

Everybody's Column—

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Schectady Gazette, 4-24-65

Confusion Caused by
Using Capitalism as
a Form of Government

Open Letter To:

Mr. Leonard E. Read, President
The Foundation For Economic
Education, Inc.

Irvington - On - Hudson, New York

Dear Mr. Read:

Your letter of April 11th received. Regarding our discussion of the definition of the word 'capitalism' and 'profit.' My objection is in having the word 'capitalism' used in association with communism as a form of government such as 'A Businessman Looks at Communism Vs. Capitalism.' The Freeman, January, 1963

What is capitalism? Capital is wealth used in the production of more wealth. Such as tools, machines, shops, factories, and any other wealth used in the production of more wealth. And 'ism' (according to Webster's Dictionary, 1940) means a system or theory. Catholicism is the system or theory of the Catholic church. Protestantism is the system or theory of the Protestant church. Americanism is the system or theory of the American nation, and capitalism is the system or theory of using capital.

If the United States of America is a capitalist nation because it uses capital, then logically all other nations using capital are capitalist nations, including Russia and Red China. Capitalism is state ownership and control of all wealth-producing and distributing agencies. An association of human beings for economic and political purposes and not to be compared to capital, tools and machines.

Karl Marx protested the use of 'capitalism' machines in British textile mills because the machines threw workers out of employment. But, I know of no place where Karl Marx used the word 'capitalism' as a form of government. Writers and educators only confuse the issue by accepting and repeating communist false statements.

How do we define the word 'profit'? Mr. John Chamberlin, author of 'From Whence Comes Profit?' asks, 'Do profits, then, come from wages?'

What is profit? Profit is that which remains after making all payments for cost.

Profit is not a fixed return for land, labor or capital, like rent, wages or interest. Profit may come from any factor in the production of wealth. And this is where domestic economy, home economics come in. If you are frugal, saving, prudent in your expenditures you may have some profit left after making all payments for cost. But that is your business, and not public responsibility.

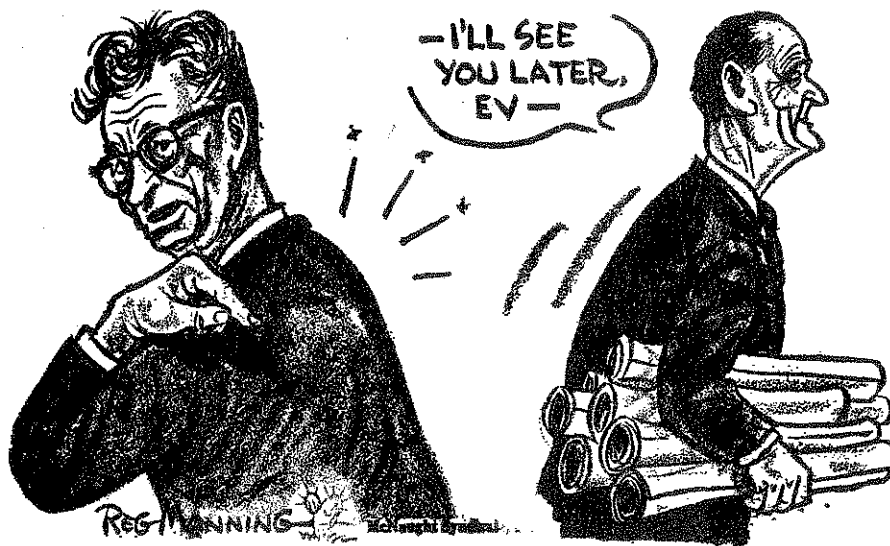
ROBERT H. RITCHEY.

192-9th Street,
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You-Scratch-My-Back—



AND—



The Spotlight

'Freedom' or 'Liberty?'

There Is a Difference

Editor of The Knickerbocker News:

Language is composed of motions of the body and sounds of the voice. Used to communicate thoughts from one individual or group, to another individual or group, it is used by practically all of God's creatures. But to make sense, each word must have a definite meaning.

Here are two words; "freedom" and "liberty." I believe that each of these words has a separate and distinct meaning.

Liberty or license is granted by legal authority and the same authority can take that liberty away. Liberty is a special privilege to do something unlawful.

Freedom is inherent from nature and nature's God. If the freedom mentioned in President Johnson's civil rights bill of 1964 can be revoked by legal authority, that bill would not be worth the effort to enact it into law.

I believe with the signers of the Declaration of Independence that all men are created with equal unalienable rights; that they are endowed by their Creator with life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

ROBERT H. RITCHEY

Everybody's Column

New Life in GOP Needed, Writer Asserts

Schenectady-
Editor Gazette: 8-24-65.

Experience has taught us during the last five or more years that the American people are not interested in "conservatism" as a political party. We have nothing to conserve except the new deal with state ownership, taxation and control which the Republican's were very active in advancing last November. We have to establish a free society before we can conserve it. The American Conservative Union did not seem to have united a very strong opposition to the liberals in the Republican convention.

The Conservative Society of America, is just as meaningless as the American Conservative Union, or Free Society Association. You say—we need a new party, a second party. No. What we need is new life in the Republican Party. You may have as many political parties as you wish. But there are only two forms of government. Free enterprise and controlled enterprise. As a matter of fact, political parties have little effect on society except to provide a playground for politicians they turn the clock forward or back but the stars and sun proceed on their natural course. It is the constituency, the people who really determine the kind of government that we will have within the natural framework of free enterprise or controlled enterprise.

Some years ago France had 22 different political parties, later India had 23, to satisfy the ego of certain individuals, but if you look under the surface of any enterprise agriculture, mining or manufacturing and you will find that the men and women employed there are free or controlled. That is why governor Bradford had to reconsider conditions in 1619. That is why our fore-fathers tried to establish free enterprise in the United States of America which made us the most prosperous nation in this world. Let us now pledge ourselves to reestablish free enterprise here and now; with freedom and justice for all and special privilege for none. Then peace will follow.

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