

# IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM

## FAMILY, CHURCH AND FREE ENTERPRISE

by David Winfield

"Atheism is the greatest evil in the world. It strikes at the foundation of all that we hold dear." This was Dr. Benson's immediate reaction to the dangers of "atheistic Communism." He also felt that the church should come before the state in the hearts of the people because of the extreme importance of religion in the modern day.

"Do you equate 'atheistic Communism' and 'creeping Socialism'?" I queried. "Basically the two are the same," he replied. They both espouse the subjection of the individual to the state. The objective of Socialism and Communism is the complete socialization of resources. Production and distribution will be in the hands of the central government. Initiative will be destroyed.

### FIRST STEP TO "ATHEISTIC COMMUNISM?"

Our God given freedom will be taken from us. "Creeping socialism" is the first step on the road to Communism. Therefore it is as bad as the result.



### THORNS FROM THE ROSE

It used to be that no matter what the times, the farmer could live off the land. But now the farmer is no longer his own best consumer, he's somebody else's. He's a producer in the capitalist economy—a supermarketeer. He's Big business. If we are to believe Mr. Benson, he's bigger and better than ever—like the movies—and he's one "good deal" poorer as well. Capitalized farmers are as destructive to the individual as collective farms, for besides giving him the illusion of freedom, they have incorporated him. Like a well-known tobacco, he's "sold American."

But is "creeping socialism" necessarily the first step on the road to Communism? If a people hold their freedom, their religion and their family as the basis of society, will they let these be snatched from their fingers? Socialism is not a corollary to Communism if the government protects the interests of the people and the people protect their own interests by taking an active part in the government.

When asked his opinion on a limited planned economy Dr. Benson re-

### BUT "SOME PLANNING" IS NECESSARY

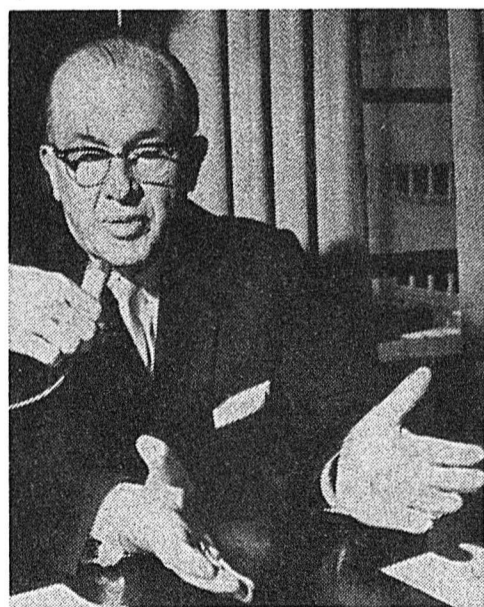
plied that "some planning of the economy is necessary." He continued that the "interests of the people must come first, otherwise their freedom will be jeopardized by the governments assuming more and more power.

Surely then, there are certain items of economic control that must rest with the governments in Ottawa and in Washington. Britain still has elements of socialism after a Conservative government has been in power for more than ten years. Is Britain lacking in any of the freedoms? Is she closer to Communism now than she was ten years ago?

Dr. Benson was then asked if centralization is such a dangerous element in government. His reply was immediate: "Services that are needed locally should be performed locally, not federally." His reason was that local government is the guardian of the people. The people can watch

### "LOSE SOMETHING IN THE ROUND TRIP TO WASHINGTON"

their tax dollars being spent and can see the business of government going on before them. He quoted: "the tax dollar can't make the round trip to Washington without losing something of its value."



His last statement is true. However, is it absolutely necessary to break our government into little factions dotted all over the map? Surely, if there are more people to assume control there will be more wages to pay, more buildings to maintain, more people to make mistakes, as well as more people to create more redtape. The result will be a rise in taxes.

If a complete breakdown of government occurred, if it was made completely local, anarchy would be the ultimate result. However, I'm sure Dr. Benson doesn't advocate anarchy. I do agree, complete cen-

### SOCIALIST, BUT FREE ENTERPRISE?

tralization is bad just as complete de-centralization is bad. But where is the happy medium?

"Unions historically are socialist institutions. Do you feel that they have too much power? Do you think that they should be abolished?" He smiled and said that unions are socialist institutions but that they are a part of our free, competitive enterprise system. Therefore, unions should not be abolished.

There is a tendency, he continued, for the unions to assume too much power, but in the United States the workers are protected by state "Right to Work" laws. "A man should not have to join to get a job," he emphasized. But a man should be able to join a union if he wishes to protect himself from any injustices.

### CAN THE TWO IDEOLOGIES LIVE SIDE BY SIDE?

I feel that there is a danger of unions assuming too much power, and thereby controlling the government either directly or indirectly. This is where the danger lies. If they do ever reach this stage our freedom will be threatened.

We asked Dr. Benson if he thought Communism was adaptable to change and if therefore the two political ideologies of east and west can live side by side. Benson felt that Communist leaders are recognizing the weaknesses of the system, especially in agriculture.

"Any system which deprives people of the freedom of choice and of initiative is destined to be a failure." He gave the example of the Russian farmers who have their own plots of land. Apparently the yield per acre is far above that of the yield on the communal farms because the surplus goes into the pockets of the farmers in the form of money.

"Free enterprise is not perfect," he stated. "However, it does provide an incentive for a man to better his position."

Dr. Benson did not say whether or not the two systems will be able to exist together. He has confidence, however, that the present situation isn't as black as it looks. He said that we should strive to understand one another and strive to co-exist without compromising our position in any way.

### "GIVE MEN HOPE AND DESIRE"

Benson feels that the future of the world lies in the family, the church and free enterprise. As the basic unit of society the family must help to unite the State by remaining a basic element of the state.

He emphasized that the church must give men the hope and the desire to live. It must provide them with strength to brave the trying times that are before us.

Benson feels that free enterprise must be the basis of the economy. It must be left on its own "to do what free enterprise can and is willing to do," and to assure man of his God-given freedom as a means of combatting Communism.