

1120
m 2

AN ECONOMIC WAR TO A FINISH



PREAMBLE

In true accord with every concept of human Justice, Liberty and Happiness, and in furtherance of the realization of a true Brotherhood of Man among all peoples, we, the Economic Equality Club of the United States of America, do hereby fully subscribe to the science and philosophy of Edward Bellamy, and declare our objective to be the attainment of that state of Economic Equality among our people as set down in his works upon that subject.

It is not our intention to recite a **LONG LIST OF REASONS** why the world at large and **AMERICA** in **PARTICULAR** has reached a **CRISIS** in its **DEVELOPMENT**, which we commonly call this **ECONOMIC DEPRESSION**, because we **HEAR** and **READ** SO much these days, along this line, that we are **TIRED** of hearing the opinions of this person or that person as to this **CAUSE** or that **CAUSE**, and also as to this or that temporary remedy for our economic ills.

The thing that everyone **IS WANTING TODAY**, is a plan of economic stability that is **SOUND** and will **GUARANTEE** for **ALL TIME** a **FREEDOM** from such periods of depression. It is **OUR PURPOSE** to **EXPLAIN** the basic changes in our fundamental law, which the Economic Equality Club **BELIEVES** to be **ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE**, in order to attain **THAT TRUE STATE** of Economic Equality which will **FOR ALL TIME** to come, **ASSURE** **TO ALL** the full **REALIZATION** of the **SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH** that all men are created **ECONOMICALLY** equal, and with certain inalienable rights to **LIFE**, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our country today is traveling headlong the road which has led every great empire in history to its doom.

We have been told repeatedly by so-called economists that these periods of depression are inevitable—in other words that they are necessary evils and we must expect them every so often. And we have been told several times in the last two years that this depression would soon be over—that prosperity was “**JUST AROUND THE CORNER.**” **BUT!** These predictions have failed to materialize and many of our best thinkers are convinced now that we have little or no hopes of a return to so-called prosperity under the capitalistic system.

Even J. Pierpont Morgan said the other day: “We have reached a point where the aid of governments or the gifts of individuals, no matter how generous, are insufficient to meet the conditions which have come upon us.”

In other words the time has come when we **MUST MAKE UP OUR MINDS** that the capitalistic system has broken down, and must see to it that a better **ECONOMIC SYSTEM** takes its place.

Many of us have been slow to give up our faith in our financial institutions and the capi-

listic system because we own a lot or two; a small business or a piece of land, just as many of us have supported the big trusts because we have had a job or owned a share or two of stock. We have not seen that under a just economic system, we, as producers would get many times what we get as petty speculators.

Our first task is to convince ourselves that these **FACTS ARE TRUE**, and then that it is our job to take the control of our Government out of the hands of the Capitalists and place it in the hands of all of the people where it rightfully belongs, on a basis of real economic equality. And economic equality is the **OBVIOUS, NECESSARY and ONLY ADEQUATE PLEDGE** for **SECURING** our three birthrights—**LIFE, LIBERTY and HAPPINESS**.

Now, there are groups who are advocating many different kinds of reforms, under our present system—**TEMPORARY and OTHERWISE**.

One group which is obtaining some recognition makes a **DIRECT ATTACK** on our banking system and advocates Government control of the banking system and the elimination of interest. And it is an easy matter to go into a tirade against our banking system all the way from the **INTERNATIONAL and INVESTMENT BANKERS**, down to the small town banks. Many people think that this is our biggest sore spot and that Government control of the banking system would correct most of our ills. Maybe it would—maybe it would not. At least this would be a step on the right road.

Another group advocates the taking over by the Government, the control and distribution of some of our national resources such as light and power. This might also prove to be somewhat of a relief measure in some parts of the country. But, at the best, that is only a part of the need for a change in the present capitalistic system.

You are reading every day in the papers—the schemes of this person or that person, and this group or that group, including many of our politicians, who are advocating special taxes and tax-revision of various types—and all sorts of so-called regulating measures. You will have lots of opportunity in the next few months to listen, **IF YOU CARE TO**, to politicians and office-seekers of all kinds who will propose all sorts of reforms. **AND THEY WILL TELL YOU, AS THEY ALWAYS HAVE,**

to throw the other fellow out and put them in and they will see to it that everything comes out all right.

But we are not going to fall for that sort of thing this year as we have done so frequently in the past. WE know that we have not gotten results in this way and that THEY will not get RESULTS.

And nothing would suit the capitalist leaders or those who think we must continue under our present system, better than to have the American people sidetracked on some of these temporary or partially corrective issues, in the HOPE that present conditions would improve, and that they could still retain their hold on the affairs of the nation.

But we say AGAIN: WE DON'T THINK the American people are going to be satisfied to accept these small parts of the program and retain this sort of leadership in OUR affairs.

Now, the Economic Equality Club DOES NOT advocate any tirade against any individual of the capitalist group, nor against any of our political or party leaders. We believe that the whole system is fundamentally wrong and that NOTHING LESS than a COMPLETE REVISION of the whole economic SYSTEM of our country will correct the conditions which exist today and assure US FOR ALL TIME a FREEDOM FROM SUCH PERIODS, and ELIMINATE FOR ALL TIME the vast amount of suffering and fear of want that is continually facing the great majority of our people.

