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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

Liberals Challenged on Uniform Taxation

Mr. Holt's Evasive Reply

The Melbourne Age of June 22 reports Mr. Dedman as having challenged the Federal Opposition to say whether it would abolish Uniform Taxation if it won the Federal Elections. Mr. Holt's reply clearly indicates that the Opposition is not prepared to face up to this fundamental issue. Mr. Holt, who is an important and influential member of the Liberal Party, said in reply to Mr. Dedman: "If an anti-Labour Government is returned to power it would review the uniform taxation legislation to see that justice is done to all States."

Mr. Holt and his political associates are at present telling the electors of Australia that the basic issue confronting them is Socialism versus individual freedom. But, as we pointed out on this page last week, verbal opposition to the label, "Socialism," is merely misleading if there is not also opposition to the policies of Socialism.

The Fundamental Issue

The fundamental point to be understood about Socialism is that it means the progressive centralisation of power in all spheres of human activities — political, economic, and financial. Every step towards the further centralisation of power means that the individual has less and less control over his own policies. If the policy of centralisation continues it can be predicted with absolute certainty that, irrespective of the label of Governments, the community will be convulsed by crisis after crisis until the complete Monopoly State is firmly established.

The first major step towards the defeat of the menace, which looms greater every day, is action to start decentralising power. All those who term themselves anti-Socialists have got to face this question — that is, if they are really genuine in their alleged desire to help save our way of life. But what a discouragement it is to those who look to the Liberals for a lead, to see Mr. Holt cleverly sidestepping Mr. Dedman's challenge. Centralised control of financial policy, of which Uniform Taxation is an important part, is advocated by all Socialists. Anti-Socialists don't want a "review" of Socialist policies; they want a definite assurance that they will be completely abolished. If the Liberal politicians think that they can handle centralised power more "efficiently" than the Labour-Socialists, they have learned nothing from history and reveal themselves as just another group of politicians who are prepared to seek power by sacrificing principles to expediency. There can be no

compromise on fundamental principles if the British way of life is to be saved and extended.

Question of Sovereignty

Mr. Holt's statement that he and his associates desire to see that "justice is done to all States" merely camouflages the real issue of whether the States are to be sovereign in their own spheres or whether they are to be at the mercy of the Federal Government.

The argument that the Federal Government will dispense "justice" to the States is, of course, similar to the Socialist argument that Governments should look after the individual from the cradle to the grave. Constitutional developments in British countries have been based on the principle that all Governments derive their powers from individuals, powers to carry out specific but limited functions. The Federal Government in Australia was created as the results of the States granting certain specific and limited powers to the Commonwealth. If individuals and local Governments such as the Australian State Governments are not completely sovereign, then there is tyranny. If the Liberals want to improve their chances of winning the next Federal Elections, which are not too rosy at the moment, they would do well to do some hard thinking about this question.

Will the Liberals Decentralise?

If the Liberals do not believe that the States should have financial sovereignty completely restored to them, then let them say so in straightforward language. Let them openly admit that they agree with the Socialist principle of centralised control of taxation policies. If the States had control of their own taxation policies, the people of every State could then decide just what taxation they were prepared to pay. There would be more effective control of the spending of taxation. Decentralisation of all policy making is the basis of

genuine democracy.

Uniform Taxation must be made a major issue at the coming Federal Elections. If the Elections are going to result in a continuation of a situation in which the States have to seek their financial requirements from the Federal Government, it doesn't really matter which set of politicians are in office. We are either going to have more centralisation of power, or we are going to have less.

How many members of the anti-Socialist parties have the courage and integrity to face this question? "By their fruits ye shall know them."

OUR POLICY

1. The preservation of Australia's sovereignty as a part of the British Empire, and the exposure of all internal and external groups which attack that sovereignty.
2. The preservation and extension of genuine local government.
3. The preservation and strengthening of all Constitutional safeguards for the purpose of protecting fundamental individual rights.
4. The encouragement of all activities designed to bring Governments under more effective control by the electors.
5. The preservation and extension of genuine free, competitive enterprise and private ownership, and opposition to all Monopoly, whether it be "private" or State.
6. The support of a financial policy which will (a) permit free enterprise to make available to all individuals an increasing standard of living and greater leisure for cultural pursuits; (b) result in no further increase in the community's indebtedness and the sound business practice of gradually reducing existing debt.
7. Recognising that the basis of any sound economy is agriculture, the encouragement of agricultural policies which will ensure the preservation and building up of soil fertility by organic farming and gardening; and the prevention of soil erosion and the protection of forests and watersheds.

