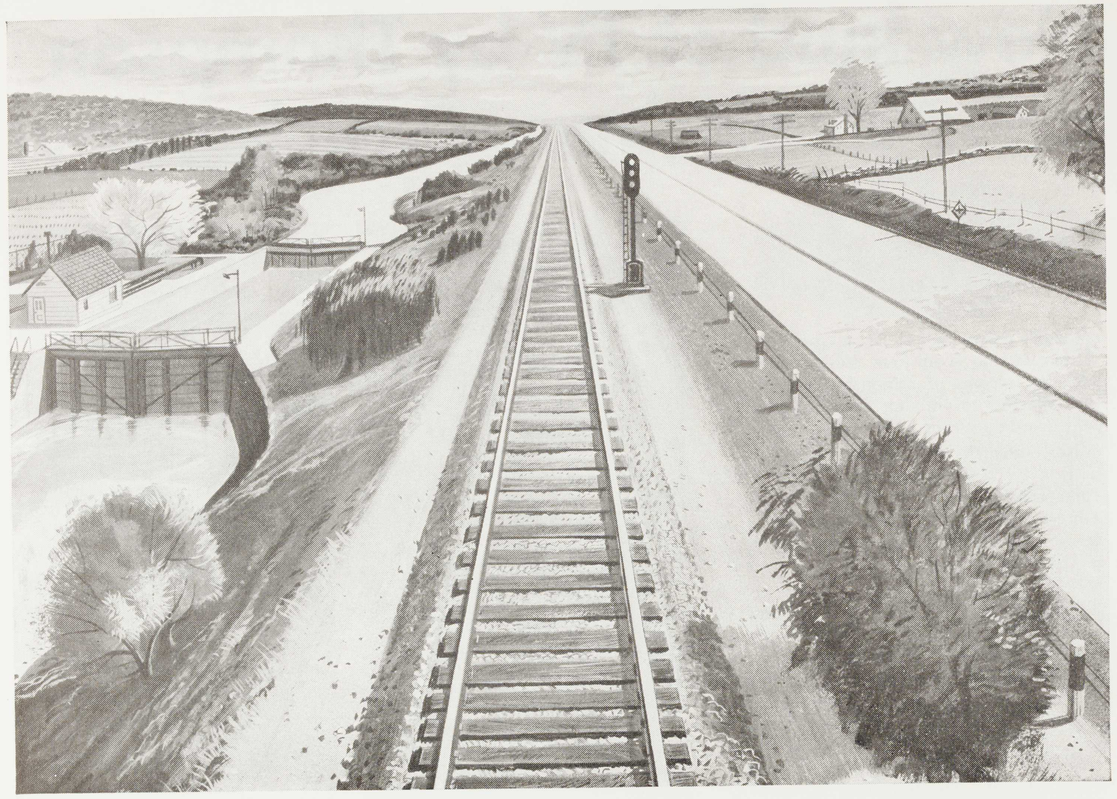

How competitive pricing in transportation would help you

In most American businesses, the benefits of greater efficiency can be passed on promptly to the public. In the transportation business, however, this is not always the case.

Consider what has happened on the railroads:

In the last 30 years the speed of the average freight train has gone up more than 50 per cent; the load has nearly doubled and the hourly output of transportation has increased nearly three times.

To make possible these and other gains in efficiency, the railroads have spent, since the end of World War II, nearly $11,000,000,000 – every dollar of which was financed by the railroads themselves.

But – as is shown in the report of a special Cabinet Committee appointed by the President – government regulation frequently denies to the public the benefit of the lower costs of the most economical form of transportation, so as to protect the traffic and revenues of carriers with higher costs. The result, as the Cabinet Committee says, is that shippers and, ultimately, the consuming public must pay more for freight transportation than would otherwise be necessary.

What can be done to correct this unhealthy situation?

The special Cabinet Committee recommended that railroads and other forms of regulated transportation be given greater freedom to base their prices on their own natural advantages. At the same time, government regulation would continue to prevent charges which are unreasonably high or unreasonably low, or are unduly discriminatory.

This would make it possible to pass on the benefits of the most efficient operations to shippers, producers and retailers, and to the consuming public which in the end pays all transportation costs.

Bills based on Cabinet Committee recommendations have been introduced in Congress. For full information about this vital subject, write for the booklet, "WHY NOT LET COMPETITION WORK?"

