

Freedom Drowning in Sea of Laws

THE TROUBLE began when somebody said: "There oughta be a law —"

Now we have a law. Thousands, perhaps millions, of laws, on every conceivable subject. We also have great volumes of rules and regulations with full force and effect of law.

Presumably, these guides and restrictions are intended to protect us from real or imagined hazards or to keep us from harming other people and our environment.

We also have a considerable number of laws specifying how we shall share our earnings with federal, state and local governments. These are called tax laws. Some we can see and some we cannot see, but we can feel the effects of all of them.

Nobody knows or understands all these laws, not even congressmen and legislators who enact them.

Most citizens try to observe enough laws to stay out of trouble. But it seems a sizable, growing number of people find it more profitable to ignore or break laws than

to obey them.

We are so swamped with laws that freedom is drowning in them. Many government officials apparently take the attitude that regulations comes first, taxes next, and then subsidies.

The people are never forgotten, of course, because they pay the taxes and their votes may be influenced by subsidies.

Political attitudes and platitudes to perpetuate this system spread rapidly through our multi-media communications, as journalists and commentators weave catchy phrases carrying political philosophies into their reports.

Subconsciously or otherwise, people are indoctrinated by the news they read or hear, whether intended or not.

A good example of how this is done showed up the other day in a story about a plan to reduce taxes of parents of college students by allowing "tax credits." (Others appear almost daily.)

In this case, the writer said that

granting overburdened parents needed tax relief "eventually would cost the government billions of dollars a year."

How could that be? The government doesn't produce any wealth. It doesn't earn money. All the government has is what it takes from the people, and much of that is wasted.

All the government produces is more laws, more government and larger national debts caused by excessive spending. Ultimately, citizens are forced to rely more and more upon the government that controls them.

Occasionally, a law is repealed or amended, but generally laws are piled on top of laws. A so-called "sunset law" which would terminate automatically unjustifiable agencies and expenditures apparently is dying in Congress for lack of support.

According to Washington reports, committee chairmen oppose it because it would erode their authority. Power of the American people already has been severely eroded.