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.

The policies which are daily increasing the inanity and ugliness and insecurity of life are the products of the mountainous literature which has engendered a myriad of deeply imbedded myths: 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.

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 mess we are in. Let those powerful books sit on the shelves of libraries where scholars and students are bound to come across them.

Restate the Truth

The conclusion seems clear: upsetting a fallacious orthodoxy cannot be left to the literature produced by past generations. This does not mean that everything written as of 1900 is no longer of any value. It means that truths stated in 1900 must be restated in the 1990s if a contrary fallacy then prevails. It is not enough to say that Keynes is "demolished by Say's Law." It is not even enough to say that Ralph Nader's consumerism was exposed as fallacious much earlier in this century by Professor W. H. Hutt's description of free-market capitalism as the system ruled by consumer sovereignty.

The strategic rule, then, seems to be that current fallacy must be exposed by current exposition of the truth. More than that, to overthrow a current fallacy requires a powerful, thorough, exhaustive, definitive exposition of truth — for otherwise a strong and widespread orthodoxy finds it easy simply to ignore the truth. Think of how the works of Mises have been ignored, despite their compelling, diamond-like precision and lucidity.

The war of ideas like the war between good and evil goes on and on. Nothing is permanently settled. Each newborn child, each new generation, comes naked into the world, as bereft of the moral and intellectual virtues as it is of clothing. The child and its companions in each generation are endowed with a potential and little or nothing more. Those who wish to see that potential flower in truth and goodness must work at it.

If sound theory and accurate facts are to displace the ignorant nonsense now prevailing in the field of public policy a mountain of *current* literature must be raised, a mountain so high that even degenerate university teachers cannot risk ignoring it.

As Mises said "write books!"— or encourage others to do so.

(Professor Petro is the author of numerous books and articles on labor law and policy and other politico-economic matters. He is Director of The Institute for Law and Policy Analysis in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.)

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