

Post-War Planning

By Verlin D. Gordon

As I read the numerous plans being put forth to attain a high level of postwar employment, I become more and more convinced that a truly workable and practical plan will never come from those in high places. We hear so much about vague terms as material shortages, credit, heavy inventory speculation, government expenditures, social security, unconsumed profits and what have you. Is it any wonder that we turn a deaf ear when anyone mentions the science of political economy? In his article "The Great Iniquity," Leo Tolstoy writes:

"People have driven a herd of cows into an enclosure. The cows have eaten up and trampled the forage in the enclosure, they are hungry, they low and moan . . . The cows bellow, get thin, and the men begin to fear that the cows may cease to yield milk, and they invent various means of improving the condition of these cows. They erect sheds, they introduce wet brushes for rubbing the cows, they gild their horns, alter the hour of milking, concern themselves with the housing and treating of invalid and old cows, they invent new and improved methods of milking, they argue about these and many other varied matters, but they do not, cannot—without disturbing all they have arranged around the enclosure—do the only simple thing necessary for themselves as well as for the cows—to wit, the taking down of the fence and granting the cows their natural freedom."

We are all going to do a lot of

thinking and study in preparation for a better postwar world. But beware of those economists who would have you believe that prosperity can be achieved by taxation upon corporate profits, upon commodities or the income of the middle classes. The answer is true free enterprise—a system of free enterprise which will allow any and every man the right to work for himself! Private enterprise lacks substance if it seeks to achieve privilege for some at the expense of others. Don't forget, the social body like the physical body depends upon the health of each and every cell and organ for its well-being; and destruction to one part can only mean eventual death to the entire structure. Henry George, in "The Study of Political Economy," says:

"And you will see the remedies, not in wild dreams of red destruction nor weak projects for putting men in leading strings to a brainless abstraction called the state, but in simple measures sanctioned by justice. You will see in light the great remedy, in freedom the great solvent."

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