

# Personal Causes Endanger Freedom

**P**OLITICAL party power is on the way out, says the executive director of the Republican Party in Michigan. "People don't associate themselves with parties now but with causes," he declares.

He could be wrong about political parties, but it is true that proliferation of single cause groups is splintering politics so that a citizen has a hard time finding a place to stand.

If a voter agrees with his party on one issue, he may find it far out of bounds on another. Worse, the opposing party might be as far out of line in another direction, and he has no place to turn.

The drive for nationalization of almost every phase of life is strong and socialism is being put into operation in government, piece by piece, through special interest, single cause groups.

After the recent nuclear incident in Pennsylvania, a former legislative assistant to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy wrote an article for Newsweek magazine proposing an "elite

corps" to control energy plants, "run by the government along quasi-military lines." A la Hitler?

The National Council of the Arts and related organizations are demanding federal support (and control) of the arts, including stage, music, painting and whatever else might be subsidized.

Some athletic groups are advocating federal support (and control) of sports, as is the custom in Communist countries.

Dozens of "worthy causes," such as consumerism, health, environmentalism, discrimination and research frequently seem to be used to advance causes of the promoters, more than anything else.

Besides funds collected from known and unknown sources, some of these groups have obtained federal subsidies, grants and loans. Leaders sometimes operate from well-paid positions in federal agencies.

Persistent attacks by special causes on "big business" and profits are adversely affecting free enterprise. The younger generation

is being taught that government should run everything.

In Oklahoma City this spring, entrants in a business-oriented speech contest told judges that if food or other prices got too high, government should either control prices or open competitive stores.

Solid citizens holding to traditional American values and goals don't make as much noise as protesting, demonstrating, demanding groups headed by professional rabble-rousers. They aren't heard.

The American form of government and way of life often are portrayed as both national and world problems. But it is abuse of these institutions, not the forms, that constitute the problem.

Proposed solutions usually involve drastic revisions of the system that has provided our people with a high standard of living and maximum freedom. Reformers advocate nationalization of businesses and national policies on everything, patterns that limit or destroy freedom wherever they are practiced.