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Propaganda

Dear Arthur:

I deeply appreciated your letter about my Review. I presume you were referring to that sentence in which I said that the Foundation does not support campaigns to influence public opinion. In other words, we do not go in for what you call "propaganda." But it depends on what you mean by propaganda. It seems to me that propaganda can be of two kinds: a propaganda by words and a propaganda by deeds. Frankly, I haven't much faith in the former. It is too much like a Baptist prayer meeting - professions of faith illustrated by no good works.

If my analysis is correct, The Rockefeller Foundation is extensively engaged in propaganda, but it is a propaganda of deeds. We are trying to make liberty a vital thing in the world by extending the boundaries of knowledge, by support of outstanding individual scholars, by helping Negro schools of the South - in other words, by trying to develop the concept of what responsible freedom really means. From this point of view, your father was one of the great propagandists of his time, although he probably would

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have denied it vehemently. But his work in North Carolina and throughout the South in raising the standards of education did more for democracy and freedom and for the moral and spiritual values of our time than the work of almost any other person of his generation.

The Foundation isn't running away from the problem, only we aren't supporting any specialized preaching about it. Let other people do the preaching. I'm interested in works.

This may bespeak too emphatically the Presbyterian bias of some of my ancestors, but it happens to be my faith, too.

With warm best wishes,

As ever,

RAYMOND F. FREDICK

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