

Sir,

Can there be anything more paradoxical than Mr R.T. Oerton's question(January 11th) of "how important it really is, from a moral standpoint, that the human race should be preserved". After all, what we call morals are the rules of conduct for which those who practiced them were selected to multiply to some two hundred times the numbers which "the savage, who did not own property"(Adam Ferguson), were able to keep alive. Surely morality is a result of the evolution of human civilization and has no existence apart from and outside it. To ascribe to the duties of man validity beyond his existence is an empty phrase. In the only sense in which we can speak of the aim of the morals, which man has never designed but for which he has been selected ~~is that~~ clearly human lives are their only aim.

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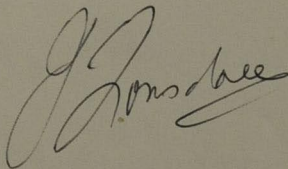
PRIVATE

January 21, 1983.

Dear Professor Hayek,

The Editor thanks you for the letter you kindly sent on January 11, which has been read with interest. He regrets, however, it has not been possible to find a place for it in the correspondence columns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. H. S. Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours sincerely,".

Professor F.A. Hayek, FBA,
Urachstrasse 27,
D-7800 Freiburg (Breisgau),
Germany.

SURVIVAL OF THE SPECIES

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than Mr. R.T. OERTON'S QUESTION ^(Summary 11) of how important
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IN THE ONLY SENSE IN WHICH WE CAN SPEAK
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CLEARLY HUMAN LIVES ARE THEIR ONLY AIM.

Yours faithfully

F. A. HAYES