

SOME ACTION NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE FREE ENTERPRISE

F. Lee - George. Pennington

Mr. Ben Moreell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Americans for Constitutional Action
3 Gateway Center, P. O. Box 1347
Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania

4-711

Dear Mr. Moreell:

Your letter and the basic objectives of Americans for Constitutional Action received. You have set forth a very comprehensive out-line of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution as to what should be done for the protection of the God-given rights of the individual. But is that sufficient to this purpose? Merely to re-state the principles set forth by our forefathers about one hundred eighty years ago, and have failed to protect the God-given rights of the individual to date.

You say — "The United States now faces a crisis of such major proportions as to involve their very survival as a federal republic."

Correct: The survival of the United States of America as a free independent nation is involved. Within the last twenty years "controlled enterprise" communism has grown from about 175 million population and controlling one sixth of the earth's surface, to more than a billion population and controlling about one third of the earth's surface.

The United States of America may survive as a satellite of controlled enterprise, but not as a free independent nation, unless something definite is done very soon to check the spread of controls.

Two Forms of Government

All human undertakings in the production of wealth and service are known as "enterprise" and all enterprise are controlled or free enterprise.

Three Factors in the Production of Wealth

There are only three factors in the production of wealth. Land, labor and capital (no more). Each should receive full reward for the value they will bring in a free open competitive market. Rent is the return for the use of land. Interest is the return for the use of capital. Wages or what labor produces is the return for exertion.

Land: All the material universe exclusive of man and his products.

Labor: All human exertion, mental and physical, in the production of wealth and services.

Capital: Wealth used in the production of more wealth.

Land without people has no value. But as people congregate on the land and bid for choice location, rent appears and increases with population. Therefore, since the people of the community produce the rent, the rents should be collected into the community treasury for community use instead of taxing capital and labor for the support of the community.

Capital should receive the interest it will bring in a free open competitive market. Not an interest fixed by a bank behind closed doors.

After giving to land and capital what they will bring in a free open competitive market, the balance belongs to labor. And you have a just, right distribution of wealth.

It is an economic axiom that man satisfies his desires with least exertion. Man has resorted to every conceivable scheme from monopoly of land, the source of all wealth, to robbery, slavery, swindle and even murder to avoid honest labor. Our first recorded history shows Egypt enslaving the Hebrew people, and in spite of Moses' efforts to establish a just rightful system of government in accordance with the ten commandments, Baalism has survived and controlled enterprise in one form or another has continued to the present time, and the individual seems no nearer to enjoying his God-given rights now than he did five thousand years ago.

President Eisenhower in his State of the Union address January 9, 1959 said — "in the 170 year of the republic, our nation must continue to provide as indeed all other free governments have had to do throughout time a satisfactory answer to a question as old as history: It is, can a government based upon liberty and the God-given rights of man, permanently endure when ceaselessly challenged by a dictatorship?"

Nelson A. Rockefeller, Governor of the State of New York in his message to the legislature January 7, 1959 in part three, page eleven said — "Economic growth is not an end in itself. Its true end is to enable the individual to pursue a life of dignity and to develop his own capacities to the maximum potential."

There is little advantage in the individual developing his own capacities to the maximum potential unless he can enjoy the full product of his labor.

There are two forms of law

There are two forms of law. Natural law or law of God, and man-made law. Our first recorded history shows Egypt operating under man-made law. Baalism reigned supreme, might was right, land the source of all wealth was monopolized and the majority of mankind were slaves. Hence our President's question as old as history.

Then about five thousand years ago Moses received the ten commandments with instructions to establish a just form of government respecting the dignity of the individual in a free and just society with equal rights for all.

When our highest officials of state speak of the God-given rights of man, what do they mean? And when Mr. Rockefeller tells us "that the true end is to enable the individual to pursue a life of dignity and to develop his own capacities to the maximum potential" — just how should we interpret his words?

Suppose we turn to the Bible and our Declaration of Independence briefly for our answer.

St. John 8:32 "and you shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

First commandment "love God above all." Second commandment "and thy neighbor as thyself for the love of Thee. This do and thou shalt live."

Leviticus 25:23 "the land also shall not be sold forever, because it is mine, and you are strangers and sojourners with me."

Genesis 3:19 "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Isaiah 25:21 "and they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them" Isaiah 25:22 "they shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of my people, and the works of their hands shall be of long continuance."

What did our forefathers say in the Declaration of Independence? "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Then if we have an unalienable right to life and the pursuit of happiness, we must have a right to the means of life and happiness. The land is the only place from which we can secure our sustenance.

In our grandfathers time we had no unemployment, because they had access to the land, and if people had free access to the land and freedom of exchange of goods there need be no unemployment today.

Controls and injustice must be replaced by freedom and justice before we can enjoy peace on earth to all men of good will. But, good will must come first, then peace on earth will follow.

Most people will agree that our first and greatest need is freedom from fear. Fear of war, fear of taxes, fear of poverty, fear of unemployment, and fear of controls — the principle cause of all fear. The new deal promised us freedom from fear during World War 2, but they gave us controls instead.

If you want the confidence and co-operation of our neighbors there is only one way that we can get and keep his good will and that is by the constant use of the Second Commandment. (Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you).

If we are to overcome the enemies of justice, right and freedom, we must unite all who are in agreement with these principles regardless of race, creed or color. We cannot afford to exclude fifteen to twenty million colored people and a like number of labor union members. Freedom and justice cannot be won without them and if they were not included, there would be no justice or freedom anyway. Half justice is no justice.

When mother used to make emptings for her old fashioned bread she always left a little of the old emptings in the container for seed and that caused the new mixture to ferment. And that is just what would happen if ~~wealth~~ justice and freedom were not completed. The number deprived of their just rights would ferment the whole social body sooner or later and all would be in tumult again.

We may spend our time and wealth fighting our own people, exhausting our resources until we are sufficiently weak for outsiders to come in and enslave all of us, as has been done in every first class nation from the beginning of history. Beginning with Egypt, Greece, Rome, France, Spain and now England, the U. S. A. are on their way out unless they change their methods.

But a nation is not like a human being. I grow old and must die, a nation has new life coming in all the time and could continue indefinitely, barring natural catastrophe, the only other cause is corruption.

Yes, Mr. President, Mr. Governor and Mr. Moreell — governments based upon liberty and the God-given rights of man can permanently endure only if we apply the God-given rights of man to our every day life and discard the man-given rights of man enacted by ignorant or dishonest politicians. And the price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

Money has an important function to perform in our economy and as used today leaves too much room for fraud and inflation. It should be properly related to wealth as a measure of value and medium of exchange and rigidly enforced. The form should be taken up soon.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Ritchey
31 Clinton Avenue
Albany 7, New York, U.S.A.