The reason we are on this road is also clear. And, it isn't because there aren't millions of citizens who don't like it. Rather, it is because among these millions so few adequately understand and have faith in the limitless possibilities of socialism's opposite: the private property, free market, limited government way of life. Lacking this understanding, without which faith is impossible, they are at a loss to explain this free way of life attractively and persuasively.

It isn't that we lack millions of citizens with potential intellectual capacity to meet the present challenge. It is because there are so very few among these millions who are more than half trying. Everything from important daily work to golf, bridge, cocktail parties, small talk, viewing TV, takes precedence over "the decline and fall" of "the last best hope of earth." Indifference and the absurd assumption that this is someone else's problem – not lack of potential intellect or spirit – are among the reasons for our deterioration into a collectivist society.

ALWAYS in the human body there are deadly viruses. But they remain benign if the body is healthy enough. And, always in the body politic there are persons with a deadly social virus – the lust for power over others. This lust remains benign among a people alert to the blessings of freedom and self-responsibility. It asserts itself only when alertness gives way to indifference and when liberty is thought to be someone else's, not one's own, problem. Thus, a Hitler or an interventionist government are possible only when personal virtues become too weak to stand them off.

The kind of remedy required can be accurately presented. Affairs in our country have now come to such a pass – we are so deeply involved and entangled in the socialistic way of life – that nothing short of an abnormal, volitional, highly conscious effort can possibly halt, let alone reverse, our present plunge into the abyss of an all-embracing statism.

WHAT NOW is required? That tens of thousands of individuals accept this as a challenge demanding their primary attention. That business leaders, for instance, who have a sense of responsibility beyond their own domains give this problem top priority – at least as important as the conduct of their own businesses. The same goes for the professions or for those in any other walk of life. Nothing less will suffice than the very best – top performance – on the part of every responsible individual.

The minimum formula for success is for many thousands of persons becoming so much more accomplished as expositors of these freedom principles than those of us in FEE, that our competence, by comparison, will pale into insignificance. In short, the situation calls for persons who will acquire the skills to write, and then muster the courage to sign, such a document as our own Declaration of Independence.

WHEN the day comes that several thousand Americans can truthfully say –

1. We're doing our best;
2. We can explain clearly and convincingly in speech and writing the principles which govern private property and free market relationships to organized police force;
3. We're ready to stake "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" on these principles we believe to be right

– on that day will the socialistic trend be reversed. And, on that day will FEE cease to exist. Until then, all of us here wish to help every interested person in bringing about this important event – *mission accomplished!*

WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST?

PUT YOURSELF in one of Nature's garden spots, but suffering a dozen years from raw police force such as the people of Argentina endured under the dictator, Perón; where both morale and morals seriously declined; where the money has lost 73 per cent of its purchasing power during the past nine years; where wool or beef sold in foreign trade nets only one-third to one-half of the market price; where it takes 600 to 1,000 steers to purchase an ordinary automobile; where a two-year-old Buick sells for 400,000 pesos or $10,000; where political opposition to foreign capital leaves unlimited reserves of oil in the ground while $317,000,000 was paid for imports of oil last year; where, for political reasons, there isn't enough electric power to properly light the streets or to adequately supply industry; where labor unions exert more oppressive power than in the United States; where recently the bank clerks, as well as oil workers, were conscripted into the army to keep them on the job; in short, where interventionism is rife and where the politically proposed cure, as in the U.S.A., involves more of the same. *Under these circumstances, what would you suggest?*

I was invited by a group of libertarians in Argentina to face this question with a series of lectures. They were delivered last month in Buenos Aires and deal with the functions of government in a free society, the historical approaches to ideal government, the current deviations from the ideal, the causes of authoritarianism, and the educational methods to restore ideal government.

These lectures are available in a 100-page book entitled *WHY NOT TRY FREEDOM?* Single copy for the asking. Additional copies $1.00 each. Use reply envelope.

AN INVITATION... The current depression is scheduled to last anywhere from six more weeks to forever – according to which forecaster you select. Having no skills at crystal gazing, we at FEE are in the dark on this question.

We do, however, know several things: (1) Increased intervention will not cure excessive interventionism but will thwart and delay whatever adjustments may be needed for a free and prosperous economy. (2) Failures in commercial and industrial enterprises (in terms of liabilities, and allowing for growth trends) are now at the highest for the past quarter century! Corporate earnings generally are declining and, in many instances, have turned to losses.

We also know that the depression is seriously reflecting itself in reduced or canceled contributions to FEE. Yet, never has there been so great a need for the FEE assignment – presenting the argument for the free economy.

Those favorably disposed and who are able to assist in keeping FEE in business until *mission accomplished* are urgently invited to do so.

Leonard E. Read

PRESIDENT

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES FOR 1958-59 ON NEXT PAGE