

# Other Corruption Needs Correction

**W**HILE America is in a mood to clean out corruption at the top, it might not be a bad idea for us to clean out corruption at other levels of society, too.

We tend to think of corruption as bribery, dishonesty, and selling of political favors. It is those things, but corruption also refers to any departure from what is pure and correct.

Many do not see either the corruption around them or note the deviations from right in their own lives. They just do not recognize it, because they don't know right from wrong.

For decades, parents seem to have assumed that their offspring would automatically acquire social and ethical training, with no particular effort on their part. This must have happened in many cases, considering the examples set, but it is not a reliable system for producing honest, considerate citizens.

Not long ago, a television personality turned down a high paying job because of his scruples against certain duties it required. A TV executive moaned: "How can this guy stand on principle when there's a \$350,000 a year income hanging in the balance?" He couldn't see the principle; only the money of the thing.

Patriotism has been corrupted by many citizens who show disrespect for our flag, for laws of our country, and for the rights of others. Such disrespect is corrupt, because without our form of government protecting rights of the people and uphold-

ing the banner of liberty, no one would have freedom. It is corrupt to bite the hand that's feeding you.

This even applies to tax money. Recently, a bureaucrat visited the state and told local officials: "If we could really identify a nice, unique project in Oklahoma, we could probably get some contingency funds for it." In other words, if you will invent a contingency, we will get the money to support it.

Nearly all societies, both savage and civilized, have taken care of their aged, their poor, the sick, the lame and the blind. It is proper that this should be done, but corruption sets in when people who do not need or deserve this support falsely as-

sume postures of dependence in order that they may live in idleness at the expense of others.

Even worse is the corruption that is practiced by untold numbers of people who shoplift merchandise in stores, who take bankruptcy to dodge honest debts, who steal by force, by threat, by stealth or by trickery, and who demand privileges that they are not entitled to receive.

Corruption exists in high places and in low places, and it thrives in between, where it is more difficult to see. And society itself becomes a party to the corruption of amoral persons when it puts a stamp of respectability upon their immoral habits.