

F. George pamphlet.

R. H. Ritchey

January 9, 1961

An open letter

Mr. Ralph Courtney
Threefold Farm,
Spring Valley, N. Y.

4-719

Dear Mr. Courtney:

Last
Your letter of the 4th received today. I take notice of your Florida address, and after reading this letter if you wish to meet with me, I will be glad to call on you, as I expect to leave Florida about the ~~10th or fifteenth~~ of February.

Regarding our previous correspondence, you say you know that - "I feel that the social problem would be solved by free enterprise alone."

First, we would have to agree on what our social problem is? And second we would have to agree on what free enterprise is?

If we could agree on these first two questions, then we could try (in theory) to apply our remedy "free enterprise" to our social problem.

Webster tells us that "enterprise" is an undertaking of importance and risk. By the same authority - "free" means "not controlled". Therefore, "free enterprise" would mean than an undertaking to produce milk for your own use would be free from government interference.

In 1623 our forefathers found that by removing government controls from production and distribution of wealth they solved the problem of poverty of that time, and our first thanksgiving day was celebrated. Our forefathers thought enough of it to try to establish free enterprise as a way of life in America.

All undertakings in the production of wealth and services are known as enterprise and all enterprise is controlled or free enterprise (mostly controlled). Therefore we have only two forms of government, controlled enterprise or free enterprise.

When Dr. Fersh, (a New York professor) was asked if it was true that there was only two forms of government, controlled enterprise or free enterprise said - you are putting it in black and white, but there is gray in between. Right, but how do you get gray? You take white and put some black in the white and you have gray. You have used only the two colors black and white, or controls or freedom.

Accepting your statement that - "two thirds of the social problem are matters of "culture". What is culture? Culture is a way of life. Red China's culture would be different than our culture, and the culture of any country would be influenced by the practice and form of government.

The normal condition of man is free, freedom, and when he is exploited or coerced it is because the other man has a special privilege to compel. You say - "In culture, too, freedom from interference by government is necessary." That is precisely what free enterprise is. Freedom from government interference, "free", not controlled.

Traffic control would be necessary, also crime control and other controls for the protection of life and property would be necessary. But controls that regiment private life and control private property should be removed as soon as practical.

You say - "It is only, as I see it, after equality of rights is established, that we can talk of free enterprise." Free enterprise is the opposite of controlled enterprise. Controlled enterprise has robbed us of our equality of rights, and it is only by replacing controlled enterprise, with free enterprise that we can recover our equality of rights.

When Lincoln said - "Justice for all and special privilege for none", he implied the existence of proper restraints on government from interfering in the private life of citizens and their private business.

When considering freedom one must always be careful not to confuse freedom with license.

No, I am not on business - just a short rest as stated above.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Ritchey
Box 788
Englewood, Florida