

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is an extension of remarks made before a group of ministers at Peoria, Illinois, on June 13, 1951. Dr. Harper, a Foundation staff member, is the author of "Liberty: A Path To Its Recovery," "Inflation," and other books and articles.

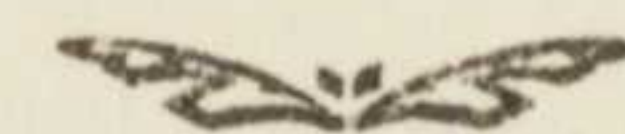
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MORALS AND THE WELFARE STATE



TO MANY PERSONS, the Welfare State has become a symbol of morality and righteousness. This makes those who favor the Welfare State appear to be the true architects of a better world; those who oppose it, immoral rascals who might be expected to rob banks, or to do most anything in defiance of ethical conduct. But is this so? Is the banner of morality, when applied to the concept of the Welfare State, one that is true or false?

Now what is the test of morality or immorality to be applied to the Welfare State idea? I should like to pose five fundamental ethical concepts, as postulates, by which to test it. They are the ethical precepts found in the true Christian religion — true to its original foundations; and they are likewise found in other religious faiths, wherever and under whatever name these other religious concepts assist persons to perceive and practice the moral truths of human conduct.*

*A brief statement on the mechanisms of the Welfare State idea is appended to this discussion on page 32.