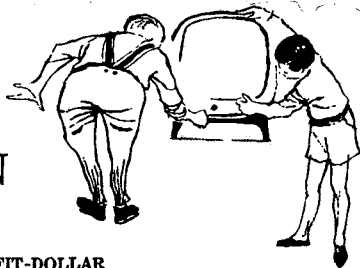


# THE DECONTAMINATION OF PROFITS

or — THE HUNTED LIFE OF A PROFIT-DOLLAR



When shadows faded in the dusk  
Beneath the drooping trees,  
Old Kaspar threw the windows wide  
To catch the evening breeze,  
While Peterkin and Wilhelmine  
Looked at the television screen.

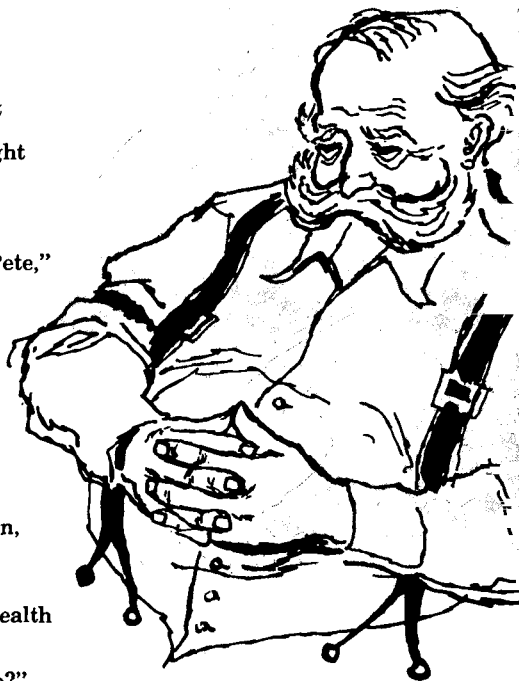
They saw the sheriff check the loads  
And buckle on his gun,  
Then charge along the business street  
As fast as he could run;  
While shoppers turned in sudden fright  
Then scuttled quickly out of sight.

"Are bandits shooting up the town?"  
Cried little Peterkin.  
"It's something worse than bandits, Pete,"  
Said Kaspar with a grin.  
"A profit-dollar, so they say,  
Was hidden out in town today."

"Why take a gun," asked Peterkin,  
"To find a dollar bill?"  
"It comes in handy," Kaspar said,  
"To open up a till.  
The owners often want to keep  
The profit-dollars which they reap."

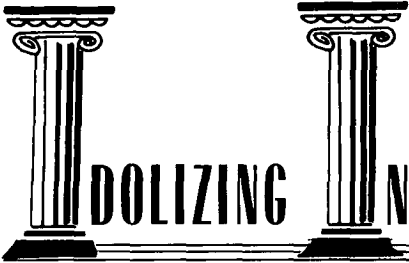
"Some greedy folks," said Kaspar then,  
"Seem never to have learned  
How wrong it is for them to keep  
The profits they have earned.  
They're not convinced that private wealth  
Is bad for economic health."

"What harm would keeping profits do?"  
Asked little Wilhelmine.  
"A profit-dollar," Kaspar sighed,  
"Is held to be unclean  
Until it's spent for workmen's beer  
Or squandered in the public sphere."




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# DOLIZING INSTITUTIONALISM



THE MOST POPULAR modern idol is institutionalism, the belief that the necessary answer to every problem is not reliance on individual intelligence and initiative, but the creation of some new agency or committee or department, the inauguration of some new form of bureaucratic overlay on human activity. Professor Parkinson has joked and others have wept about what seems to be an irresistible biological tendency of bureaucracy to grow, regardless of whether it is fulfilling any function at all.

One of Parkinson's most telling points was his analysis of what happened in the British Ministries of Navy and Colonies after the end of World War II. This

was a time when British warships were rapidly being consigned to the mothballs and the British Empire was shrinking much faster than it had ever grown. One dependency after another was putting in its application for UN membership as an independent state. Logic would have seemed to call for a drastic curtailment in the personnel of Ministries which were fulfilling increasingly modest tasks. But just the reverse occurred. The number of employees in the two Ministries grew almost in inverse proportion to the diminution in the number of warships and colonies.

One could find similar fulfillments of what Parkinson humorously christened his "Law" — that every bureaucratic organization must grow by a percentage basis every year — in many countries and in many periods of history. It

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