NOTES from FEE

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Beyond Majority Rule

The contemporary method of governing our nation may give an appearance of a genuinely advancing civilization, but a look behind this facade will reveal a government of too much power under a leader duly elected by vote of the majority. Now that the election is several weeks past, it is perhaps justified if we give the majority rule voting mechanism a critical examination. Is the onus of compulsion in any prescribed action removed by voting? Is it truly a practical means to guarantee freedom? Just how democratic is a society based on indiscriminate use of majority rule?

The philosophical political façade of our nation can be stated in one word—*freedom*. But it is disconcerting to observe how many of the meanings assigned to freedom miss the target. Only a small percentage of those who use the word read into it a true, meaningful freedom of *individual* choice. For most of them, "individual choice" is of little significance except that each person has a "sacred" right to cast his individual vote—as though individual choice and individual vote were synonymous. Many imply that a person ought to be forced to vote! The magic of the façade! But there his right to choose seems to come to an abrupt end, at least, as such choosing applies to any vital area of human action within society. The word "freedom" continues in prominent use in our land of the "no longer free." Behind the facade of freedom grows totalitarianism.

There are implications in the terms democratic action and majority rule that bear critical examination. There is implied a fervent hope by the people for maximum freedom and self-determination. There is a fear of tyranny. There is the distrust of kings and dictators. These are good, healthy hopes and fears. But unfortunately, there also is a faith that voting in itself is a sure way of achieving freedom and protection against despotism.

With the vigilance of the people relaxed, the Federal government's ever-expanding bureaucracy acts in a manner that seriously jeopardizes the concept of private ownership of property, the pillar of freedom. It interferes in labor-management disputes, often dictating terms of settlement. Unbelievable pressure is exerted on members of Congress to pass civil rights legislation, further eroding freedom of choice and use of one's own property. Scandal that presumably