

dict in advance, they by-pass it and resort to the political means. They make all sorts of glowing promises to the people *if only the people will give them power over their actions and their taxes*. It is never stated that honestly, of course, but that is actually what it means.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

WHEN ALL other arguments fail, the advocates of common ownership do not hesitate to advance the idea of "national defense" and to play upon a person's love for his country. For example, the Tennessee Valley Authority is generally given credit for supplying the electricity that made the atomic bomb. Yet the truth of the matter is that the Oak Ridge atomic project contained its own steam generating plant when it was first built. Oak Ridge was not designed to be dependent upon TVA for its electricity. The fact that Oak Ridge saves on its fuel costs by using large quantities of TVA "dump power" during the seasonal peak TVA production period, has no bearing whatever on this fact. There have been times when Oak Ridge has supplied electricity to TVA.

It is true that the United States has not lost a war to date. But this has not been due to government ownership of the means of production. On the contrary, our strength has been in the fact that we have had *less* common ownership and *fewer* government controls than have our enemies. In America, free peo-

ple — operating in a competitive market over a period of time — have built huge industries for the production of automobiles, nylon hosiery, and aluminum pots and pans *for a profit*. And the necessary electrical capacity to operate these plants has appeared when and where needed. This capacity will continue to be available if the people are left free to build the plants with their own money at no expense to the taxpayers. This procedure automatically insures adequate reserve capacities for the building of tanks, uniforms, guns, and airplanes when the need arises.

ERRONEOUS PATRIOTISM

THE ADVOCATES of common ownership are exceedingly careful to wrap their product in the American flag. They will point out that this is a democracy; that the people can vote for anything that pleases them; that the minority must be forced to conform to the will of the majority. But the fact that this is the case, does not mean that every issue should necessarily be voted upon. For "might" does not make "right" in America any more than it did in Germany, or does in Russia. For example, the issue of what religion a person should follow should never be voted upon — democracy or no democracy. Yet it is true that the citizens of the United States could vote to establish a state religion — and force everyone to follow it — if they so desired. The American people could, if they so desired, also use this "majority