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Hamilton, Missouri  
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Mr. Amon G. Carter,  
President and Publisher, Fort Worth Star-Telegram,  
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you for the editorials which you forwarded to me under the headings, "The Clear Path of American Freedom" and "Growing Menace of Communism in U. S." I have read these editorials with the keenest of interest and with a deep sense of the seriousness of the situation. Born and nurtured as this country was, under Divine Guidance, I do not believe it is destined to go down into the slavery of Communism, but I do feel that every American must be made to realize the seriousness of existing conditions, and arouse himself to exert his influence to ward off this threatening evil.

I am enclosing herewith copy of a talk entitled, "The American Way" which I have been giving during the past few months on every occasion where it was appropriate to the kind of group I had been invited to address. It was delivered before the Rotary Club of New York on August twenty-ninth. I am to give this talk before the Rotary Club of St. Louis on November twenty-first; the Rotary Club of Minneapolis on November twenty-ninth, and the Rotary Club of Philadelphia on December eighteenth. I have delivered it to many smaller Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, as well as various other organizations. I think every one of us must do all in his power to make the nation come to a realization of the impending evil, for we as Americans are naturally easy-going and too much inclined to take things for granted and believe that "it can't happen here".

With my kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,



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## THE AMERICAN WAY

The subject of my talk, "The American Way," is rather an ambitious one to attempt to cover in the few minutes which you have kindly put at my disposal. At best I can but cover a few of the high points, so you will please forgive the omission of many things that time will not permit me to explore with you.

There have been many definitions of the American Way, but one that I believe is especially apt has been given by DeWitt Emery, President of the National Small Business Men's Association. It is furnished in simple, down-to-earth language and I will read it so as to be sure of quoting it exactly:

"Our American Way of Life is made up of many things -- bath tubs and automobiles; big cities and small towns; farms and victory gardens; mammoth steel mills and village machine shops; colossal educational institutions and the little red school house beside the road; churches and hospitals; railroads and air lines; chewing gum and ice cream; department stores and crossroad general stores; specialty shops and beauty parlors; pool rooms and race tracks; Hollywood, Broadway and the High School play; laughter and sorrow; eagerness and despair; and people - millions of all kinds of people - gathered together from the four corners of the earth, drawn by the magnet of Freedom, Opportunity and Justice.

"Our American Way of Life provides each individual an opportunity to go as far and climb as high as his willingness to work, his skill, ingenuity and integrity will carry him.

"Our American Way of Life recognizes that the individual has the right to work when and where he wishes, the right to worship as he pleases, to speak his mind on any subject, to meet with his fellow men for any peaceful purpose, to be secure in his possessions and to have his day in a free court. It recognizes that the individual is superior to the State, that our public officials are servants of the people and that they derive their just powers from the consent of the people.

"These things taken together created the atmosphere of freedom and an economic climate which made possible in the United States the greatest production of wealth in the history of the world and the establishment of a standard of living which is the envy of all other nations in the world.

"In short, the American Way of Life is the greatest blessing ever bestowed on mankind any place on the face of the earth."

And how did this glorious American Way which DeWitt Emery has so well described, come about? To answer that question, I ask you to bear with me while I briefly touch on some of the world's history.

Two streams of thought united to produce the American Republic. One stream took its rise in the teachings of Socrates and Aristotle. These men taught that the human is and should be free; that a man has the inalienable right to think for himself, and should not be coerced intellectually. Aristotle warned that democracy can degenerate into tyranny. The demagogue, with his ability to excite the passions of the crowd with vague promises of material things, may lure them away from freedom.

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This is exactly what happened in ancient Rome. The greatest exponent of Greek thought in the Roman Empire was Marcus Cicero, who as Consul of the Republic of Rome crushed the Catiline Rebellion when the left-wing forces of the Empire sought to establish a collective economy. The speeches of Cicero's opponents read exactly like the demagogic harangues of the present day. He held them off for awhile, but they finally defeated him under the adroit manipulation of one of the shrewdest politicians who ever lived, one Julius Caesar.

Caesar told the people he would give them anything they wanted without their working for it, and they believed him. He instituted a planned economy - in fact, one planned economy after the other, because each of them in turn failed - until there came a time when twenty per cent of the population of Rome was on the public payroll. (No wonder Caesar stayed in office!) Taxes became so high that the farmers, unable to pay them, had no alternative than to allow their farms to revert to the state. This exorbitant taxation ruined business. Thousands of formerly prosperous merchants became mendicants upon the streets of Rome.

