

## Reference to Governmental Power Proves to Be Soberingly Correct

A TEXAS author, Egon Tausch, writes that "soon after the French Revolution, philosophers warned that any concentration of governmental power forces all segments of the population to look to the politicians for their survival and their economic success."

Whether deliberate or otherwise, the concentration of power that now rests in federal regulatory agencies compels virtually all citizens, businesses and communities to look toward Washington for their survival and prosperity.

The economic impact of regulations issued and enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was brought home to Oklahomans recently when a General Motors official explained how EPA regulations are blocking establishment of a GM assembly plant on land the company owns in Oklahoma City.

EPA has declared Oklahoma air is polluted and that the projected plant would add to it. One problem is that Oklahoma City is less polluted than other areas and there-

fore cannot clean up enough to make offsetting adjustments EPA says are necessary.

This caused Gov. David Boren to observe that the federal agency says, in effect, "We're going to make it harder for you to grow, the cleaner you are!"

EPA is only one of many regulatory agencies that are delving into details previously regarded as being outside the jurisdiction of government in a free country.

Rules and regulations actually are not made by politicians, but by appointed officials. They make multibillion-dollar decisions for businesses and industries, even though the regulators may have had little or no experience in the areas. They affect individuals, industries and communities.

These decisions result in lost jobs or jobs not created, higher costs of living, increased costs of doing business — and higher costs of government. A few examples will suffice.

When EPA began banning chemicals used to control crop and livestock pests and diseases, agricultural experts said substitute materials are less effective and require more usage.

Plans to build the world's largest coal-fired generating plant in Utah were canceled after environmentalists protested that it would disturb nesting hawks and kangaroo rats.

Delivery of oil from Alaska has been delayed for years and costs multiplied as a result of similar objections.

EPA Administrator Russell Train has said that capital investments the petroleum refining industry must make to comply with EPA rules will add about one cent a gallon to gasoline prices.

Dr. Lewis J. Perl, research firm executive, says that by 1983 expenditures on compliance with federal air and water legislation will involve from 3 to 6 per cent of our gross national product.

The White House Council on Environment has estimated costs of pollution abatement will total \$217 billion by 1983.

Now that EPA regulations are shutting off jobs needed in Oklahoma, the impact of federal regulation should be clear, even in our allegedly polluted air.