the oil and gas business. A recent tabulation indicates that well over 30 Federal Government Agencies intrude into your business in one way or another.

I could cite other examples. The fact is that we are now mobilizing to fight a communist enemy who is supposedly thousands of miles away. But, in truth, we need not travel so far to find him.

COMMUNISM IS AN IDEA

This is not so surprising if one but stops to reflect. Communism is not an army, nor even a dictatorship. Communism is an idea. It is a belief that individual freedom, as a way of life, will not work; a belief that certain ordinary mortals like you and me, who, mostly by fortuitous circumstance, happen to occupy the seats of government for a short time, are far more capable of running your life than you are; it is a fear that if we, the people, are left free to manage our own affairs, most of us will go hungry and be cold; it is a repudiation of the free market, where willing buyers and willing sellers voluntarily arrive at a figure agreeable to both; it is a false thesis that employers and employes belong to different classes and are natural enemies; it is a process whereby some people use the power of government to make other people conform to their views and desires; it is a coerced debasement of the intelligence and integrity and dignity of the individual human being, who must bow his head in deference to the views of political masters.

I maintain that, contrary to current beliefs, the destruction of the Russian Army and the Russian State would not stop the growth of these communistic ideas in the United States or anywhere else. We could imprison every card-carrying member of the Communist Party in America, and these communistic measures would continue on their merry way. I fear that we are deeply infected at home with the virus we intend to fight abroad. It appears that we are resolved to prove that our system and our philosophy of life are better than those of the communist state and that, in order to do so, we are willing to adopt their system for the contest; that we are determined to show them that we can run communism better than they can; that we are willing to carry more weight in the belief that our strength, *acquired under freedom,* will permit us to win even with this added handicap!

We cannot imprison or shoot an idea. We can only study it and try to understand it. If the ideas we sponsor — knowingly or unknowingly — are communist ideas, democracy will be of little help. It is just as much a communist idea if the majority imposes it upon a minority in a democracy as it is if done in the name of a dictatorship.

Now I know that those who disagree with me will say that this is a democracy and that we can vote for anything we please; that, in fact, we can vote to turn all industry and all income over to the Government, if we so desire.