

N. STEPHAN KINSELLA  
17104 Penn Blvd.  
Prairieville, LA 70769  
(504) 622-2148

Monday, February 13, 1989

Mr. Henry Murry  
P.O. Box 15594  
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

Dear Mr. Murry,

Just thought I'd drop you a letter to fill you in on what's been going on with me lately. As Michael may have told you, I wrote him a letter explaining why I wasn't going to do PRISM's newsletter anymore, or be too active with the group. I am including here some excerpts from that letter: \* \* \* [ see letter to Cavanaugh ] \* \* \*

In fact, Mr. Murry, Jack and I and a few other Objectivists are going to be publishing a pro-freedom, pro-American, pro-capitalist, pro-reason newsletter called *The Rational Persuader*. I'll be sure to put you on the mailing list.

I liked you since I met you, and I want to remain your friend. I may, periodically, come to some PRISM meetings. But the more I thought about how it is impossible to draw the line between religion and the paranormal, I saw how we undercut our rational base by refusing to denounce religion.

Also, there are the political problems. I feel that I am aligned more closely to you, philosophically, than any of the other members of the group. You are pro-reason, pro-American, pro-defense, anti-religion, and pro-capitalism. The major differences between you and I is: you see some sort of duty to have children for the benefit of humanity, which I see as partially collectivist; you believe in some conspiracy theories which I consider false; and you are racist, mostly because of the racism which surrounded you as you grew up. These three things are not insubstantial. But let me assure you that if there were a group of people like you, I would be happy to be a part of it. I consider you to be at least an intellectual cousin of mine, and our battles are largely the same.

However, with all the conversations I have had with other PRISM members, sometimes I can't believe I am associating with people who claim to be rational, but who believe in such irrational things as religion and collectivism. If CSICOP and PRISM were totally neutral on politics, that would be one thing. But that is impossible. When one is neutral, one supports certain values *by default*. Thus, if values are going to end up being supported, then the right ones ought to be championed. The right ones are: reason, freedom, capitalism. I do believe they are related.

For instance, look at CSICOP. I remember reading in one of your old *Skeptical Inquirers* that CSICOP was demanding air time for a rebuttal to a mystic on a radio station in California. When the station would not give them the chance to rebut, CSICOP considered using the Fairness Doctrine. I cannot be part of an organization that would use state-sponsored coercion in this manner. Such philosophical bankruptcy is the result of their refusal to apply their "scientific" rationality to all aspects of life.

Think about what I have said, but remember that I'm your friend. I'll give you a call next time I have a break from my studies, and we can discuss the "monopoly capitalists."

Sincerely yours, Steph



**BATON ROUGE PROPONENTS OF RATIONAL INQUIRY  
AND SCIENTIFIC METHOD**

FORMERLY M.S.S.A.  
P.O. BOX 15594 • BATON ROUGE, LA 70895

20 March 1989

Dear Stephan:

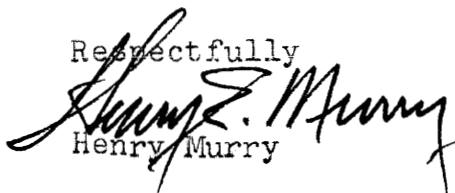
Sorry I waited so long to answer your letter. I can see your argument clearly and agree with you on most of it. Your theses are valid as are mine and even though we may never reach synthesis we can accomplish much by discussion.

I too regret the turn of events and the lack of reason displayed by some of the PRISM Associates. The solution is to wear them down to the point that they lose interest and withdraw. I don't think we are ready yet for an all out assault on religion. Later yes, now no.

Yes we should be teaching philosophy instead of finding fault but more potential followers are interested in the faults of others than they are in philosophy. With age an understanding of human nature begins to take shape and we must weigh this element in all of our public activities. We do not necessarily seek their good will but we must have their respect.

Stephan you are the deepest thinker in the group and I appreciate the opportunity of being associated with you. We can learn from each other. Remember knowledge is not wisdom but wisdom can come to those with knowledge. Call me whenever you have time.

Respectfully



Henry Murry

Enc; Copy of letter to State Times, Not printed yet.