

July 17, 1981

The Editor  
The Times  
London

Sir,

Though I know little about most of the facts adduced by Mr. Tom Bower in his articles on "Blind Eyes to Murder", I am afraid he destroys my trust in his credibility by three times dragging in the name of one figure I came to know and trust fully, Ludwig Erhard. I owe this acquaintance to he being brought in 1948 into an international group of freedom-loving scholars by four German economists whom I had known long before the war and whom no one in Germany would dare to accuse of Nazi sympathies; the first of whom had been expelled by the Nazis and the other three had been persecuted by the Gestapo, the last indeed being rescued from the death cell only by the timely arrival of American troops: Wilhelm Roepke, Walter Eucken, Franz Boehm and Constantin von Dietze. They knew Erhard intimately as a member of the intellectual resistance. ~~When~~ <sup>After</sup> in the following years I came to know him closely and learned from him and his friends his views about and his experiences with the Nazi regime, Mr. Bower's lumping him together with those whose misdeeds he endeavours to document must appear as an inexcusable defamation of a very courageous and honest man of great wisdom. My uneasiness is increased when I find at the end of the series mentioned in a similar manner a well-known British figure whom before the war I knew well as my student as L.S.E.: Sir Paul Chambers. It all reminds me only too much of the atmosphere I found on my first post-war visit to Germany in 1946 among those socialist German refugees whom, as I discovered to my surprise, the Americans had selected as their expert economic advisors. Was anti-capitalist resentment really the right way to bring the Germans back into the Western community?

Yours faithfully,

F.A.Hayek, F.B.A.

(Vacation address during July and August)  
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