The people of this country have the right and the power and have ALWAYS HAD THE POWER to correct these economic conditions. I call your attention to the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address, given March 4, 1861:

“This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing Government THEY CAN EXERCISE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT of amending it, or their revolutionary right to DISMEMBER OR OVERTHROW IT.”

Now, these are STRONG WORDS but they are TRUE, and we believe that when our people get sense ENOUGH, get BIG ENOUGH, and BROAD ENOUGH to SEE that the real interests of all the people never are and never

should be in conflict—that they will see to it that these wrongs are corrected and eliminated for all time.

We will not accomplish this by LAWS alone; it cannot be done by FORCE. LAW is powerless, GOVERNMENT is POWERLESS, unless we have a SPIRIT in the people to SUPPORT LAW AND GOVERNMENT.

The nation is made up of the people; it is never any better than the people; never any stronger.

The nation will NEVER DO ANY MORE than the people want to have done.

The nation never rights a wrong until the people demand it.

Constitutions never march unless the people make them march.

Many of us have failed to take a part in our Governmental affairs. Partly through lack of faith in what we could accomplish and partly through indifference and the fact that we have been tied up too closely in OUR OWN LITTLE SELFISH INTERESTS—in our own PERSONAL AFFAIRS. In other words, we have failed to look after our own affairs, because we have all had the right of franchise and through the PROPER use of this right could have avoided a lot of the trouble which we are facing today. We can not blame too much of our trouble on those who have taken advantage of the situation—for no doubt many of us would have done just as they have done, in many instances, if we had had the opportunity.

Let us be big enough to shoulder our part of the responsibility and get down to the business of correcting the situation so that it will STAY CORRECTED.

We now give you the principles of the Economic Equality Club, and will explain what the accomplishment of these principles will mean, and how they can and will be accomplished:

First: The abolishment of all private ownership of capital.

Second: The abolishment of all Taxes, Rentals, Interest and Profits through full public ownership, operation and control of all national resources, means of production, facilities of distribution and mediums of exchange.

Third: The outlawing of all hu-

man policies and practices that tend toward the exploitation of man by man.

Fourth: The full and adequate assurance to all men, women and children of an equal livelihood, equal educational opportunities, protection and care in sickness and misfortune, security and independence in old age.

The abolishment of the private ownership of capital or property in the first principle, means that capital which IS A MEANS OF PRODUCTION, and from which IS EXCEPTED one's HOME and PERSONAL EFFECTS, which he HAS or PRODUCES for his own COMFORT and ENJOYMENT and NOT for the purpose of BARTER and TRADE.

The abolition of private capital WILL and CAN ONLY be brought about by a constitutional amendment—just as the prohibition amendment was adopted.

This amendment will provide for COMPLETE Government ownership, control and distribution of all natural resources, means of production and facilities for distribution, and the individual will hold only that property which he DESIRES for his home, and his personal effects such as his automobile, home furnishings, and all other items which he may need or desire for the needs and comforts of himself and family.

This amendment will provide for the abolition of MONEY as it is today. Every person over 21 years of age who does his or her proportionate share in the production of the wealth of the country will receive his or her proportionate share of all the wealth produced in the country. This will be given out in the form of credit cards to every individual and can be used only by that individual. Men and women both will share alike. These shares or earnings will be based on the National earnings for the year and every one will be expected to spend his or her share of the earnings during the year, for all unspent credits will be cancelled at the end of the year and we will all start on the next years' earnings so that no one will be able to accumulate or hoard any amount of earnings.

The background for this arrangement of the distribution of earnings is stable and guarantees to all a GREAT SUFFICIENCY to care for ALL THEIR POSSIBLE NEEDS or

DESIRES.

We know that the average wealth created every year for the last ten years in this country is approximately \$80,000,000,000 of dollars and this with only one person in five gainfully employed. If every one over 21 and under 55 years of age would perform his proportionate share of the necessary labor or service, this earning would increase five-fold, or enough to assure every adult person in the United States a credit of \$10 a day in value measured under our present system, and this would be virtually doubled under this Bellamy plan because most of the waste in production and distribution which we have under today's system would be eliminated and everything would be distributed to the people at the actual cost of production and distribution.

You can readily see the tremendous opportunity for the elimination of waste in time and labor required to produce and distribute all the luxuries and necessities which we could possibly need or desire.

And it would not require more than four hours manual labor or five hours of office or white-collar labor to produce and distribute according to our needs.

Do not lose sight of the fact that this wealth IS BEING PRODUCED and CAN BE INCREASED to the extent we have outlined, so that under a system of equal distribution of our national wealth every person WOULD HAVE FOR ALL TIME the assurance of SUFFICIENT INCOME to provide for all their needs and desires and the fear of want and the present necessity of TRYING to provide for a "rainy day" would be eliminated.