Now, when our land to ruin's brink is verging,
In God's name, let us speak while there is time!
Now, when the padlocks for our lips are forging,
Silence is crime.

WHITTIER.

TO THE POINT

Depression Policy

Speaking at Canberra on May 18, 1949, Mr. T. White, Liberal Member, said: "If a business man wants to raise money to expand his business or to commence a new one he must go to the private banking institutions in order to obtain it. Where can proprietary companies and small partnerships obtain financial assistance, except from the private banks? Only the public companies can put their share reserves before the public, and then obtain Treasury approval to increase their share capital.

"Recently the Prime Minister introduced a measure imposing crippling taxes on proprietary companies, which are often family concerns, and which put them at a disadvantage compared with public companies. And now he has issued an instruction to the banks to tighten up advances—in other words, to be 'tough.' In future, when presenting their pay cheques to the banks, many small business men will no doubt be told, 'Your overdraft is in excess of the limit and must be reduced.' Because of these instructions it will be impossible for them to expand their businesses and some may even be put out of existence. In that way, depressions begin. As we all know, that has happened in the past. Those who will suffer most as a result of the contraction of credit will be the ex-service men who borrowed money from the Repatriation Department with which to start businesses, supplementing their loans with limited accommodation obtained from the banks." It is interesting to note that some Liberals have learned something about the importance of financial policy.

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Financial Cost of Bureaucracy

The financial cost of the rapidly expanding Federal bureaucracy should give rise to some serious thought by those who think

AN IRONY OF HISTORY

"The whole Liberal philosophy is as much an enemy and a victim of the Communists as is the Christian philosophy, and it is an irony of history that the Liberal epoch prepared the way for the Communists' advances . . . The Liberals in their great days, when they were attacking and subverting institutions, did so in the confident belief not only that most men were good but that the good men would always be in control of the bad. Hence they had no hesitations in becoming the blind advocates of doctrines of State sovereignty which have greatly facilitated the ambitions of evil and ruthless men claiming to incarnate the people's will. The German Liberals are a melancholy illustration of this history, and, while Liberalism remains a great force in the Western world, we ask Liberals also to make a bigger place in their thinking for institutions other than the State, and for historic forces like custom and prescription."—*The Tablet*, England.

Judged by their words and deeds, the Australian Liberals are in the process of repeating history.

that the centralisation of power is "progressive." In 1946-47, Federal Departments cost £23,000,000. The estimate for this year is £38,000,000, an increase of 63 percent!

* * * *

Small-Scale Enterprise

In spite of the financial and other centralising policies of the planners, small-scale enterprise is still the backbone of the Australian productive system. The official figures for 1946-47, the last year for which figures are available, show that out of a total of 34,000 factories, only 2,800 employed more than 100 persons. However, it is disturbing to notice that out of 813,000 employed in Australian factories, approximately half are employed by the organisations, which employ more than 100 persons. No doubt, as centralisation continues, more and more will be employed by the larger organisations — which are being encouraged to become bigger in order that it will be easier to take them over when the time for complete Socialism arrives.

* * * *

Mr. Menzies On Exports

More economic lunacy from Mr. Menzies, who still thinks that we grow prosperous by giving away portion of our production without getting any production in exchange — *i.e.*, "the favourable balance of trade"; "We must aim at producing, not only in order to meet our own requirements, but also to capture and hold new and permanent markets overseas. Time and time again I have emphasised to such members of the public as were willing to hear me, that, in the long run, a guarantee of full employment must lie not alone in the provision of public works designed to avoid unemployment, but also in developing markets in other countries for things which we make in Australia."

The purpose of exporting would appear to all sensible people, if there are many such people in this mad world to-day, to be in order to obtain by imports the equivalent of what was exported. But no, that's too, too simple. The object of exporting goods is to provide "full employment" for all. Wasn't it grand when there was a war on and there was a guaranteed market for our "exports" — bombs, shells, etc. — and everyone was "fully employed" with manpower control operating as Dr. Evatt would like it to operate for ever!

* * * *

"Full Employment" and Manpower Control

Speaking on January 16 of this year, the Federal President of the Australian Labour-Socialist Party joined in to strengthen the chorus of those pointing out that Socialism in practice means manpower control: "We cannot have full employment unless we have a balanced economy. It is necessary to have manpower control in the interests of the workers especially. Employers will not release men they do not need for the time being, fearing that they will not be able to get them later. If workers were directed elsewhere to continuous and greater output, national prosperity would be increased." The workers, as they like to term themselves, have been warned.

