

## A Word With You

By ROBERT CLANCY

Reading the papers and looking around leads one to reflect sadly on the paucity of objective thinking apparent.

In New York a group of civil service men hurl charges of "Communist" at a city councilman. He voted against a measure which would increase the free "gravy" dished out to the service men.

A candidate for Mayor speaking on the platform with his rivals demands to know why, etc., and challenges his opponent to explain, etc. — and disappears out of the room as soon as his tirade is over.

A distinguished professor of economics roars against high taxes and proposes: "Immediately put on the heaviest tax that will reach all of us."

Over at the U. N. — but why go on? You get the idea. The moral is: All's fair (and nothing's logical) in the struggle for money and power. The pocket nerve is the most sensitive — touch it and the mind blacks out. What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander — as the sauceless gander will tell you.

To the man on the bottom everything's all wrong; to the man on the top everything's all right except the man on the bottom. Taxes are too high when I'm paying them. Profits are too high except when I'm reaping them.

Oh, for a grain of reason! Oh, for a voice in the wilderness! Not the least of the casualties of our scrambling, cock-eyed, dog-eat-dog economy is its paralyzing effect on man's reasoning powers.

He who would apply objective thinking to the questions of the day, in the interests of fairness to all, is a musty, impractical scholar, who had better remain in his ivory dome. The realistic way to do things in most forums and tribunals is to push and shove and argue and take for granted that on the other side of the table they will push and shove and argue. If somebody should ask a clear, objective, dispassionate question, or make an impartial, logical statement, nobody would be prepared for it.

When there is an economic question to be decided, what politician troubles himself to study the fundamentals of economics? Should he have a mind to do so, he would find the way to the library thronged with lobbyists, petitioners and parasites, and he'd never reach his goal.

It's a tough job, getting the reasoners and the realists together, but it's the only way out.