

On July 22, 1954, our newspapers carried the following: "Automatic Citizenship Loss for Pro-Communies, Washington (IMS). The House shouted without dissent yesterday to President Eisenhower's anti-communist proposal to strip U.S. citizenship from any person convicted of advocating violent overthrow of the government."

I have asked many persons from all walks of life - what is Communism? But to date I have not received a clear, precise explanation, and as I read the above newspaper item I wondered just what President Eisenhower's answer would be to this question - What is Communism? If every representative who shouted approval to the anti-communist proposed law were asked - "what is Communism?" - how many different explanations would be received.

On Wednesday, July 14, The Montreal Gazette carried an item of the 13th in which George Meany, President of the American Federation of Labor and Walter P. Reuther, President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations made the following remarks: Mr. Meany said - "The A.F.L. believes congress should strengthen the internal security of the United States but do so without endangering the basic freedoms that we cherish in our democracy." Mr. Reuther said - "Administration bills now under consideration were dangerous - the C.I.O.'s fight against Communism had developed certain clear-cut ideas about effective and ineffective methods of combatting totalitarianism in the labor movement." "From the C.I.O. point of view", he said, "the administration bills do not offer a constructive solution to the problem."

Are we to just continue enacting laws with no positive knowledge of what we should prevent or what we should promote? How are we to legislate intelligently regarding "communism" if we do not know what communism is?

What can we learn about this question? Communism is not all inclusive, it is only one of several forms of "totalitarianism" or controls.

Webster's dictionary - Communism (Kom-u-nizm) the doctrine of having property in common; socialism.

Thomas J. Shelly, teacher of Economics and History, Yonkers High School, Yonkers, New York - The socialist-communist idea of taking "from each according to his ability and giving to each according to his needs."

Frank Chodorov, Economist and Associate Editor of Human Events - The axiom of socialism is that the individual has no inherent rights. The privileges and prerogatives that the individual enjoys are grants from society, acting through its management committee, the government."

Conference Board Studies in Enterprise and Social Progress, 247 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. - "An authoritarian system is a process of conscious, compulsory co-operation - an authoritarian system seeks maximum power and permanence of external authority, and only minimum production exchange and consumption of such goods and services as are necessary to maintain such authority."

Sometimes it is helpful to set forth the opposite so we can compare each in their own sphere or position. The opposite of control is freedom.

Conference Board Studies in Enterprise and Social Progress, 247 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. - "Enterprise may be broadly described as a way of collective life in which the arrangements and processes of making a living are based upon unconscious, voluntary cooperation of individuals in producing, exchanging and consuming the greatest possible amount of goods and services they want with the least aggregate loss, or sacrifice to themselves, through their experimental, competitive efforts to utilize available natural resources and develop potential human capacities." - - -

First among these as has been emphasized in the possibility and opportunity for individual initiative and choice of movement, occupation and consumption, information, thought and expression. Second: An enterprise organization implies the maintenance of individual incentives and the possibility of individual rewards. Third: It must permit personal assumption of risks and enforce personal acceptance of responsibility. No enterprise organization can assure economic uniformity, equality or security, for it implies diversity, instability and flexibility. But it must provide complete and unqualified protection of person and property from internal or external violence, and prompt, and equal, and inexpensive administration of justice and enforcement of law."

From the above it seems that "enterprise" is the activities of providing the necessities and luxuries of life, better known as wealth. Or to put in in reverse, the activities of producing wealth, the necessities and luxuries of life are known as enterprise. And all enterprise activities must be either "free" or "controlled". Communism, Nazism, Fascism and others are control systems or dictatorships. The opposite is free enterprise. The merits or demerits of controlled enterprise or free enterprise may be debated at another date.

To protect the people from the practices of communism it is only necessary for the President, Congress and the Judiciary to curb controls and protect our freedoms - most important is our freedom to produce wealth, keep it, exchange it, or use it as we please without interference.

Please give your reactions to me, Bob, 7-27-54

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