increase — now over 8,000 — attesting that more people each year come to appreciate the usefulness of FEE's output. A clue as to the causes of our difficulties is the fact that contributions in the $500-$10,000 range are being reduced more than heretofore, and in some instances eliminated. What, then, are the forces at work on the larger contributors? The following appear to me to be major influences:

- The widely held but erroneous opinion that FEE is financially independent. This idea probably stems from the fact that FEE, unlike most other agencies competing for the donors' dollars, exerts no pressures, does not beat the bushes for contributions, as the saying goes.
- An increasing number of business leaders are concentrating on how they can accommodate themselves and their operations to the current governmental interventionism, not on how they can lessen the interventionism. FEE's educational program is not directed at how to operate in a socialistic society but, rather, presents the rationale and stresses the personal and social advantages of economic and political freedom. Businessmen who give no thought to ways of reducing socialism cannot possibly see any relationship between their present interest and FEE's work.
- Many businesses have hitherto been able to pass the higher costs of inflation and interventionism on to their customers. But, "pricing yourself out of the market" is beginning to have meaning with a sting in it. Some businesses, trapped between rising costs and consumer price resistance, eliminate donations to FEE prior to other expenditures considered more necessary.
- Interventionism and its black shadow — inflation — are also playing havoc with colleges and universities. The pressure on corporations to aid in financing higher education is enormous, and growing. Some companies have ceased all contributions to institutions such as FEE in favor of giving a helping hand to the more conventional type of educational institutions.

THUS, the very interventionism that caused FEE to be founded threatens its existence. This threat is not unexpected, for we went into this business with our eyes quite open. Other free institutions — both educational and business — are also threatened by the destructive sequence of interventionism. It is informative to observe that educational agencies like FEE are next to impossible to finance in any other country. In spite of many valiant attempts on the part of foreign libertarian friends, there is nothing elsewhere on the face of the earth with FEE's aims and magnitude. Interventionism has already done its work. This is a fact of revealing portent.

Being realistic about our obstacles is a prime requirement to survival. The obstacles, admittedly, are numerous and tough. Yet, there is a plus side to this equation. FEE certainly has helped many individuals toward skilled exposition of noninterventionism. (For a single current example, refer to "A Declaration of Independence" in the September *Freeman*.) Also, on the plus side — and here lies the real hope — there are ever so many determined souls anxious to do ideological battle for freedom to the last. No other country has this advantage to the extent that we still do in the U.S.A.

Personally, I am confident that correctives of our country's seeming political, economic, and moral madness are at work as deep and invisible undercurrents; that individuals who meet certain requirements are *privileged* to implement these important changes. The requirements may be more than we know, but quite likely they include extraordinary conscious effort, a sense of moral rectitude, some talents for self-expression, integrity of the highest order, plain goodness, and an undaunted faith in a Creative Force far over and beyond self. Thus, there is no basis for discouragement — only a need for dedication and competency on the part of each of us.

ONE THING FOR CERTAIN: No one has any *duty* to support FEE. Support ought to be strictly voluntary and based on the conviction that the libertarian and educational talents of the Trustees and Staff — such as they are — should be fully employed and not wasted by reason of insufficient physical resources. Therefore, we invite you to consider financial support. On our part we will invest every dollar the best we know how in educating for the principles of liberty. What follows is a year-end suggestion for personal or corporate gifts based on questions some of you have asked.

THE 3 - WAY VALUE OF GIVING TO FEE

1. *YOU REDUCE YOUR INCOME TAX*

Any contribution to FEE — whether it be $10 or $10,000 — is deductible from your adjusted gross income. If you are in the 40% bracket, for instance, a $2,000 gift reduces your tax liability by $800, so the net outlay by you is $1,200.

2. *YOU MAY AVOID CAPITAL GAINS TAX*

If your gift is in the form of property or securities which have appreciated in value since purchase, the contribution may be reported at present market value (as a deduction from adjusted gross income) and you pay no capital gains tax on the appreciation in value. For instance, in giving stock now worth $2,000, which you purchased for $1,000, the full $2,000 is deductible as a contribution, and you also save the capital gains tax that you would have paid had you sold the stock and given the cash to FEE.

3. *YOU INVEST IN PRIVATE PROPERTY EDUCATION*

Government ownership and control ideas are now on the rampage. There is no antidote to the continued growth and spreading of these socialistic, interventionist ideas except private property ideas — ideas founded on the moral right of each individual to the fruits of his own labor. This and the moral and economic predicates on which the institution of private property rests are FEE's educational specialties.