Stalin should reward them well. But if he gained control here, he would round them up as the vanguard for the nearest camp, as he did with the "liberals" in the satellite countries.

The Communist Party and its maneuvers have in this country been a failure, save perhaps in the cases like that of Hiss in which they accomplished evil through direct corruption. Not as much can be said of the "liberals" at Yalta, at Potsdam, in China and all of Asia. They have made the way easy for Russian aggression, while smugly believing that they were wiser and more generous and nobler than the average sound citizen. They have been dupes, duped less by the outright influence of Stalin and his fellow-men than by their own confusion, smugness and muddled thinking. In these times such men are dangerous, supremely dangerous to the whole of the nation and of the world. History is writing down the record, and each day the story becomes a little clearer to the American people.

Birth of a Word

For a long time thoughtful men have been seeking a word to describe these remote products of Middle-European socialism who kidnapped and tarnished the word "liberal," and during the recent political campaign the word miraculously appeared out of the common sense, the wisdom and the instinct of the people themselves. It was a process, a birth which has happened again and again in history. Immediately the word received the virtually universal and spontaneous acceptance accorded a new word for which a long and profound need has been experienced.

The word is "egghead." In the periodical revision of the dictionary I have no doubt that the word "egghead" will be included and that it will be defined something like this:

"*Egghead*: A person of spurious intellectual pretensions, often a professor or the protégé of a professor. Fundamentally superficial. Over-emotional and feminine in reactions to any problem. Supercilious and surfeited with conceit and contempt for the experience of more sound and able men. Essentially confused in thought and immersed in mixture of sentimentality and violent evangelism. A doctrinaire supporter of Middle-European socialism as opposed to Greco-French-American ideas of democracy and liberalism. Subject to the old-fashioned philosophical morality of Nietzsche which frequently leads him into jail or disgrace. A self-conscious prig, so given to examining all sides of a question that he becomes thoroughly addled while remaining always in the same spot. An anemic bleeding heart."

The recent election demonstrated a number of things, not the least of them being the extreme remoteness of the "egghead" from the thought and feeling of the whole of the people.

The Greatest Country

By BRUCE WINTON KNIGHT

This is the essence of the story historians will tell about a country which, they will say, was once the greatest on earth.

In its early years the country was thinly populated, with its main settlements along the seacoast.[1] The main source of livelihood at that time was agriculture.[2] Its fighting farmers, with some help from a Celtic people, broke the hold of foreign tyranny.[3] After a trying time they established a republic.[4] Then, without clearly designing the result, they proceeded step by step to enlarge their territory. This was done partly by defeating a great power which undertook to curb their freedom at sea,[5] still more by subduing the tribes which threatened them on their existing frontiers.[6]

At length, aided by an economy that emphasized freedom of the market, the country became the richest in the world. It had by far the most impressive transportation system.[7] It was greatest in ocean trade, banking, public finance. Although its people were sometimes twitted for boasting of the matter, its comforts included the best public water supply and private plumbing facilities.[8] The homes of the well-to-do were equipped with separate dining rooms, libraries, even swimming pools and tennis courts. In the colder regions which lay within the country's wide range of climates, the people easily led all others in central heating.[9]

The country did not confine its greatness to wealth alone. Its literature, while perhaps not foremost, was so distinguished that some of it will probably endure for ages.[10] Its public buildings and other works of architecture were outstanding in massiveness, if not always in beauty.[11] It was first in sanitation, hospitals, and the general treatment of disease. Above all things, however, the people prided itself on its government. Not only did it bring internal order to the highest level ever known in any country of comparable size. Eventually it devoted its unmatched military might, and a corresponding amount of its wealth, to the task of keeping the peace throughout the whole reach of the accessible earth.[12]

Historians may differ in their detailed explanations of later events. But they will be in substantial agreement about what happened. Piecemeal and unalarmingly, alien ways crept into the country. The relations between the government and the people changed. The economy was strained, and personal liberty restricted, by the outlay of blood and treasure, first at this point and then at that, along the vast periphery of responsibilities assumed by the state. Depression and unemployment led to state interference with the freedom of citizens to choose among gainful employments, between consuming and saving, and among different products.

