

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dr. F. A. Harper, author of *The World's Hunger, Liberty: A Path to Its Recovery, Gaining the Free Market*, and other articles and books, is a member of the Foundation staff. A condensation of this article appeared in *The Freeman* magazine of December 14, 1953.

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AGRICULTURE'S SACRED SEVENTH



THE AMERICAN FARMER has long been considered the most likely guardian of the last bastion of freedom. But under the spell of some political "economists" and farm leaders who believe in mystic numbers and other such forms of superstition, he is more and more surrendering any claim to that honor.

In the recent vote of farmers to have the government dictate how much wheat each of them shall be allowed to grow, it is true that many farmers voted "No." Many upheld vigorously their individual rights to manage their own farms as they alone deem wise. Knowing, perhaps, that the plan on which they were voting is patterned closely after the Gosplan of the Soviet Union, they see little sense in draining our resources to fight communism abroad while adopting it piecemeal at home. But under the concept that the might of the majority makes right, the beliefs of this opposing minority are now to be disregarded. They were outvoted by the 87 per cent who apparently lack confidence in themselves and their fellow farmers to manage their own farms. They