

Correspondence

EDITORS, LAND AND FREEDOM:

In your January-February issue, Benjamin C. Marsh makes a plea for the management of agriculture by government, but to my mind, nothing could be greater folly or more at variance with George's philosophy of freedom. That much of our agriculture is inefficient and wasteful is obvious, but it is far less open to condemnation on that score than the operations of government. Would control by political bureaucracies bring any improvement?

Is there any reason to suppose that officeholders are superior to our farmers in wisdom or judgment? Can they direct farm operations any better than those directly concerned with getting results, and conversant with local conditions and needs? The writer has had long years of contact with agricultural problems and has also been in close touch with political affairs. He has lived all his life in the Capital City of our greatest state, has had the contacts with political administrations which newspaper work brings, and has spent years in the state service. Leave farming to farmers and recall Jefferson's warning: "Were we directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we should soon want bread."

Are we to be blind to the obvious fact that no small part of the food problem of today is the direct result of the disastrous AAA experiment—the "farming for famine," the plowing under of crops, and the slaughtering of young livestock? It is high time to reverse the trend, and to end subsidies and controls which hold back production, and which have already prostituted the farm bureaus to political ends.

With the ever-growing drift to the expansion and centralization of the powers of the state we are fast going the way of the totalitarianism which we profess to fight, and it is high time to call a halt. It must be conceded that in a time like the present crisis we cannot well be over-insistent on every petty right, but this is no reason for sacrificing our liberties in ways which spell disaster to our economic life. A legion of keen thinkers have sounded repeated warnings of the imperative call to control our own governments, which may easily become agencies of oppression rather than of protection. Put your faith in natural law and in liberty, as George taught, "oh ye of little faith."

GILBERT M. TUCKER.

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