

plete and effective, they would probably stop all production for trade, which uses money. This conclusion is inescapable.

Under present conditions of inflation, caused by rampant governmental spending — with laws aimed at the symptoms of inflation rather than dealing with its cause — the time is short for making an important choice. Its nature is indicated by what Lenin allegedly said in 1924: "Some day we shall force the United States to spend itself into destruction." And Lord Keynes reports: "Lenin is said to have declared that the best way to destroy the Capitalist System was to debauch the currency. By a continuing process of inflation, governments can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens." Lenin probably knew that price and other controls — one of the main objectives of the system he favored — would then be imposed.

Unless the price control law is rescinded, its disrupting influence will lead to governmental enslavement of all labor and confiscation of all production facilities — to adopt, in other words, a completely socialist-communist system which we are presumably opposing.

A STRANGE DILEMMA

THE ONLY ESCAPE from the consequences of these laws would seem to be for the citizens to ignore them. This means lawlessness, technically, in the form of black market operations and all the other forms of evasion. This places the honest citizen who favors human liberty in a strange dilemma. He must choose between practicing lawlessness

in this technical sense, or supporting a socialist-communist regime.

If we add to a moral breakdown of the people the confusion that is created when illusions and wishful thinking bump up against economic laws which cannot be revoked by man-made laws, and add to this the animosity that grows under these conditions and the utter distrust of one another that is aroused, then the prospect is too sobering to be ignored.

A step in the direction of taking away the government's monopoly in the production of money, and restricting government to the judicial aspects of exchange, would be to compel the government to live within its income. This means limiting government expenditures, strictly and absolutely, to taxes that are openly acknowledged to be taxes. It means prohibition of the concealed and deceptive tax of inflation.

If this were to be done, there no longer would be an inflation problem of the type we now have. If this were to be done, there no longer would be any excuse for the enactment of socialist-communist measures — these deceptive processes of legalized price fictions and interference with exchange. If this were to be done, it no longer would be "necessary" to give up our liberty under futile controls aimed at the consequences of inflation rather than at its cause.

Ruthless measures are called for after the citizens have allowed their servant — government — to become their master. But it is better to be ruthless and successful in preventing inflation than to become the victims of both ruthlessness and failure.