

TINKERS TO EVERETT TO CHANCE

The title of this short essay is a reminder of what has generally been perceived the best double-play combination for any baseball team in the history of the sport. I have no purpose to affirm or deny this, but it translates for me into what we so badly need in our society.

Autobiographically, I have to say that I was raised a Marxist and *Das Capital* was my point of reference. But, when I was a junior in high school, I had a fantastic civics teacher, Mrs. Vogel, who really contributed so magnificently to helping me through the readings she suggested to recognize the fallacy in Marxian philosophy, simply because he said that the ends justifies the means” and we now know more poignantly than ever, that it is the means that determine the ends. So okay, I gave up Marxism. And then, I went through a period where I was a socialist. Well, that’s a very sweet theory; it really is. When you go through the Scandinavian countries, it works for them reasonably well. I’ve talked to many of them, having been to those countries. While there is relatively no poverty in those areas, there is a sense of denial of fulfillment. Politically, they are free, but economically, they are not. And so, when I went to the University of Texas, intellectually I met John Dewey, Thorstein Veblen, and Louis Mumford, most especially. Each of them had within their philosophies consideration, whether they claimed it or not or at least as I interpreted it, for capitalism; the kind of capitalism and Adam Smith was writing about in *Reformations* that was the best of all systems as long as it was regulated.

I've said it so many times, I am one who, as I indicated, has been through Marxism, socialism and capitalism, the latter is the best of all systems if it is properly regulated.

In his book, How the Scots Invented the Modern World, Arthur Herman talks about the society that Adam Smith _____ . _____ how capitalism was working in Scotland until about 1790 and then, no matter how good a system is when it runs amok, disaster follows. In an adjunct to capitalism, we must never, never see if we can avoid the catastrophe that it created in Scotland, John Dewey's admonition:

once there was no regulation.

a direct quotation from Herman's book, "The Clearances are the saddest chapter in Scottish history. So many misconceptions surround the terrible 'clearing,' or eviction of tens of thousands of Highland residents from their ancestral lands by their landlords, that it is worth taking time to get the story straight." Well, there you have succinctly the problem. There was a new way for the landlords to make money and for those few to achieve riches. Tens of thousands of people were left in the throes of poverty and caused a great immigration to the United States and Canada and even Australia. We have a reminder today, thousands and thousands of people are being laid off. Our great capitalistic system needs the same attention that was needed in Scotland in the latter part of the eighteenth century. John Dewey said, "_____

What Dewey has written, I wouldn't have to change a word to describe what is occurring in our society today. Remember, these words were written a half a century ago.