

[22] Friedman Conversation—12-9-04

From: Milton Friedman
To: Gordon Brown
Subject: Re: Looking Forward 12-06-04
Date: Thursday, December 09, 2004 12:03 PM

Dear Gordon:

1. I certainly have no objection to your opening "the discussion to anyone interested in this link between individualism and the free market."
2. I have some question about your points 2 and 3 in Where We Disagree. "Truth" and "knowable" are too strong. I do not believe that science delivers truth. It delivers conjectures about the truth, whether it be about the external world or relationships. They are no more knowable in any interpersonal way than are the characteristics of the external world. I agree that "mankind is in a position of experiencing how he responds to an external world but lacking the ability to experience that external world as it exists independently of his own perceptual characteristics." However, that is equally true about relationships. And in both cases, conjectures differ. Some deserve more confidence than others. In any case, it is religion not science that delivers the truth.

My best,

Milton