The economic confusion deepened, currency inflation developed, and there was vast unemployment. Collective farming was attempted, but it was impossible to induce the people to work because the government had taken care of them so long and so completely that they had lost the habits of labor. A deterioration in character followed. Men who once roared like lions for liberty now bleated like sheep for security.

As a result, a darkness settled down upon the world, known historically as the dark ages. It was not broken for fifteen hundred years, when a flickering light dawned on the hillsides of Fiesole overlooking Florence, in Italy. Men had discovered how to decipher the ancient classics, and once again free thought was flowing with refreshing power into men's minds. Ancient truths came to life.

Such freedom-loving men as Roger Williams and Thomas Hooker brought this stream of thought to Rhode Island and Connecticut. Came finally a day when a man named Jefferson, with a golden pen, wrote into an immortal Declaration of Independence, the principle that all men are created free and equal. The classical stream of freedom, with its emphasis upon the dignity of the human mind, had at length washed upon these shores.

The other stream began generations ago when a man named Moses led a nation of slaves into the wilderness. Speaking to them from some great rock, he told them that God had revealed unto him that they were not meant to be slaves, but free men, because they had been created in the image of God Himself. Moses told them to look at their wrists, upon which the shackles had left their mark; to feel of their backs, where were raised welts caused by the overseer's whip. He admonished them that never again were they to bow the back or bend the knee or lift up the hand suppliantly for the shackles, but were to stand on their feet as free men, touched by the splendor of God.

He admonished the Jewish father to tell the story of human dignity and freedom every evening to his son as he sat by the tent door. This they did across many generations, until finally came walking into human history a great sun-crowned Man named Jesus Christ, a Man with a marvelous intellect who told men that they were the children of God, that they should know the truth and the truth would make

them free; that they were spiritual beings in a spiritual universe.

This ferment finally exploded, and little ships pushed out from every harbor in Europe across the great deep, coming to anchor finally upon these shores. Here they set up four houses - first, the dwelling house in which they might find shelter from the elements; second, the Church house, wherein they might worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences; third, the schoolhouse, where they could educate their children to grapple with the problems of a free society; and fourth, the legislative house, where the representatives of free men would make the laws and elect one of their number to administer the state. This administrator, as James Monroe put it, not to hold office as a "right", but as a "representative by appointment, temporarily, from the people."

All of these houses were vitally important, but the basic house of all was the Church house, where continually was it emphasized that because of his spiritual heritage a man has certain inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

These streams carried upon their bosoms the most precious possessions of the human race, and their confluence created the most unique social and political experiment that the world has ever known.

The economic system which evolved from the merging of these two streams, we have come to call the "free enterprise system." As in the case of the American Way, there have been many definitions of Free Enterprise, but I think it can be summed up briefly as an economic system which gives to those citizens living under it, freedom to work, to keep part of what they produce, to save and to risk those savings or profits.

In my humble opinion, the pre-eminent position which the United States occupies today is in large degree due to the fact that this nation has operated under this system of Free Enterprise. In making that statement, I am not overlooking the fact that God Almighty endowed this country with bounteous natural resources. But it took free enterprise to develop and harness those natural resources. Men operating under free enterprise cleared the forests, built the railroads, took the ore out of the ground, tilled the soil, and did the thousand and one other things which added together brought this nation to its place in the sun among the nations of the world.

Men operating under free enterprise developed the inventive genius which has given us the many necessities, luxuries and semi-luxuries which we enjoy today--- things which are the envy of the entire world. To mention just a few of these things, there are the telephone, the automobile, electricity, with all of its accompanying gadgets that have made our lives more comfortable and pleasant, radio, mechanical refrigeration. I could go on and on but you know these things as well as I do.

These things which in the rest of the world are only the prized possessions of the very rich, are owned and enjoyed by a large majority of the American people, irrespective of their station in life. It is my sincere conviction that this broader distribution in America of the things which contribute so much to our creature comfort and enjoyment of life, are due entirely to the free enterprise system.

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Now, it might be well for me at this juncture to state quite clearly that I do not believe our free enterprise system is perfect. On the contrary, it has many flaws. It has not and does not always operate on "all six." There have been great inequities developed under it -- it has bogged down badly at times.

At the same time, I submit that over the years, we have been greatly improving and refining the free enterprise system. As its flaws became glaringly apparent, steps have been taken to correct them. Still far from perfection, nevertheless with each passing decade the free enterprise system has made for a more equitable distribution of its products among all classes of the American people. Despite its imperfections, it is the best economic system that has as yet been devised in all the history of the world.