Constitution Barrier to Conscription

Mr. Dedman is worried about the growing recognition of the fact that Socialism means manpower control. Speaking at Canberra on May 20, 1949, Mr. Dedman said that it was untrue that the Government would regiment the workers, "because, as the Constitution stands, the Commonwealth Parliament has not the power to regiment workers." But just wait until Dr. Evatt drives a few more wedges into the Federal Constitution!

* * * *

Taxation Robbery

Speaking in the Federal Parliament on May 25, 1949, Mr. Spender gave some interesting information concerning taxation: —

"I shall quote to the House some extraordinary figures concerning the incidence of direct and indirect taxation.

"The total revenue per head of population has shown remarkable increases between the financial year 1942-43 and the last financial year. The peak year of the war was 1942, when the total revenue a head of population was £40. In 1946-47 it was £57 a head and in 1947-48, £61.

"The revised estimate for this financial year shows that revenue will be £70 per head of population. That represents an increase of 72 percent over the 1942-43 figure. Over the same period the basic wage has increased by only 22.6 per cent. I take, as my base, the December quarter of 1942 for comparison with the December quarter of 1948, and the Government can verify my figures if it chooses to do so. The Treasurer tells the people that the burden of taxation has been reduced, when, in fact, the total taxes, direct and indirect, have been increased from £40 a head of population in 1942-43 to £70 a head in the current financial year. That is an extraordinary increase, and yet the Government says that the load of taxation has been lightened. The truth is exactly the contrary. The burden of taxation has been increased, but its incidence is undisclosed. That incidence reflects itself directly in the cost of living, as a result of the policy followed by the Government, because it must be plain to the point of demonstration that indirect taxes bear very quickly and harshly upon the cost of living.

"To-day we spend one-third of the total national income through governmental channels. In other words, the Government takes one-third of the income produced by the country and spends it in its own way. Speaking in very general terms a person who earns, say, £450 a year will pay, not by way of direct taxes, but by way of the total weight of taxation, one-third of his income for governmental purposes."

F. D. ROOSEVELT, JR.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., standing as a Liberal, was an easy victor in this week's by-election in the Twentieth Congressional district of New York, a predominantly Jewish area. He takes the place of the late Congressman Sol Bloom.

"After his victory Mr. Roosevelt announced that he would leave for Israel immediately to ascertain how America could best aid the new State."—*The Jewish Chronicle*, MAY 20, 1949.

Big Drive Against Financier-Socialist Plot

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS EXTENDING PROGRAMME

The non-party and non-sectional Victorian League of Rights reports that it is rapidly intensifying its drive against the Financier-Socialist plot to centralise all power. Consternation is growing in some circles as the League of Rights, not only in Victoria, but also in South Australia, continues to extend its activities.

The Victorian League's industrial programme in Melbourne has now been developed to the stage where League speakers are giving between 15 and 20 lunch-hour addresses per week to factory employees. This number will soon be increased to over 20 per week. Thousands of pieces of special literature are being distributed at these meetings and time and time again League speakers are asked to return for further meetings. This is being done. This educational drive on the industrial front, which is not only reaching the employees, but also management, is to be continued right throughout this year. The League's full-time speakers are Mr. John Weller, the League's Organising Secretary; Mr. John Johnstone, Secretary; Mr. G. Fitzgerald and the League's Campaign Director, Mr. Eric Butler. A number of volunteer speakers are giving up their lunch hours in order to assist.

Business Men Interviewed

Apart from the industrial programme, League representatives, particularly Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Johnstone, are constantly interviewing businessmen and interesting them in the League's programme and work. Special literature is provided for businessmen.

The League is approaching all organisations and clubs asking them if they require a competent speaker to talk to them on a list of subjects submitted by the League. It is anticipated that this aspect of League work will keep League speakers out nearly every night of the week. At present, Mr. John Weller is conducting a special training class to equip League speakers to handle a variety of subjects. Mr. Weller reports a very keen class and some new potential speakers. This class meets every Thursday evening, 8 p.m., at the Caris Club, 4th Floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins St., Melbourne. Any interested *New Times* readers are welcome.

