



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

A LIBERTARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

RARELY does anyone—adversary or friend—criticize FEE on the grounds of ideological inconsistency. Adversaries criticize us instead for our consistency (they argue for their own pet socialistic deviations) and friends on occasion complain that we are (1) too elementary, (2) too advanced, or (3) too repetitious. It's the complaints of our friends that mostly concern us.

Whether a friend thinks us too elementary or too advanced depends on where he is in his own understanding relative to the level of the explanations we publish.

The person who has never before contemplated the meaning of liberty will conclude that our works are complex. The person who has sped right past us in understanding or the one who was ahead of us in the first place will rate our teachings as elementary. Any complex subject becomes elementary the instant it is understood.

Take a look at FEE as we see it: A course in economic, social, political, and moral principles—in short, a course in libertarianism figuratively at the high school level. Hundreds, even thousands, master all and much more than we teach. Quite naturally they tend to lose a zest for going over a rationale they have learned, precisely as the tenth grader loses interest in rereading the first-year algebra he has learned. If the subject has been mastered, that's that! But isn't this feeling of having mastered what FEE has to purvey all to the good? The more persons who have a well-founded sense of accomplishment the better. Would that they were numbered in millions, not thousands!

Anyone then, who thinks of FEE's work as repetitious, *providing the work has had any part in advancing his own understanding*, logically should conclude:

- a. This is by way of my saying to myself that I have gone through the FEE stage of learning;
- b. This is evidence—indeed, it is self-evidence—that FEE is helpful to anyone who wants to learn the libertarian philosophy. I have myself to prove it, for I think of myself as having graduated;
- c. I am now ready for a self-directed course in advanced studies;
- d. FEE should continue its work at the “high school level” for there are many millions who haven't even entered the libertarian grammar school as yet.

FEE gives no examinations, has no graduation exercises, hands out no diplomas, and compiles no lists of the libertarian elite. Let each person judge his own status, give himself his own examination. Well, here are several fair questions for self-examination: Do I personally practice the principles I profess to believe? Can I present the free market, private property, limited government philosophy in writing and in speech? Can I do it skillfully, attractively, interestingly, convincingly?

If the answers to these questions are negative, then one is not warranted in grading himself very high. More study, even of material that seems repetitious, may be in order. If the answers are affirmative, then why not compete in the preparation of text material for a “high school course” in libertarianism?