

How to Keep Our Liberty

by Raymond Moley

TWENTY-SEVEN months ago in this space I presented an article under the title "Organizing for Freedom." That article said, in brief, (a) that a majority of the eligible voters in this country were opposed to current government policies tending toward socialism; (b) that this majority suffered because it had no means of organized expression; (c) that the Republican Party alone could not mobilize this majority; (d) hence citizens concerned in preserving their liberty should be organized in a group or groups outside the parties to provide the votes necessary to the election of sound and conservative candidates, Republican or Democrat, North and South.

There was an extraordinary reaction to that article. I received more letters from readers in the month that followed than in the whole preceding year. Those letters, from all sections and from all ranges among our people, made it clear that these correspondents shared my feeling that we were following a dangerous socialistic course, that the political parties alone would not save us, and that there was vital need for citizen action. But scores of them asked: "What can be done about it?"

This question, repeated over and over, was a challenge that weighed very heavily on my conscience. I decided to expand my answer in a small book. The task of spelling out the answer proved to be very, very difficult. For it involved answering in detail not one, but four questions:

Exactly how and why are present Federal policies imperiling our liberty?

What methods and policies should be substituted for them?

Who are those Americans in the great middle group who have most to lose through statism and who have potentially the major political power of the nation?

How can these people be mobilized in political action?

After six months of work, my project was only a collection of notes. Then there was another year of hard thinking, inquiring, writing, and rewriting. Then I submitted my draft, in whole or in part, to many people for criticisms and suggestions. Finally, after two

years my answer was finished. Its name is "How to Keep Our Liberty."*

If those who wrote to me and all others among the readers of this column who are disturbed by present political trends will read this book, they will find the best answer that I can give.

The book seeks to show in detail how the threat of supergovernment or statism endangers most of all that great middle-income group of Americans which owns most of the property of the nation and possesses most of its potential voting power. In recent years this group has come to include the bulk of wage earners and farmers.

This group, despite its potential power, has invited the danger that threatens it by neglecting its political responsibilities. Thus, it has presently delivered itself into the hands of leaders who by sowing class antagonisms and by making irresponsible promises are seeking dominant power in the nation.

Finally and most important, I outline the means by which this great middle-income group can be mobilized at the polls in defense of its material and nonmaterial interests—in short, how it can become the most permanent and reliable defender of American liberty. It describes the sort of people who should be leaders of citizens' political movements, the relations of such movements to one or the other of the major parties, and the methods which they should use.

IN SHORT, my book is a call for militant political action to halt the impairment of our free institutions, to improve the capacity and integrity of our government, to relieve the burden of excessive taxation, to arrest the blight of inflation, and to build a sound future by safe, progressive policies.

This book should be dedicated to those who read my original column in November 1949 and who took the trouble to write to me. It is, in fact, so dedicated, in these terms: "To those Americans who share the middle interests and who can save themselves, if they will."



*See review, page 92.