
FOUNDATIONS MINING LOW-GRADE ORE

Though the larger foundations may often be exceptions, much foundation money goes for projects that duplicate public expenditures or to lengthen the duration of private charities. At worst, they allow individuals to control money that might better be given to universities or given over to the government on an equal basis with other taxpayers. The larger foundations themselves are poised between spending money for practical ventures and low-grade technical aid and educational projects at home and abroad, or, on the other hand, contributing to the drive for "pure knowledge."

In our opinion every cent to spare should go to shore up and develop our cultural and scientific structure. On a few millions of dollars depends the whole world's scientific and intellectual progress. Never has the world been more endangered by the paucity of the men who must judge and who must use its scarce intellectual resources. As an example, we noticed at the December conference of UNESCO in Paris that millions of dollars were being diverted into bread-and-butter projects, for example, technical assistance, basic education programs, and mass information campaigns. Yet the *Musée de l'Homme* stands in Paris with half-used capacity and a proven record of distinguished contributions to anthropology.

The larger foundations must resolutely put aside their "Red Cross disaster" functions and shut out the immediate pleadings, otherwise pitiable, of the masses who need education and material goods, and of the thousand colleges that need teachers on all kinds of subjects. They should distill out the most pure, essential, and general ideas, and support those persons around the world who can do most to keep the ideas alive and moving.

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