

DITORIAL

A LESSON IN SOCIALISM

Under the Direction of R. N. NEFF PERSONNEL DIRECTOR

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As a teacher in the public schools, I find that the socialist-communist idea of taking "from each according to his ability" and giving "to each according to his need" is now generally accepted without question by most of our pupils. In an effort to explain the fallacy in this theory, I sometimes try this approach with my pupils:

When one of the brighter or harder-working pupils makes a grade of 95 on a test, I suggest that I take away 20 points and give them to a student who had made only 55 points on his test. Thus each would contribute according to his ability and — since both would have a passing mark — each would receive according to his need. After I have juggled the grades of all the other pupils in this fashion, the result is usually a "common ownership" grade of between 75 and 80 — the minimum needed for passing, or for survival. Then I speculate with the pupils as to the probable results if I actually used the socialistic theory of grading papers.

First, the highly productive pupils — and they are always a minority in school as well as in life — would soon lose all incentive for producing. Why strive to make a high grade if part of it is taken from you by "authority" and given to someone else?

Second, the less productive pupils — a majority in school as elsewhere — would, for a time, be relieved of the necessity to study or to produce. This socialist-communist system would continue until the high producers had sunk — or had been driven down — to the level of the low producers. At that point, in order for anyone to survive, the "authority" would have no alternative but to begin a system of compulsory labor and punishments against even the low producers. They, of course, would then complain bitterly, but without understanding.

Finally I return the discussion to the ideas of freedom and enterprise the market economy — where each person has freedom of choice, and is responsible for his own decisions and welfare.

Gratifying enough, most of my pupils then understand what I mean when I explain that socialism — even in a democracy — will eventually result in a living-death for all except "authorities" and a few of their favorite lackeys.

Thomas J. Shelly



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American & Efird Mills, Inc. Mount Holly, North Carolina

PLANTS AT

Mount Holly, North Carolina Albemarle, North Carolina Maiden, North Carolina Whitnel, North Carolina Lincolnton, North Carolina

ON THE COVER

A full set of colored pictures, such as the one on the cover, have been hung in the halls at the Main

been hung in the halls at the Main Office.

Pictures were taken of all typical plant operations. A person who is not familiar with our operations can follow our procedure from an open bale of cotton through all processes right up to the shipping to a customer.

The picture on the cover also shows part of the new card cleaning equipment which has recently been installed in most of our spinning mills.

This pneumafil system cleans the lint and carries it through ducts to a central waste area. It eliminates much of the dust and lint which, in the past, was a source of irritation for all of us who have worked in the Card Room.

