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NOV 8 1979

Industrial Society Must Be Saved

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Will the next 20 years be a period of "re-industrialization" of America, or will "de-industrialization" reformers prevail?

About 100 business executives, educators and journalists here tackled that question in a seminar on "America's Business and Industrial Future, 1980-2000."

Which one it might be will determine the kind of lives American citizens will live, the form of government that will be in effect, and how our nation will rank among world powers in the 21st century.

The seminar was sponsored by the United States Industrial Council Educational Foundation, advocate of constitutional government and our traditional free enterprise system.

Those attending the seminar evidently leaned strongly in that direction, but speakers also reviewed objectives and methods being used by individuals and groups in campaigns to nationalize business.

Pointing out that many adherents to that philosophy hold key posi-

tions in government, Dr. H. Peter Metzger, Denver utilities executive, described how they channel tax money to outside organizations to be spent in attacking government, business, industry and freedom.

"None of the rhetoric of these left wing liberals says they want to take over the means of production or responsibility for production," Metzger said. "They merely want to control it."

Discussants generally agreed the United States no longer is the world's No. 1 nation in technology and production. Our foreign policy, trade practices and freedom have made it possible for other nations to utilize our resources to surpass us.

"The free enterprise system of the United States has been carrying the rest of the world on its back since World War II and probably since World War I," declared William J. Gill, author and industrial consultant, Washington, D.C.

"The answer to a lot of our problems is to stimulate good old American ingenuity," said Dr. Robert

Krieble, Connecticut business executive. "If we want to continue to make steel, for example, we must invent an entirely new and more productive system."

Rebuttals were made against persistent, well-financed attacks on the American business system, but Edward J. Walsh, director of communications for USIC, warned: "De-industrialization is now being translated from left wing fantasies into hard legislative realities."

Another speaker asserted that critics will succeed unless business offers stronger opposition. The consensus seemed to be that business must get off the defensive and launch its own attack on socialism and nationalization movements if it is to remain free.

Another immediate peril for American industry is a shortage of minerals, paralleling our oil shortage, said Dr. William Drescher, dean of the college of mines, University of Arizona. Closing of lands to exploration by the government was cited as a major cause.