



"If we had no social security, many people would go hungry."

OF some forty-five professors attending the dinner meeting at which I spoke, the two or three who might have agreed with the free exchange, private property, limited government philosophy kept discreetly silent. All of the questioning, particularly by one professor of economics, was deliberately antagonistic—not at all in the spirit of inquiry.

Following this meeting, I went to an auditorium to address the Student Forum. Some of the professors also attended.

Upon the conclusion of my address, one student said, "As I understand the extent to which you would limit government, there would be no place for social security." Then he asked, "Wouldn't that bring a great hardship to many people?"

"Let me answer your question," I replied, "by going back to October 1948," and I told him the following story:

Just a month before the Truman-Dewey election, I asked a chance acquaintance if he thought the rapid trend toward socialism would abate, should the Republicans win.

"Rapid trend toward socialism? What do you mean by rapid trend toward socialism?"

I named a dozen items, including compulsory social security.

"Do you mean that you do not favor so-

cial security? *What would you do, let 'em starve?*"

"You are as old as I, are you not, Mr. G.?"

Being considerably older, he replied in the affirmative.

"Then you were around when Mr. Roosevelt took office?"

"Yes, I was."

"Did we have any compulsory social security previous to 1933?"

"No, I guess not."

"Tell me, did you ever know of anyone in America who starved prior to that date?"

Mr. G. acknowledged that he had never heard of anyone in America who had starved prior to F.D.R.

That was the end of my story to the student. But the professor of economics, who had led the antagonistic questioning at the dinner session, could not let this pass. Shouted he, "I have seen a dozen starve."

*"Do you mean to tell me, professor, that you actually stood by and watched a human being starve to death?"*

The professor, of course, had never witnessed a human being starve to death, and the students were well aware of the fact. Even a gangster, who would murder a competitor, could not stand by and watch a kitten, let alone a human being, starve to death.

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