

form of a thinner and thinner circulatory medium — a progressive economic anemia!

The only cure for this dread disease is to withdraw governmental interference from the productive and creative activities of people. The first step is for respon-

sible citizens to identify activities of this sort which government has arrogated to itself and to explain attractively and persuasively why they should be returned to private enterprise. This will require the best — nothing less — that each of us has to give. • • •

Instead of pump-primed prosperity, it may be only a choice between —

BREAD OR POST OFFICES ?

OSCAR W. COOLEY

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower, moving to shore up the slumping economy, sent to Congress today a two-billion dollar program to modernize post offices and postal services.

DURING A RECESSION like this, many people retrench all along the line. Dad makes the old suit do another winter. Mother redecorates the living room instead of hiring a paper hanger. They patch up the old car. They eat less

steak, more beans. The whole family tightens its belt.

And the government gives the people a lot of new post offices!

Doesn't it seem a bit queer to give threadbare, hungry, retrenched people a post office? Or a courthouse? Or even a brand new sewer?

Actually, the government does not *give* these post offices. They all have to be paid for, with taxes collected from the recession-beset

people, either directly or through the insidious process of inflation. The people really build the post offices with their own sweat, at a time when they are already straining every nerve to put food in the larder.

When a carload of bricks is taken to build a post office, it means that people have a carload fewer bricks with which to build homes. "But, they are not building the homes," runs the argument. "That's why we have a recession."

If the people are not using the bricks to build homes, it means they are using, or reserving, them for other, more urgent purposes — which should be their privilege in a free choice system. In a free economy the people use the resources according to their own best judgment. The very fact that the government acts to force these resources into a certain use, is evidence that such use is not the one most desired by the people. It is a

second or third or umpteenth preference. The right of property, which is the right of using a resource as the owner desires, is denied. And the resources are wasted.

The objective of the government officials is to put people to work, regardless of what they do, as though there were some virtue in mere activity, whether or not it yields results that people want.

The assumption is that the people are stupid. Because of their stupidity, we have a recession. They need to be told what is best for them. They think they need food and clothing and a new automobile — but what they really need is a new post office!

This they have to be told — by government officials, who differ from ordinary people only by reason of their being in office.

So, let's pull in our belts another hole and go down town to see the new post office. They say it's a dandy!

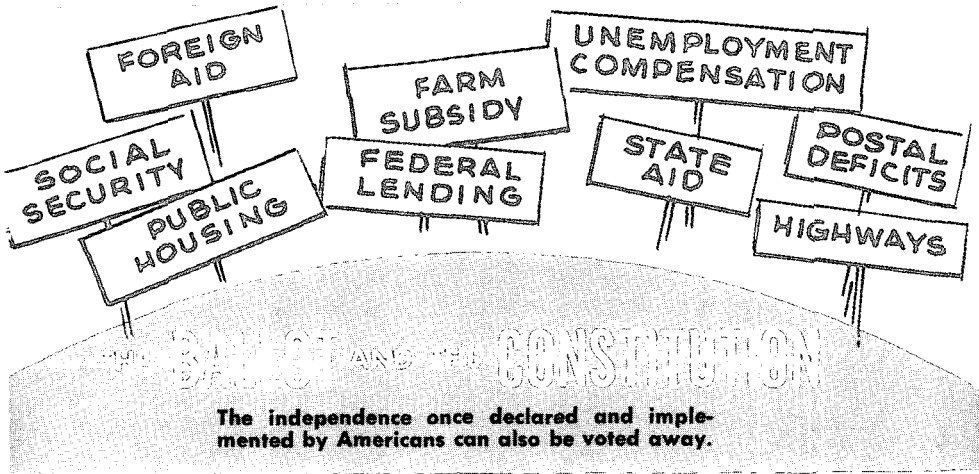
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IDEAS ON LIBERTY

A Precarious Life

ANY COMMUNITY which depends for its economic growth upon the whims of succeeding Congresses is in economic jeopardy. Someday, the taxpayers might say "no," and then where is the life of that region which has become wholly dependent upon federal help?

From an address in 1955 by CLARENCE A. DAVIS,
Under Secretary of the Interior



H. E. SPITSBERGEN

THE CONSTITUTION of the United States does not describe the requirements for voting. It was assumed that the state requirements would continue, which limited the privilege of voting to citizens who owned property (freeholds) and who had certain academic attainments. About one person in twenty could qualify.

The limitations were grounded on the elementary rule that voters have adequate knowledge of the subject matter, a common interest, and equal responsibility. Strict observance of that rule is necessary to maintain the proper checks on public sentiment, voting majorities, and the taxing power.

Open and unrestrained competition was relied upon to meet the demands of commerce. Under such a free enterprise system a new social order evolved. Servants, slaves,

and the indentured acquired property and education. They qualified for the franchise. They exercised their own judgment, energy, and integrity to build economic security and freedom from dependence upon government for the necessities of life. A Federal Welfare Bureau would have been rejected.

At that time the ballot was not tied to welfare legislation. Farm subsidies, unemployment compensation, public housing projects, were not being offered. There were no billion-dollar programs to sway or bribe the voters. They were on equal footing as to benefits and responsibilities.

Subsequent social welfare legislation broke the rule of equal responsibility, making voters eligible for government benefits without corresponding taxpaying responsibilities. That gave the fed-

Mr. Spitsbergen (Plowdeeper) is the author of "Liberals" and the Constitution. This article is from a radio broadcast of April 5, 1963.

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