

trading is killed off, to the detriment of both buyers and sellers. Then further controls over the affairs of workers and producers are likely to be added in order to obfuscate the new difficulties brought about by the first injustice. Error is piled on error in an inverted pyramid of interferences, until eventually the monument of mistakes must be dismantled or collapse under its own unstable weight. Whenever a false premise is adopted for medication, the "cure" is likely to aggravate the condition; then there is the temptation to apply more and more of it under the assumption that the dosage was inadequate or that the area of application was too narrow. Nothing—not even the famous guinea pig—is as prolific as controls in the hands of political authorities, during so-called emergencies.

In the light of the previous analysis, enacting stand-by controls of wages and prices amounts to having a medicine cabinet stocked with injustice to be used in times of emergency; to creating surpluses and shortages, rather than balanced distribution, when emergencies arise; to giving a poison as an antidote for itself. If justice is strength and injustice is weakness, it amounts to prescribing weakness at precisely those times when strength is most needed. Goodness and justice, it would seem, are luxuries to be tolerated during an indulgent binge; but when the going gets rough and sobering realities must be faced,

it seems that the emergency bottle should contain *injustice*.

HISTORICAL FAILURE OF CONTROLS

FOR THOSE who find the proof of the pudding only in the eating, history affords continuous and ample evidence, since the first known price control laws were enacted in Babylonia 3,800 years ago. They failed of their purpose, as has every similar attempt in recorded history since that time.

It is ever the same. When a government inflates the money or some other cause pushes prices upward, attempts are made to conceal the symptoms, rather than to attack inflation at its source or otherwise get at the root-cause. The attempt is made to adjust the scale on the thermometer by edict, rather than to cure the fever that causes the mercury to rise—so to speak. The treatment applied to the fever victim is to throw him into a deep-freeze.

NATIONAL SOCIALISM VIA CONTROLS

THE EVIDENCE against controls, even during emergencies, is so overwhelming—by logic, and as revealed in the historical record—that one wonders how their enactment has gained so much credence in this "land of the free." Could it be that we have been so busy manning the machines of physical defense that an intellectual mass