

Who Is the Enemy?

By HERBERT S. GOOD

PRIOR to Pearl Harbor there were over 800 organizations in the United States engaged in spreading anti-democratic propaganda. The courts have imprisoned some of their leaders, but many of these groups still are operating. Behind a screen of energetic flag-waving they proclaim the vicious and selfish, un-American, anti-democratic doctrines of feudalism. It is not strange that these same super-patriots who are bent on undermining both our major political parties, despise the President, belittle Henry A. Wallace, castigate Thurman Arnold, ridicule Wendell Willkie, challenge the Truman, Tolan, and Bone Committees, and oppose every governmental act which even tends to favor the many at the expense of the few.

We are fighting today to establish a democratic world, and every individual or group, including the Axis, opposed to this goal is an enemy of the common man in the people's revolution. No organized society, whether state, nation or world, can remain indefinitely half slave and half free. This is every man's war, if he be in uniform or still a civilian, for the enemy is everywhere, usually in ambush.

No man can claim to be doing his part in the war effort, no matter what his job, who fails to accept and acclaim the high purposes of the conflict. Morale is the most important weapon; we can't win without it. Morale results from belief that something worth while will be won. Shall we have the effrontery to greet our victorious home-coming soldiers with cheers and confetti, but with an attitude toward democracy that will make a mockery of victory? We did that after the last war.

Remember the last World War? We won it! or didn't we? We had a League of Nations which we considered like prohibition—fine for the other fellow. There were those forces which knew that active membership in the League would result in an ultimate superior government which in turn would remove vestiges of privilege now encompassed in trade and social barriers. Political jealousy of Woodrow Wilson's mounting popularity as a world leader kept America out of the League. Wilson was an American, and a good one. We should have been proud to have had him head a World League. But no, the feudal interests ordered us "Back to your hemispheric box," and one hundred and twenty million people went. Perhaps this time the masses will not be retired. The decent people of this world want peace, and they are willing to fight for it.

World peace is something that has to start now, at home. We must first consider that we are citizens of the world, that the world—not just a piece of it—is our home. Next, we must get along with our neighbors, and in this age of aviation all are neighbors. We must discover that cooperation with our

neighbors is profitable to us, and to them, too. That in order to preserve peace once we have gained it, we must allow an interdependence to exist among all nations. We must accept our neighbors with respect, and acknowledge that they have with us an equal right to the bounties of nature. There is no superior race or chosen people.

All men are born free! It isn't until they grow to realize their imposed limitations that lack of freedom is important. Trade, like man himself, was born free. Free trade is natural trade; tariffs as a philosophy were imported. A lot of things are overlooked in peace, but it is a terrible waste of men and goods fighting a war to accomplish that which we should be intelligent enough to accomplish in our normal stride. Our military realize the necessity of a free flow of goods. Thus the President will presently have the power to circumvent the legal barriers to the "free movement of persons, property, and information into and out of the United States." Will this newly released avenue to the freedoms be a post-war political football, or will real folks fight to keep alive the free movement of men and goods?

We also imported patents, franchises, special privilege, and we imported the idea that the owner of land and natural resources has a right to collect an unearned income for the use of his holdings. All these are not American, but relics from feudal Europe. But not only do the literate take them for granted, but they are defended by the millions who suffer from them, and haven't the wit to dispute them.

Thurman Arnold says his job is to help preserve capitalism by protecting the many from the few who seek to stamp out competition. The democratic economist knows that both capitalism and competition are essential factors in democracy. We may discover that Thurman Arnold is closer to Georgeists than we think.

Red tape is one of the less abusive epithets in common use against the Government. As for impeding the war effort, however, red tape is only a chalk line compared to the effect of prejudices pitting themselves against each other. More sad than political hatreds, particularly in these times, is the not-yet-conquered race prejudice, another relic of feudalism. Before Pearl Harbor the Jap was more respected by the white American than was the Negro American, whose loyalty to his country has never been questioned. Some people run to hating Jews, just all Jews, including Americans. Others are devoted to hating the English, and so it goes. Yet we are all going to have to get along with everybody else, and be better Americans because of it.

