

But when it came to free enterprise, there was no compromise: it must not stop at the border. "Unrestricted competition is essential to economic freedom," he wrote. "Indeed, it can be said that competition is freedom, as distinct from the personal attribute of liberty." In an "advancing civilization the objective with regard to the market will always be the removal of restrictions to trade."

But Morley doubted that businessmen would be the best defenders of the market. Too often, they "have worked openly and surreptitiously for high tariffs and other governmental favors." As an example, he cites the industrial protectionism of the 19th century.

The preeminent economic theorist of the Old Right was Henry Hazlitt. Kicked out of *The Nation* because he opposed FDR's fascist National Recovery Act, he was made editor of *The American Mercury* by H.L. Mencken. During the heyday of Keynesianism, Hazlitt thrilled the free-market right with his column in *Newsweek*. He was also second to none in his hatred of government intervention, including protectionism and economic nationalism.

Hazlitt's *Economics In One*

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Lesson, still in print after fifty years, devotes two chapters to the fallacies of protectionism and subsidized exports. As Hazlitt demonstrates, "The tariff—though it may increase wages above what they would have been in the protected industries—must on net balance, when all occupations are considered, reduce real wages."

There were Old Rightists who worried about free international trade. Toward the end of his life, essayist Garet Garrett came to favor closed borders—to both imports and exports—because he worried about the war potential of forcing foreign consumers to buy U.S. products. At the same time, big business never had a greater champion than Garrett. A biographer rightly called him "Profit's Prophet."

Current restrictionist trade theories in the conservative movement therefore are not those of the Old Right. Their intellectual legacy is more likely British mercantilism.

The Old Right saw Britain's influence on American foreign policy as entirely pernicious. And we can add to Albion's litany of crimes, her influence on our economic policy. ▣

The Haloed Atom

by L.H.R., Jr.

Is it my imagination, or is the *Wall Street Journal's* op-ed page getting loopier by the day? It was once a page of some consequence, actually airing opinions on events of

the day. These days, you never know. One day it's hard journalism that the front page wouldn't run. The next it's detailed treatises on management practices that trade publications wouldn't accept.

But surely the looniest piece ever run on this page appeared under the title "The Spirit of Technology" by Tom Mahon (who "writes from the San Francisco Bay area") and illustrated by an atom with a halo. What is this piece about? The

technological urgency of overthrowing old religions and replacing them with a new conception of God.

"When the enslaved Hebrews of Egypt, the downtrodden slaves of imperial Rome, the dispossessed widows and orphans of 7th-century Arabia, and the 'untouchables' of Sid-dhartha's India

were suffering in mind and body, they evolved a spiritual response appropriate for their time and circumstances," says Mr. Mahon. The result was "the Bible, the Koran, the Vedas, the Gita, the Tao te Ching, and the teachings of Confucius and Buddha." All of them equal, of course.

Back then, the author continues, when the world was "flat, static, agricultural, and largely illiterate," these books were a "godsend." But nowadays their "cultural contexts" have "been largely superseded." Why? Because now we have the "atom smasher, the gene machine, the digital computer and psychoactive drugs"—uh oh—and "we manipulate matter, life, mind, and mood today in way we thought only God could do 50 years ago."

But wait, there's more: "Until such time as the leaders of the world's religious traditions can transcend their cultural and dogmatic differences, it falls to like-minded

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people to evolve a spirituality appropriate for our time."

Mr. Mahon has taken on the task of "evolving" a new religion all by himself. And he has even presented his conclusions—the whole of his new religion for our new time—right here on the *Wall Street Journal's* op-ed page!

To think, in the old days, religion was transmitted by hard work and conversion, copying of manuscripts, catechism classes, reflection of the world's great scholars, ecumenical councils. But in the age of the atom smasher, we only need a dollar newspaper to get our doctrine. Here are Mr. Mahon's conclusions about our new religion:

"True spirituality is an exquisite awareness of the interconnection of all things." After all, what is what we call "God" but "the connection of connections, the network of networks, the bond of all bonds." After all, the word "God" is just an "Old English word meaning 'the good'."

"Instead of picturing God as a medieval monarch on a marble throne, imagine God as the living awareness in the space between the atoms." This way we can get "past some of the great theological divides of the past." This way, "when we pray, it's not so important how we bend our knees or fold our arms. The life of the spirit has less to do with angularity of our limbs and more to do with the straightness of our hearts."

One can tolerate, maybe, such rambling from a college student who just sat through his first "philosophy of religion" class, and even then only if it were designed to fool his left-wing professor. (More likely, it would be the result of those "mood altering drugs" Mr. Mahon thinks are so wonderful.) But what can we say when a grown adult, a man "who has spent 25 years writing" about engineering, blabs on like this? More importantly, we can be said about the neocon newspaper that holds it up for our approval?■

Mark Your Calendar for the 1996 *RRR* Conference on "The American Political Scam"

Ah, yes. "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people." If only those weren't three different groups!

We once had a free republic that respected individual rights, local rights, states rights, and business rights. Today, despite the democratic myth, the people do not rule in America, but are oppressed.

The majority is tyrannized by a D.C. minority that not only "eats out our substance," in the words of the Declaration of Independence, but sends our sons and daughters to kill and be killed in the wars of empire. It subverts free enterprise, and erects the corporate state. It enforces the evil of egalitarianism. It pollutes our civilization.

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