

Break With the Past Causes Troubles

PRIOR to the Democratic presidential nominating convention one of the aspirants for that honor was quoted in a magazine article as saying he believed the majority of the people wanted a "break with the past." He said the past "doesn't work any more."

It might be argued otherwise. Many of our troubles seem to have been caused by "a break with the past." The principles upon which our nation was founded aren't permitted to work. We are overgoverned, overspent and overtaxed.

What are the principles of the past? They include many qualities, including thrift, self-reliance, morality, religion and the belief that government should be limited to essentials.

These were embodied in the philosophy of those who created our nation as a "republic," not a "democracy." This point is the topic of a timely discussion in "National Program Letter," a publication of National Education Program at Enterprise Square, USA, by its editor,

Dr. Kenneth W. Ryker.

Ryker writes that the most concise, comprehensive definition of a democracy he has found came from a War Department training manual published in 1928 "before the revolutionaries took over the government."

It defines "democracy" as "a government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any other form of 'direct' expression. Results in mobocracy. Attitude toward property is communistic, negating property rights. Attitude toward law is that the will of the majority shall regulate, whether it be based upon deliberation or governed by passion, prejudice and impulse, without restraint or regard to consequences. Results in demagogism, license, agitation, discontent, anarchy."

Ryker cites the observation made more than two centuries ago by British historian Alexander F. Tytler, who said "A democracy ... can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves lar-

gess out of the public treasury."

Shortly after the Constitutional Convention Benjamin Franklin was asked whether a republic or a monarchy had been established. He replied "A republic, if you can keep it." Ryker quotes other authorities, including Samuel Adams, who said "Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself."

Ryker says Rev. Ed Opitz wrote a few years ago that "Majority decision at the polls is an excellent way of choosing personnel for political office, but it is a violation of the moral law for the majority to vote away any man's freedom."

Ryker concludes "This is where we have gone wrong! Every day the Congress is in session it votes away the economic freedom of our people by taking from some to give to others. But we have the power to stop this by removing the representatives in Congress who are voting this way."

That power applies to the legislature, too!