

ARE YOU "EXTREME" AND "IMPRACTICAL"?

The epithet "extreme" is often hurled at those who aren't exception makers, at those who won't admit the rightness of any degree of socialism or special privilege. Actually, the term is more often than not aimed at libertarian consistency by those who haven't yet achieved consistency. In such instances, it is an honorable epithet.

"Impractical" is similarly used against those who express disapproval of deeply embedded and generally accepted socialistic institutions—the government Post Office, TVA, compulsory

social security, and so on. "Why," they argue, "waste time on trying to remove the immovable?" What the critics overlook is the educational practicality of demonstrating the falsity of the principles on which such establishments are founded. For, unless more persons than now know *why* these "immovable" interventions are wrong, it is hardly reasonable to expect that the newer interventions, constituting socialism's current growth, can be slowed, let alone reversed. Used in this context, America sorely needs thousands of "impractical" men and women.

中華基督教會公理堂

香港禮頓道一一九號 電話：七一—〇九

I must write to tell you how I enjoy reading The Freeman and other FEE publications which you have so kindly sent me. They are helpful in my pastoral work and they also have great educational value. After reading myself, I always place them on the "Important Publications" shelf in our church library for my congregation. I notice the young people like this material very much.

John K. C. Ma, Minister
The China Congregational Church
Hong Kong

THE ABOVE is a fairly restrained example of the thousands of plaudits we receive in the mail. Many, instead of being moderate, are in the nature of encomiums, too glowing for publication. A few letters are critical. All of this mail, however, is useful to us. It is from these bits of evidence, these "straws in the wind," that we can judge how and how much others value our work.

This brings up a dilemma which I am disposed to share with you. Somehow — without any pressure or direct solicitation — not less than \$40,000 per month (less than \$1.00 per person on the mailing list) must flow into FEE's coffers if our present activities are to be maintained. Most contributors like to have some evidence that the work they help finance is proving educationally useful, surely a justifiable desire.

Yet, to display these "straws in the wind" in any abundance may do more damage than good. It would give the appearance of "tooting our own horn." Horn-tooting tends to under-

mine, rather than to elevate, esteem. Praise, when received — like charity, when given — is better left unmentioned.

The contributor, in the absence of evidence inexpedient for us to supply, may rely somewhat on faith — faith in the judgment of FEE's Trustees and Staff that the work is proving fruitful. Otherwise, it would be abandoned. However, the surest criterion is the contributor's own best judgment which, if discriminating, tells all he wants to know. Such a person can as quickly detect the excellence of private property, free market education as can a gourmet the savor of soup. The discriminating libertarian, when weighing the relative merits of numerous institutional efforts, never has to ask, "How can I tell which of these is worthy of my support?" The answer comes clear to him.



PRESIDENT