Government statistics show that the share of the workers in what they produce, has increased with each passing year until during the period from 1929 to 1936 inclusive, out of every dollar of net income for division between stockholders and workers in industry, labor took 83 cents, while capital and management took the remaining 17 cents, part of which went to management for salaries, another part to stockholders for dividends, and the balance was put into reserve to meet future contingencies and for expansion. Unfortunately, complete figures are not available for the past few years, but the figures of many individual corporations which are available, indicate that labor's share is still moving upward.

Statistics in connection with the United States Steel Corporation, for example, are very revealing. From 1902 (the year it was organized) to 1909 inclusive, a period of eight years, its workers got 64.7% of the net income dollar; in the next decade from 1910 to 1919, the workers' share was 70.6%; from 1920 to 1929, 81.5%; and from 1930 to 1939, 94.4%.

The United States Steel Corporation is not an exception to the general rule, and I have used it as an illustration only because it is a corporation which is so well known, and which has been subjected to so much criticism in recent years by the anti-business group holding forth at Washington.

So much for the past performances of the free enterprise system. The record is there for all to read, who will take the time and put forth the effort to read it. Its strength and its weaknesses are an open book. But, despite its overall splendid performance, there are some who would have us discard it, to take on some other system.

As you will have gathered from my remarks so far, I am thoroughly sold on the free enterprise system. Also, I hope you will grant that I am not fanatical about it -- that I recognize its faults as well as its virtues. I believe, however, that those virtues far out-number its faults -- that we can correct those faults; and I want this nation to retain it so that it can continue its beneficences on behalf of all of the American people. I can see no system looming on the horizon that can come anywhere near taking its place. Having looked over the various economies that are being suggested to take the place of free enterprise, I find that all of them are woefully lacking. Most of them already have been tried and found to be absolutely inadequate. Others, as yet untried, are so impractical as not to merit consideration.

It would be sheer stupidity on my part to ignore the fact that the free enterprise system is under fire -- that there is a definite, well-conceived, well-organized plan to de-throne it. I am willing to concede that many of those who advocate its overthrow are just as sincere as I am in advocating its retention, but I do think that they are misinformed or misguided and that if, God forbid, they should have their way, all of us will eventually be the poorer thereby.

For quite some time, and especially during the past twelve years, the trend has been to put the government more and more into business. Business and industrial executives have been, so to speak, in the dog house. Free enterprise has been hampered by legislation and directives emanating from Washington, inspired by the anti-business group, that group which hates all business and business men.

Fortunately, when the Japs struck their cowardly blow at Pearl Harbor, the Federal administration did a right-about-face, was astute enough to bury for the time being, its animosity toward industrial executives. A hurry-up call was sent out and business men were let out of the dog house - in fact, they were coaxed to come out. It is hardly necessary for me to recount what a grand job of war production industry and the workers of this nation did. In a period of three years and eight months, free men, working under free management, and operating under the free enterprise system, accomplished almost the impossible. When this country was faced with the greatest emergency in its history, free enterprise stepped into the breach, and rose to the occasion, to the great discomfort of the fellow with the funny little mustache and the twisted brain, Mr. Adolf Hitler, alias Schickleguber, and his oriental pal, Emperor Hirohito.

I am greatly perturbed, as should be all of you assembled here this evening, that there is even a remote possibility that we will throw away the system which made us the great nation we are and which has enabled us to defeat the enemies who would have destroyed us.

Laws are being proposed before the Congress of the United States, cleverly designed to undermine the free enterprise system. When one delves below the surface, one soon realizes that they are smug schemes to take industry out of the hands of private individuals and private companies and turn it over to the government, lock, stock and barrel.

Our progress in the fields of technology, chemistry, and other sciences, has been due solely to the fact that thousands of individuals have labored in shops and laboratories, many of whom were spurred on by the hope of inventing or discovering something that would benefit themselves financially. We can rejoice that many succeeded, and despite the fact that their impelling motives may have been selfish and that they were enriched, millions of us also have been enriched along with them by the things which they created. There has been much inveighing against the making of profits. Glib disciples of socialism prate about production for use and not for profit. It is my firm conviction that if the profit-urge is ever removed, inventive genius will be stifled, if not destroyed entirely.

One of the vicious legislative proposals before the Congress is the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill. Here is a real threat to the American Way of Life, and an attempt to put our American doctors behind the "8-ball.". Briefly, this measure proposes that the Surgeon-General of the Public Health Service have full power and

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authority to (1) hire doctors and establish rates of pay, possibly of all doctors; (2) establish fee schedules for services; (3) establish qualifications for specialists; (4) determine the number of individuals for whom any physician may provide service; (5) determine arbitrarily what hospitals or clinics may provide services for patients.

