

Big Brother Strangling Business

TIME was when the biggest worry a businessman had was his competitors. Competition may be stronger then ever, but it is now in third place. Government regulations and taxes have beat it out on the businessman's worry meter.

Robert F. Dee, Philadelphia executive, says that although 17 new federal agencies were created to regulate the American business community between 1967 and 1974, research failed to uncover one example in this century of a regulatory agency that has been abolished. Occasionally, one has been eliminated in name, but its function and employees have been transferred elsewhere.

Besides growing in number, they are acquiring more power. The Federal Trade Commission is spending \$1 million a year writing new rules of conduct for industries. Consumer Products Safety Commission can impose regulations on any product it considers "potentially hazardous."

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has more than 1,000 inspectors checking out work sites without notice and pro-

posing penalties for any rule violation on the spot.

The cost of meeting environmental standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency has driven more than 1,000 foundries out of business in the last three years, affecting both business and national defense. Air Force magazine says, "We are now unable to produce enough heavy castings to support tank production at the minimum essential level of 83 tanks a month, while the U.S.S.R. produces thousands each year."

"In government, mismanagement of the country by Congress, agencies and administrators seems to be accepted as a reason for accumulating even more force in government," says Alan B. Groh, oil executive, in pointing out that 91 energy-related bills proposed or passed by Congress, plus regulations from 60 agencies, have not added a single barrel of oil to our nation's reserves.

Businessmen are handicapped in trying to defend against harassment by bureaucrats, says the board of directors of the United States Industrial Council. The sharp rise of legal

costs makes it impractical for them to litigate every challenge to their constitutional rights, the business leaders said.

Only Congress is in a position to alleviate the problem, but the outlook for help from this source is dim. "One of the big problems is that the dominant forces in Congress do not understand free enterprise and the profit motive, and they don't want to learn," said Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, R-Mich.

He added that businessmen do not know how to get involved in politics, either, but that he hadn't noticed any such apathy on the part of organized labor.

"It is up to the business community to educate the public on the importance of and operation of the free enterprise system," the Caucus for Oklahoma's Future was told by Bill Swisher, president and chairman of the CMI Corp., a few days ago.

Swisher warned that unless businessmen do something soon, they will be strangled by government regulations and our free enterprise system will be extinct.

SmithKline

CORPORATION

Robert F. Dee, President
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Mr. Ferdie J. Deering
THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN
500 North Broadway
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

Dear Mr. Deering:

Mr. Thomas J. Harris, Vice Chairman of PRIVATE PRACTICE,
was kind enough to send me a copy of your fine column
appearing in the June 12 DAILY OKLAHOMAN.

I was of course flattered to be quoted, but in addition
I want to tell you how much I enjoyed reading what you had
to say. I agree wholeheartedly with your conclusion.

Sincerely,



RFD:faf