

A couple of weeks ago we commented on why we thought Lyndon was so eager to send the marines into the Dominican Republic. Briefly, we said that, so far as we could understand what's going on, one of the reasons the marines were sent in was to protect the investments and property of American-owned corporations.

Ever since any Americans got rich and powerful enough to cast their greedy eyes on the natural wealth of other countries, that has been one of the main duties of the American Marines. Back in the 1930's a Marine General named Smedley Butler retired and wrote a book called War Is a Racket . In the book Butler told about how the Marine Corps, during all the 30-odd years he'd been in it, had been little more than a goon squad used by American wealth to prevent people in South America from rising up against the brutality and oppression of U.S. corporations.

Long before Butler exposed the Marine Corps for what it is, captains of industry in America were doing the same thing (although in those days American wealth didn't try to hide what it was doing.) In the 1890's American big businessmen were really beginning to get going in their drive to own the world. One of the biggest of them was Andrew Carnegie, who owned the Carnegie Steel Corp. (He later became famous for contributing some of his ill-gotten gains to public libraries around the country.) Here is how Carnegie described, in the middle 1890's, what American big businessmen wanted from the Government of the United States:

"We demand of the State protection of property. For this purpose we ask an adequate police, a sound banking system, a sound currency based on gold, and court decisions to nullify social legislation confiscatory in character. We demand a tariff to protect us against our foreign competitors and a navy to guard our commerce and our stakes in other lands. When the State has fulfilled these, its proper functions, we ask it to leave us alone."

There have been many changes in things since the 1890's when Carnegie made that statement. But it's pretty clear, from the speed with which Lyndon sent in the marines to protect American holdings in the Dominican Republic, that when the chips are really down, the U.S. Government today is fully prepared to be just what Carnegie said he wanted 70-odd years ago.

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Most of the discussion we've seen about Lyndon's invasion of the Dominican Republic has centered around which side the U.S. troops were helping. There can hardly be any further doubt that U.S. troops have been supporting the forces of the fascist military since the first day they landed. But what about other ways in

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which Lyndon has helped the fascists in the Dominican Republic ?

The New York Times had a story last week which described how the U.S. provided the money with which to pay the salaries of the employees of the Dominican government. And who do you suppose the money was given to ? Right--to the junta set up by General Wessin y Wessin. Lyndon has given Wessin and his fascists more than \$3 million in the past month with which to pay the salaries of government employees.

This was probably more important in ensuring the survival of fascism in the Dominican Republic, even, than the military help Lyndon provided. For, with Dominican civil servants, like civil servants everywhere, loyalty follows the pocket book. If Lyndon had given the Bosch forces the money with which to meet the government payroll, and had not sent U.S. troops to help the fascists, it would have been all over for the fascists and constitutional government would have been restored in short order.

But that's not the way Lyndon and his friends wanted things in the Dominican Republic, so that's not the way things were.

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Lyndon's Secretary of Commerce, John Connor, the former drug magnate from Merck & Co., has had his department of Commerce issue a booklet titled Profits and the American Economy. When he announced publication of the booklet, Connor said that Americans need to know more about the working of the American Economy. We never thought we'd agree with John about anything, but we're with him that far. But then John went on to say that "by increasing knowledge of economics we strengthen the American free enterprise system."

Well, let's see John. Your book says that "the profit incentive, which encourages both vigorous initiative and healthy competition, is fundamental to our economic growth."

John knows a lot about "vigorous initiative." While he was president of Merck & Co. they were producing a brand of cough drops called "Sucrets." They bought television advertising on the networks to tell people that "when minor sore throat strikes and brings fiery pain, 'Sucrets' relieves sore throat pain and kills even staph and strep germs."

The Federal Trade Commission, whose job it is to keep corporations like Merck and corporation officials like John honest (and that's some job) said on May 20 that Merck lied when it made these claims for "Sucrets". Now, we might ask, why would the company tell a lie about the healing qualities of its cough drops. We think John knows the answer--to make more profits by selling more cough drops. Indeed it took some "vigorous initiative" to think up the lies, but we wonder if Merck & Co., and John Connor, really strengthened the faith of the American people in the free enterprise system by pursuing their profits so vigorously. Of course we doubt that this is the kind of knowledge about the free enterprise system that John thought

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people need more of.

Let's explore this "vigorous initiative" a bit further, for it is to be found in most of the big corporations. For example, the U.S. General Accounting Office recently reported that Bethlehem Steel Corp. charged the U.S. Government \$5million more than it should have for the construction of a nuclear-powered ship; that the Aluminum Company of America (whose ore deposits in the Dominican Republic Lyndon sent the marines to protect) overcharged the U.S. Government \$2,203,450 on a contract for producing a missile; that the Glenn L. Martin Co. charge the U.S. Government, over a 10-year period, \$445 million for producing a seaplane, but that it has yet to deliver a single plane.

Now let's see who the "vigorous initiators" are who sit on the boards of directors of these companies.

Merck Initiators

Charles S. Garland	--Chairman, Trustees, Johns Hopkins Univ.; Director, Baltimore & Ohio RR; Trustee, Johns Hopkins Hospital.
Henry W. Gadsden	--Trustee, Overlook Hospital; Dir., New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce.
Max Tishler	--Trustee, Tufts College
Charles D. Dickey	--Morgan Guaranty Trust Co.; Atlantic Refining Co.; General Electric Co.; Kennecott Copper Co.; New York Life Ins. Co.
Robert C. Hill	--United Fruit Co.; Revere Sugar Refinery; Canadian International Power Co.; St. Regis Hotel Corp.
William B. Murphy	--Campbell Soup Co.; American Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

Bethlehem Steel Initiators

Edmund F. Martin	--Trustee Bethlehem (Pa.) YMCA; Trustee, Stevens Inst. of Technology.
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Mr. Martin, who is Chairman of Bethlehem, is the only one of the Bethlehem initiators we find listed in the standard references with any of his other activities. We presume the other initiators are the shy, retiring type.