The state undertook to regulate agriculture.[13] It paid greater and greater sums to laborers, sometimes for the construction of public works, sometimes in exchange for no work at all.[14] Political power shifted from localities to the central government. It shifted also from the legislative and judicial branches to the executive. The average term of office of the chief of state was increased. One chief was elected time after time on a platform of public aid to the underprivileged.[15] Mushrooming "administrative" departments issued orders which amounted to arbitrary legislation by the executive branch.

A Burgeoning Bureaucracy

State control pertained not so much to the economics of producing income as to the politics of redistributing it. Industrious or lazy, enterprising or sluggish, people asserted their "right" to economic security and the "duty" of the public to give it to them. They were deliberately encouraged by politicians in the belief that this could be done by soaking the rich, when in fact only a general increase in production could have sufficed. Class bitterness developed. The dislike of the common people for the landed gentry, which had proved troublesome during the youth of the republic,[16] was a minor problem compared with the new popular hostility toward the business class.[17] Businessmen, despite the fact that they bore the financial responsibility for judging an uncertain future, a task which someone must perform and few wanted, were represented as "selfish interests."[18] So widespread was the mania for security, and so emotionally was private enterprise established as the symbol of greed, that the people became blind to the incessant expansion of government departments, the jockeying of different departments for power, and the ominous growth of the swarm of public officials, especially in the capital city.[19]

The burden of taxation became heavier and heavier. The authorities justified it by "the emergency." They pointed to the incursions of hostile hordes here, there, and yonder along the far-flung borders.[20] Still, they would not reduce the outlay for redistribution and bureaucracy. Corruption developed in the ranks of the tax gatherers. Extortionate collectors engaged in collusion with some taxpayers, in blackmail against others.[21] When taxes failed to cover the mounting expenditures, the state resorted to monetary inflation. Playing year in and year out the part of a huge counterfeiting institution, it generated an unceasing rise of prices.[22] Then, blaming the price increases on the cupidity of "economic royalists," it pretended to curb the inflation by means of official price ceilings.[23] But the "direct price controls," although backed by harsh penalties and a myriad of snoopers, merely combined with the system of holdups and handouts to stifle production.

All classes of the population became demoralized. Constantly increasing numbers of laborers preferred public aid to work and wages. Under the heat of taxation, inflation, and regimentation, the stream of savings dried up, the supply of capital withered, and the business class gave up hope. Alleged legislators became disgracefully servile to the executive, and bureaucrats specialized in currying favor with their official superiors.[24] Infiltrating first into the masses and later into the higher classes was an Asiatic ideology whose adherents espoused common ownership of property, assailed private wealth as proof of sin, and believed fanatically in their ultimate triumph.[25] Even the great instrument of public defense deteriorated. Military service, once esteemed a privilege of citizenship, came to be regarded by enlisted men as an onerous obligation, and by officers as a means of playing party politics.[26]

Historians will say that this country collapsed. They will observe that it did not fall until it was permeated by internal rot; that its people lost interest in defending it because it was no longer theirs; that at last its less civilized enemies had little to do but move in and take possession;[27] and that a dark age followed.[28] In short, history will continue to tell the old, old story of Rome.

[1]The notes referred to in this article appear on page 177, but the author suggests that readers finish the piece before turning to them.

This Is What They Said

It seems to us that one of the biggest stories of modern times has been the inability of an overwhelmingly Republican press to confuse and delude a majority of Americans . . . in the long run Americans have almost invariably displayed a remarkable talent for differentiating honest men from fakers, truth from falsehood, sincerity from hypocrisy, candor from double-talk.

NEW YORK POST editorial, September 26, 1952

A man who uses the weapon of the big lie should be rejected by all good citizens, regardless of party.

HARRY S. TRUMAN, quoted by *Birmingham Post-Herald*, October 17, 1952

No people has ever given more tangible or extensive evidence of its good will and intention. Particularly is this true in our attitude toward the Soviet Union.

DEAN ACHESON, address at Wesleyan University, June 15, 1947

The purpose of our staying in Korea is not the complete destruction or unconditional surrender of the enemy, but to permit him to change his mind.

ERNEST K. LINDLEY, *Newsweek*, May 7, 1951