

Citizens Can Do Plenty If They Try

THE DOCTOR'S wife at the dinner party was sincere when she asked:

"What can I, as an individual, do to help get our country headed back in the right direction?"

The direction she meant included such things as accountability of public officials, morality in politics as well as in private lines, honesty in business, responsibility of citizenship, freedom from needless regulations, and safety from crime and violence.

"I care about this country of ours," the woman continued. "I am concerned that we are losing many of the qualities that made it a stronghold of freedom. I go to precinct meetings and come away frustrated. I vote but don't feel like that is enough. What can I do?"

She probably was expressing feelings that have come to most of us.

Not knowing what to do, many patriotic citizens don't do anything. This makes them as ineffective as those millions who do not seem to care what happens to our country as long as they are paid on time, can

buy on time, and have time off for fun.

Indifference to government has led to loss of liberty in the past. Only when people become sufficiently aroused to do something about excessive government and wasteful taxation is liberty assured.

Our government has been taken over by professional politicians. They will continue in control until citizens make politics their business. In a republic, citizens must participate by informing themselves on issues and voting, or another type of government assumes power.

We have been looking for leaders to pull us out of business slumps, farm problems, moral crises, and family troubles, while providing subsidies and grants for anything, and everything. Money is power.

Our leaders brought us through war to victory. If they could move us in the right direction during war, why not in peace? They can, but only if the public is alert enough to keep them on the right track.

The patriotic motive may prevail

during the emergency of war, but most often peacetime objectives of politicians are personal prosperity, power, and perpetuity of office.

Citizens who hold to the belief that government should be limited in a free country might well note the methods used by those who favor centralization of power, money and politics.

These "special interests" or "pressure groups," as they are called, know that their chances of obtaining what they want are greater when authority is concentrated in a relatively few people.

Those people (candidates) are aware that they may be elected and thereby appoint their friends to offices, by accommodating splinter groups and letting votes of indifferent citizens fall where they may.

The obvious answer to the question "What can we do?" is that concerned citizens may form a "Freedom Pressure Group" of their own. When it becomes strong enough, politicians will pay attention to it, just as they do to self-serving political blocs nowadays.