Aluminum Company of America Initiators

Lawrence Litchfield, Jr.	--Trustee, Carnegie Inst. of Technology; Dir., Mellon National Bank & Trust Co.
Frank L. Magee	--Dir., Mohawk Airlines, Inc.; Westinghouse Airbrake Co.; SCM Corp.; Univ. of Pittsburg; Lehigh University.

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Richard K. Mellon	--Gulf Oil Corp.; Pennsylvania RR; Koppers Co., Inc.; Carnegie Inst. of Tech.; Mellon National Bank & Trust Co.; University of Pittsburg; General Motors Corp.
George W. Wyckoff	--Gulf Oil Corp.; M.A. Hanna Co.; Consolidation Coal Co.; Mellon National Bank & Trust Co.; Wyckoff Steel Co.; A.W. Mellon Educational & Charitable Trust; Old Dominion Foundation.
Roy A. Hunt	--Carnegie Institute of Tech.; Grove City College; Mellon National Bank & Trust Co.

Yes, John, there's plenty of initiative in the American Economy. In fact the really big thieves and gougers of the economy are to be found among our biggest and most vigorous corporations. They've thought up ways to steal and cheat that would have never occurred to less vigorous initiators.

John, if you and Lyndon started telling the folks about the economy the way it really is, how long do you think you'd last ?

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A few weeks ago there was a great uproar in this country and throughout the world when it was revealed that Lyndon and his friends were using tear gas and vomit gas to suppress the Viet Cong. Lyndon calmed the uproar by explaining that the use of gas was really more humane than other war techniques, because it just sickens, instead of maiming and killing. Lyndon pointed out that some of our best and most-loved police departments always have used gas for the purpose of preserving what they call the peace.

This controversy brought to mind another use of tear gas and vomit gas that is a time-honored tradition in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Here are excerpts from U.S. Senate Report No. 6, part 3, 76th Congress, 1st Session (a report of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, chaired by Senator Robert M. LaFollette, of Wisconsin):

"The committee found that the purchasing and storing of 'arsenals' of firearms and tear-and-sickening-gas weapons is a common practice of large employers of labor who refuse to bargain collectively with legitimate labor unions and that there exists a large business of supplying gas weapons to industry.... During the years 1933 through June, 1937, \$1,255,392.55 worth of tear and sickening gas was purchased by employers and law-enforcement agencies, 'chiefly during or in anticipation of strikes'....all of the largest individual purchasers are corporations and their totals far surpass those of large law-enforcement purchasers. In fact, the largest purchaser of gas equipment in the country, the Republic Steel Corp., bought four times as much as the largest law-enforcement purchaser."

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The committee found the following corporations to be the largest purchasers of tear gas and vomit gas for use against their employees who, the corporations were afraid, might be willing to fight for a living wage:

Republic Steel Corp.	\$79,712.42
U.S. Steel Corp.	62,208.12
Bethlehem Steel Corp.	36,173.69
General Motors Corp.	24,626.78
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	16,912.00
Goodrich Rubber Co.	7,740.00
Pennsylvania RR	7,466.00
Chrysler Corp.	7,000.00

The committee also found that the Seattle Chamber of Commerce had spent \$5,873 on the weapons, presumably to protect the community against the ravages of workers who wanted to eat three times a day.

Of course, things have changed since the thirties; we all know that. Most of the labor unions have sold out, either to the politicians or to the corporations (assuming there's some difference there), so that now they're little more than labor contractors. Too, the corporations have hired high-priced public relations experts to maintain their "good images", and they spend hundreds of millions a year backing television programs and commercials designed to make them look good.

But the thing that hasn't changed since the thirties is that men still have to eat, and have clothes to wear, and provide homes and food and education, etc., for their families.

Lyndon's director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (the U.S. Government agency that tries to avoid strikes much the way Lyndon's Community Relations Service tries to avoid "racial trouble") said the other day that "Automated production methods will increasingly change the balance of power under any system that relies too heavily on economic sanctions."

What Lyndon's boy means is that as jobs increasingly get turned over to machines, corporations will increasingly be able to get along without workers, so the threat of a strike just won't mean much to the corporations. Which, of course, also means that the workers will be told by the corporations that if they're not satisfied with their wages and working conditions, they can just leave.

When the corporations told the workers that in the thirties, the workers had an answer. The workers said if the corporations weren't willing to pay decent wages, then they (the workers) would just take over the plants, and see to it that the corporations didn't make any money either. That's why the corporations bought the gas and the guns.

What do you think the corporations will do this time, when the workers refuse to be replaced by machines, and demand living wages and decent jobs ?

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And which side will Lyndon be on?

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Word comes now that Lyndon has asked dear, sweet old J. Edgar to send some of his snoopers down to Santo Domingo to see if they can find any "communists." Just what business the FBI has investigating "communism" in the Dominican Republic (not to say, in the U.S.) is a question that doesn't seem to bother Lyndon, any more than it bothered him to send the marines down there to shoot up Dominicans who wanted to restore their legally elected president to office.

Lyndon looks more like Hitler every day--kind words and payoffs for those who support him, and hot lead for those who don't.

Sieg Heil, Lyndon.

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May 27, 1965
Jack Minnis