

ticle published in a journal which is covered by one or more of the good periodical indexes.

This is not to say that people should quit writing brief articles, giving speeches, or engaging in politics, if that is their desire. It is only to bring attention to some of the advantages of solid scholarly work in the eternal war of ideas.

Any decent scholarly work will be purchased by all the great university and public libraries. If it is really good, it will find its way into smaller university, public, and private libraries. Its presence will be signalled for ages to come in the library's card-catalogue, under author and subject and perhaps, if the cataloguer is good, under all the major topics it treats. Its silent and passive look on the shelves is deceptive, for no decent scholar will write a serious work without at least consulting the library card-catalogues available to him. If really serious, he will travel far and wide to find additional works on his subject. When he finds a work which he believes relevant, if he is honest he will bring it to life. It then no longer sits passively on the shelves, doing nothing. It enters his mind. It may have an electrifying impact. This has often happened to me. I first ran across Henry Hazlitt's writing in a card-catalogue. I encountered Mises' *Human Action* by chance in another card-catalogue. Life has never been

the same for me. Books are not passive.

The Need for Exhaustive Research

The country and the world are in much worse shape than necessary. Since mankind is imperfect its condition will always leave something to be desired. But even so, things could be better than they are, despite our inherent limitations and flaws. The correctible aspects of mankind's condition trace to faulty facts or faulty theory or both. As already mentioned, these faulty facts and theories have a long history, a monumental literature, and an almost universal influence.

Fortunately, since The Foundation for Economic Education was established in the 1940s (at about the same time as the Mont Pelerin Society was formed), a large number of institutions committed to the advancement of freedom and of the market economy have come into existence. These institutions are variously engaged. Some are conducting educational programs of an academic sort, some operate on the seminar or conference system, some publish journals, usually of a popular kind, some publish brief monographs and pamphlets, and some, essentially philanthropic institutions, provide support to the foregoing, as well as to individual authors for work which is at times quite ambi-

tious from the scholarly point of view.

All these libertarian programs are good. Doubtlessly, libertarianism would enjoy more success, if each were expanded. But I believe that what libertarianism *must* have now, if it is still to exist after the next dark generation has passed, is an extensive literature of heavyweight, exhaustive, thoroughly documented books demonstrating the fallacies and the destructive consequences of the anticapitalist policies which are now ruling the world and which are likely to bring it very close to destruction in the generation ahead.

For reasons stated above, seminars, conferences, brief articles, pamphlets, and other such ephemera will not suffice. They serve to inspire greater efforts by those they reach; they may even postpone the social destruction already so well on its way. But they cannot extirpate the queer mix of syndicalism and socialism that is now sweeping all before it. They cannot do this for largely the same reasons that you can't sink a battleship with a pop-gun. The policies which are daily increasing the inanity and ugliness and insecurity of life are the products of the mountainous literature which has implanted the kinds of deeply imbedded myths listed earlier: the myths about the natural antagonisms between employer and employee, the abusive and exploitative character of the unhampered

market, the necessity of more and ever more government in order to correct the alleged inhumanity and the inequities built into free markets.

All you can do in a brief article or speech or seminar is *call* these things "myths." You cannot definitively expose their mythic character, you cannot annihilate their credibility, you cannot strip them of every pretension—by anything less than exhaustive and definitive scholarly work. The myths are too deeply imbedded, too widely shared. Throwing pamphlets at the towering myths which rule our times is like trying to knock down the Empire State Building with a slingshot. It's even less promising than that.

It will take generations of sound scholarship and teaching to eradicate the worst of the fallacies which now prevail. The only way to reach those generations is by planting on library shelves books that document definitively the theoretical blunders and the historical calamities associated with the syndicalist mess we are in. Let those powerful books sit on the shelves of libraries where scholars and students are bound to come across them.

The Truth Will Out—if Pushed

Those who participate in the war of ideas are constrained by psychic necessity to believe either in truth as an ultimate value, worth a total