

the income of other groups in direct proportion" by means of these "most profitable investments." He proclaims that "several billion dollars" spent during 1930-1941 would "have been a good investment to prevent the loss of \$500 billion." He speaks of this automatic "seven-fold turn of the initial dollar" as a "key factor in our economy and [one that] assumes fantastic importance." And admittedly it does assume great importance; if it is true, it should be followed, but if it is untrue, it becomes fantastically dangerous.

SCATTERING SEED DOLLARS

LET US first presume it to be true. To follow it would then greatly simplify the problem of attaining a continuing national prosperity for all of us, farmers and others alike. By its miraculous power, we could have any national income we want. All that would be needed would be to scatter amply the seeds of income (money) among farmers. These dollars would thereafter return home to all of us, each dragging six additional dollars behind it for others in the national income as a whole. It would be just that simple, by this concept, to assure national prosperity.

In carrying out this scheme, there is the

political problem, of course, of how and where to scatter the income seed among the five million farms of the United States. Some wag has suggested that it might be scattered geographically by airplane. Or it might be sent to all RFD box holders, as congressmen once sent garden seeds. Or it might be sent to the various local political potentates, each of whom would parcel it out among farmers in his locality. But these simple ways of doing it all have the difficulty of being too vividly exposed to scorn and the danger of discrediting the theory. So more profound ways of doing it have been devised and are now in effect. They are designed to befuddle the beholder sufficiently to cast the proper spell of mysticism.

PARITY PROGRAMS AND THE LIKE

IT IS NOT necessary here to review all these forms of scattering the presumed seeds of income. They are familiar to all of us under the various and sundry names by which federal checks are being sent to essentially every farmer in the land, directly or indirectly, ostensibly in return for something they have done. Merely being a farmer enables one, according to the rule of seven, to serve his nation by being a seed bed for the national income.