

a liberal society. Such programs are collectivism. The government collects from all who produce. Then, after bureaucracy has taken its heavy toll, the remainder may be distributed to consumers, in proportion to lack-of-productivity, or graduated to the advantage of the least productive.

The Master Fraud

No government, anywhere in the world, at any time, ever perpetrated upon its citizenry a greater fraud than is practiced in the United States of America today. Whether the practice is by intent or in ignorance does not alter its evil consequences. The "welfare state" in all of its ramifications is collectivism, exactly the same kind of collectivism advocated by those found guilty of communism in American courts — exactly the same kind of collectivism practiced in England, a country which the American government nurses as an ally in a cold war against Moscow where exactly the same kind of collectivism is practiced. Differences of degree are not differences in kind.

This inconceivable fraud is allowed to continue only because it is so inconceivable — especially to a people who have thought of their government as existing for protection of individual liberties, including the right of a person to the product of his own labor.

A government can afford "security" to part of its citizens only by granting to the favored ones a license to plunder the product and property of others. Each dollar of price-support money paid as social security to farmers is such a license. Each dollar of public housing construction is such a license. Each dollar of tariff protection afforded American industrialists is such a license. Each dollar of federal aid to education is such a license. Each dollar of Marshall Plan aid is such a

license. Each dollar of soldier bonus is such a license. Each dollar of federal pension, including all the federal "benefits" of social security, is such a license. Each dollar devoted to military preparedness against any "foreign" system — the principles of which are being simultaneously embraced in this nation — is such a license. All these, and many more, are licenses to consume, licenses issued against goods and services which are limited in supply in accordance with the incentive for individual production and thrift.

While Rome Burns

These are the dollars of deficit financing which are destroying the private ownership of property in the United States. These inflationary dollars destroy the value of other dollars which individuals have saved in the form of bank deposits, government bonds, life insurance policies and annuities — private effort to conserve a part of the earnings of productive years as security against inability to produce in old age. Every additional dollar of such "security" peddled by the federal government means less security behind every dollar's worth of production accomplished and of saving attempted by individuals.

The social security system is nothing more than an ingenious scheme of direct taxation upon production — a way of pulling a part of the product of each worker into the immediate service of the federal bureaucracy with a minimum of resistance from the hoodwinked victim. Perhaps the sustaining hope of the victim is that when he attains the age 65 he, too, may be allowed to join the counterfeit gang — take unto himself the right to rob the next generation of "his share" of their productivity. When the aged become robbers, who is to guide the morality of a people?