

Industrial Success Hinges on Profits

A BUZZWORD now being overworked by economists, writers and politicians is "reindustrialization." It means whatever the user says it means.

Obviously, a call for reindustrialization is an admission that America has slipped from its position as the world's leading industrial nation. Many think the U.S.A. is still on the skids.

Proposals for reversing the trend range from the almost impossible premise of getting government out of business to complete centralized economic planning, or state socialism.

Congress knows how to handle any problem that can be solved by regulations and appropriations. The reindustrialization of America does not appear to be such a problem. Industrial success depends upon profits and jobs; not upon political partiality.

Abundant evidence may be compiled to show that major causes of our industrial decline include excessive regulation of industry and business, excessive appropriations for subsidies and welfare that discour-

age high productivity by workers, and labor or wage laws that have priced American products out of competitive world markets.

The world's basic needs are the same today as they were when the "industrial revolution" was booming. Technological progress has been made in production and marketing of resources and products, so what might be done to halt the industrial slowdown?

Experts have produced a superfluity of possible answers to that question, many of which overlook the obvious. That is a change in attitude by Americans toward government, business, work and freedom.

Trends toward establishing national policies on practically everything have resulted in excessive, burdensome limitations on industry and business. Enterprise is not free when government dictates policies, restricts initiative and taxes away profits.

Government frequently has taken the attitude that business is an enemy of the people.

Yet, government depends upon the success of our business for taxes

and the public depends upon the success of business for employment. Business must have opportunities to be innovative, productive, competitive and profitable if it is to provide either jobs or taxes.

Unproductive attitudes toward work are prevalent, increasing costs per unit of output and making American industries less competitive in both domestic and world markets. Exorbitant government spending may be the principal cause of inflation, but declining worker productivity fans the flames.

American industry has been crippled by the spurious notion that there is a practical, satisfactory or acceptable political solution to every problem. Politicians are looking for votes; not for productivity, employment or profits.

Restoration of American industrial leadership may be brought about by citizens again becoming patriotic, productive Americans; not by further centralization of economic planning. The latter will further lower the standard of living to which we have become accustomed.