



I had a boyfriend once with whom I used to discuss politics. We talked about his father, and I asked what political party his father had belonged to. "He was an anarchist," he muttered.

I knew that an anarchist is one who does not believe there should be any government at all. Everyone should be free to live his own life in whatever way he chooses. anarchists maintain.

Later I found out more about my boyfriend's father. It seems he was a hit man by trade. His wife and children were never allowed out of their apartment at all. When there was food needed, the father brought it home. He loved his family and feared reprisals against them. He also feared that they could be captured and held for ransom.

Eventually the children were allowed to go to school. Shortly after this the father was killed. I didn't hear how they survived after that - presumably on welfare, unless the father had left a good insurance policy. The son was a good student, got a scholarship to college, and became a university lecturer in economics.

The father and mother had both come from Russia at about the time of the Communist revolution in 1917, getting out before the Iron Curtain was established. The father apparently learned his grisly trade there, as well as his politics.

What sort of man would believe that there should be no government at all? Well, a man who has hated the way the Tzar rules and who then sees the Communists come in and hates their ways too - this might be the conclusion he would arrive at. Having seen two governments rule in ways that he considers wrong, a man might without further con-

sideration decide that no government at all would be better. This may have been that father's conclusion.

Secondly, a successful business man will often talk as if there should be no government at all. At least he sounds this way, because he is always annoyed with the way government puts restrictions on business men and taxes their income for the presumed benefit of the people as a whole.

When you dig a little deeper, however, you find that business men do not really wish to abolish government. It only sounds that way because of their complaints about government regulation of business. Just ask a business man whether there should be protection against crime (by which he means mainly theft of private property) and it's altogether a different matter. He is also likely to be a family man, and he wants his loved ones and his person to be protected without needing to live furtively.

The business man wants a free market economy - or so he says. However as we all know, what he considers fair is, in the main, what is profitable for him. He wants rules and laws to protect him from whatever competition he considers unfair, such as competition from Japan. And he wants a government which will enforce those laws. As a matter of fact he will try to buy himself a government trained to make laws under which he will prosper.

So although to hear them talk we might consider business men to be anarchists, they finally turn out to be essentially oligarchists - that is, advocates of rule by one group of men - them.

The third type of man who will be an anarchist - if he ever thinks politically at all - is the lawless man, the bandit. These are men who either favor rule by the mob - rule by bully I call it - or who do not realize that if you abolish legal, civilized rule, you will have mob rule. Bandits, left uncontrolled, will create anarchy. Then one mobster will fight his way to the top, and you will again have government.