If this century-old strategy of Marx—what today we call "creeping socialism"—sounds familiar to you in the light of current events in America, you will understand why I am disturbed. You see, I had believed that communism would come by violence. Now I discovered that the goal was to be achieved *not* by *bullets,* but by *ballots; not* by illegal, but by legal, means; *not* by a few evil persons, but *by vote of the majority.*

This throws a new light on the problem. It appears that in our struggle against communism, we Americans may well be choosing the wrong battlefield, at the wrong time, and against the wrong enemy. It may be that while we are fighting communist armies thousands of miles away, communism itself is marching steadily forward under the stimulus of easy triumphs here at home.

COMMUNISTIC IDEAS

In view of vows of fidelity by communists throughout the world, we must assume that THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO is still authentic communist doctrine. Let us, then, examine the ten "planks" of their platform in some detail.

OWNERSHIP OF LAND

The first plank is government ownership of land. Now, it is true that our government has always owned land. But early American policy was to get this land into the hands of private owners as quickly as possible. Sometimes it was

sold at very low prices. Sometimes it was given away. But always the idea was to get it into the hands of private owners, whether it be a railroad, a college, an individual homesteader, or others.

That practice is followed no longer. The policy now is for government to take land from private owners and, in strict accord with Marxist doctrine, to use it "for public purposes". The public purpose may be an irrigation or flood control district, a Tennessee Valley Authority, a Bonneville power project, forest land, an oil reserve, or any one of a number of others. The Federal Government now owns 24% of all the land within the continental limits of the United States, and its holdings are increasing steadily. During the past thirty years 45 million acres of land have been taken from private owners by the Federal Government, which now owns more than 69% of the area of Arizona, 71% of Utah, and 85% of Nevada. Most of the current acquisitions are east of the Mississippi River. There isn't too much left to acquire west of the Mississippi. And the trend is steadily upward. The claim of dominant interest in the tide-lands, always until now considered the property of the States, is a striking example of current policy.

As stated, the Federal Government now owns one-fourth of all the land. How long will it be before it owns one-half—and then all of it?