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Open Market System Best

A FUNDAMENTAL trait of humanity is the desire to possess necessities to sustain life and luxuries to make life enjoyable. To obtain them, we must compete with one another.

False promises that competition can be eliminated by some political magic that will redistribute wealth, power and resources have always misled people and destroyed their freedom.

Usually, such promises are made in campaigns that advocate solving problems by centralizing authority in government and letting those in power decide everything for everyone.

This theory is involved in dictatorships, in communism, in socialism and in the drive going on in this country to establish a "national policy" on practically every topic of consequence.

"Government ownership of the means of production is an integral part of an authoritarian state," says Anthony Harrigan, executive vice president of the United States Industrial Council, Nashville. Dictatorships also control distribution.

Well, who wants an authoritarian state in this country? Few will admit it, but many are campaigning for either a breakup or nationalization of oil and other industries, for continued heavy government spending, and for limits on profits.

In a nationally distributed newspaper column, Leonard Woodcock, president of United Auto Workers, wrote:

"It's time our country utilized na-

tional economic planning. Without it, we have high unemployment, rapid and continuing inflation, shortages of energy, transportation, housing, medical care and other widespread problems. Only with a procedure for effective national planning will that situation be improved." How?

Ralph Nader, self-promoting advocate of "consumerism," has issued a 592-page publication calling for federal chartering of 700 large industrial, retail and transportation companies. Nader's plan would regulate management procedures and make corporate boards function "like a rival branch of government."

Competition is the best way to supply consumer demands with quality products at reasonable prices. Whenever government control has displaced free enterprise, people have had less and freedom of choice was reduced. Prices do not come down.

In a report on utilization of energy for food production, Lowell D. Hill, University of Illinois agricultural economist, wrote: "There is no other satisfactory system for allocating products among people, and resources to the production of different products, except a market price—permitting people to express their preferences by the dollars they are willing to spend."

Speaking in Oklahoma City in February, Warren W. Lebeck, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, said: "Buyers want low prices. Sellers want high prices. That's why we have a market place, where supply and demand can be equated. When somebody is trying to make a big profit, somebody else will jump in to take his profit first, maybe a little smaller profit."

Competition is at work in such situations. That's why it has been observed repeatedly that the open market place, with free competition, is better than the best possible bureaucracy.