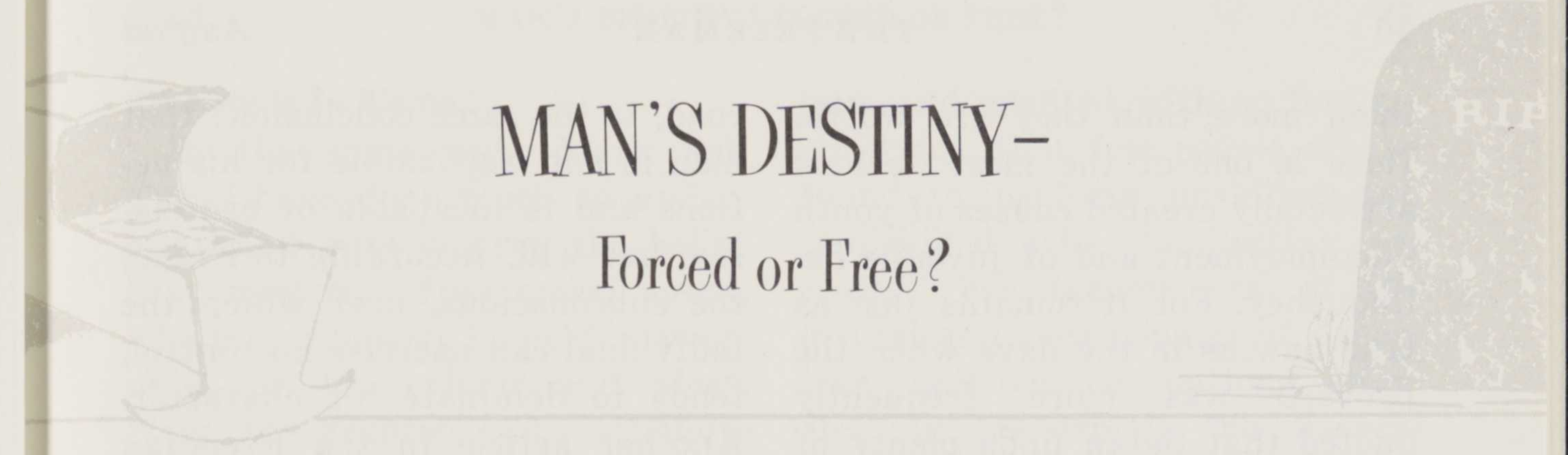
hundred persons invent, create, and add must not only replace the wear that goes on year by year, but must be shared with the immigrants. The additions to the population will add to the average tools per worker only after they have themselves saved and added to that society more than $20,000 worth of effective tools in use. Until their contribution reaches $20,000, they are in this sense economic parasites on the society they have joined.

How soon will it be until the neighbor's newborn babe can add the required $20,000 to the nation's tools-in-use? That is our question in its essential form. We could go on down the street to other neighbors' newborn babes, but that merely compounds our question in magnitude rather than to change it in essence.

The merchant selling diapers may do quite well for a while when this goes on and on in the nation, but only at the even greater loss of business by someone selling other things which the parents cannot now buy instead. Soon, by reason of discouragement if not bankruptcy, they will have to close up shop and go into business selling diapers, or something. The advantage to the diaper salesman then disappears, and he is ready to read some dusty article like this to see why his forecast of hope from help by the storks went afoul. He is then ready to ponder the question which should have occurred to him at the outset: If population increases cause prosperity per se, why were countries like China and India in persistent poverty over untold centuries?

In a country of extremely sparse population, special circumstances can exist whereby an increase in population can cause enough increase in the efficiency of use of tools they already have to result in rising welfare for a time. But this is not the situation in our nation, or perhaps any nation in the world today.

In summary we may, therefore, herald with goodwill the coming into our society of newborn babes, but the joy should not be because they will automatically bring with them any sort of economic welfare. When they come, they will not bring with them the $20,000 of capital equipment needed to carry their share of productive means now operating in our society. Each of them will dilute the ratio of tools to persons, which is the only real base for prosperity. Each of them, or someone else, will have to save and provide more than $20,000 of tools before their presence will have the effect of increasing the average prosperity of the nation. ◈



MAN'S DESTINY–

Forced or Free?

WILLIAM HENRY CHAMBERLIN

THE UNDERLYING basis of a free political system and a free economy is moral. Unless man is inwardly free – able to distinguish between good and evil, right and wrong, capable of making intelligent and prudent decisions in his own interest on his own account – the whole fabric of free institutions rests on a foundation of sand. This conception of the self-reliant individual, able within reasonable limitations to shape his own destiny, with the choice between success and failure mainly in his own hands, has been under heavy attack from many modern theorists.

They would substitute for the self-reliant individual who helps himself the image of a semi-robot who must be helped and guided in every step he takes by the state and its proliferating welfare agencies. Consider, for example, how America's young people are wrapped in a thick wadding of cotton-wool protective legislation.

From the colonial and frontier days down to the more recent times, when a tide of mostly poor immigrants from Europe swelled the population, America's national success story has been an amalgam of the individual success stories of boys, born in poor families, who started at an early age to help their parents and themselves by taking any available odd jobs, combining this with school and college study, and later becoming more or less prominent business and professional men. Looking back to their boyhood, these men almost invariably recognize that this early experience in work and self-reliance was immensely beneficial to them in adult life.

But today's well-meaning lawmakers have added so many minimum wage and other restrictions that it is impossible, in many cases, for an employer to hire young people without paying

Mr. Chamberlin is a skilled observer and reporter of economic and political conditions at home and abroad. He has written a number of books, has lectured widely, and is a contributor to *The Wall Street Journal* and many nationally known magazines.