Campaign Against "Free" Medicine

In its campaign against "Free" Medicine and the National Health Scheme, the League has distributed thousands of copies of its special brochure, "The Real Policy Behind 'Free' Medicine and the National Health Scheme." The doctors in particular have taken this brochure up very enthusiastically. Readers of the *New Times* who require supplies of this brochure need only write to the League of Rights, Box 1052J., asking for the quantity they require. A group of Melbourne doctors are making special arrangements for Mr. Eric Butler to address a meeting of doctors in the near future.

Following Mr. Butler's very successful meeting with the Melbourne dentists, he was invited to address the Dental students on June 10. He was given a very warm welcome and was closely questioned after-

wards. There is a growing understanding of the Financier-Socialist policy of world enslavement. We learn with interest that a whispering campaign is being conducted against Mr. Butler at present, particularly amongst dentists, it being alleged that he was interned during the war. There is, of course, no truth whatever in this story.

Press and Radio

A major aspect of League activities over the past two months has been the conducting of a special Study Course for individuals and groups, in conjunction with the Melbourne *Argus*. The *Argus* has been publishing a series of featured articles by Mr. Butler every Saturday, the last of the series appearing next Saturday. Any readers of the *New Times* who require a set, or sets, of Mr. Butler's *Argus* articles may obtain them upon request to the League of Rights. These articles have been forwarded to the Editors of all Australian daily newspapers.

The League's radio session over 3SR Shepparton at 10.10 p.m. every Monday is being well received. Arrangements are in hand for Mr. Butler to start broadcasting over 3CS Colac again. Details will be announced shortly. Several other country radio sessions will be also arranged.

Other Activities

On Monday, June 20, Mr. Eric Butler addressed Albury (N.S.W.) Rotary Club, his subject being "Constitutional Barriers to Serfdom." Those present, who included leading business and professional men, said that the talk was the most stimulating they had yet heard. A report of Mr. Butler's address was featured in the Albury daily, *The Border Morning Mail*. Albury Apex Club has asked Mr. Butler for an address later on. The address to Rotary was the preliminary to a proposed public meeting to be held when the weather improves.

Mr. John Weller is at present conducting a special Training Course for the Young Liberal Movement. Reports indicate considerable interest by young people desirous of making themselves competent to deal with fundamental political and economic issues.

The League is in course of preparing a series of special brochures, which will be widely distributed right throughout Australia. It is expected that something over one million pieces of educational literature will have been sent out by the League before the Federal Elections. The support of all *New Times* readers will be required for effectively distributing this literature.

The League is now appointing representatives in as many Victorian centres as possible, and any *New Times* readers who would like to act as a representative of the League should contact Mr. John Weller, Organising Secretary, Victorian League of Rights, Box 1052J., G.P.O., Melbourne.

A PAT ON THE BACK

One extraordinary feature of the Coombs' direction to the Australian banks was the apparent approval of the banks themselves, also the silence of the Liberal and Country political parties, and the entire absence of Editorial criticism. Perhaps the first-named was responsible for the latter. We noticed one exception to this rule. The *New Times*,-- of Melbourne, quickly assessed the situation, and in a capable article in its 10th June issue, summed up some of the implications thus:—

"Money control and other controls are closely related. To understand fully the issues involved in money control, it is well to consider, for example, transport control via petrol rationing, business control via capital issues and permits, propaganda control via the impending Broadcasting Bill, control of doctors via the so-called Free Medicine plot, which is merely the bait (supplied from taxes) so that the doctors can be used to police industrial conscription. Many other controls could be cited — each one designed to take care of a section of the master plot to complete the servile state; these are all closely related to this latest move to control our money." —L. WITHALL, *Canberra Letter*, June 1.6.

Russell Recants

Bertrand Russell, the English philosopher, after spending a lifetime advocating Socialism, appears to be recanting, judged by a broadcast over the B.B.C. on January 2, when he said:—

"There has never in past history been any large State that controlled its citizens as completely as they are controlled in the Soviet Republic, or even in modern England.

"Worst of all, from our present point of view, is a system which exists over wide fields in Britain, where those who have nominal initiative are perpetually controlled by a Civil Service which has only a veto and no duty of inauguration, and thus acquires a negative psychology perpetually prone to prohibitions.

"Under such a system the energetic are reduced to despair; those who might have become energetic in a more hopeful environment tend to be listless and frivolous, and it is not likely that the positive functions of the State will be performed with vigour and confidence.

