

# PLAIN TALK *by Jerome Joachim*

What can the average individual do to fight communism?

Someone suggested that we immediately arrest and either deport or imprison all known Communists. His remedy was to create such a fear in the minds of men that they would refrain from joining with a group whose ideals may appeal to them. Probably this person has espoused a large number of the measures which have caused communism but likes to think of himself in terms that are more popular.

Just what is communism, anyhow?

No matter how many different definitions you hear, all of them can be summed up by saying that: "communism is a disease, sometimes mild and sometimes violent, which attacks human beings and makes them think that they can get the most out of life by forcing, through laws, a more productive member of society to contribute toward the gratification of their desires."

To kill or deport those who believe this way would leave very few people anywhere. It would make as much sense as suggesting that we deport those with exceptionally bad colds because their disease had now infected all of us.

To combat communism we must recognize what causes it and eliminate those causes.

Specifically if we are to fight communism we must subscribe to the following general principles and then use every effort to help other people understand the logic of our reasoning.

1. We must rid ourselves of the notion that *we* have a right, if we pass a law, to share in the production of others on any basis other than through the free voluntary exchange of goods and services.

2. We must make certain that we do not expect *government* to give us privileges which are denied to others of any race, color or creed.

3. We must rid ourselves of the notion that *wealth* would be produced if it were distributed on some basis other than the *free* market.

4. We must realize that when man creates something or causes it to be created he does so because of a personal gain which he hopes to realize and that if he is denied, by law, either part or all of the gain which results from his effort then his effort will be deterred and all of



us will suffer. If we appropriate by law even a part of what he produces then he will henceforth devote his effort to effecting such laws and so will you. In the end, the idea of gaining by methods other than greater production will cause complete communism, the impoverishment of the entire nation and loss of individual freedom.

5. If you think your need is the basis for a law which would force someone to give you what you desire, then you are thinking like a Communist. Remember that when you force someone by law to exchange what he produced for a lower price than someone else is willing to pay then you are using the law to raise the price of what you produce. This discrimination by law is the very basis of communism and not only tends to destroy production but eliminates freedom.

6. If you use the law to force someone to pay for something you want or that you think he should want, you are thinking like a Communist. You can kill communism and retain freedom only if you believe in freedom for others as well as for yourself. If you do not believe in freedom for others then you are fostering communism.

7. Every time you say "There should be a law" (except when you advocate measures which prevent the acquisition of property rights through the use of force) the chances are you are advocating a measure designed to force someone else to do what you want done. You are thus abridging his freedom and in the end he will abridge yours. The only province of law is to prevent others from curtailing anyone's freedom.

Communism can be killed by better understanding. No matter how many Communists we deport, nor how thoroughly we annihilate Russia and all others who espouse communism, it is a disease which will still get us unless we correct our thinking. The average man, giving thought to the simple facts of life, can do more to kill communism than can all of the soldiers of the world's greatest nation. And unless the man in the street does give the matter such thought the disease will continue to grow.