



"LET IT COST WHAT IT MAY"

FRANCIS E. MAHAFFY

THE BRIDGE was sturdily constructed and esthetically satisfying. It spanned a deep ravine in the former Italian colony in East Africa. I drove across it recently and my eye caught some words on one of the arches: "Ca Custa Lon Ca Custa." I asked an Italian friend to translate for me. It was a motto, he said, which might be freely rendered as: "Let It Cost What It May." I inquired about the bridge and learned that it had been built in the heyday of Italian expansiveness under Mussolini's fascism. The motto perfectly fitted the imperial mood of Italy in the thirties, and it comes pretty close to capturing the mood which reigns in every country today — although few governments or individuals are so frank when it

comes to putting into words their lack of concern for the way they use other people's money.

Reflect on our space program. No expense is to be spared in the effort to place an American on the moon in this decade. A prominent columnist acclaims the project, even though it may have no military value, for the sake of prestige in the world-wide popularity contest with Russia. It matters not that in the process we may wreck the economy and thus open the gates to the Russification of our society! "Let it cost what it may," for the money comes from the people, and not the government.

This cynical motto is an obvious betrayal of American ideals. The sooner we renounce it, privately and politically, the sooner we may commence restoration of our eroding freedoms. ♦

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INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY in the CRUCIBLE of HISTORY

CLARENCE B. CARSON

THERE IS a growing awareness that we Americans, individually and as a people, have lost our bearings. Some try to still the uneasiness that this awareness arouses by adopting public postures of confidence. Others react by denouncing those who suggest that everything is not just as it should be. Groups are being formed throughout the land that focus on this or that ailment as the source of our troubles. The extremes are represented by the quietism of President Kennedy and the near hysteria of the Minute Men.

Our actual condition may be likened to that of a company of people which, having set out upon a journey, has been lost in a jungle. The acknowledged leaders, fearing to divide and frighten the people, refuse to admit they have lost their way. As for the rest, they are divided, and fall roughly into three camps. The first group would have everyone turn back, retracing their steps to the place from whence they had come. The second group favors staying where they are. The situation, they say,

Dr. Carson is Associate Professor of History at Jacksonville State College in Alabama. This is the first of six articles in a series on *Individual Liberty in the Crucible of History*. The second one, "Undermining the Foundations," appears next month.

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1. The Foundations of American Liberty

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