

The Enemy Within

WHEN through ineptitude your companion upsets the boat you don't scold him until you have taken him to shore. But if while you are towing him he takes advantage of your preoccupation to pick your pocket it is time to sock him on the jaw.

President Roosevelt has fireside-chatted us into an "unlimited national emergency." That, in less diplomatic but more realistic language, means that we are at war. In due time we will be informed with whom—Japanese, French, Italians, or maybe Germans. Ours is not to question why, ours is but to pay and die.

But the war will be over sometime. You either die from a disease or recover from it; it cannot last forever. And the question that confronts us during the "U. N. E." is: How will we emerge from the emergency? What manner of life confronts us?

And the answer that any analysis of current events brings us is that Americans of the future will be slaves of the State. Our national pocket is being picked of our tradition of freedom, while we are busily engaged in getting out of the mess into which we have been shoved by economic ineptitude.

"Machinery to run the national defense program is being designed for permanent function." We quote from an objective summary of things being done in the decidedly rightest magazine, *The United States News*. "Government agencies now organized to direct the output of war materials are expected to function when industry again turns to peace."

TIME, hardly radical in its viewpoint, reports: "Under the new law," enacted last month at the request of Jesse Jones, Federal Loan Administrator, "RFC will be able to set up any business at all—in competition with existing enterprises." Even Mr. Jones admitted that the act will give RFC "the power to do whatever it lacked the power to undertake before." A Congressman shouted, but the House majority heard him not: "This bill . . . would make it possible to establish a Fascist State in the United States."

For eight years the economic illiterates of Washington have been planning State slavery for us. But against the memory of such vanishing ideas as liberty, justice and human rights their collectivist tanks proved somewhat inade-

quate. NIRA found this memory more than a Maginot Line. Back they came with more subtle instruments of regulation, more successfully because of the cooperation they received from the greatest Fifth Column of all—Poverty. The whole alphabetical arsenal was directed at this weakness in the national armor of liberty; a hungry people could not completely withstand the lure of hand-outs.

Comes a foreign enemy to our city gates, and under cover of murky fear, the battalions of our native collectivists attack us from the rear. With taxes filched from us they build plants ostensibly for armament, but with the long-range purpose of a planned economy. The Federal Loan Agency becomes the greatest investment banker of the world. Investment in what? Investment in control.

Money control, price control, wage control, foreign trade control, interest control, farm control, priorities control—all have elaborate organizations that promise to outlast the defense effort. "Prospects are slight that this control will ever be surrendered," writes our commentator in the rightist publication.

Why? Because the economic illiterates in whose hands our destiny rests are crazed with the messianic complex of control. Though their socialistic schemes for mending our monopoly-broken economy have been proved as ineffective as those of Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini, they share with these apostles of autocracy both the fanatical faith in centralization as a social panacea and the egregious egotism of all planners. They failed in America not through any error inherent in planning, they seem to be saying, but because Americans stupidly resisted the necessary all-out plan to save the nation.

Now, when our resistance is vitiated by preoccupation with war, they sneak up on us with shackles forged on their regulatory textbooks and equipped with locks fashioned out of their arrogance. It is a cowardly procedure, worthy only of a planner.

Our real fight as liberty-loving Americans is to guard our rear from the enemy within. It can be won—it must be won. On our side is the great weapon of democracy: free speech. Let us use it, fearlessly and intelligently. Regardless of the exigencies of war we must never relax in our appointed duty of making America free.