aim our studies at intellectuals—existing and potential—those who do or can deal in ideas, and possess or can possess means of communication. If our ideas should ever become "popular"—that is, readily understood and accepted by a majority of the people—our work would be finished. While we strive and hope and pray for such popularity, we do not expect it to happen in the immediate future.

4. The reputation of being "theoretical" rather than "practical." This is our own fault. It is due to a failure to make plain that the moral and ethical concepts about which we sometimes write lie at the very roots of personal freedom and of the private ownership of property. The revitalization of these moral and ethical concepts is the first *practical* step to the rebirth of all libertarian institutions.

5. Many persons have concluded that the battle for "the American way of life" has been won. This illusion is fostered by the generous lip service paid to "free enterprise," the popular disparagements directed against "socialism" and "communism," a growing political optimism, and a false prosperity erected on a structure of war and debt. Yet never in the history of this nation have libertarian institutions been in such peril. The disease that is America's—belief in the use of organized police force as a means of directing the creative activities of the citizenry – continues to expand. Its anti-agent – faith in free men—is only in the early state of re-emerging.

CONCLUSION

It is our belief that men will not and cannot be free unless they want to be free men; that this desire—and the resulting action—must be spontaneous and voluntary.

It is our belief that it is not the function of Foundation staff members in any way to impose libertarian views on anyone; that in rewriting and presenting the rationale for the free society, we can do a creditable job or we cannot; that if we cannot, there remains no reason for our institutional existence; that if we can do what others believe is a valid job, there will be a response in the minds and hearts of men.

Our accomplishment? It has no manner of measurement except in those individual instances where libertarian ideas are replacing collectivistic ideas. In this respect, our work has demonstrated what can be done.

With these views in mind, we believe that we should engage only in those activities—and take advantage of only those opportunities—which revenue supplied voluntarily makes possible.

For, "The best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds."

LEONARD E. READ
President