



Let Our Freedoms Stand

The zeal of some defenders of Americanism, intent upon stamping out subversive elements, is so great that they would strike down some of the liberties of all the people in an effort to eradicate what is, at worst, a minor affliction.

The right of free speech, for example, one of the great liberties of the American people, becomes worthless if the free speech is limited to subjects that are approved by officials.

There would be no freedom of speech in the United States if the Government could decide the subjects that American citizens might debate. Likewise, there is no freedom of speech if those who advocate what we consider un-American principles are stifled in expression and prohibited from talking.

The way to prove the virtue of free speech and to establish its virtue is to practice free speech. There is no other way.

Economic Justice for Farmers

We have never been able to understand the motive that inspires some businessmen to constantly criticize the farmers. If these business men were half as smart as they are supposed to be, they would know that the fortune of their enterprises depends upon the ability of farmers to buy their goods.

A large part of the population of the United States derives its living from agriculture. In some sections, the welfare of the area depends almost entirely upon the cash income of the farmers in the surrounding territory. In other sections, the dependence is less direct because of the presence of industry, but, just the same, when the agricultural people stop buying, the wheels of many industries

come to a halt.

We believe there is general opinion that national policies in the past have not unduly aided agriculture, or given the farmer an unfair share of the national income. The tariff that protects industry is, to a certain extent, a tax upon agriculture. So long as it exists, the farmers are entitled to an offset, whether it be in the form of conservation payments, crop subsidies, crop loans, or cash payments.

There are many keen business men who appreciate fully the independence of agriculture and industry. There are smart business leaders who understand that the success of their business this year depends upon crop income, just as the farmer's success depends upon it. These men are giving themselves with greater concern to the problems of agriculture and lending their assistance to many undertakings designed to stabilize farming throughout the nation.

Can Lower Tariffs Save The U. S. Money?

The people of the United States, through their government, are spending more than \$12,000,000 a day in the effort to rehabilitate the economy of other nations. Present indications are that demands for 1949 will not be less if the program, undertaken under the Marshall Plan is to be carried to a successful termination.

Facing this expenditure, it might be well for the people of this country to consider whether the same objective can be accomplished through a process that will save the taxpayers money. We think there is but the ramifications of the proposal have such a far-reaching economic effect that the project would have to be studied by experts in order to deter-

mine its practicability.

In the United States, since the end of World War II, there has been something of a shortage of goods accompanied by an unusual amount of money. In the countries receiving assistance from this country, the economic situation has been complicated by a lack of American dollars, which are essential to pay for the import of goods, raw materials and machinery.

Because the production of many important items has been greatly lessened in Germany and other manufacturing nations as a result of the war, the world is compelled to look to the United States for present supplies. The business men of other nations in the United States with their domestic currencies but must have American dollars available for payment of their American accounts. The only way these dollars can be secured is through borrowing, through gifts or the sale of goods and services to the people of this country.

The question that arises is why do not the business men of other countries sell their goods and services to the people of the United States and thus get the dollars that they need to purchase goods from this country? The answer is the tariff policy of the United States.

For many years, the United States maintained the highest protective tariff in its history and one of the highest ever imposed on any nation. Foreign sellers were unable to ship products into the United States and make a profit on sales after paying exorbitant tariff duties.

At the present time, a strong movement is underway in Europe to reduce tariff barriers to promote international trade but the whole scheme depends, to a large extent, upon whether the United States is willing to broaden the policy initiated by the Reciprocal Trade Treaty program. In a word, the United States, if it expects to sell to other countries, must be willing to buy. This means, there must be additional tariff cuts and the people of this country must understand that international trade is a two-way street. They must buy if they hope to sell.

The obligation that rests upon the tariff-policy framers of the United States is to reexamine the effect of our tariffs in connection with our expenditures for the European Recovery Program. With the world dominated

by unusual demand for dollar balances the prospect that faces us, as a nation, is to continue lending or giving American dollars in order to promote trade, or, as an alternative, reducing some duties to permit other countries to sell products in this country.

If there could be a reduction of duties on certain specified products to permit European countries to establish satisfactory dollar balances in this country, the people of the United States might be able to save some of the \$12,000,000-a-day now being spent for European relief.

Moreover, instead of getting nothing, or practically nothing, for the money sent abroad, the standard of living in this country could probably be increased by the distribution of the goods received from foreign nations.

As a by-product, it should not be overlooked that the development of free trade among the nations will tend

to produce satisfactory conditions that will tend to support the effort to prevent future wars.

Shelter-Belt Proves Valuable

Many Americans remember when President Franklin D. Roosevelt suggested the planting of an enormous shelter-belt on the Great Plains, with the idea of providing a windbreak to prevent the blowing away of valuable top soil and the protection of the area from some of the effects of drought.

There was much derision at the time and, it appears, that the value of a forest belt, North and South, was somewhat impractical. Nevertheless,

individual shelter-belts and wind breaks around farm and ranch buildings, and elsewhere, have proved themselves, particularly during the heavy snowfalls of the past winter.

This experience has given a great impetus to the shelter-belt idea. The (Continued on Page Six)



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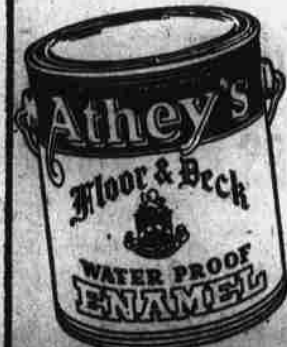
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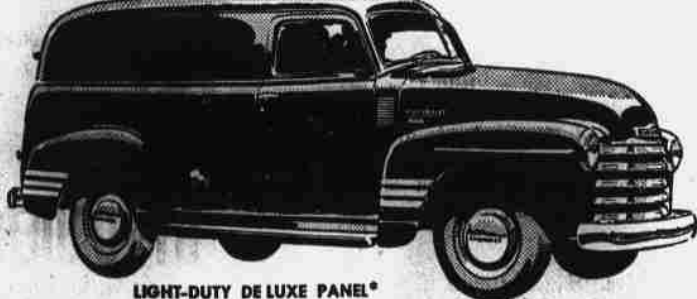
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