

328

1416

F *George Randall*
Local products

THE EDITOR, Sir:— Apparently the issue of protection for local products has been clouded by so much sentiment, that the clear ethical principles involved have been either ignored, obscured, or lost sight of.

Obviously, the basic question is: "Has government the right to force people to buy things they don't like"? Who's to decide what gives better value for money — Government, or the thousands of consumers who use the goods? The consumer's answer is that foreign products gives better service at less cost. Since they use the goods—and government doesn't, they're far better qualified to pass judgment, and should have their wishes respected.

The next question logically is: "Are people free to choose the goods and services they think best— or should they be dictated to by government bureaucrats"?

That, I submit, is the crux of the matter, as if they're forced to conform to every whim and fancy of government, they're not free—and have no rights—but are robots, manipulated by remote state-control. Totalitarian dictatorship then replaces individual liberty, and the state becomes supreme as all freedom disappears.

The law of equal freedom is: "Each is free to do all that he wills—provided he infringes not the equal freedom of any other" What is Government's duty—to preserve or violate people's rights and freedom to act?

Since "the road to hell is paved with good intentions" and liberty is indispensable to the pursuit of happiness, Government's interference with people's freedom of choice, weakens their decision-making capacity, resulting in total dependence on Government.

History proves it's the surest and easiest way to state enslavement of the individual and national disaster, ever devised.

Dare we risk it with our new nation?

I am, etc.,

P. WALLACE *randall*

24 Harcourt Road,

Kingston 16

August 17, 1963. *2/18/63*

2077