people with long experience in trade and handicrafts, denied a fair return for their labor at home, pulling up their sleeves and working hard in a new environment of freedom.

Success and Failure

American aid to Western Europe is now a matter of ancient history. Here it was mainly a matter of starting again at full speed economies which had been stalled by war damage. And there are non-European countries – Israel and Taiwan are good examples—which have freed themselves from dependence on outside help. On the other hand, India, Indonesia, and the Congo, among other nations of Asia and Africa, furnish a depressing spectacle of inability to make both ends meet no matter how much foreign aid is poured into them.

The pioneer settlers of the United States received no foreign development aid and expected none. All they wanted from foreign powers was independence and from their own government to be let alone to go as far as their industry and ability would carry them. They were unconsciously putting into effect the only kind of anti-poverty campaign that is guaranteed to produce results: intelligent, efficiently-directed, hard work.

The Human Factor in the Problem of Poverty

The human being, not the dollar, is at the heart of the problem of poverty, domestic and international. There are individuals who will succeed with little or no outside help, because they seize every opportunity to help themselves. There are others who will founder no matter how many benevolent helping hands are extended to them, because the inner drive to move ahead in a competitive world is lacking.

Poverty will never be conquered, although it may be universalized, by putting on it a huge price tag, payable in public funds. Indeed, the whole idea of imposing on the productive part of the community an ever heavier burden of supporting the unproductive is foredoomed to failure.

The best prospect—not of abolishing poverty, an unrealistic goal, but of diminishing and alleviating it—is to throw the fewest possible roadblocks in the way of thrift and industry. A given amount of capital, saved and invested in job-producing enterprises, will do far more to help the poor who can be helped than the same amount of capital seized by Federal, state, and local governments as taxes and distributed through bumbling bureaucratic agencies for supposed welfare projects. ◈

THE SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT TAX

—Latest in Britain's trend toward socialism

George Winder

A TOTALITARIAN REGIME never acquires power in a democratic state as suddenly or as completely as communism conquered Russia, but Britain, nevertheless, is driven toward total socialism by a terrible inevitability which follows continuous inflation. If this strikes a note of despair, it must be put down to the loss of freedom from which the British people have long suffered.

The latest manifestation of socialistic drift is the Selective Employment Tax which is levied against wages to provide subsidies for export industries, a unique departure from the long-standing practice of taking from the rich to give to the poor. The alleged justification for this discriminating tax is that those who pay it produce only services, but those who receive it produce tangible products which add to our real wealth and can be exported.

Thus, we renew in the twentieth century the old mercantilist notion that some industries are better for the nation than others: and perhaps they are – if the nation is hopelessly committed to inflation. This latest step in Britain may serve as warning to other peoples dedicated to inflation as a way of life.

All employers in Britain, already required to withhold from wage payments the National Insurance Tax and the Pay-As-You-Earn Income Tax, must now also pay a weekly Selective Employment Tax of 25 shillings ($3.50) for men and half that rate for women. That is the end of the

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