

EDITORIAL

The House That New Deal Built

ONCE at a certain stage of a certain Five-Year Plan to make Russia safe for Marxist theorists, it was decided that the way to construction lay through destruction. What was needed, and badly needed, in Moscow at that particular moment of confusion was a new multiple dwelling structure. But a thing even more desirable to the hearts of the Soviet planners was a grand show with plenty of action. It seemed logical that these two objectives might be taken in a single effort. Although it was not the most practical site for the new multiple dwelling, for the political expediency of the situation it was proposed to put the new, much needed structure in the place of a closed church. Of course, the church would have to be removed before the utilitarian apartment could be put up. And here was described the very opportunity for the much desired show. Instead of dismantling the church structure in the customary, orderly way, a special Soviet holiday was duly declared, and loyal party cells, thousands strong, were marched out in a "patriotic demonstration" to witness the church being blown up—*the first step to construction*.

The story further tells that it wasn't a very good show. The church just sort of rocked and fell in upon itself in a puff of dust which settled lazily over a pile of debris equally as large as the church structure. That was all there was to the show. In a little while winter came and the mass froze solid—and remained for years a monument to liberal planning, which no dynamite could dislodge, while the subjects of Stalin continued to go homeless.

The New Deal plan for cotton is destroying nothing less than the principal industry of the South.

There is freshly disclosed evidence that the Public Works Administration *works* directly toward the retardation of private enterprise. Carried one logical step further, and it seems likely that it will be, it will begin to undermine our privately endowed institutions of mercy and of education, the keystone of American civilization. Already the presidents of three colleges, the heads of two orphan asylums, the head of a large hospital, all in the South, have been to Washington to protest that a government grant of \$2,767,000 of PWA funds to Green County, S. C., to build its own power plant must inevitably result in the reduction of gifts to these institutions from the Duke estate. Is the government, in its Democratic omnipotence, prepared to take over all of our privately endowed institutions when its redistribution of wealth schemes have destroyed their support; or will that wreckage be ignored and left to plague future administrations?

Building with dynamite after this fashion can produce some rather unusual effects, and also an extremely cock-eyed house. The result in the end begins to look not a little like some of those pathetic subsistence homestead

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shacks erected in government philanthropy and New Dealer's inefficiency at Reedsville, W. Va., so recently exposed by the *Saturday Evening Post*.

We solve distribution by dynamiting production. We combat the drought by glutting the tanning and hide market, until private tanners are driven to desperation and to the wall, and a new racket is developed by which Mexican cattle are secretly bootlegged into the expensive and generous government emergency mart. We seek to achieve suspended animation in the downward spiral of deflation by dynamiting the sanctity of contractual relations. We permit the New Deal planners to take taxpayers' contributions in the name of charity for the needy and carefully build a national Tammany with a bribed constituency.

It was little wonder that the resultant wreckage of our national economy was beginning to take on many of the aspects of the frozen Moscow church pile when President Roosevelt returned from his vacation on Pacific waters. The American people waited in fear, but in patience, for the return of their President for some explanation for the reason for this stagnant pile; they logically anticipated the revelation of some plan by which this mass of frozen confidence could be re-energized into a practical, livable structure. They were disappointed. None was forthcoming.

Those commentators who expressed most fully this general disappointment failed to discern, or at least to indicate their awareness that there existed a sound, political reason for this strange and disheartening silence. The reason for this does not seem to us difficult to detect. The main body of support of New Deal Democracy comes today from the Leftist Liberal sector of the American populace. And while Mr. Roosevelt was vacationing in Hawaii those Liberals—who have been active—in the New Deal planning in Washington, had been deserting his cause in droves. They were deserting for a very simple reason: they were not being given enough dynamite with which to build their Utopian State. It is for this reason that in the most important address made immediately after his return, the now famous Wisconsin address, the President ignored the subject of the New Deal house and devoted himself exclusively to repairing the broken, political fence which is around it.

That address cannot be viewed as anything less than a definite challenge to all Americans, regardless of their party affiliations who do not hold with the belief that dynamiting the Constitution is the way to keep our house in order, to organize nationally to stop the New Deal wreckers. The leadership for such an organization to be effective should come from the established political leaders of both parties and be carried through without fear, even to the possible objective of a new party.