

## EDITORS' NOTE

In the June 1983 issue of *The Journal of Economic Literature* Donald McCloskey published "The Rhetoric of Economics," which is a daring critique of economic methodology. Rather than a critique of positivist methodology or Popperian methodology or Austrian methodology, McCloskey intended his critique to apply to all methodology that purports to dictate specific standards for economic discourse. This critique was all the more shocking, since it came from an economist with impeccable "orthodox" credentials — an editor of *The Journal of Economic History* and a former professor at the University of Chicago. Although there has already been comment and discussion by economists (Bruce Caldwell and A. W. Coats, with a reply by McCloskey, *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 22, June 1984, pp. 575–580), we thought it would be useful to solicit the reactions of a knowledgeable philosopher, Martin Hollis (who is among other things coauthor of *Rational Economic Man*), and to give McCloskey a chance to reply. Donald McCloskey is currently at work on *The Rhetoric of Economics: A Preface to a Rhetoric of Inquiry*, which is a book-length presentation and defense of the ideas adumbrated in his original essay.