

## DECLARATION OF ADULTHOOD

The Responsible Enterprise Association is a group of people who have confessed responsibility for so balancing their personal resources of time, energy, and attention themselves, as not to require political charity. They insist they need no political power to seize in their behalf the fruits of the labor of others. They only ask to be let alone to produce their own livelihood free from guardianship under public officials who have, by the very nature of their chosen occupation, themselves fled from individual responsibility.

Its members recognize that as the very trees of the forest must compete each with the other for sunlight, so must responsible humans accept the burdens of competition, if they would be free from unreasonable regulations imposed by political organizations. And they recognize that the very first burden to be shouldered in a world of individual responsibility is the burden of balance,—the essential price of freedom.

The balance between (1) the number of people willing to be satisfied with only such livelihood as their own labor and a voluntary exchange may permit, and (2) the number of people who prefer, as cogs in an organization living by seizure, confiscation, tax, plunder, to obey the regulations of appointed officers who plan and direct their cam-

paigns of taxation,—that balance is indeed an important balance. And any acceptance of a share in the plunder distributed as monopolized profits under carefully regulated licenses curbing competitors must be recognized as tending to upset the natural balance between free exchange on a voluntary basis and violent seizure for exchange by political compulsion.

But the balance for which our members accept individual responsibility is merely the balance of their own time, energy, and attention. They recognize the hopeless futility of unbalanced toil, and the great wisdom of many generations of wise leaders in all parts of the world and every religion, who urged with all sincerity upon their followers that Nature required a balance of their time by use of some number, generally the number seven being held sacred, so that they would not fail to devote the necessary time regularly to gathering for self-information together, and to missionary work persuading others to accept a share in such responsibility.

More particularly they recognize very humbly that children are not alone in detesting the discipline of regular devotion to systematic self-information; and they accept deliberately the responsibility to gather regularly in small rather than large groups for the purpose

of acquiring "together-knowledge" (conscience, if one prefers the word derived from Latin roots.) They recognize that conscience has never yet been acquired by lonely study either in private dens or public libraries; and that only with regular attendance at gatherings in small circles can the onus of together-knowledge be shouldered with that responsibility by which the word "onus" has given us the word "honest."

Finally, our members accept the responsibility of adulthood, whereby they need not obey the commands of public officials to attend schools under the tax-thumb of government, in which no competition of discussion compels reasonable honesty from the government's community leaders. And they assert their ability to organize their own study groups, as did the free people of ancient days; when sage men squatting in the sun welcomed the gathering of independent adults who sat down also to listen attentively at their knees and participate in the discussions.

In the effort to bring to such groups of our day the modern sage, writings of many such have been carefully examined for selection of suitable literature to be read and discussed systematically by daily readings in the family, and by weekly readings at regular circle gatherings.

If your card shows you to be in current good standing as a sustaining member, your use of this membership form to enlist a friend will be the most valuable missionary work you can do.

### RESPONSIBLE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION

1232 Majestic Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.

Find my offering to aid your educational efforts, as I have indicated by check marks below, and by enclosure. (Make all checks payable to the Responsible Enterprise Association.)

- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ as my convenient current contribution (covers a reading membership entitling one to the Home Patriots' Bulletin and other circular material at the rate of \$2.00 per year.)
- ☐ Annual contribution as member of Associated Minute Men of the Order of Patrick Henry. (\$10.00 or more, to cover cost of periodical matter, and of chapter promotion efforts—missionary work.)
- ☐ Annual contribution as a sustaining member of the Responsible Enterprise Association. (\$25.00 or more)
- ☐ In consideration of \$\_\_\_\_\_ herewith enclosed, please send me the items checked in the list of books recommended on the reverse of this page.

Mail my membership card, and all periodical matter to me as follows:

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