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Mr. N. Stephan Kinsella  
Jackson & Walker, L.L.P.  
1100 Louisiana, Suite 4200  
P. O. Box 4771  
Houston, Texas 77210-4771

Dear Mr. Kinsella,

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of October 28. It is gratifying for me to learn that you could develop further work based on the ideas in your paper for *Reason Papers*. As you may suspect, I am not so enthusiastic about Hoppe's work as you are, probably in part because I have had first hand reports of his utter disdain for my work (as indeed, unfortunately, was shown in Leland Yeager's review of *Capitalism and Individualism*, published some time ago in *Liberty*). More importantly, however, are you aware of Daniel Shapiro's review of Hoppe's book *A Theory of Socialism and Capitalism*? Shapiro found the book awful, lacking in scholarship, lacking in understanding of socialism, and relying entirely on characterizations Hoppe himself creates. The principle of charity, which characterizes good scholarship, is utterly lacking in that work - i.e., Hoppe treats opponents' arguments as if they were utterly worthless, giving them not even the appearance of strength (thus insulting a large percentage of the human race for thinking these worth the time of day).

I believe you might find some of the criticism leveled at Hoppe by Rasmussen and others worth further study. There is also, incidentally, the piece by Den Uyl and myself, "Gewirth and the Supportive State," in Ed Regis, ed., *Gewirth's Ethical Rationalism* (Chicago UP, 1984), that might interest you.

In any case, thanks again for writing. I hope your career goes well.

Sincerely,



Tibor R. Machan  
Professor

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