

## Freedom As a Method

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APPREHENDING the possible fate of extinction by hostile people, we ring our domain with radar detection devices and seek to enlist the entire populace in a defense mechanism. For reliance on our safety we depend largely on our capacity to strike back with massive total destruction.

In the presence of this nightmarish environment created by adults is it any wonder that sometimes the children of these adults present a problem in morals which we call "juvenile delinquency?"

It is true that the Marxian doctrine denies moral precepts but in spite of this the [ostensibly moral] Christian world has been largely influenced by Socialist propaganda. Time Magazine (March 7) published a Communist declaration which presented communism as the only possible alternative to the prevailing order in America, and the world at large accepts this position.

Billions of dollars are levied and spent by our government to stem the advance of communism abroad, but no attention is given to the fundamental causes of our economic instability. Attention to price and credit fluctuations are mere ripples on the surface—not fundamentals. Consequently the measures suggested by popular writers partake of the nature of communism and we have acquired a large and growing bureaucracy.

Short shrift is given those who, desiring social justice, see in our economic regime certain advantages which they would preserve through liquidation of special privilege. This is the position of the single tax movement. Believing morals to be the highest expression of self preservation, we advocate equality of opportunity in order that uninhibited competition and equitable distribution of wealth will result.

At present, so far as there is any method for managing the industrial life of the people, it is a method of privilege. It takes the form of agricultural adjustment acts; Taft-Hartley legislation; anti-trust legislation; tariff legislation to enable certain manufacturers to charge the people higher prices for their goods; credit control by the Federal Reserve Commission; and the colossus of expropriation—the income tax. (Socialist Norman Thomas said on NBC television recently that he was for increasing the income tax, and why not? It is the very essence of Socialist doctrine).

We firmly postulate that all such attempts are self defeating—that instead of raising the standard of living they depress it—that to the extent that we enjoy a higher standard of living today than at any time in the past, we owe it to the initiative of the people who have improved productive processes and not to any government interference or regulation. That the producers have been able to carry the burden of a growing beaurocracy and march forward in spite of it is remarkable.

To individual initiative alone we owe the modern marvels of communication, transportation, chemistry and engineering. This should prove conclusively that we can trust freedom.

Freedom is the one economic method which is consistent with Christian ethics. If all special privilege were continuously paid for at its market value, the contrast between efficient prosperity and the negativism of the Marxists would render the latter ridiculous.