

We're Taxing Our Way Into Socialism

IF A proposition to convert the United States of America into a government by socialism were put to a vote it probably would be voted down by a decisive margin. At least, we would hope so.

Socialism has been defined as an economy which depends heavily upon the government to plan and make economic decisions and to own or control major economic resources.

When you consider the connotation of the word "socialism" and look at ramifications of our government you may wonder if it has not already been changed without our knowledge or consent.

Forty years ago a North Carolina lawyer, Malcolm McDermott, warned that trends in the United States were following a "deadly parallel" to national socialism then in power in Germany.

He listed a dozen ways in which we were moving in that direction. Among them he said the people must be made to feel unable to solve their own problems. The principle of local self-government must be

wiped out and centralized government must appear to represent the people.

A general distrust of private business and industry must be kept alive, the attorney said, and government bureaus set up to control practically every phase of the citizens' lives.

Economically, the people must be kept "ground down by high taxes," he said, and a great public debt must be built up so that citizens may never escape its burdens.

Naturally, we never heeded this or other warnings because we thought it could never happen here. But it is happening.

Federal, state and local governments are moving as rapidly as possible to keep the people "ground down" by higher taxes and a mountainous public debt. Federal taxes are spent currently and there is no apparent intent to pay off the huge debt.

The Senate finance committee a few weeks ago passed a bill calling for a \$100 billion tax increase. It would fall most heavily on business, giving government spenders a big-

ger share of profits.

Not long ago the State of Oklahoma was taking in huge surpluses in tax revenues, proof positive that the people were over-taxed. Gov. George Nigh boasted of having no tax increases as long as it appeared the Legislature would not be able to spend all of that money. But the legislators managed to do so and now the governor is leading a new parade to "tax and spend, tax and spend."

Local governments also have gained revenue from sales taxes and federal handouts but they insist they need and must have "More!"

We are near the point where government is taking most of business and personal incomes for spending and redistribution, centralizing controls over more people and over more resources.

A centralizer has been defined as a fellow who says "If it moves, control it. If you can't control it, tax it. If you can't tax it, give it a million dollars." That also might be a way to convert a free nation into one where government controls everything.