

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the text of an address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Public Utilities Association of the Virginias, September 18, 1953. Dean Russell, author of *The TVA Idea, Equality and Security*, and other books and pamphlets, is a Foundation staff member.

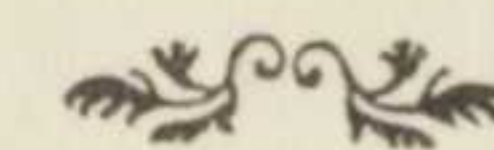
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MY FREEDOM DEPENDS ON YOURS



MY GRANDFATHER fought for freedom while he continued to own slaves. His concept of freedom permitted him to direct and control the activities of other men. And when he was denied the legal right to take for his own use the fruits of other people's labor, he was honestly convinced that his freedom had been curtailed to some extent.

An absurd concept of freedom? Well, he was no different in this respect from Jefferson, Washington, Patrick Henry, and others of our Founding Fathers. It is true that they had developed a better understanding of freedom than had any political group before them, and I respect them highly for their revolutionary and magnificent concepts of inalienable rights which come from God instead of government. But even so, they still believed that liberty permits some men to use violence to control the actions and to own the production of other men. Our Forefathers believed, of course, that these controls over other men should be permitted only if they were sanctioned by a government based on the democratic or republican processes. But