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RELEASE: September 17

BALLOONING BUREAUCRACY

One of the big changes that have come about in political campaigns in the last ten years is the practice of polling the voters to find out what issues they are concerned about. On the surface, this seems like a waste *ot* good campaign contributions because, if the candidate is out meeting his constituents, he can find out himself what worries them.

I'm now ready to concede that voter surveys can be useful. Jimmy Carter's own polls have taught him something he hadn't learned in a year of campaigning, namely, that government spending and the oppress ive Federal bureaucracy are important issues with the voters.

That is the explanation for his sudden announcement of a promise to balance the Federal budget "before the end" of his term as Presi dent. This pledge is wholly incompatible with his other promises to start expensive new spending programs. Nevertheless, it is signifi cant that Jimmy Carter now recognizes that the American people know they are being ripped off by the Federal bureaucracy and are ready to show their anger on November seeond.

The anti-Washington tide that has been sweeping the country this year is even more a reaction to the excessive cost of the Federal Government than to the corruption that causes a stream of sensational headlines. People are just plain fed up with paying the price of the bloated bureaucracy.

Here are a few figures to stagger your imagination. The Federal Government employs 2.9 million civilian workers, issues 45 million "entitlement" checks every month, owns one-third of the country's land,

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holds title to 405,000 buildings, rents another 54,000 builtlings, ,in·ul collects '¾,504different types of Federal forms.

Beginning with F'ranklin n. Roo13evelt, every Prasidf:mt has promised to reduce the ballooning bureaucracy and cut Federal spending, but it continues to grow at an accelerating p.ace. Evl!?:n under Gerald. Pord, tm1 of th.ti eleven Cabinet-level departments and all the regulatory ag ncies have i.Irnre::1sed their numbers of employees.

The attem1,t to s1t1bsti t.ute government regulation for private enter pris aCt!ounts for the large nwnber of professionals o:n the payrolls. 'firnre .arf:? now about 4,800 economists tinkering with our economy, ;1;r1:tclu .ates of u.niversi ties whore they ac<1uired the arrogance to believ1:;; they ct=m spend our mol1ey and direct our economy better than the free market.

Disillusionment with the Federal bureaucracy's ability to solve our economic and social problems stt:1rted years ago with the businessmt:1n **becauee** they were the first targets of regulation and controls. This disillusim ent has lang since spread to the general public, a fRct which the politic:lans, tha11ks to voter surveys, are now starting to recognizt1.

It is, an encouraging sign that this disillusionment bas even spread to the aeademic commurd ty. Harvard President :Oerek Bok is one of ,a ;rowi11g n.m111lrnr of academicians who voice the concern that universi.ties arH now caught in a spider web of unnecessary, c(mfusing, and e>..l)ensive f'fideral red tape. Mr. Bok has finally realized that the wiiversi th s f,r losing their academic freedom because of Federal interference in record-keeping, hiringt and other faculty docisions.

Now that the overlm1tdened taxpayers have finally gotten their message through to the liberal politicians and the liberal professors - th€ same ones who haVt:'! been promoting a r:iigger l•'ederal bu:rer.nrnracy all these years -- we may at last see the end of the tunnel of Federal expansion.

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