With the elimination of money and private capital for barter and trade, and the abolishment of all TAXES, RENTALS, INTERESTS and PROFITS, through FULL public ownership, operation and control of all national resources, means of production, facilities of distribution and mediums of exchange, as stated in the second principle—you can readily see that all incentive for lying, cheating, fraud, robbery, and in fact, about 99% of all causes of crime is eliminated. From the first murder in history, when Cain slew Abel over the rights of private property, down through all the annals of crime we KNOW that a very large percentage is the direct or the indirect result of property rights or the

right to barter and trade with our fellow men.

When money is done away with and the other fellow has nothing that I can use or cannot obtain as readily as he—what object would there be in my making any attempt to take away that which he has?

Through the accomplishment of the third principle, namely the outlawing of all human policies and practices that tend toward the exploitation of man by man, no one would have any moral or legal right to take away another's living by superior powers, skill, or cunning, any more than he has moral or logical right if he uses physical force under our present system.

Under our present system it is all right to rob a man, a community, or the Nation, if you can do it and get away with it. And I say here that we believe that only through the accomplishment of the principles of the Economic Equality Club, can we hope to attain that full and adequate assurance to all men, women and children of an equal livelihood, equal educational opportunities, protection and care in sickness and misfortune, security and independence in old age as outlined in the fourth and last principle.

Through the means stated in the following Objectives of the Economic Equality Club, we propose to accomplish the full realization of the principles for which we are striving.

“With the aid and guidance of a Divine Providence, and a deep sincerity of purpose, we propose the accomplishment of these objectives:

First: Through honest educational appeals to the inherent justice in the heart of every man and woman.

Second: Through adequate organization of those who sincerely subscribe to these principles and will pledge peaceful and lawful support to this program of accomplishment.

Third: Through the unified and consistent exercise of the right of franchise in behalf of the realization thereof.

We realize that an understanding of the causes for conditions such as we have at present and also an understanding of what is the best way to correct these conditions, necessitates considerable understanding of our whole

program before we can hope to gain your confidence IN THAT PROGRAM—so we realize that ONLY through an HONEST EDUCATIONAL appeal can we hope to reach the inherent sense of justice in the heart of every man and woman.

With a complete knowledge of the whole program we know that we can obtain the support necessary to form organizations of those who sincerely subscribe to these principles and will pledge PEACEFUL and LAWFUL support to this program of accomplishment.

As we come to the Third objective: "Through the unified and consistent exercise of the right of franchise in behalf of the realization thereof." We open up our vast field of opportunity in the matter of putting these principles to work and the accomplishment of the change in the constitution of the United States which is the ULTIMATE and ALL-IMPORTANT need in order to attain the full realization of the principles for which we stand.

This is a BIG PROGRAM, but as you give the whole matter MORE THOUGHT and STUDY, you will realize, that it is absolutely essential that we do not allow ourselves to be satisfied with PART MEASURES or partial correction of the ills of the present system. Do not let us allow ourselves to be sidetracked in the belief that anything LESS than the WHOLE PROGRAM, can possibly get us the results we desire—in the matter of once and for all abolishing the capitalistic system, and having in its place a system of real economic equality.

We are NOT TEACHING CLASS HATRED. We are not advocating SOCIAL EQUALITY. We believe that social equality, like intellectual equality IS NOT POSSIBLE, and we do not want anyone to confuse social equality with ECONOMIC EQUALITY when they are considering the activities of the Economic Equality Club.

This Club believes in religious freedom and does NOT recommend a change in that part of the Constitution which guarantees us religious freedom.

We are offering a program which does not advocate the tearing down of our American Institutions, but rather a program that will remold our Institutions on a CONSTRUCTIVE basis, and enable our nation to retain

its place in the family of nations, as the ~~most~~ advanced nation, mentally, physically, and morally, as well as from a standpoint of prosperity for all its citizens.

Our economists of today tell us that it is necessary to take over some of our industries and distribution facilities, through government ownership in the process of carrying out the whole program.

And undoubtedly, this is the expedient thing to do, and whether locally or nationally, movements of this nature are called to our attention, let us give them serious study and consideration—and let us lend our loyal support to EVERYTHING that will HELP to bring about FULL GOVERNMENT CONTROL of EVERYTHING that can POSSIBLY result in a MATERIAL BENEFIT to ALL OF OUR PEOPLE.

Let us see to it that we support and elect to public office ONLY THOSE who will SUPPORT and WORK for the THINGS WE STAND FOR.

We can best accomplish the results we desire by organizing these Economic Equality Clubs in our communities, and using this means of studying and discussing the problems and remedies for our economic ills, IN THESE CLUBS, and in this way gain sufficient strength to enable us to accomplish anything we may want to have done.

We have the power in our own hands to control our economic conditions, through the power of the ballot. Let us wake up to the full realization that it is OUR JOB to do these things if they ever are done, and the sooner we get busy, the sooner we will get results.

THEN the government will be OF the people and BY the people and MUST BE FOR the people.

We again and again urge everybody to read Edward Bellamy's books, "Looking Backward," and "Equality," in order to thoroughly familiarize themselves with our aims and objects.

These books as well as membership cards and other information may be obtained at the headquarters of the

ECONOMIC EQUALITY CLUB

George Janssen Sec.

1237 State St.

Bellingham, Wash.