

PLAIN TALK *by Jerome Joachim*

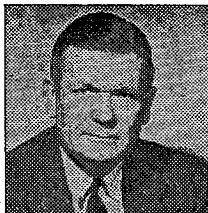
"You're almost as bad as the politicians in the sense that you are vague about the specific remedies you would suggest to prevent the 'creeping socialism' you predict so frequently for America. Why don't you tell us specifically what needs to be done to 'Save America'?"

Perhaps one answer to the question would be to refer my reader or readers to Senator Robert Taft's article in Collier's on "How Much Government Can Free Enterprise Stand"? But permit me to quickly add that Senator Robert Taft's answers are not my answers.

Taft suggests that under his ideal government we would have a Security and Exchange Commission, perhaps similar to the one that permitted Tucker to sell millions of dollars worth of his stock to the public.

Under my government, the security and exchange commission would either be non-existent or at most it would only be an agency for the dissemination of information. Even so, as an investor I would rather get my information from private sources than rely on the honesty of a political body.

Taft suggests the continuation of the National Labor Relations Board, which under the Wagner Act, he says, gave labor too much power. His bill, the Taft-Hartley Act was intended to keep a more even balance. In both cases he admits that the administration was bad, but Taft never even suggests that the government should keep its hands strictly off except to see that neither side uses physical force to achieve its ends. In other words, he still favors governmental regulation but bemoans the fact that such regulation has not been well administered — totally ignoring the fact that history proves government has always been incapable of properly administering any human activity.



But, like many others, Taft still hopes . . . and infers that if he were president the administration would be O. K. Why doesn't he admit that government is out of its sphere and advocate that the police power be used only to prevent the use of force?

Taft contends at great length in the article, that it is the function of government to care for the poor, the indigent and the incompetent — words that are as New Dealish as any ever spoken by Roosevelt. Again he wants what the New Deal advocated, but like Dewey he suggests greater moderation in administration.

Nowhere in the Collier article does he attack the principle of taxation based on the effort made. He seems to feel that a man should be taxed more (fined more) if he is effective in his endeavors than if he is a failure. Like all politicians, he infers that if he were elected the total of the taxes levied would be lower, but makes no attack on the income tax principle. He suggests that we might find a way to change our tax system but fails to mention it. What he might have said was that we should tax people on the basis of the natural resources which they control, rather than on the basis of their effective effort; but he failed to do so. Not until we do tax only unearned and unproduced incomes, instead of taxing greater effort, will we stop the trend to socialism. But nothing suggested by Taft indicates any inclination on his part in this direction.

My specific recommendations are:

1. Repeal the Federal income tax law. Replace it with a tax on natural resources. Direct all taxes at those who get their income without aiding in greater production. Levy taxes on the basis of benefits derived instead of on the basis of social gains created. Make it necessary for a man to produce in order to have. Soon there would be so much wealth created and so many opportunities available that only the physically handicapped would need help.

2. Explode the myth that nature is niggardly and that there is not enough for all. Where freedom exists, the ability to increase nature's bounty increases with population. Give men equal access to the earth and its resources and no one will be burdened.

3. Explode forever the notion that capital pays wages. The recent 75c minimum wage law decrees that unless a man can produce more than 75c worth of wealth in an hour he must be denied the right to work—for surely no one would hire him at a loss to himself. Such ridiculous laws indicate clearly that the majority of our legislators think that capitalists pay wages instead of merely buying labor's produce and reselling it.

When even our Congress has such foolish concepts of economics, it must be apparent that the adjustments so often predicted here are inevitable. We expect uninformed people to learn only from experience. We should know by now that our Congress is no smarter. Let's preach the doctrine that our welfare depends upon our own efforts, not on the government's ability to "steal" for us that which others produce!