
LEONARD E. READ

1898—1983

With deep regret, we note the passing of our founder and president, Leonard E. Read.

Born in rural Michigan, Leonard returned there after service in World War I to open a wholesale produce business.

In 1925 he moved with his wife and two sons to California and soon became active in chamber of commerce work, serving as manager of the Western Division and later as General Manager of the Los Angeles Chamber for six years.

In 1945 Leonard came to New York as Executive Secretary of the National Industrial Conference Board. His dream, however, was of an independent organization to stand uncompromisingly for freedom. The Foundation for Economic Education is the result.

His lifelong devotion to human freedom amounted to an obsession. He sought a better understanding of freedom and worked to expound it with ever greater clarity and persuasiveness. The methodology he stressed was based on self-improvement—let each person work on himself and present society with one improved unit.

The Foundation for Economic Education was born out of Leonard's original vision. It attests to the integrity and passion with which he served that vision; it is the monument by which he will be remembered—and that's the way he would want it. Leonard stood tall, and FEE is his lengthened shadow.

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Anyone wishing to communicate with authors may send first-class mail in care of THE FREEMAN for forwarding.