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1975DO-GOODISM GONE WILD
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Were the early Americans who came over to the forbidding forests of our country to be reincarnated so they could see what is going on here today, no doubt, they would be absolutely dumb-struck.

They expected and did stand on their own two feet and wanted as little interference as possible from the government. What interference they did get was not designed to help them, but rather to take from them. The English government was run for the benefit of the English and not for the Americans.

Today, however, we have a government which interferes constantly but presumably for the benefit of the people. It seems to spend more time enacting do-good legislation than to do anything else.

And back of it, constantly urging ever more of this type of legislation are the do-gooders, some amateurs, but the more important professional do-gooders who make a comfortable living out of it.

Do-goodism has been with us so long that now some of it is backfiring so spectacularly that even the most naive must question its validity. A case in point is the huge Pruitt-Igoe Public Housing Project in St. Louis. Around ~~July 4th, it will be dynamited out of existence.~~

This project consists of 32 high rise buildings with 2870 apartments which cost \$52 million to build twenty years ago. More millions were poured into the project not counting the money required to remove it. And when it is gone the Department of Housing and Urban Development will still have to pay off a bonded indebtedness of \$32 million until 1990.

The reason for destroying the buildings is that due to crime and vandalism, the project became uninhabitable. Everything was tried including hiring guards, counseling the tenants, giving them a share in management and spending money on modernization. But the vandals destroyed faster than laborers could build.

This project is typical of the housing projects throughout the country, which the Department of Housing and Urban Development has under its control. The projects are crime ridden and filthy beyond description. They are worse than the slums which they were supposed to have eradicated.

The do-gooders proclaimed that public housing was going to eliminate the slums and create well organized communities. At the time they sold the nation this bill of goods, it was pointed out that what is public property is nobody's property and that at-

tached to anything, whether it is housing or business, there must be responsibility. Public housing is administered by bureaucrats so they do not have the interest that a private owner would in making a project viable. The tenants have no overriding interest in the project as they feel it is a gift to them which they deserve because they are mostly poor. Public housing is a form of socialism and it was pointed out that such being the case inevitably it would suffer from incompetence, mediocrity and losses. The results have been worse than even those opposed expected.

Since it is obvious what a mess public housing is, you would expect that the do-gooders would be more circumspect in advocating new forms of do-goodism. But such is not the case. They have indulged in what amounts to a mania for anything and everything that seems to them to have merit. They are back of all this ridiculous environmentalism which has been such a large contributing factor in the current business downturn. They are back of all these attacks on smoking, altho they apparently have not taken up the cudgels for prohibiting liquor. This is probably because so many of these do-gooders are members of the liberal set and if there is one thing they enjoy it is cocktail parties.

Slowly, some of the people are beginning to fight all this do-goodism. It isn't that they are against people advocating this or that reform. It is that they are opposed to having the reform legislated. It is one thing to educate the public to the dangers of smoking; it is another thing to legislate cigarettes out of existence, or to prohibit advertising or any perfectly legitimate form of business.

The people should have a choice. The essence of freedom is the freedom to make a fool of oneself. If I am foolish enough to smoke and thus ruin my health that's my business. I know the dangers and possibly have made a foolish mistake. But that's my right as an individual.

Labor is beginning to fight some of the environmental do-good legislation as it has meant the loss of so many jobs as plants were shut down. It simply was too expensive to make the changes which the bureaucrats insisted upon. Business is putting on an increasing fight against all this do-goodism even by companies which ordinarily steer clear of any involvement. Tiffany & Co. surprised the business community by an ad labeled "The Nitty-Critty About Socialism" in which it points out that bureaucracy is making it impossible to solve the energy crisis that it has crippled the automobile industry, ruined the railroads, etc., etc.

But plain people as you and I have the greatest impact, so let our voices be heard against all this do-goodism.