



# We can't legislate happiness

**WE** RUN THE RISK in this country of substituting law for conscience; of feeling that passing a law makes something so. Laws are easy, work is hard. But only work, *hard* work, ever got anybody anything worth having.

—You can't legislate equality; people have to deserve it and earn it. Then, if they do earn it, the law can protect them in it. But the first obligation is theirs; equality must first be earned.

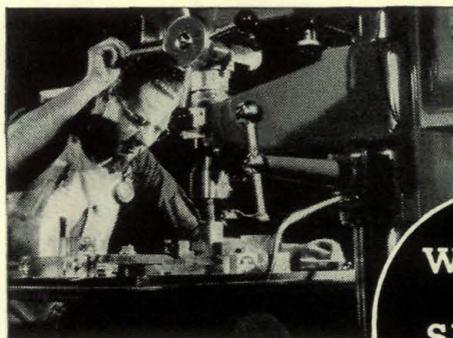
—You can't legislate full employment. If business is restricted and hampered, it will be able to hire fewer and fewer people. Soon there simply *will not be* enough tax money coming in to maintain the rest of the nation on WPA or anything else. It is very much to *everyone's* benefit to keep private industry so prosperous it will need to employ the maximum number of people.

—You can't have high wages just by passing a law—wages have to be earned by production

great enough to pay them, or else there soon will be *no* wages. A bankrupt corporation pays no wages, a closed factory provides no jobs.

—You can't "share the wealth," because wealth is production. Therefore, to increase prosperity you have to increase production so there will be more to share—and that can come only by hard work, not by laws.

Actually, you see, government can't do anything for you—you have to do it for yourself. That's the way any self-respecting American would want it, anyway. Government can't do anything basic for you because government *has* nothing except what the working taxpayer gives it, and government *is* nothing except the will of the people. Government can't do anything for you that you can't do for yourself because government *is* yourself.



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