

Your United States

BY FLOYD CRAMER
President of the National Association for the Preservation of Free Enterprise, Inc.

Sometimes the American people act like spoiled children in a newly-rich family, where every child has a car of its own and yet, instead of enjoying their wealth, the whole family squabbles about who is going to park directly in front of the door.

When we see a situation like that, you and I blame the father of the family.

Well, here in the United States, like the spoiled children, we also are engaged in constant quarrels.

And like the rich man's family, all the domestic problems we do have are largely the re-

sult of bad management at the top.

But because we are a democratic nation, the blame for bad management at the top rests on our shoulders.

We cannot put the whole responsibility onto a particular administrator or administration, because we, the people, put them in charge of our affairs.

Furthermore, let's never forget that our whole concept of government is based on the good of the majority, not on one special group getting ahead of the other groups.

The framers of our constitution were careful not to give any economic group any superior rights to power. Yet, as our history unfolded, particularly in the last 75 years, special interests not only began to vie for power, but actually to claim that they had a "right to it."

By the end of the 19th century, corporations, for instance, had the reins of government securely in their hands. The natural reaction to this behavior by corporations was for the people to rebel against the top dog.

In the past 20 years, this public reaction has swung so far that new groups have arisen to claim the power of governing.

Labor makes its claim to political power.

Farm groups say they should have special powers because they produce the food. Consumers advance claims because they do the buying and thus maintain the markets. Investors

claim rights because they supply the capital that keeps business and industry in production.

In all sanity, the time has arrived when we must put an end to the concept of governing by pitting group against group.

We want neither a ruling class nor special-interest groups. Above all, we do not want our nation divided by playing favorites.

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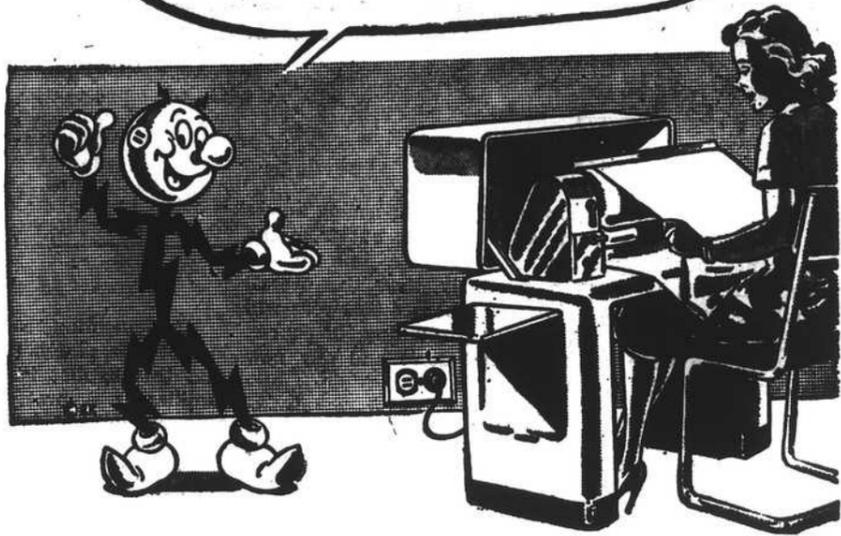
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