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Fr. Higgins Says:

Catholic Ties of a Social Order

The President's Economic Report of the First

cent is at once a very encouraging and a very

reassuring document. It is encouraging because

it informs us that "Americans

today live in a richer and more

productive economy, and are

enjoying its benefits more equi-

talesly than ever before. In

economic history, however,

because it warns us very frankly

that our unprecedented prosperity

"must not be a cause for

idle self-congratulation. In-

stead, as it is based on "tem-

porary props" which can be

expected to weaken in the

near future.

The President admonishes us again in July,

as he did in January, that it is our continuing

responsibility to "adjust production, prices, and incomes to

the requirements of a peacetime economy at maxi-

mum production and employment—and to do

so in time." In other words, the emphasis

again is on the fact that there is a very intimate

relationship among prices, profits, wages and

incomes generally; and that if one or other of

these factors gets too far out of balance, the

entire economy will inevitably suffer. The

giddy party at the present time, according to

the President and his advisers, is price.

At all, the President's second report, which

was submitted to the Congress in accordance

with the terms of the Employment Act of 1946

(the so-called Full Employment Act), is a mas-

terpiece of economic analysis. If the Employ-

ment Act had provided for nothing more than

the issuance of these Presidential reports on the

economic state of the nation, its enactment

would have been a great step forward.

It is to be regretted, however, that the Presi-

dent again skirts around the most important

problem in all of this discussion on the rela-

tionship among prices, profits, wages and in-

comes generally—the problem, namely, of how

to arrive at that delicate balance among these

factors which, in the opinion of the President's

report, is so essential to the achievement of full

employment.

In the present report, as in the January docu-

ment, the President is content to tell us that

"no individual, no organization, and no branch

of government can be absolved of responsibility

for its part in this process." In other words,

all of us are in this thing together; and we

stand or fall together.

There is no indication in the President's mes-

sage, however, as to how we ought to organize

our resources so as to carry out most effectively

our mutual responsibility for the general wel-

fare. On the contrary, it is taken for granted

that economic adjustment to changing condi-

tions is, in a true enterprise economy, accom-

plished largely through a multitude of volun-

tary decisions by business management, farm-

ers, and labor." Presumably, each of these

groups is to act on its own in response merely

to the dictates of its own conscience. It is fur-

ther assumed that there is no alternative as

between a "free plan" evolved at the seat of

government and promulgated by government au-

thority, on the one hand, and the unorganized

(and necessarily haphazard) cooperation of the

various economic groups on the other hand.

"Belief in the free enterprise system," the

report continues, "as expressed in the Employ-

ment Act, stems from the conviction that the

processes of dynamic economic life are so com-

plex and conditions change so fast that a

multitude of local decisions and flexible re-

visions are indispensable to economic health and

vigorous growth."

The phrase "as expressed in the Employment

Act" is the qualification which saves the Presi-

dent. He seems to be saying that, in carrying

out the purposes of the act, he is obliged to

operate under the particular version of free

enterprise intended by the sponsors of the law.

Nevertheless it is respectfully suggested that

the economic philosophy expressed in the above

Welcome to Titoslovakia!



Ad We See It By Dan Patriah

Just suppose the parochial school around the

corner was swept by flames and a call to the

Fire Department brought this answer:

"Sorry, but we cannot use apparatus pur-

chased and men paid by public funds for ser-

vices to religious institutions."

Or suppose a call from the same school to

the Police Department asking for a traffic of-

ficer to lead a few youngsters across a danger-

ous intersection brought a flat refusal on the

same basis.

Fantastic, you say? Perhaps, yet both an-

swers can be accepted as the logical conclusion

of a dangerous line of thought being taken in

America today by those avid proponents of

church-state separation whose enthusiasm at

times borders on open bigotry.

They have gone to such lengths that a few

responsible Protestant leaders have warned

against the dangers inherent in such a prac-

tice.

The sorry record of the recent steps being

taken in behalf of so-called church-state sepa-

ration is quite revealing.

It shows the National Education Association,

comprising the vast bulk of public school teach-

ers, shouting down a move to equalize health

and bus services for non-public school children.

It shows practically every Protestant sect in

the nation bemoaning the United States Su-

preme Court decision on the New Jersey bus

case as a blow which has weakened the ram-

parts between church and state in this country.

It shows an atheist mother going to the

portals of the Supreme Court to "defend" her

son against the infiltration of religious training

under the released-time system now in vogue.

Only last week, we witnessed the spectacle

of a Buffalo attorney attempting to throw a

legal wrench into a program designed solely

to provide additional educational facilities to

veterans on the GI Bill of Rights.

The State of New York had allocated \$128,000

to Canisius College to renovate an old hospital

building into quarters for incoming veteran

students. The attorney tried to block the move

by insisting that the allocation, in effect, in-

volved the use of public funds for an institu-

tion operated under religious auspices. For-

tunately, the attorney's request was rejected by

the courts.

In arguing their case, the proponents of the

various measures described above switch the

spotlight from the child where it