VIEWPOINT

Failing in Fellowship?
J. David Richardson (Univ. of Wisconsin—Madison)

Most of us are aware that ACE has two purposes: scholarship and fellowship. I'm not sure we're doing the second very well, and I know that several of you agree. But I haven't carefully polled the membership.

So the first question is factual: Has ACE "interaction and communication" languished? I think so, based on sparsely attended annual meetings, awkward and hesitant conversations, scarce collaborative papers, and individual lack of acquaintance with other ACE members. I'm also aware of a few countertrends: the Wednesday meeting of Washington, D.C. Christian economists, and the several of you who have called me this year to catch up and to encourage. So perhaps I am wrong.

Yet if our fellowship is feeble, then my second question is why. Priorities? Fear? Inertia? Indifference? I recall thinking like Elijah during graduate school and my early career that I must be the only professional economist with a deep personal attachment to Jesus Christ. Looking back, I hope we can all smile forgivingly at my naïveté and subtle pride. But why did it take me so long to find out how wrong I was? And why do I now feel isolated for the opposite reason? Now I know how many of us there are. But now I can't figure out why so few seem to share my curiosity, relief, and even exhilaration to meet kindred believer/economists and find out how they're thinking, teaching, writing, witnessing, ministering...!

Am I being naïve or proud again?

If you're still with me, then the final question is what to do about this practically. Exhort? Pray? Plan regional fellowship times as in Washington? Engage in cross-campus seminar barter (you come here to speak in exchange for me going there, "that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" and economics)? Open our home to visiting believer/economists instead of leaving them in hotels ("because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them")? Look around for such hospitality instead of hotels?

What are your reactions? We all should feel free to contribute to these "viewpoints."

REVIEW ARTICLE

"Denys Munby (1919-1976) On Economics And Christianity"
by A. M. C. Waterman (St. John's College)

I

When 'Political Eonomy' emerged as a recognizable discipline at the end of the eighteenth century most of its practitioners were Christian and many clerical. Paley and Malthus were priests of the Church of England. B. Summer, Copleston and Whately became prelates. Chalmers was a Scotch Presbyterian minister and Moderator (1832) of the General Assembly. All were deeply concerned to relate the method and findings of the new science to the traditional account of human society supplied by Christian theology (Waterman 1983, 1986). But in the second half of the nineteenth century 'Christian dogma fell away from the serious philosophical world... '" (Keynes 1972, p. 168) and scientists of all kinds ceased to regard the task of reconciling scientific with theological knowledge as part of their ordinary business. Those who remained Christian have generally kept their science and their religion in separate intellectual