

Liberalism and the Four Freedoms

Conservative Candor

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The underlying question in American politics is the role of government, particularly the federal government, in a free society. The extent to which a voter demands government services and actions is a key to understanding "big government."

The modern problem of big government is a development of the period known as the Progressive movement, at the turn of the century. Then and now the individual was searching for an identity in an age when collectiveness seemed supreme. The impersonal quality of the corporation and its counterpart in labor, the union, both demanded an impersonal regulator. Secondly, the failure of local and state governments to cope with the social evils gave the federal government the dual role of the violator of "laissez-faire" economics and usurper of state's rights.

Conservatives maintain that the government nearest the people is the best. Logically, the local government should be more responsive to the people's needs; however, lack of interest, poor press coverage, and one party domination has made these same governments unresponsive and often corrupt.

A democracy cannot be for the people if it isn't also of the people. If the national government is the only segment of our government with substantial public

interest, then the liberal calls for a strong and active federal government.

In answer to government intervention into the economy, may I point to a statement of Justice Oliver W. Holmes, "legislation may begin where evil begins." Certainly monopolies, gross poverty and poor working conditions are not necessary in a democracy just to maintain "laissez-faire." Again the conservative will insist upon state regulations, but in our modern intergated economy these problems are not limited to nations—let alone states.

Don't, however, think that this method of political reasoning is sacrificing liberty for "a full stomach." It is my opinion liberty means complete freedom including freedom from want.

Where to go..

It has come to the attention of the NITTANY CUB that the phrase, "lost and found" has acquired a new meaning, mainly, "finders keepers, losers weepers," to quote the grade-school colloquial.

The usual procedure at Behrend has been to return a lost object found outside of Erie Hall to Miss Sorze in the administration building, and those articles found in Erie Hall should be turned in at the SGA office. Unfortunately, this has not been the procedure followed so far this year. The NITTANY CUB recommends the alteration of the currently adopted system and the return to the standard procedure.

Behrend Campus has long been known for the honesty of the student body. Let us not turn this campus into a hot-bed of thievery and chicanery.

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Some Basic Concepts

Basically, conservatism adheres to a stricter interpretation of the Constitution, a more responsible financial plan, and the idea of a more definite foreign policy. The conservative shuns such liberal concepts as the broad police power of the state, an idea which allows almost anything to be done in the name of welfare at the expense of individual liberty, interference and regulation by the government in business, and the ineffective, wasteful, current way of administering finances.

While the liberal tends to emphasize the services the government can offer and thinks little about the cost that might be incurred by such projects, the conservative aims for a balanced budget and treats fiscal matters with a more responsible attitude. An attempt at the gradual repayment of the staggering national debt is another fiscal goal of the conservative.

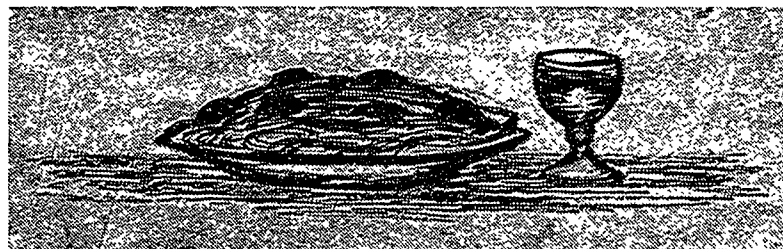
Another major difference lies in the interpretation of the Constitution. Liberals base their actions on the elastic or indefinite clauses and on what they infer from this document while conservatives confine their actions in government to the stated functions and duties defined in the Constitution. This is why many of the more vocal conservatives of our age aim for the simplification of government, and they stress the removal of government from any enterprise in which it might compete with a private organization.

A prime example of a government organization which displaces private enterprise is the Tennessee Valley Authority, which has a virtual monopoly on the production of electricity in a large area of the South. For years, conservatives have agitated, unsuccessfully, for the sale and dissolution of the TVA.

America has never really had an objective in its foreign policy. However the conservative idea of creating a statement of definite foreign policy aims has many merits. The two major aims would include the negotiation of favorable trade treaties and the declaration of an open, but peaceful, offensive against communism. A favorable trade treaty is one which is mutually advantageous to both nations involved, and it involves the lowering of duties on the agreed products by the signatory countries. In declaring an offensive against communism, we would abandon the current policy of containment in favor of a rigorous campaign to convert the peoples in countries already dominated by communism to our way of political thought. Actually, this would be a step toward the realization of the "American dream" of world domination being held by countries having governments pattered after ours.

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