

rule" principle to divide up all the wealth, to equalize all incomes, to abolish the right of a person to own property, and to endorse the principle of common ownership completely. These measures would, of course, be immoral even though they should come to pass by the democratic process. In truth, the surest way to insure the loss of what most Americans consider to be the real meaning of democracy and the right to vote, is to vote our destinies into the hands of the advocates of common ownership. For here as in Russia, there would then be no real choice because we would then "own everything in common." And all these common ownership projects would be "unselfishly" managed in the interest of all the people rather than "for the profit of just a few persons." Or so we would be informed by the political managers who would then control our very lives.

RESULTS OF EVIL IDEAS

WE SHOULD remember that the Russian people are not innately any more evil than we are; it is just that they have adopted an economic philosophy that necessarily must create evil, and exist upon evil. That economic principle is the theory of government-controlled, compulsory, common ownership of the means of production, be it a complete river valley development or whatever. And what will it profit us even to attempt to stop the world-wide spread of communism — "government ownership of

the agents of production" — if in the process we adopt the selfsame economic principle that we claim to be fighting against? Freedom will eventually cease to exist in *any* nation that adopts that principle, for the fundamental freedom upon which all other freedoms are based is the economic right of an individual to work, trade, spend, save, and invest as he himself decides is best. The only possible way that this freedom can be expressed is through the voluntary processes of the market economy, leaving each individual responsible for the choice he makes.

Note: Dean Russell is the author of *The TVA Idea* (The Foundation for Economic Education; 1948; 108 pp.; 75¢). This is a detailed and readable explanation of the social, political, and economic consequences of the TVA "idea" in practice.