THE PRIMACY OF TRUTH

SIXTY business and professional leaders recently gathered in an out-of-the-way place for a Friday p.m. through Sunday a.m. FEE Seminar. It was a weekend set aside for the study and contemplation of libertarian ideas and ideals. That the affair turned out singularly rewarding can be attributed largely to the way "the stage was set" by the moderator. Said he:

> You're going to hear ideas that are new to some of you. Judge them only, please, by whether you think them right or wrong, true or false. For this weekend, at least, forget Monday morning and your practical work-a-day world. Don't fret yourselves as to how these ideas can be put into effect. Just weigh their economic and moral validity.

The result was astonishing. I have never witnessed so much good thinking, such enlightened discussion. One discovers that finding ways to settle on what's right is always the preface to right action. Trying to figure out how to *act rightly* previous to or at the same time as deciding on *what's right* is a confusing if not an impossible method. Settle first on the truth as you see it; the action will automatically take care of itself. Stewart Edward White expressed a supporting thought:

> One acquires a truth as one believes in it, and admits it, and tries to stick to it. Until that truth has become to you an unfailing motive power; until you have established yourself in it without intermission; until you cannot help acting any way but in it; until you are one of its supporting elements, as it were, you do not gain the full benefit of its possession.

DR. LEO WOLMAN, Professor of Economics, Columbia University; member of Research Staff, National Bureau of Economic Research; and recognized by many thousands throughout the nation as the leading authority on labor problems, has this to say:

> In my view, every person in every company who has anything whatever to do with employee-management relations should have an intimate grasp of the many ideas and facts set forth in Dr. F. A. Harper's *Why Wages Rise*.
>
> Dr. Harper sets forth the sources of wage gains and of the material standards of American labor. In short, he shows where these gains really originate and, by so doing, essentially corrects the widely held view that organizations of labor are responsible for the advances made throughout the industrial history of this country. The book shows clearly that the improvement in our material standard of living is due not to organizations, but to the operation of our competitive capitalistic society.

Why Wages Rise (124 pages) is paper-covered; attractively printed, with charts; and indexed. Single copy, $1.50; 10 copies, $10.00; 50 copies, $47.50; 100 copies, $90.00. Use reply card.

Summer Seminars

In the November 12 *Notes from FEE* we announced three two-week seminars to be held at the Foundation next summer. The dates have been set for June 17-28, July 15-26, and August 19-30.

The seminars will include topics about which FEE has been writing for years. The FEE Staff and fifteen to eighteen guests for each seminar will seek to understand these ideas better and to find improved methods of teaching them.

While anyone may apply for a fellowship, most of the applicants accepted will be professors from U.S. colleges and universities. Exceptions will include teachers from secondary schools, graduate students, and a nonacademic person or two.

If you are interested in attending one of these seminars or know of someone who is, check the enclosed card for further information and an application blank.

Little Libertarian Libraries

The twelve issues of *The Freeman* for 1956 and the three issues of *Ideas on Liberty* published in 1955, all with detailed index and packaged in a substantial, attractive Leatherlex binder for $6.25, is a miniature libertarian library in itself. Whether the order is for you, your son or daughter in college, or for anyone else, we shall follow your instructions faithfully. Use reply card.

Would you like a Leatherlex binder for your 1957 issues of *The Freeman*? The price: $2.25 postpaid. Use reply card.

Within the Walls

How many Americans could take the affirmative of the proposition, "Resolved: That This House Regrets The Advance To The Welfare State," and win against the debating team of the University of Cambridge, England? This was accomplished by a team of the State Prison Colony of Massachusetts, and with the aid of material requested from FEE.

All federal penitentiaries and numerous state penal institutions have been on our mailing list *by request*. The letters from many of their inmates have been interesting, instructive, and inspiring. It seems that individuals who have known freedom and then been subjected to conditions approximating the advanced Welfare State are far more acutely conscious of freedom's meaning than are most citizens who are not "within the walls." Supporters and friends should proudly share the sentiments expressed to FEE's Dr. F. A. Harper by the inmate editor of *The Presidio*, monthly publication at the Iowa State Penitentiary:

> This is just a short note to express our thanks for the help and encouragement you have extended to *The Presidio* throughout 1956. Each member of the staff asks that I express his gratitude, and, of course, as editor, I wish to thank you not only for the articles you have so generously forwarded, but for the "shot in the arm" you have given the staff.
>
> I should like to inquire as to the subscription rates of *The Freeman*. We are interested in receiving this publication, and if you will send us the necessary information, we shall certainly subscribe.
>
> May this be your merriest Christmas, and may God bless you and yours in the coming year.

Who knows? Perhaps the world's most articulate and persuasive spokesman for liberty is today "within the walls." The source of leadership is not – and never has been – predictable.

FEE's Changing Scoreboard

FROM 1946 through 1955, FEE's publications were Clippings of Note, In Briefs, pamphlets, booklets, books. These were sent to anyone for the asking, and the revenue for FEE's educational program came from those who volunteered to give. These voluntary Donors showed a steady but never a startling growth in number from 1946 through 1952. The years 1953-54-55 witnessed a marked slowing down in Donor growth. It looked as if we had hit an impasse in this respect.