

STARS ON PARADE



WARNER BAXTER

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GRETA GARBO
WAS AT ONE TIME A BARBERS ASSISTANT SHE USED TO LATHER THE CUSTOMERS' FACES, WHILE THEY WERE WAITING TO BE SHAVED!!



LAUREL AND HARDY RECENTLY WENT FISHING. HARDY, THE BIG STOUT FELLOW, CAUGHT A TINY MINNOW WHILE THE FRAIL-LOOKING LAUREL CAUGHT A GIANT SALMON!!

By TONI ROSSETT

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GOVERNMENT CAN NOT SOLVE PROBLEM OF POVERTY

(Continued from page 1)

portunity, one-third of our people is ill-housed, ill-fed and poorly clothed. If memory serves us correctly, one of our outstanding executives has described this minority as the "submerged third".

All decent citizens have sincere sympathy for these less fortunate among us. But, we must not be 'pollyanna' in our efforts to correct a bad situation for fear that in trying to effect a cure, we only succeed in making the patient worse — perhaps kill him.

Various schemes have been proposed — some even adopted. Most of these have as their bases, the idea of taking away from the "Haves" and giving to the "Have-Nots". Dr. Ruth Alexander, na-

tionally-known lecturer and economist, very aptly commented on this unwise procedure when she said: "Basically, there are tragic inequalities in ability — just as people are naturally endowed with differentials in eyesight. We remedy visual defects as much as we can, but we don't take eyesight from one who sees well and give it to one who sees not so well". Such a procedure would produce a nation of blind people.

Government can solve the problem of poverty at a given time, for a given time, and by methods which have never failed to destroy the whole of society in the long run. These methods consist of the forcible transfer of capital from one group (the great middle-class) to another group (the poor). Such redistribution is based solely on the needs of the poor, and utterly disregards their contribution to the whole. History shows that the ul-

timate result of the up-lift of the few is to drag down the many.

This method does not recognize the basic cause of poverty. It treats the symptom rather than getting at the cause. Karl Marx named poverty as the outstanding symptom of the machine age. He overlooked the fact that poverty has existed continuously throughout human history, long before the machine. Today, it is most acute in countries where machine production scarcely exists.

Poverty is not caused by widespread lack of opportunity, but rather by wide-spread lack of ambition. Reason compels us to admit that poverty is largely the result of specific weaknesses in human nature. It is the effect of these tragic inequalities for which nature is to blame — it is caused by lack of a driving will to succeed, by lack of persistence, and by unwillingness to make present sacrifices for the sake of the future.

Therefore, those better equipped by nature should assume a measure of responsibility for those suffering from voluntary or involuntary poverty. Charity, however, put on a permanent basis, destroys self-reliance, kills initiative, and undermines individual responsibility.

The poor could not survive if left alone. They either cannot or will not make their own survival dependent on their own efforts. They are forced to depend on the relatively strong. Destruction of

these relatively strong, in the long run, penalizes the whole. Leadership is a basic essential for the welfare of all. If we, as a nation, are submerged by excessive taxation or die off at the top by a disproportionate birth-rate, all will be reduced to penury.

It is tragic but true that we cannot help the weak by destroying the strong — that government cannot effect a permanent solution of the problem of poverty by redistributing the wealth.

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