

[6] Friedman Converation 6-26-04

From: Gordon Brown
To: Milton Friedman
Subject: With Appreciation
Date: Saturday, June 26, 2004 7:12 PM

Dear Professor Friedman:

Claudia and I were delighted with the opportunity to meet with you last Tuesday. We were gratified with the outcome. I was able to cover the basic points of my interest, and we were both pleased and impressed with your candor.

Looking back to our first communication-when I asked you about the basis for your preference for individualism-I clearly was not anticipating your response.

After our discussion, I am now even more interested in trying to link a few of your basic contentions with the model of individualism that, for the last 30 years, I have been developing and refining.

To get started, I have a critical preparatory task. It is to identify those points in your thinking to which I will try to connect. For this purpose, a sufficient number of points were covered during Tuesday's discussion. However, before attributing any such points to you, I would like to verify my understanding of your comments before beginning the linking process.

Within the next couple of weeks, I am planning on making a list of several notable points made during our conversation, sharing that list and my understanding of those points with you, and asking you to verify my recollections by agreeing (with or without modification) or not agreeing with my characterizations.

Of course, I understand that you may choose to assist me on this matter or not. However, I do believe a significant contribution can be made to the general-public dialogue if some attempt were made specifically to link your economic theory of a free market with a philosophical theory of individualism.

With best regards,
Gordon

P.S. You have one spectacular view of the Bay! Thank you for sharing it with us.