

designed to cope with scarcity. Our attitudes toward competition and monopoly have been built on the classical formulation of free markets; free markets that would provide the barometer for individuals seeking their enlightened self-interest; shifting their resources and efforts from one activity to another; free markets that would ultimately distribute to each of us a reward related to our contribution; and free markets that protected the public from exploitation.

These free markets operate well only in cases of scarcity, and to the extent that we are compelled to cope with problems of abundance, free markets are intervened either by Government or by some other policies or programs. I again cite agriculture. To what extent do we have free markets in agriculture? To what extent is it possible to have free markets in agriculture?

To the extent the operation of competition in a system of free markets ceases to be effective, it has been general policy to expect the Government to intervene and to develop a set of rules that would guide public policy and personal behavior.

As a member of the business community, and I regard myself as such, I find this a most deplorable prospect, and yet I do not know exactly what to do about it. I do not like the notion that we are going to become a society of rulemakers, instead of a society that is responding intelligently, voluntarily to changing motivations, incentives, and circumstances in free markets.

One of the reasons I dislike this is not that I distrust Government officers. I would be a poor man to be on this platform if I did, having been a Government officer myself. But, one of the conditions that are so essential to the adaptation to this technological revolution is mobility and flexibility in our economy and in our society, and rulemaking is the worst of all possible ways to achieve that fluidity.

I will just ask one question in passing. Has abundance begun to strangle the free economy operating in a free society? I do not know. I see it in agriculture. I see it in the railroad business. I am a director of a railroad, and I know full well that when we pontificate about some problem at the board table the chances of our conclusions becoming effective are very small, because there are so many layers of rules that we must work through to make effective and to translate