

## Do Business Leaders Want Free Enterprise?

By Jackson H. Ralston

Guileless chamber of commerce representatives and other business leaders are urging that as soon as may be "free enterprise" shall again wave its banner over us and the happy days (!) of 1929-30 shall be lovingly restored.

But have these gentlemen really considered just what steps are necessary to bring about this free enterprise which in truth we have never enjoyed? Are they willing to support measures which mean just this and without which the fight is useless?

If they believe in "free enterprise" will these gentlemen—

Favor, upon proper payment, throwing inventions open to the public?

Favor abolition of our state sales tax, which interferes directly with free exchange of products and carries a burden exceeding \$100,000,000 yearly?

Abolish taxation on tangible personal property which in 50 different shapes increases the cost of everything we buy and tends to prevent production of useful articles?

Cease calling upon government to favor them by customhouse taxation, interfering with trade, or will they insist upon the benefit of the crutches the government furnishes them?

Abandon the other crutch the government supplies in the shape of lending its power of eminent domain to individuals to transport for private profit persons or property?

Abandon for themselves any idea of accumulating unearned increment publicly (not privately) created and which must be paid before any new business can start?

Or do they prefer to continue taxing industry?

If our guileless friends will do none of these things — and they can be counted upon to oppose them all—what right have they to pose as the advocates of free enterprise?

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