

## License for Burocrats, No Rights for Others

The report of the New Deal majority under the chairmanship of Rep. Buchanan of Pennsylvania which allegedly investigated lobbying has leaked into the



Malik

Buchanan

Goebbels

open. It advances a simple thesis: That it is perfectly proper for New Dealers to lobby and propagandize in behalf of any of their pet political projects, but that it is highly improper for citizens to organize and to express opposition to any Socialist folly that the Administration indorses.

The report assumes that the Constitution is out-moded, that the executive departments should be freed of all restraints while the rights of citizens to petition for redress of grievances should be reduced, and that the criminal penalties applying to federal officials who misuse public appropriations in order to influence legislation should be reduced to a dead letter. This extraordinary doctrine is expressed as follows:

"So far as democratic responsibility is concerned, the pressure group and the executive agency live in entirely different worlds . . . If we were living in blander times, if the responsibilities of government were not large and difficult, one might argue for a fully operative system of separation of powers, checks and balance, and all the other textbook paraphernalia of negative government.

"But both our domestic society and our world position demand a government which is not afraid to speak its mind on those issues for which it has clear public support."

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This statement is loaded in three ways.

First, all citizens and groups of citizens opposing executive policy are dismissed as pernicious "pressure groups," as distinguished from all executive agencies, which are everything good and holy.

Second, the "textbook paraphernalia" of the Constitution must not impede the Executive in the free exercise of anything it wants to do.

Third, all causes which the Executive takes up are represented to command "clear public support." If that is so, why are the Buchanan New Dealers so exercised about finding means to suppress opposition?

The report goes on to state that "if we want passive government, lacking in the unity, planning and leadership which our world position requires," then Executive efforts to influence legislative policy are improper and the penalties specified by statute should be invoked against burocratic offenders.

But, the New Deal majority says, "We do not believe in passive government." Therefore, all burocrats are to be relieved of criminal responsibility. They are invariably engaged in God's work—or Mr. Truman's.

And, in the New Deal view, opposing them invariably are "the forces of privilege . . . busily engaged in a relentless campaign to remake the world in their own image."

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It may be said without hesitation or reservation that these views are a parody of the actual process of give and take by which public opinion is brought to bear in support of or in opposition to public policy.

### A Parody On Americanism

If sustained, they would destroy Republican government, would reduce Congress to a chorus responsive to the baton of a dictator, and would cast the Constitution and the statutes upon the ash heap.

No citizen would have the right to speak on anything decreed by the Administration to be in accord with its definition of the public interest.

As a contribution to the literature of totalitarian dictatorship, the mouthings of the Buchanan New Dealers deserve a place along with the edicts of Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda and national enlightenment, and the orations of Mr. Malik and the outgivings of the Soviet-controlled press. The Great Truman and his retinue, like the Great Stalin and the Great Hitler and their retinues, would be conceded ultimate wisdom and the right to lay down the law from on high, and no one else never need be heard.

The American people are warned before it starts putting its principles into practice. There isn't any "lobbying" from a concentration camp, just as there is no free speech anywhere in a dictatorship.