

In many instances workers have claimed increased productivity (and demanded higher pay) when actually their contribution has decreased while the contribution of the machines they operate accounts for the increased productivity. This trend finds its ultimate term in featherbedding, the continuation of jobs which contribute nothing to the operation in question.

We are in agreement with the desire of workers to increase their income. Unless this occurs, they will not fully participate in the benefits of technological progress and their lack of buying power will cause a stagnation in the growth of markets for the products of our economy. However, we insist that most of this increased income should be derived from ownership of capital. Any other policy leads to a disorderly taking from the owners of capital the income which rightfully belongs to them.

Our Government increased this disorder by creating many economically unproductive jobs. Of course, most of the funds for such jobs are derived from property and corporation profit taxes which further discourages ownership of capital by the majority of our people.

OWNERSHIP TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY

It is ironic that millions of United States citizens suffer poverty in a nation of unparalleled affluence. This is due partly to the fact that a tiny minority of our citizens own and derive income from our productive property. This condition cuts off the poor from one of the two sources of income. In effect, we are asking the poor to climb the economic ladder with one leg.

There is a growing concern among leaders of the anti-poverty efforts in the United States to devise ways to help low income people gain a stake in the productive property of the nation. Some of the means proposed are listed in a later section of this statement.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROPERTY

The Fathers of Vatican Council II remind us that personal liberty is inseparable from property: "Private property or some ownership of external goods confers on everyone a sphere wholly necessary for the autonomy of the person and the family, and it should be regarded as an extension of human freedom. Lastly, since it adds incentives for carrying on one's function and charge, it constitutes one of the conditions for civil liberties." (Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, par. 26.) Ownership of property better enables an individual to protect his human rights. The people who do not own property—and they are a majority—lack this power. This is one source of their frustration and anger. The answer, however, is not to destroy the institution of private property, but to extend it. If property can confer dignity, material comfort and security upon the few, it can do the same for the many.

PAPAL TEACHINGS ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

The modern Popes have repeatedly stated that the right to own property is founded in human nature, and that it is conducive to the welfare of the individual, the family and society. At the same time, the Popes have stressed the limitations of property rights and their social implications.

Back in 1891, Pope Leo XIII stated the Catholic position on property rights in his encyclical, *On the Condition of Labor*: "For every man has by nature the right to possess property of his own". (par. 5) "That right of property, therefore, which has been proved to belong to individual persons must also belong to a man in his capacity of head of a family; nay, such a person must possess this right so much the more clearly in proportion as his position multiplies his duties." (par. 9) "Men always work harder and more readily when they work on that which is their own . . . It is evident how such a spirit of willing labor would add to the produce of the earth and the wealth of the community." (par. 35) Thus, Pope Leo stated the import of private property for the individual, the family and society. He stressed the interdependence of capital and labor: "Capital cannot do without labor, not labor without capital." (par. 15)

Pope Leo also warned against abuses of ownership. (Op. cit. par. 19) He and succeeding Popes condemned huge concentrations of property because, in effect,