

Notes from FEE

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The Foundation for Economic Education, Inc.



Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y.

TO FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION:

FEE's eighth birthday (March 23) has come and gone. Numerous thoughtful friends have expressed pleasant surprise that we have been able to keep afloat this long. They feared that there were not enough folks who would support activities where the returns to the giver are so hard to see. These numerous friends don't know how close they have come to being right.

Several times I have thought that the days of FEE were numbered. Every time we add an essay to the free market and limited government thesis, we seem to step on someone's toes and lose support or friends or both. Consistency, it would appear, pursued long enough, could not help but spell our undoing. Here, however, is a new note of hope -- a reversal of form -- and from one who takes vigorous exception to our free trade ideas:

I was talking to a company president about what a terrible guy you are on tariffs and he jumped up and down on my head. He agreed with my tariff position but said, "The trouble is that every time one of our friends departs from our viewpoints we go out to slaughter him." I stopped him . . . and admitted I was wrong.

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The author of the following is unknown to us. I wish the verse were mine:

And so I hold it is not treason
To advance a simple reason
For the sorry lack of progress we decry.
It is this: Instead of working
On himself, each man is shirking
And trying to reform some other guy.

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An attorney in Indianapolis told me of his 13-year-old son who, in company with two companions of like age, took a trip to a neighboring city to see the zoo, the first time they had made such a journey unescorted. Father was at the station to meet his son on the boys' return. "Did you have a good time?" he asked, thinking he would hear about the quantities of bananas and crackerjacks eaten. "Well, Dad, I guess you would call it a good time. I spent the last two hours arguing with a