As far as I can determine there is little or no public demand for socialistic practices in the field of medicine. There can be no possible excuse for arbitrarily placing men of science, engaged in human welfare work, under political domination; it would be but a mere step further and scarcely more inconceivable, to place all religion, all education, all industry, all business activities, all art and culture in the hands of a few unbridled bureaucrats.

This Wagner-Murray-Dingell proposal strikes me as just another Utopian scheme to delude the American people into believing that one can get something for nothing. It is a further part of what appears to be a carefully calculated plan to plunge this liberty-loving nation into a totalitarian economy -- the very thing we waged a war, costly in lives and dollars, to stamp out abroad.

The American medical system was one of the wonders of this war. It was not developed or fostered by the state. It was the result of enterprise and initiative of American doctors who, over a long period of years, were fired with the determination to make American medicine supreme. When this nation was plunged into war, our American doctors were fully equipped and prepared to cope with the gigantic task which confronted them.

American medicine probably gives more actual free service to those who need it than do the so-called medical systems of foreign countries which load the cost of their free (?) service on to the individual in the form of special taxes.

Why should we in this country even consider disrupting the greatest medical system in the world to copy experiments of nations which cannot come anywhere near to matching ours in medical progress? Our American doctors practice preventive as well as curative medicine and in addition they are counsellors and friends to their patients. Their services are rendered to individuals as such, whose ills and problems and needs are individual, distinct and confidential. They work with their judgment and years of specialized training as well as with their hands. They watch clocks only to be on time and at hand to repair broken bodies and save human lives. They are entitled to just and adequate rewards for their devotion to humanitarian principles and practices. Their fees never have been and cannot possibly be regulated on a portal-to-portal basis. They do not get time and a half or double time. A doctor cannot go on strike, except against his own best interests and his conscience.

Nothing could be more contrary to the American Way than this abortive Wagner-Murray-Dingell proposal -- nothing could be more contrary to the ideologies and concepts upon which this nation was built. My friends, if you don't want to put yourselves in the untenable position of having to crawl to some petty politician or ward-heeler to obtain the services of a physician or hospitalization, register your protest immediately with your Senators and Congressmen against this Wagner-Murray-Dingell proposal.

You will please pardon me for having dwelt at such length upon this proposed legislation. I have done so because it is typical, it is part of the pattern of those who would destroy our economic system of free enterprise and, along with it, the American Way. It falls in the groove of the false thinking which has invaded the minds of all too many of our people.

Now, what has caused this great change of mind regarding basic American principles? How have so many of a formerly self-reliant people come to the point where they are ready to trade their freedom for what they delude themselves into believing would be security? Why is there such a clamor to install government as Master of the people rather than have it continue to be the Servant of the people, as was intended by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

Gentlemen, let me suggest an answer to the questions I have just propounded. You will recall that early in my remarks I said that "two streams of thought united to produce the American Republic," and later on I said that "their confluence created the most unique social and political experiment that the world has ever known." Those two streams were the material and the spiritual. For over a century and a half they flowed together and thus flowing in perfect harmony, produced this great nation.

But in recent years there has been a severe let-down in the spiritual life of America. The Church, the most important of the four houses set up by the pioneering colonists, no longer occupies its former prominent position. The waters of the spiritual stream have become muddy and have contaminated the waters of the material stream. All too many Americans have turned away from God to worship material gods. As long as the two streams flowed together, pure and unsullied, this nation moved forward. Now, with the pollution of the one, the other is in jeopardy, and therein lies the danger to the future welfare of this nation.

In my opinion that is the true diagnosis of what ails this nation today. What is the prescription? What is the treatment which must be put into effect to heal this malady? We must call back the Master Physician, for He alone can guide us into a solution of our problems.

We must organize our own individual lives, giving ourselves wholeheartedly to God. We must root out selfishness from our hearts. In other words, we must practice the Golden Rule as enunciated by the Master on the hillsides of Judea two thousand years ago.

It will be helpful to ourselves and to others if we identify ourselves with groups whose purpose it is to find their way in a difficult and complex world through the practical application of the teachings of Christ to every phase of their daily lives. In every age some have lived consecrated lives but the number has been small in comparison with the whole. Only as the "lump" becomes "leavened", and as individuals in sufficient numbers consistently live the principles of Christ, can the world's problems come to a peaceful and happy solution.

December 17, 1945