

## PLAIN TALK *by Jerome Joachim*

For many years people in the U. S. have proceeded on the assumption that the productive capacity of America is so great that we could not consume all that we produce. Such an assumption has induced us to give away more than \$100 billion in goods to other nations of the world and has led us to curtail production in many instances, not to mention lead raking projects and similar "make work" schemes. No doubt the total production given away and lost because of this theory would amount to at least \$200 billion to \$300 billion. This totals \$2000 to \$3000 per person in the U. S. for a period of from 20 to 30 years, or about \$100 per year per person.

It is not difficult to realize that the average family could easily and would gladly raise its standard of living \$400 to \$500 per year if it had the opportunity. If the politicians and leaders would permit it we could all enjoy a higher standard of living if we would but rid ourselves of the idea that we are incapable of consuming all that we produce.

We have now reached the point where the government, in connection with its frantic underwriting of this false theory, is literally sending us into the poor house in an endeavor to "keep our economy going."

For a time the vast majority of the popula-



tion tacitly approved these governmental expenditures because it felt a large portion of this money was being taken from the rich. Now we have reached the point where 85 per cent of the nation's income, after present taxes, goes to people who make less than \$5000 per year. Even if we reduced everyone to a level below \$5000, all of the "do-good" legislation of the future would be paid for by the small income group.

Henceforth all additional expenditures by the government will actually entail reduced expenditures for food, clothing and the barest necessities. While our leaders now believe they have a right to spend any amount of our money they wish, the fact is that their future expenditures will actually cause hardship to a large percentage of the families in America.

Not only is it untrue that America has reached the point (or ever will) where its productive capacity is so great that the people of this nation will not be able to consume all the goods they produce, but we have reached the point where the consumptive capacity of our government is so great it is questionable whether we can produce enough to meet its demands and our essentials.