

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

CONTINENTAL BUILDING
1012 14TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

December 3, 1957

*File
Comments on
proposal*

PRESIDENT
ALLEN D. MARSHALL
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

VICE-PRESIDENTS
HENRY T. BODMAN
DETROIT, MICH.

JOHN JAY HOPKINS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ROBERT A. HORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

CARL N. JACOBS
STEVENS POINT, WIS.

ROBERT L. LUND
ST. LOUIS, MO.

THOMAS F. PATTON
CLEVELAND, OHIO

H. W. PRENTIS, JR.
LANCASTER, PA.

TREASURER
HENRY T. BODMAN
DETROIT, MICH.

Mr. Alfred de Grazia
The Foundation for Voluntary Welfare
Post Office Box 294
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Al:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your proposed program for the Foundation for Voluntary Welfare. We at the AEA have studied it carefully and are pleased that you are going ahead with a long-term program of activities to advance private welfare.

In my opinion anyone who has spent some years trying to confine the spread of the welfare state virus should be particularly pleased that there is now an organization devoted to improving and promoting the voluntary method of solving welfare problems. Heretofore this has been a weakness in the organizational setup of the various groups favoring voluntary over compulsory methods in the welfare field. Furthermore, your program is an excellent one and on the basis of my knowledge and experience there is a great need for virtually all the proposed projects.

However, it is my considered opinion that the program, as outlined, is somewhat ambitious and also too diversified for a beginning organization. Checking through the brochure I note that, in addition to a sizeable number of major research projects, you intend also to conduct a second national awards competition, to publish a private welfare news journal, to undertake a pilot community project to reorganize welfare, to prepare foreign translations of the best American essays espousing voluntary welfare, to run an extensive public information program, to conduct a consultation service for foundations and business firms, as well as organizing a national community trust in the welfare field, and to run a summer training workshop program, as well as a yearly apprenticeship program.

I am not questioning the value of any of these projects. Each one taken by itself is meritorious. On the other hand, it has been my experience and it would be my strong recommendation for whatever it is worth that at least for the beginning years of your organization you pick a relatively small number of projects

ADVISORY BOARD
C. C. ABBOTT, CHAIRMAN
DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

DONALD J. COWLING
FORMER PRESIDENT
CARLETON COLLEGE

HERRELL DEGRAFF
BABCOCK PROFESSOR OF
FOOD ECONOMICS
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

MILTON FRIEDMAN
PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

JAMES E. MCCARTHY
SCHOOL OF COMMERCE
NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY

FELIX MORLEY
EDITOR AND AUTHOR

ROSCOE POUND
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID MCCORD WRIGHT
WILLIAM DOW PROFESSOR
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM J. BAROODY

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
W. GLENN CAMPBELL