

FRED C. KOCH
321 WEST DOUGLAS
WICHITA, 2, KANSAS

October 30, 1963

Mr. Grant W. Corby, Jr.
The Freedom School
Box 165
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Grant:

Thank you for your letter of October 25th. I enjoyed the three days spent in the Freedom School very much. The surroundings are beautiful and the hospitality was excellent. Bob Le Fevre is extremely interesting and very well informed. He has a great deal of histrionic ability, which is necessary in order to hold anybody's attention for ten hours a day for three straight days.

I agree with about ninety percent of what Bob said, including less government, et cetera, however, I believe that he defeats his whole purpose in his summation.

I feel that the Communist conspiracy is very close to the taking over of the United States, if it hasn't already done so, and that we are like fire-fighters trying to put out a violent fire. Education is very necessary, but we haven't time for it to the exclusion of fire-fighting. I have studied the conspiracy for thirty years and have known Communists and a number of ex-Communists, so I do not base my opinion on any sort of snap judgment.

Bob's recommendation that the way to have less government is to withdraw from government reminds me of how the Japanese officers when the going got too rough in the Second World War would take out their swords and disembowel themselves. To follow his program in my opinion would be to commit national hara-kiri. We have got to win this war at the ballot box or in the streets, and there is no other arena. I will agree that education is essential, but it should have been begun thirty years ago. I agree that education should go forward now and that no permanent solution can be effected without it.

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I do not agree with Bob that Russia is a constitutional democracy. It is a cold-blooded dictatorship, if there ever was one, and the constitution was promulgated by Stalin in World War II merely as a sop to American public opinion.

Under the circumstances I believe Bob completely negates all the good he does by his excellent education on the evils of government. Feeling as I do about this, I cannot contribute to the Freedom School.

Yours truly,

Frank C. Koch

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November 11, 1963

Mr. Fred C. Koch
321 West Douglas
Wichita 2, Kansas

Dear Fred:

Grant has shown me your letter to him and also a copy of his reply to you. We certainly come out at a different conclusion, don't we? But I must commend you for taking a position, believing in it, and backing it with action. I do not agree with your position, but I certainly agree with the element of consistency which punctuates your thoughts and actions.

There is one factor which I did not get into (in addition to scores of others from the standpoint of erecting a sound case) which might very well be introduced at this point.

Those of you who are consumed with a determination to fight politically determined actions with other politically determined actions more to your liking, and who are committed to fighting the "conspiracy" make, I believe, one fatal error. Being convinced that the problem stems from certain "known" or unknown individuals, you concentrate on naming names; on cataloguing our woes; on telling everyone how terrible everything is. This may have the merit of scaring everyone into a form of panic but I do not believe it has ever yet produced a worthwhile result. Actually, what happens is that your energies are diverted from fighting communism into fighting communists. It is not the same. There is no end to what your method suggests. You must go on and on, naming names, hurling abuse, engendering hatred, making people who do not understand you, distrust you and fear you.

Meanwhile, persons who are not communists, but who have adopted socialist ideas which are as like communist ideas as two peas in a pod, are driven INTO the camp of the enemy. Every man you "expose" has friends.

Take this illustration: A is a communist - a known S.O.B. AND A real threat to us. Among his contemporaries are B, C, D, E and F. None of these persons are communists, but they happen to agree with A in

most of his beliefs. You and Mr. Welch come out and name Mr. A as a communist. Obviously, if he feels it necessary, he will deny it. What of Messrs. B, C, D, E and F? They KNOW that they are not communists in the sense that they belong to a conspiracy by overt action. And they also know that they agree with Mr. A, ideologically. Therefore, when Mr. A denies that he is a communist, they tend to say: "You see the irrationality of the right wing. Mr. A is accused of being a conspirator. But we are Mr. A's friends and we are not conspirators, unless our knowing him is conspiratorial. Also, we are not communists, and why should we believe that Mr. A, our friend, is one? Obviously, the charge is unfounded. These 'rightists' are fanatics, nuts, extremists, etc., etc."

The result is that whereas we might have had Mr. A to deal with alone, we now have Messrs. A, B, C, D, E and F, driven closer together, more convinced than ever that they are correct and that the "right" position is wrong.

