

NOV 29 1965

CHARLES G. KOCH
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Wichita, Kansas

C O P Y

November 18, 1965

Mr. Robert LeFevre, Dean
Rampart College
Box 158
Larkspur, Colorado

Dear Bob:

Over the better part of this year I have been studying the various methods now being used to promote true liberalism. During this period I have had investigations made, read a large amount of material on the subject and talked to leading educators and many other interested and knowledgeable people. (The visit Bob Love and I made to the School this October was part of this study). In utilizing the information gained I have reflected a great deal on what is truly our most pressing need.

It is my opinion, and has been for some time, that although such groups as the Freedom School, FEE, the John Birch Society, the Randians, and others, are, on balance, effectively promoting classical liberalism, there is a dire need, among others, for advanced research and education in this field.

Assuming that the primary and overriding interest of all of us is to advance the liberal cause, we must face some preliminary questions, which, although you have faced and answered them to your own satisfaction, I had not done so in any depth until recently. First: Is a degree granting graduate school operating within the framework of the present formal educational system really a key part of the overall program, or could the necessary money and talent be better utilized in other endeavors? Second: If a graduate school, such as Rampart College, is necessary, are we proceeding in the optimum manner and in the best location? If these questions cannot be answered with an unqualified yes, then we, as an institution, are in danger of squandering scarce libertarian funds and talents.

My investigations, discussions, and reflection on the foregoing have raised the following more specific questions, which, in my

opinion, should be considered by the Trustees at our annual meeting this coming January.

1. At the present time and in the past, we have been unable to operate the Freedom School on a self-sustaining basis. One of the contributing problems has been our inability to fill the one and two week seminars (other than those taken by Deering Milliken). If we are unable to fill our one and two week seminars and operate at this level on a break-even basis, what justification do we have for believing that we could fill a graduate school and expect it to remain solvent?

2. Will we be able to attract the caliber of students required for advanced educational work? Leading educators favorably disposed toward Rampart College have stated that we will not. A multitude of reasons have been given for this. One educator estimated that we would have to give scholarships of a minimum of \$5,000 per year to attract this caliber of student to Rampart College. Another stated that he would not send any graduates to Rampart College due to the burden it would place on them the rest of their careers. Another suggested that we could get students, but that they would only be the poor or mediocre ones. One educator stated that we could only get an adequate number of qualified students once we were fully accredited and recognized by other academic institutions, and that this would be a long and arduous road. In the meantime, we would have to be satisfied with mediocre and poor students.

3. Even if we can obtain the students, will we be able to place them in teaching positions? The opinion of a leading educator was that these students would be better off and could better serve the cause by graduating from existing prestige institutions. They would be more firmly grounded in the arguments for interventionism and socialism and could carry on advanced study in the principles of liberalism on the side with the help of advanced seminars. Another educator stated that he would not accept graduates from Rampart College and did not believe others would, since we would have the reputation of being, not an academic institution, but, a propaganda house. Another educator stated that graduates of Rampart College could find teaching positions in other institutions, but only if Rampart College were fully accredited and recognized, and if such graduates

possess an even better understanding of socialism and interventionism than did other applicants.

4. Will it not be squandering scarce libertarian funds to invest them in buildings when buildings are in excess supply all over the country? If it is decided that starting a graduate school is a wise course to follow, would it not be easier and cost less to buy one of the many bankrupt, or nearly bankrupt, colleges throughout the country? It is anticipated that the construction and operation of Rampart College will cost much more than we are projecting.

5. Is it wise to voluntarily place ourselves under the control of the State by going into the formal educational system? In any case, will we not have difficulty in becoming fully accredited, since Rampart College would be associated with the Freedom School?

Also, are we located in an ideal spot? Would it not be better to be located in or near a large city, which contains other academic institutions and library facilities?

6. If we want to go into more advanced libertarian education and research, to which we are already somewhat committed with our obligations to Martin and Hutt, wouldn't we be better advised to do this outside the framework of a formal degree granting institution? Hutt and Martin could spend a portion of their time (which they would want to do anyway) in research. At the same time, they could teach in advanced seminars to be attended primarily by graduate and under-graduate students.

Bob, I know you will take this letter in the spirit in which it is intended. It is in no way meant to disparage what you have done. It is obvious to all of us that you have been, and will continue to be, a powerful force in bringing people into the field. Your seminars are among the best tools extant for introducing people to the philosophy of individualism. Teaching these seminars is your forte, and the success of the Freedom School to date has been due to your ability in this regard. Still, this is not proof that Rampart College would be successful. As you well know, the success or failure of a college depends in large part on different things than that of an institution such as the Freedom School.

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The foregoing questions are the sort which should be raised at the start of any enterprise, and since, to my knowledge, the Trustees have not as yet considered them in any depth, I felt it was my responsibility to bring them up for consideration.

As suggested above, I think these questions should be considered at our upcoming Trustees' meeting and that copies of this letter should be sent to the Trustees for their consideration before then. If you would like to send the questions out to the Trustees, fine - if not, I would be glad to do so.

I look forward to seeing you and the staff in January.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

/s/ CHARLES

CK*dzf

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Cordially,

/s/ BOB

Robert Lafevre