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FEB 18 1982

We're Following Script to Bondage

IT HAS been many years since the historian Arnold Toynbee made the shocking declaration that 19 of the world's 22 great civilizations collapsed when they reached a certain state of moral decay.

Toynbee said the average age of these civilizations was 200 years and that all progressed through this sequence:

From bondage to spiritual faith;
From spiritual faith to courage;
From courage to abundance;
From abundance to selfishness;
From selfishness to complacency;
From complacency to apathy;
From apathy to dependency;
From dependency back into bondage.

Although not all of the colonists who came to America did so to escape bondage, most of them fled from too much government. Many demonstrated great spiritual faith in their search for freedom.

Our nation's founders drew courage from their faith and rapidly converted the land's resources into abundance such as the world had

never known. We enjoy abundance even with inflation.

Perhaps our abundance led us into our present state of selfishness, the "Me first era." Lying, cheating, stealing, robbing and fraud are direct outgrowths of greed and selfishness.

When avarice dominates, people become apathetic about deterioration of morality, ridicule of religion, dishonesty in business and government, and promiscuity that destroys homes and family life.

We accept as normal the insistence of public officials that the public be kept largely dependent upon government programs financed by deficit spending, which helps them to elected.

As dependency increases, regulations from government offices entangle our personal and business lives. We may claim to be free but the truth is that government directs much of what we do.

Greed for ever-higher pay led us to price our products out of the markets, including our own. This has re-

sulted in loss of world leadership in ingenuity, productivity, manufacturing and competitiveness.

Laziness, perhaps due to abundance, was not mentioned on Toynbee's list but it seems to be a factor in our declining intellectual development. Electronic entertainment has displaced reading, work experience and ambition in the lives of many young people.

Perhaps it is dependency upon government and maybe it is lack of courage that keeps us from spending the money and applying the discipline necessary to create a respected national defense.

The United States of America has passed the 200 year average stated for the life of civilizations. So far we have followed the script set down by Arnold Toynbee, right down to dependency.

The big battle in Washington is between President Reagan's forces to relieve some of this dependency and those who insist that we must continue the dependency that leads into servitude.