

Not the Mind Only...

EDMUND A. OPITZ, staff member of the Foundation for Economic Education, Inc., at Irvington-on-Hudson, New York; book review editor of *The Freeman*; and author of several books; spoke at a Kings College conference at Briarcliff Manor, New York, early in July. "Economics," he said "is concerned with the conservation and stewardship of the world's goods." Man is a spiritual being; but to think, dream or create, he must first survive. Economics is a discipline in its own right, governed by its own laws but subject to non-economic means. There is only one way to produce economic goods — by applying energy to nature and nature's products. Every so-called alternative and every variety of socialism calls for political intervention and produces injustice. Freedom hinges on properly limiting government. He referred to the Plymouth Colony as the triumph of an idea — human freedom under God. The American dream was a projection of that faith, and society has been held together by agreement on its basic principles.

Referring to Albert Jay Nock and the "two-headed monster," *The State*, he said, every government tends to create the means of its own support. "Votes and taxes for all; subsidies for us and our friends."

Congressman Bruce Alger of Texas, speaking on constitutional concepts at the same conference, charged educators with teaching the facts, also with correcting the misinterpretations which develop from news management and the rewriting of history to further the communist goal. "Our Constitution was drawn not to give men rights but to secure the rights already given to men by God," he said. "This concept is challenged by the Marxist assault on our Republic which is clearly defined.

In the struggle between communism and capitalism we cannot accept a little of each, for the evil will destroy the good." We must be fiscally responsible and not waste our substance. We must strengthen the private enterprise system by getting the federal government out of competition with its own citizens, and we must protect the salaried workers from the monopolistic control of powerful labor leaders who are above the law.

Dr. Walter H. Judd, former Congressman from Minnesota, spoke of the conflict in economics (the huge tax which encourages cheating) — the conflict between philosophies of life — and the still deeper conflict between two sets of values . . . "There can be no peace without order." Progressive conservatism would make the government the servant of the people, from local to federal, with an economic system that would give incentive. "Conserve the system," he urged, "so we'll have something with which to be liberal," since if we are to help the 20 per cent now in poverty, the 80 per cent must become solvent.

Objectivity, though much admired, he considered good as a means to an end, not as the end itself — for the end is decision. It is not enough to discover the truth — one has to care as well as to know. Education should develop greater enthusiasm. We are not concerned with the mind only, but with the heart. Communicate ideas, then develop the emotional capacities, since power comes not from an idea but from generating emotion from an idea.

The three-day seminar under auspices of the National Freedom Education Center offered a distinguished program at which the HGN editor was privileged to be present.