

*Club approved a new proj.  
V. Sol J.*

*your chance to make a diff. 9/11/1990*

**PROJECT FREE ENTERPRISE**

**BLAST OFF ARTICLE**

Project Free Enterprise is Rotary International in action. Rotary has been forming new clubs in the old world capitals in the newly liberated Eastern bloc. The citizens of those former communist countries are becoming free to go into business and fend for themselves---and yet they are not that familiar with the basic principles and forces at work in market economies.

Indeed, capitalism is being introduced to these countries by large corporations viewing them as a market for their goods, or as a cheap labor force to make their goods less expensively.

They are not concerned about the individual citizens improving themselves through free enterprise principles. Some free enterprise courses have been given at high admission fees---such as \$350.00---a huge fee in their economy.

Space Center Rotary's David Taylor has been setting up youth exchanges with eastern bloc countries before the Berlin Wall ever came down. It occurred to him that it was also important to help the "parents" of these students with practical assistance now. Whereas the youth programs can shape the future, our global neighbors in these communistic countries need help that can make a difference during these hard times. He felt that "carpet baggers" would be lined up at the iron curtain to go in and expose them to capitalism---as hard learned lessons.

He proposed to the District Governor of 589 that we select a team of speakers on free enterprise to give seminars sponsored by the local Rotary clubs. The Governor agreed and Taylor then contacted Moscow, Talinn, Warsaw, Leipzig, Budapest and Prague.

So far only the Rotary clubs in Budapest and Warsaw have agreed to the project and the first team of speakers will be sent on a two-week mission to give talks in large meeting halls to the citizens of those cities. The visiting team will be housed in the homes of Rotarians.

And because Budapest and Warsaw have accepted this offer to come speak there is a big dilemma in District 589. We have no program topics planned, no speakers selected nor even a procedure for how to select them, no funds to pay for their air fare, no producer of the program and its visual aids, no liason with RI headquarters (which is monitoring this project), no one for logistics and travel, no place to present the program here in Houston as a dress rehearsal, no one to promote this project to the District's Rotary Clubs to recruit support and no one for publicity.

Taylor has hoped that individual Rotary clubs would take on an area of responsibility and appoint a committee entirely of it's club's members. For example, to devise a selection procedure, publicize it, and interview the applicants and announce the selections for the team. The chairman of this committee could come to the district level meetings and give a status report.

After three letters to the club presidents, and an appeal to the district governor and others for assistance, there still does not appear to be sufficient support to do this project.

Taylor says he believes the concept of the project is timely and a very "Rotarian" thing to do, but that he does not know how to go about getting the district to come on board and do the work.

The dilemma is that District 589 may have to back out of its offer to come help. Those interested in joining the effort can call David Taylor at 332-6513.

The next Project Free Enterprise meeting is:

Astrodome Mariott  
(in the restaraunt)  
Sept. 11, 1990  
7 PM, Tuesday

16 @ mtg.  
& accepted  
project is coalescing