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### Government.

Government cannot, and will not give relief to the condition we find ourselves in, as a people, at this time. Each individual working to his own stabilization of conditions must accomplish that redemption. Government may lend some assistance by lowering its costs and more equitably distributing the burden of taxes, but government cannot reestablish prosperity, as we have come to know it. Government should not be looked to for this purpose but by a system that has gradually grown to the saturation point the people have come to look to government for everything; personal, business and really governmental. This has brought on a multiplicity of laws many, if not most of which, are purely paternalistic. We have come to look to government to establish morals, thrift and industry in the individual. We want the sheriff to raise our children and by the enforcement of the law imbue them with proper moral conceptions. We want the bank commissioner and the bank examiners to instill thrift, industry and business qualifications into our bankers for a certain consideration. We want a conservation officer to tell the oil man where, when and how to drill an oil well and how to operate and conserve it, also for a certain consideration. We have to look to an inspector to see that the barber is clean and efficient, this also for a certain consideration. We look to the law to enforce collections that should have been debts based upon the moral responsibility of the individual, and the collectee resists with a host of exemptions the law allows but the costs of government eats in on both sides. If we want to go into the cotton ginning business we have to ask government's permission and pay for its supervision.

If the farmer offers his home grown and butchered beef to the neighboring community he is compeled to have it examined and passed by some government inspector, and it costs. If a lawyer desires to continue the practice of law he is compeled to belong to an organization and pay \$5.00 per year for the privilege. If we have a prize fight it is supervized by an array of emciated old men whose duty it is to see that the fighters strike each other with as nuch vim and vigor as they possess We cannot even conduct our public schools without having an "inspector" from the state government to "visit" and "report" their efficiency. Of course nothing is ever done about it and no good ever results, but then some one is given a good job at the expense of the public. And on and on through both great volumes of the statute book we go finding a host of supervisors of public and private business at the public expense and the individual's discouragement.

We have lost confidence in our fellow man. The individual responsibility is at its lowest ebb in the history of man, or perhaps I should say the reliance upon moral responsibility is disappearing, slowly but surely. The competitave strenth of business because of indivdual efficiency is being swallowed up in an attempt to equalize and make uniform every line of business. If one is not a good business man, does not know how to get the most out of his business, the law steps in and tells him just how it should be run and ultimately charges him for this enforced advice. A newspaper has to verify and publish its circulation every so often that the advertising public may not be decieved. Nothing is left to chance, nothing is left to encourage the individual to greater efficiency. The central government makes an estimate of thecotton crop each year for the benefit of the speculator, he must not be decieved.

The farmer must not be allowed in the slightest extent to take an advantage of the party who must live off his industry. Nothing must be left open so that the more capable individual may have the advantage of his capability. It must be made uniform so that the moron may compete on equal grounds with the man of brains, so that the weak may be on the same footing as the strong. The result of this is that the strong is placed ~~at~~ at a disadvantage and the business fabric to the same extent weakened. Such a system makes for a nation of weaklings and discourages efficiency. Unhampered competition brings forth and encourages the best and competency is rewarded. Under our present system of paternalistic laws the weakling is rewarded and the strong and efficient penalized. Strength of character is developed under a system of unhampered competition.

Now all of these paternalistic and regulatory measures have come into the law at the request and insistence of business. Business was seeking an advantage some where. Business was not interested in compelling its competitor to be more efficient and thereby take trade that otherwise it would not have gotten. But business was interested in devising certain regulations that would eventually put its competitor out and business and leave it a monopolized field. As a result some measure was lobbied through the congress or the legislature that would compel all to belong to an organization ( to be run by a few) or to exact a license fee that would discourage others from entering the field. Business thought by this means it would tend to destroy and discourage competition but the net result usually is that a few manipulate the regulations to the disadvantage and ruin of the many, the exact thing that some of the few had in mind. And the congress or the legislature ( uninformed) listened to the plausible arguments of the lobby and granted the bill. This usually requires an added few

to the pay roll and the public must dig up funds for that it is not interested in nor favorably effected by. The people as a whole are seldom interested in these measures. Such measures simply lower the buying power of the public and lesson the lanes and avenues of business and professional efforts.

The abstracters study for the two year period between legislatures on arguments to be presented that will get them a law forbidding one to enter into the abstract business unless and until that one has made a complete set of books disclosing every instrument of record in the county clerk's office. Is this measure for the benefit of the public or to prevent others from entering that particular field? Yet the argument made to the legislative committee is replete with the added security this will vouchafe the public. But the abstracter is really not interested in protecting the public, he is interested in protecting his own particular business from competition. And the public pays for his advantage. And so back of each and every one of these paternalistic regulations is the monopolistic intent. A seeking to clear the field of competition so that the public will have to pay a price arbitrarily fixed by one unharrassed by competition. The public suffers and the lanes and avenues of effort are likewise lessened to the boys coming on. Not only that but the inefficient and incompetent are protected in their inefficiency and incompetency, and the public again pays. With a monopolized field efficiency is immaterial the buying public has to take what it can get and pay the price therefor. And it is this gratifying condition and position that business, in its greed, has been seeking at the hands of government for the last thirty years. Gradually but surely fastening its tendrils onto the unresisting public and enforcing its mandates by the power of government. Voluntary association of business or profession for its own advantage is not distastful but when it

seeks and obtains the power and authority of government, then government is lending its aid where governmental functions were never intended to operate. Government by this means is lending its aid to minorities to the detriment of the majority for which it was instituted as a protection and security. The fact is these matters are not subjects in which government should meddle. Government is for the protection and security of all the people and when it specializes with any certain group it is overstepping the intendments of government. The best protection for business is an unhampered competition. Governments should deal with society and for this it needs but few laws, mostly of a penal nature to keep society within proper bounds. Governments are erected for the purposes of the people but it is fast being taken over by business. Business is right now running the government for its peculiar business purposes.