The Federal Government is now in the insurance business in a big way. The Tax Foundation reports that as of the end of 1950, the figures for "life insurance in force" were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| By private companies and organizations | $244,000,000,000 |
| By Government agencies | 252,000,000,000 |

Also, the Tax Foundation estimates that by the end of 1952 the figures will be:

| | |
|---|---|
| Private insurance | $296,000,000,000 |
| Government insurance | 325,000,000,000 |

The tremendous financial power concentrated in the hands of Government by this business is far greater than that held by all of the private life insurance companies, fraternal organizations, assessment organizations, and savings bank life insurance departments combined.

The second illustration is the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The R.F.C. started operations under President Hoover in 1932. Its purpose was to afford temporary relief to distressed businesses and financial institutions in a period of serious national economic emergency. As with all schemes of this kind, the *objective* was good. But when Government plays with other people's money, the temptation to become careless or dishonest appears to be irresistible. Progression from conservative management in the public interest to carelessness, to political domination,



to downright corruption, *followed the usual pattern for activities of this kind.*

We started with the conservative administration of men like General Charles Dawes and Jesse Jones. But, in later days, we have had the malodorous prefabricated housing case, in which the Government sank about 40 millions in a scheme which many experts predicted could not possibly succeed; an automobile company of dubious antecedents, now defunct; racetracks, barrooms, gambling joints, snake farms, and, recently, offices for chiropractors and dentists, with mink coats, deep freezers, and questionable legal fees providing the general aroma for the entire operation.

As a corollary to be expected, the Government penetrates into the managements of those companies which it aids and in several instances has placed Government agents in strategic executive positions or on the Board of Directors of the companies concerned. Thus does the government camel get his head into the tent of private enterprise!

That the Government's appetite for control of private business is insatiable is indicated by the recent illegal seizure of the country's entire steel industry, an iniquity which was erased by the narrow margin of two votes in the Supreme Court.

I know it is not necessary for me to tell you gentlemen of the various interferences by the Federal Government in