

Freedom Loss Serious Threat

GOVERNMENT at all levels is consuming about one-third of our gross national product and William E. Simon, Secretary of the Treasury, says if it continues to grow, it's going to be the end of our free enterprise system. What would take its place?

Dr. George S. Benson, former chancellor of Oklahoma Christian College, once defined three economic systems, as follows:

1. A system like the Communists have installed in Russia, where the government owns the tools of production and distribution;

2. A system like we have in America, with private individuals owning the tools of production and distribution;

3. A combination of these two, such as the Socialists installed in England, with most of the basic industries and institutions owned by the government, but with much of the retail business operated by private citizens under strict government control.

Social and political reformers are trying to shove the United States out of System 2 and into either System 1 or System 3. Both are decidedly inferior to System 2, because they destroy freedom. But the demagogues tell us it's "for our own good."

Paul A. Belknap of Nashville, president of the United States Industrial council, says, "It is time we faced up to the fact that there are many influential people in this country who do not believe in freedom and who are actively working to destroy it for all of those who desire to live in a free society."

No people can be truly free, except where their government allows them to be free. Personal and spiritual freedom involves "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," as stated in our Declaration of Independence and spelled out in detail in our Constitution and its amendments, especially the Bill of Rights.

Drafters of our Constitution apparently regarded economic freedom to be so generally understood that they did not write it out. They failed to reckon with present-day Washington, where powers are being concentrated in federal agencies in ways not authorized by the Constitution and which are destroying freedom.

"The matter of most urgent concern today is the threat caused by overcentralization of power at the federal level," said Gov. David Boren recently in resisting additional confiscation of states' rights by Washington bureaucrats.

Some would mislead us into thinking we can keep our personal freedom while relinquishing our economic freedom to federal control, but this has not happened any other place in the world.

Free markets are the eternal right of free men to bargain for the full value of the products of their labor. A government market is not a free market. Free markets are the American way of business, the emblem of a free people.

When the government—any government—usurps the people's power and their right to be free spiritually, individually or economically, the people are no longer free.

The Constitution states that "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." Congress and the Supreme Court ought to remember