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March 24, 1959

Editor Business Week  
330 West 42nd St.  
New York 36 New York

Dear Sir:

In your March 7th issue (in a reply to letter-writer Harold Draeger) you say that "few people would classify Henry George's Progress and Poverty as an economics textbook."

It is true that George's book was not written as a textbook, but it is used today by the Henry George School as the textbook for its basic course in Fundamental Economics. This course is offered by class throughout the United States of America and the British Commonwealth, and by correspondence throughout the world. Progress and Poverty is also used as collateral reading in many college economics courses.

There are three current United States unabridged editions of Progress and Poverty (Schalkenbach Foundation, Modern Library and Classics Club), several abridged editions, a condensed edition published in England, and French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch and Danish editions. Shortly a German edition will appear, and other languages are in preparation.

Between five thousand and ten thousand copies of Progress and Poverty are sold annually, mostly as textbooks.

Sincerely,

RC:lk

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BUSINESS WEEK • Mar. 7, 1959

# Samuelson vs. Readers

Dear Sir:

In re: Economist With a Best Seller [BW—Feb. 14 '59, p73]:

Samuelson and other breeds of "mathematical" economists do a disservice to economics if they lead people to believe that mere use of mathematical trappings will make answers to economic problems any more accurate or precise.

The mathematical economist hedges his models with the stochastic symbol for uncertainty, but ay, there's the rub. Economics is a social science and its raw material is people. Mathematical models depend upon "rational" behavior of people, but people's behavior is often irrational. Minimax Man, Sequential Decision Making Man, Satisficing Man, etc., all mathematical creations, are as much robots of rational behavior as Economic Man [Six Characters in Search of an Economist—BW—Feb. 7 '59, p44].

We are grateful for mathematics as a more concise language for economics. But that's all, brother.

F. C. KIRK

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Dr. Samuelson's textbook in economics has indeed impressive sales volume, but it is far from being "the best selling economics textbook of all time." That honor still goes to Henry George's Progress and Poverty, whose sales volume almost exceeds the combined sales of every other text book ever written on the subject of economics. . . .

HAROLD T. DRAEGER  
BERKELEY, CALIF.

• There are no accurate figures on the sales of Progress and Poverty although there have been estimates of sales as high as 3-million to 5-million. However, few people would classify Progress and Poverty as an economics textbook.

Dear Sir:

Professor Samuelson needs more mellowing by more controversy to help him make economic cleanliness come closer to economic godliness. . . .

"Thrift increases capital formation" and is therefore "socially desirable." Not so!

Savings may be personally desirable provided they are invested intelligently; but they are nation-

# No more drudgery for me in cleaning grease-caked floors



## His boss is happy too . . .

and should be. Now an Industrial Dry-Scrubber, Finnell's 84XR, does the job in about one-tenth the man-hour time required to hand-scrape the floors! And of course the machine is far more thorough, and spares maintenance men the back-breaking effort of manual methods. Equipped with two powerful scari-fying brushes, the 84XR digs through and quickly loosens even the most stubborn coatings of dirt, oil, grease, and shavings. Universal couplings enable the brushes to clean recessed areas that rigid coupling brushes would pass over and miss.

Reversible motor keeps wires sharp. A flip of the switch reverses the rotation of the brushes and re-sharpens them automatically . . . while working! Eliminates the need for frequent changing of brushes by hand in order to maintain a sharp cutting edge. Reversal of brush rotation also helps keep the brushes functioning efficiently by ejecting sticky substances that would otherwise clog and slow up the cleaning process. Total brush spread of the 84XR is 22 inches. Low, compact design permits cleaning right up to and beneath machinery—areas where deposits are heaviest. Interchangeable rings and brushes adapt the machine to wet-scrubbing, polishing, and steel-wooling.

Clean floors allow industrial trucks to move swiftly, surely and, according to actual tests, with *half the pull* it takes to move loads over dirty floors. In addition, clean floors aid safety underfoot and contribute to worker productivity. So it pays to keep floors clean—especially with a labor-saving 84XR! (The Vac illustrated, Finnell's 10C, features a 1½ hp, 115v AC-DC By-Pass Motor. Tank holds 12 gallons wet, 1¼ bushels dry.)

For demonstration, consultation, or literature, phone or write nearest Finnell Branch or Finnell System, Inc., 3803 East St., Elkhart, Ind. Branch Offices in all principal cities of the United States and Canada.

A flip of the switch  
re-sharpens brushes  
automatically!



Brushes adjust  
to floor  
irregularities

**FINNELL SYSTEM, INC.**  
*Originators of  
Power Scrubbing and Polishing Machines*



BRANCHES  
IN ALL  
PRINCIPAL  
CITIES

ally undesirable. If kept in circulation by investment an increase is fairly certain to be inflationary; if not, saving money becomes deflationary and begets budgetary deficits. . . .

ALDEN POTTER

BETHESDA, MD.

## Name Assumption?

Dear Sir:

Reader Edwin J. MacEwan's letter (Economic Cold War) [BW—Feb. 7 '59, p5] deserves some comments. I was amazed about his naive assumption that no school in this country should buy Russian laboratory equipment solely because it is made behind the Iron Curtain.

The same issue of BW bringing Reader MacEwan's letter, reports . . . that two large U. S. firms have made very important deals with the 'slave nations.' One is the Dow Chemical Co., buying benzene . . . from the Russians, and the other one the Commerce Oil Corp. which is going to import 115,000 bbl. of oil from Rumania.

It is interesting to observe that these two big firms, typical representatives of American free enterprise supposed to be by nature antagonistic to the despotic and unfair business methods of the Communist nations, do not feel at all being restricted in their freedom of trading with the arch enemies of our capitalistic system. Why then is Reader MacEwan directing his appeal to the little fellow whose total volume of business with the Russians would amount to peanuts. . . . Does this mean that there are two kinds of moral obligations in trading with the Communists? One for the small businessman who is called upon to defend our way of life by simply refusing to buy admittedly excellent and low-priced merchandise, and the other one for big business which is above these considerations and can determine for itself what serves its interests best?

From the standpoint of an average American citizen, the attitude of the government should be the guiding line for dealings with the Communists. This attitude seems now to be in favor of developing trade relations with them. If the U. S. government is not concerned with questions of moral principles in maintaining friendly relations with the Russians then the single individual can do the same. . . .

WILLIAM J. BARNES

NATICK, MASS.