roepke.

November 28. Curling scheduled to start today but is a week off on account mechanical troubles. JB and I took a look. The ice is just forming.

Ag stayed at home with her mother and her hand while I went into N.Y. to dine with Dr. and Mrs. Mises, their distinguished guest, Prof. Wm. Roepke of Geneva, and a German friend of his. Roepke flew to the U.S. with, and as an advisor to, Erhard, economic minister of Germany. A pleasant evening with talk almost entirely on politics. Took our leave at 10:30 PM. Ag reported that Hutch phoned me from Detroit wanting me to take dinner with him in N.Y. Monday.

November 29. Refinement on a recent thought:

It is folly to seek followers. It is, however, wise to seek learners. It is only the learners who give followership any justification.

For some future issue of Notes:

"How do you get your material into the hands of the right people?" is often asked of us. The question implies an ignorant class to which the inquirer does not belong. The "right" person is the inquirer himself unless he excels us on our subject in understanding and exposition. In this event we are the "right people" for the material he ought to be presenting.

Golfed with Dr. Salter, Paul Barryman, and Charley Schuh. Cold and windy. Hit some good shots but putting poor. An 87.

November 30. Month ends with about \$12,300 more revenue than expenditures.

If we had an Aladdin's lamp, the rubbing of which would confer on this Foundation the reputation for being the fountainhead of the freedom philosophy, we wouldn't rub it. Why? Because fame for FEE is not our aim. Our object is for many thousands of persons to have the reputation for being the fountainheads of this philosophy. Our role, as we conceive it, is to serve as their assistant.

Drove to New York and dined with Hutch in Waldorf Towers. Other guests were Claude Robinson, Charles Abbott of Harvard Business School, and Chairman of Advisory Committee, American Enterprise Association, Fred Clark, Dick Rimanoczy, and Morgan Reichner, all of American Economic Foundation. Abbott, in discussing Dr. Pusey, the new unheard-of and much-resented president of Harvard, reported one of his professional colleagues as saying, "If they really wanted a second rater, why didn't they choose someone from the faculty?" Abbott also quoted what he called an old Spanish proverb, "He who strikes the second blow starts the fight." It was an evening of spirited discussion with good wit and humor. Home at 11:15.

December 1. Let us erect a new and novel organization, "The Stumblebum Society," each person to be his own admission's committee; no dues, no meetings; no headquarters save one's own mind. Qualification for membership: self-acknowledgment of an inability adequately to explain the philosophy of the free market and limited government, and an open confession that this inadequacy accounts for the growth of socialism. May I be the first to announce the password, "I am a stumblebum," and to take the oath, "I will, so help me, attend to my own learning that the scourge of man acting as Divinity may be effaced from our society."