Association of American Railroads

844 Transportation Building • Washington 6, D. C.

THE Freeman

A Monthly For Libertarians

Editor FRANK CHODOROV

Assistant Editors ELEANOR B. ORSINI, M. STANTON EVANS, HELEN CARTIER

Business Manager IVAN R. BIERLY

Contents

DECEMBER 1955 VOL. 5, NO. 18

Editorials

Render unto Caesar—What? ... 767
The President ... 768
Traveling Solons ... 769

Articles

The Great Geneva Fraud ... WILLIAM HENRY CHAMBERLIN 770
Yale's "Four Hundred" ... M. STANTON EVANS 773
A Step toward Socialized Medicine ... GORDON B. LEITCH 776
The Economic Comeback of Germany ... HANS F. SENNHOLZ 781
Watch Strasbourg! ... MONTGOMERY BELGION 784
Reaching High School Debaters ... BETTINA BIEN 787
Sowing the Seed of Revolution ... ANTHONY TRAWICK BOUSCAREN 790

Books

A Reviewer's Notebook ... JOHN CHAMBERLAIN 792
Rout of the Pedagogues ... E. MERRILL ROOT 794
The Primacy of Art ... FRANK S. MEYER 794
The German Cycle ... FREDA UTLEY 796; ROBERT PHELPS 797; SUZANNE LA FOLLETTE 798; WILLIAM HENRY CHAMBERLIN 799

Departments

Readers Also Write ... 764
Washington, D.C. ... FRANK C. HANIGHEN 779
On Campus ... 789
Well Worth Reading ... 800

The **FREEMAN** is published monthly at New York, N.Y., by the Irvington Press, Inc., Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y.

Copyrighted in the United States, 1955, by The Irvington Press, Inc., Leonard E. Read, President; Fred Rogers Fairchild, Vice President; Claude Robinson, Secretary; Lawrence Fertig, Treasurer; Henry Hazlitt and Leo Wolman.

Re-entry as second class matter pending at Irvington, N.Y. with an additional entry at New York, N.Y.

RATES: Fifty cents a copy; five dollars a year; nine dollars for two years.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE: Send subscription order, correspondence and instructions for change of address to:

The FREEMAN
Subscription Department
Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send old address (exactly as printed on wrapper of your copy) and new address, with zone number, if any.

EDITORIAL AND GENERAL OFFICES: Address the FREEMAN, Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y. The editors cannot be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts unless return postage, or better, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. Articles signed with a name or initials do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editors.

Printed in U.S.A. by Blanchard Press, Inc., N.Y., N.Y.

Labeling the FREEMAN

The fellow said: "The FREEMAN finds so much at fault with the government that I would call it an anarchistic paper." So the discussion, as usual, revolved about a definition: what is anarchism?

As a system of thought, anarchism has a variety of facets, sometimes contradictory. But all the varieties rest on a basic premise: that man is "by nature" decent, and that the indecencies he develops are the result of political interference. The government makes people "bad." There cannot be a "good" society where there is government.

Now, the FREEMAN readily admits that it is unable to pass judgment on the "nature" of man. Theology has concerned itself with that problem for a long time and has not as yet come up with a self-demonstrating answer, and recently psychology has tackled it with little success. About all the FREEMAN knows about the human being is that he always tries to satisfy his desires with the least effort. That is an observable fact, like the rising of the sun in the morning, and is in itself without ethical content.

It is because men seek to satisfy their desires with the least effort that they make labor-saving devices. But often, we don't know why, some men will seek to satisfy their desires without any effort, which means they will steal from their fellow-men. The producers resent the predation and set up an instrument to prevent it; the instrument is called government. The primary purpose of government is, therefore, the protection of the producer in the enjoyment of his property. A secondary function, related to the first, is the protection of the individual in the enjoyment of life against other individuals.

To carry out these two functions the government is invested with the monopoly of coercion. Sometimes, too often, the government makes use of this monopolistic advantage to do just what it is expected to prevent; it takes property it has no moral right to and it commits violence against citizens whom it is supposed to protect from violence. When the government does either of these two things it is going beyond its prescribed limits and is indeed an antisocial body. Society then finds itself the victim of its own creation, and is confronted with the problem of reducing the powers of government to their proper use.

The FREEMAN is not an anarchistic publication because it accepts, for the reasons aforementioned, the necessity of government. Its purpose is to alert society to the necessity of preventing government from doing what it is not supposed to do.

DR. GORDON B. LEITCH—the latest addition to our list of contributors—is, beside being a physician, editor of the Oregon section of *Northwest Medicine*, and has long been active in the opposition to socialized medicine.