

THE EDITOR OF
THE TIMES

NEW PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE
LONDON WC1X 8EZ

SIR, IN VIEW OF THE ~~PARLIAM~~ LABOUR PARTY PRACTICE FOR 36 YEARS,
FROM MESSRS ATTLEE AND DALTON TO NOW MR. PETER SMORE,
TO REFER TO ME IN PARLIAMENT BY THE NAME "VON HAYEK", I
MIGHT PERHAPS BE ALLOWED TO POINT OUT THE CURIOUS FACT THAT
THE "VON" IN MY LEGAL NAME IS A ⁴³ YEAR OLD BRITISH GIFT WHICH
I DO NOT ~~USUALLY~~ GENERALLY USE MYSELF, ~~THAT~~ IT IS TRUE THAT
I HAD INHERITED THAT TITLE FROM A GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER
ON WHOM EMPEROR JOSEPH II HAD CONFERRED IT JUST SHORT OF
TWO-HUNDRED YEARS AGO. BUT IN 1918 THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT
ABOLISHED ALL TITLES OF NOBILITY AND I DID NOT USE MINE THEREAFTER,
SO LONG AS I WAS AN AUSTRIAN CITIZEN, YET WHEN ~~43 YEARS AGO~~
I WAS NATURALIZED IN THIS COUNTRY, THE HOME OFFICE PREFERRED
TO COPY MY NAME EXACTLY FROM MY VIENNESE CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH
AND BAPTISM ^{OF 1899} RATHER THAN FROM MY APPLICATION WHICH MADE MY
OFFICIAL BRITISH NAME AGAIN "VON HAYEK". I STILL DO NOT
GENERALLY USE IT MYSELF ^{IN THIS FORM} BUT CANNOT PREVENT MY FRIENDS FROM
USING IT.

I MENTION ALL THIS IN THE HOPE THAT PERHAPS EVEN LABOUR
M.P.s CAN BE SHAMED INTO NOT ANSWERING ARGUMENTS BY
REFERENCES TO DESCENT, AND, AS MR FRANK JOHNSON DESCRIBES
IT IN YOUR PAGES, USING IT "WITH SPECIAL BRUTAL EMPHASIS, AS IN
VON RIBBENTROP." YOURS FAITHFULLY,

F. A. HAYEK

TOKYO, NOVEMBER 14, 1981

AS FROM: URACHSTRASSE 27

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