

City Businessman Asks Pertinent Question: 'Quo Vadis, America?'

WE ARE moving into the third century of the United States of America, and an Oklahoma City businessman thinks we have come to a fork in the road. We must make a choice.

So Phil Ewing Gafford has written a book describing destinies that each fork might lead us to experience. He calls it "Quo Vadis, America?" — "Where Are You Going, America?"

The question is appropriate. It sometimes appears that the only people who have a definite idea about where this nation is headed are the socialists, left-wingers and reformers.

Many solid citizens who adhere to traditional concepts of patriotism, self-reliance and freedom appear to think that if they stand still, they won't have to go anywhere.

Millions of others do not seem to care where we are headed. They are just going along for the ride — which is free!

Gafford reviews our first two centuries, picturing a great parade of our accomplishments, inventions and assets. Then he poses his great question, "Quo Vadis, America?"

He says "we have traded away our rights to fiscal accountability in government, to regulatory responsibility, to self-determination in matters local and to responsive representation."

Gafford agrees with Alexander Hamilton, who said, "Whoever controls man's substance, controls his will," and comments that the will of the individual to take care of himself is gone.

Unlike many writers who view with alarm, Gafford proposes a set of solutions to some of our critical problems.

First, he proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit Congress from putting the country in debt or appropriating more money in any year than the government takes in.

A second proposed constitutional amendment would take away law-making authority from federal bureaus and agencies.

The third would restore to states sovereign powers regarding morals and ethics, civil and criminal law and education, and endow them with power to propose or reject federal laws.

Gafford's fourth proposal would have to be voted upon by the people, because it would never get through Congress. He suggests that state legislatures, rather than Congress itself, should determine congressmen's salaries and expenses. It would limit sessions of Congress to six months and limit terms of congressmen to 20 years.

"Yes, America, we stand today at a fork in the road," Gafford concludes. "To the left is one pathway, enticing at its junction with our present point in time, but such is subtle deceit, for it will lead us into an abyss of doom. To the right is another pathway, more restrictive because of the disciplines it calls us to renew as we take it, but one which will lead us to the mountaintops of achievement none on earth has ever known."

"Quo Vadis, America?" is a pertinent question, because our country right now is making decisions that will determine the route we take through the third century.

STAR MANUFACTURING COMPANY

L. S. SHEALY

PRESIDENT

April 11, 1977

Mr. Ferdie J. Deering
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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

Dear Mr. Deering:

As with many of your editorials in the past, I enjoyed very much the one in last Thursday's paper regarding the new book "Quo Vadis, America?" It is going in my "free enterprise" file which has been growing and growing over some period of time with material from other "voices crying in the wilderness."

There is obviously increasing concern over the direction our country is headed. One just wonders whether and hopes there will be concern enough, soon enough and by enough people.

Thought you might like to have a copy of the presentation I made last fall regarding the impact of government regulations on business.

Keep up your good work!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. S. Shealy', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

L. S. Shealy

LSS/sh

Enclosure