Had we approached the problem through education we might have reached Messrs. B, D, D, E and F with reason, truth, logic and so on, to show that their BELIEFS were in error. Hence, we might have weaned them away, leaving Mr. A to fend for himself. Instead, we have solidified the left rather than shattered it. And behold the result.

The left has GROWN during all the years the anti-conspirators have labored. I submit that this growth has occurred in part because of the "let's name names" technique.

It is true that the "right" has also grown. It has grown in fear and terror. And I do not think it has become effective. I think the "left" is stronger and stronger, in part because of rightist actions. I think the right is more and more frightened but is unable or unwilling to see that the technique employed is not constructive and will not lead to the solution desired.

Possibly I am wrong. But possibly you are. I do not think you have fairly considered that latter possibility. I believe that if I had a chance to build a solid case with you that I could PROVE that the actions you are taking will lead to results you do NOT want. I am aware that I may be wrong, too, for I cannot prove that my conclusions are correct. They are logical and rest upon logic and reason. But I do not KNOW that they will lead to the solution we both want. However, I am convinced that I can prove to you if your mind is open

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to proof, that your actions will lead away from what you really desire.

In other words, I submit we could both be wrong, but I am certain you are. Obviously, we cannot both be right.

So much for that. It was a delight to meet you and your utterly delightful wife. I hope our paths cross again. Meanwhile, so that we do not let another thirty unproductive years pass, I will redouble my efforts in education. I hope that your actions will not ultimately make mine impossible.

Cordial best wishes,

Robert LeFevre
President

RL/d

cc: Robert Welch
Robert Love
Robert Stoddard
Wm. J. Grede

November 11, 1963

Mr. Fred C. Koch
321 West Douglas
Wichita 2, Kansas

Dear Mr. Koch:

Thank you for your letter of October 30th. I am pleased that you see the value of education, and I quite agree that there are "violent fires" yet to be extinguished. There are many ways to extinguish fires - lighting back-fires is, I suppose, one way, but it has the disadvantage of intentionally destroying additional property in the hopes of preventing larger damage. Frankly, I think that using water is far more practical.

This is our program at the Freedom School. Here, our products - the water - the ideas - are not ends in themselves, but rather they are tools that are to be used by freedom-loving people to defeat the socialists, communists and other kinds of collectivists who would destroy our liberty and enslave us. And these collectivists have gained much ground, much of it with the use of the cliché - "if we will surrender some of our freedom now, we will gain more back later" - the old back-fire technique. The socialists and communists have reached men's minds, Mr. Koch, not their muscles.

Are we, by the use of force, to steal the trough away from the people, or must we rather educate people not to participate in drinking from it? Cannot we rest our case upon reason and morality? Must we be immoral in order to stop immorality? CAN we act immorally and expect to achieve a moral end?

As you know, the socialists never really got off the ground until they founded the London School of Economics (the Fabians). They realized that each man DOES control his own energy, and thus they had to reach that control center - the mind.

I quite agree that education FOR freedom should have been started 30 years ago, but it wasn't. We must start from where we are. But if we don't start now, where will we be 30 years from now? Or even five, for that matter? As capitalists, we really missed the boat. We completely abandoned the battle for men's minds; we surrendered that avenue completely. Results? the current intellectual flabbiness and moral complacency of our American culture, easy prey for conquest from within or without, our own conflagration - the result of thousands of well-intentioned back-fires, but not one damned soul pumping water.

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I cannot agree with your analogy between the lack of political action and hara-kiri. A more accurate one would be: let's not throw gasoline on the fire that is consuming us.

I do not speak for Bob, but his point of Russia being a constitutional republic is quite accurate. And so is our country. All he pointed out was simply that all forms of political structures ultimately end up the same way, a dictator sitting at the top. History has demonstrated this time after time, and getting a "good man" in office has never and can never prevent it. We didn't make it that way, and I'm sorry it can't work that way, but if we ever are to be free, we must face the facts - unpleasant as they are.

I am sorry that you cannot see your way clear to help us with our work here at the Freedom School. It is not our purpose to pressure individuals to give us financial support, but to attract support because of the worthiness of our projects, products and achievements.

It was indeed our pleasure to have you and Mrs. Koch visit with us for the brief three days, and it is our sincere hope that someday you will have the opportunity to have a longer visit with us.

Cordially,

Grant W. Corby, Jr.
Director of Development

GWC/n

cc: Robert Welch
Robert Love
Robert Stoddard
Wm. J. Grede