The Negro will be voting in the South before long. He's going to prove that he has the same talents and value to society as the white man. His new enfranchisement will be just one example of the world trend towards justice for all. The only complaint should come from the loser of power where power never belonged.

There is no substitute for the use of intelligence; the alternative is suffering. Free-market economists have a ponderous task in the education of the masses. They will have the help of *all* liberal philosophers, writers and speakers. But the greatest encouragement will come from the President, and the hard-working, sincere staff of executives and workers who constitute the most liberal and humanitarian group in history.

No President ever faced a more grave situation than did Franklin D. Roosevelt when he took office. He went after each problem with a quality of confidence that surpassed the Nation's law-makers. Each move he made was admittedly experimental, but he had a job to do: to rescue the people and put out the fire later; and he did it. The President and his little political family are a sincere force for economic freedom in the United States. They recognize economic abuses, and strive to eliminate them. Of course, they meet opposition, some of which is understandable, some not. It is odd that so many who claim profound interest in humanity have no humanitarian interest outside our borders, and then only after distinguishing certain races and creeds. It is odd that many are interested in the abolition of some monopolies, while they overlook others. But it is very odd that there are humanitarians, social and economic reformers who have spent years of work and large sums of money striving for reforms which they would prefer be not realized, if it had to come through the efforts of Roosevelt. Just so did the tin-horn patriots of the last war sabotage our Nation before the eyes of the world, rather than let Wilson realize an ideal.

The suffering we will have to experience through this world conflict is in direct ratio to our lack of sincerity. This is the hour when the sincerity of Georgeists is going to be tested. Theirs is an international hope, for they realize, if they know George, that his Cure can never be fully effective in any isolated area. No Georgeist can be an isolationist. Neither can a Georgeist, by his very nature, condemn any effort to ameliorate human distress, even if its effect is temporary. We need the vehicle of political power to accomplish any change in our existing system. No path is ever perfect, or ever will be. It is up to us to choose the lesser of evils.

Many of the Government's measures for social betterment are not in line with those outlined by Henry George, but such measures can serve our purpose well; they have created a social awareness, they have developed a scaffolding on which socially alert people can put technique and method in the direction supported by us Free Market Economists.

We can laugh off the election as being the people's answer

to bureaucracy and slothfulness in the Washington management of the war. If the Afro-Mediterranean successes had been one week earlier, a different tale might have been told at the ballot box. No one can plaster the American Institute of Public Opinion with any political label. Its findings are impartial, because business success depends upon that impartiality.* Dr. George Gallup, the Institute's director, has been accused of being prejudicial to many New Deal acts because his surveys have shown the Nation's antipathy to many government edicts. But Dr. Gallup, in an interview, has revealed this since the election:

Supporters of the New Deal did not vote in their usual ratio on November 3, but those supporters are still among us. Millions were removed from their voting districts: some were in factories, others in the Army. How does the Institute know it was the New Dealers who did not vote? Because, out of thousands of straw votes collected, those who had registered so they could vote indicated predominant Republican partiality in 1940.

In our country people will fight for those liberties which they understand. They know what free speech is, and they mean to keep it. They understand what freedom of religion is, and they will maintain it. They know also from experience what fear and want are, but they don't understand freedom from them, for they have never experienced that. The methods proposed for accomplishing freedoms are so varied that they confuse the man in the street.

However, there has been a beacon light from various Washington sources, and the Georgeists should edge into its focus: (1) The National Resources Planning Board has expressed itself favorably on land value taxation. (2) Congressman Jerry Voorhis, a New Dealer, has introduced a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which gives power to Congress to tax the value of land—including all its natural resources—in cooperation with existing governmental agencies, and to reduce or remove taxes on improvements. (3) The State Department has demonstrated such wisdom and enlightened viewpoint on international trade that, under the incumbent President, it has won exceptional praise from the politically free nations of the world.

The economist can justify his existence only in proportion as he serves mankind. If his observations and beliefs cannot be transmitted into public understanding, he has failed his vital mission. We of Free Market Institute hope to be able to transmit the concepts of a Free Economy beyond academic walls into and through the hundreds of virile democracy movements in our land.

* See "Polling the Public," by William W. Newcomb, LAND AND FREEDOM, September-October, 1942.—Ed.