

The Book Trail

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There is one basic economic point upon which everyone seems to agree. It would appear that given such a universal community of thought, the problem of working out mankind's economic salvation becomes a matter of doing the obvious.

But such is not the case. For the point of agreement is a junction arrived at from divergent sources, and leading, consequently, toward diverging ends. Radicals and conservatives both agree that this country can produce more than its present needs—but they arrive at this conclusion starting from different premises, and make proposals for implementing it that would lead inevitably to widely different results.

In "1940" (Viking Press, \$2.75) Jay Franklin, a former New Deal executive, assures his readers: "It can be demonstrated that, on the basis of present technology and equipment, the real income of the American people might be stepped up about 500 percent if the 'profit system' were abandoned." The so-called conservative position, of course, is quite the opposite: that a re-invigoration of the "profit system" is the key to expanded production.

It is interesting to observe that both are right—assuming the term "profit" is defined satisfactorily. The present "profit system," based as it is on pyramided monopolies, leads inevitably to curtailed production and maldistribution of wealth. On the other hand, a real profit system in which each man got the full "profit" of his labor, would lead just as inevitably to ever-increasing production and an equitable distribution of the product.

In considering Mr. Franklin's analyses and prognostications it is well to bear in mind that there are two types of New Dealers: the Political New Dealers and the Sociological New Dealers; the former consisting of those who are clinging to the cat-tails of a successful political

general, and the latter comprising those who sincerely believe they have a program for the regeneration of America. It is in the latter category that Mr. Franklin belongs.

It must be said to his credit that he writes frankly, avoiding the hypocrisy of the Political New Dealers and of the more timid, or perhaps more wily Sociological New Dealers who seek to sugar-coat the fundamentally collectivistic Roosevelt program. Mr. Franklin boldly uses such words as collectivism, socialism and bureaucracy in (to him) a favorable sense to describe the objectives of his political faith.

He would practically junk the Constitution and welcome "a Presidential Government, a State with a strong executive" and a "rubber-stamp" Congress. He states unequivocally that "national land-use planning, with its necessary ingredients of applied intelligence and bureaucratic control must be intensified and financed." He believes with "Quick Transition" Browder that "the shift from private ownership to socialism, if discreetly divorced from politics as we commonly understand politics, could be instantaneous and almost painless." And what is more he advocates such a shift.

"1940" therefore is an honest but erring book. It is a book which, without calling it such, sets forth the New Deal program as it really is, undisguised by vote-catching camouflage. Though many Democrats who were forced into the Roosevelt fold by the political glamour of the President may seek to deny these aims for the sake of their local political representations, the record of the Administration is too plain.

As for the future, these same political hacks who are ready to jump on any bandwagon that seems to be going places, may find the present bandwagon turned into an express train going too fast to permit the chance of jumping off. If Mr. Franklin reveals correctly the temper of the Messiahs at Washington, we live in an ominous time. He warns that "those who inherit the powers, the problems, the successes, and the failures of the New

Deal must decide whether America is to evolve in peace and order into a smooth-running, tough-fibered, satisfactory way of life for a virile nation, or whether we must come to the promised land through a desert of violence and privation."

Will the Political New Dealers bend to the messianic will of the Sociological New Dealers and aid in creating a New Deal dictatorship? Or will they attempt the suicidal effort of jumping off the fast express train to join up with the Republican cause in the hope of helping to preserve the status quo? If they find themselves finally between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea they will awaken to a not too lonely existence—they will have as company many American voters who already inhabit that limbo.