QUESTION: You referred in your talk, to government intervention. A previous speaker made reference to what he termed a "planned approach" on the part of labor which would naturally encourage government intervention. Would you comment on this?

MR. CAPLES: Well, of course, I believe this; that the only people who can indicate the public interest are the elected government. And I believe that there are times when the elected government must indicate what the public interest is. Now, you as a free person can agree or disagree with it. You can agree or disagree with the amount of intervention. In President Kennedy's administration, when Arthur Goldberg was Secretary of Labor he intervened a lot for the simple reason that this was something that Arthur liked to do and did well. I think most people felt that there was too much intervention at that time. I personally felt, under President Eisenhower, that there was too little; that the attitude of government then seemed to be, "If I don't look it will go away." Of course, it did not.

This, again, is a judgment. But I think on the whole in a democratic society that the elected government must determine the public interest and it must act within that interest. I do not quarrel with that at all. And I think that generally speaking, the elected officials in this country have done a reasonable good, if not a very good job, in keeping things on a fairly even balance. You hear people cry about government interference in one way or the other, but the hard, cold fact is that we are less interfered with in the United States than any business anywhere in the world that I know of.

About the only restraint on us is that we cannot combine in restraint of trade. But where we put a plant, whether we expand it, whether we cut it out, what we make or do not make; all of these decisions which in the free countries of Europe must be taken up with some government source, we do not have any such restrictions on us at all. And I have a feeling that if we were as restrainted as most European industries are--and they do not think they are too restrained, I might point out--we might have something to scream about. But I think at this point in time nobody can make a case that industry has been adversely affected by anything the government has done, regardless of which party was in power.