"It may be that the present tendencies toward centralisation are too strong to be resisted until they have led to disaster, and that, as happened to the fifth century, the whole system must break down, with all the inevitable results of anarchy and poverty, before human beings can again acquire that degree of personal freedom without which life loses its savour."

H. N. SMITH

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COAL CRISIS IN PERSPECTIVE

There is no final solution to this crisis within the present centralised framework of society. This industrial crisis, together with political and financial crises, that have continuously plagued us throughout the period of our industrial civilisation, are the result of a continuous policy of centralisation. This policy derives from the Jew using centralised control of finance and news.

Using selective finance, industry and, with it, populations have been progressively concentrated to the point where the individual has lost control of policy. Using propaganda, the irresponsible secret ballot has been manipulated under majority rule "democracy" to progressively destroy the rights of minorities. Continuation of this policy is leading us rapidly to the servile state.

The only alternative is a genuine policy of decentralisation, the keynote of which must be responsibility. This should be the touchstone of the next Federal Elections, but judged by the utterances of Liberal leaders, all we are to be offered is either being boiled in Liberal centralisation or fried in Labour Socialism.

THE DOLLAR RACKET

A Mr. Don Iddon, who from the U.S.A. contributes to the London "Daily Mail" a daily column, reports in the issue for May 21 "indirect, but insistent" pressure on Sir Stafford Cripps to 'devalue' the pound sterling. "During the past few days the pressure has been applied from many quarters — from Economic Co-operation Administration executives, from United States Government officials in Washington, London and Paris, and from a clamorous financial press which insists that Britain faces economic disaster unless she devalues . . . The 'Wall Street Journal' and the 'Journal of Commerce,' the two most important financial organs in the country, are trumpeting loudly for devaluation . . . The American people, the taxpayers who finance the Marshall Plan, are being informed by their newspapers, and their radio commentators that the short-term Marshall Plan could be wrecked unless Britain devalues the pound. .

As we all know, or are being told, British exports are 'slumping.' The argument for devaluation is that the price of British goods, in terms of dollars, would be decreased; and thus, the volume of exports might be restored. But the financial result might, and probably would, remain just as before, or might even be worse. If, for example, devaluation of the pound resulted only in a return of export volume to the level obtaining before it 'slumped,' while only three dollars were received for every four received before devaluation, 'hard currency' income, the alleged objective of the export drive, would still be diminished.

All over the world there is abundant evidence of vastly increasing productive capacity. British productivity is officially stated already to exceed pre-war levels, and Australian, not to mention U.S.A., production is clearly vastly increased. But wherever production is high, economic policy is enforcing exports: the "Export Drive" in Great Britain, "Marshall" aid in the U.S.A., and the development of Asia in Australia.

A child of ten, if un-'educated,' could see that unrequired exports — "a favourable balance of trade"—is a madhouse policy. But it seems evident now that 'educated' adults will not see through it until the very bitter end when it will have achieved the purpose of its promoters— the enslavement of all save the Chosen to the factories.

—*"The Australian Social Crediter," June 11.*

IN ONCE GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON. —When two or three Australians meet over here conversation usually turns to the cost of living. It is not a spectacular topic, as it is in France, but it does compel the attention of all who observe and think about the mass of working men and women.

Visitors from Down Under know that wages will be lower in England. The realisation comes soon after arrival that the cost of living is at least as high as in Australia, and probably much higher. And the actual standards of working-class existence are not even comparable.

I called at an Employment Exchange the other day and asked for figures. Here are some: Carpenter, award rate £6/4/- for 46-hour week; farm worker, £4/10/- for 48-hour week; school matron, £140 per annum with keep; waitress, £2/2/- for a 44-hour week.

It is true that prices of basic groceries are reasonable. But so little can be obtained on the ration that they scarcely provide relief. As for the greengrocer and fruiterer, well, it is an act of courage for an Australian to look at their produce. Admittedly the season is bad at the moment, but both shopkeepers and customers tell me that things are little better in "bounteous" autumn.

Tiny cauliflowers that could not be offered for sale in Australia are priced at 1/6. Tomatoes rarely fall below 2/- lb. Heartless cabbages are 9d. lb., including outer leaves and some stalk. Poor lettuces are 1/6, and poorer new potatoes at 1/- lb. Fresh fruit is unprocurable, unless you are willing to pay the equivalent of 9/- lb. for strawberries.

Low wages and a high cost of living are the lot of the workingman. Nor are there many signs of improvement; in fact, the general trend of trade in the last few weeks is disquieting. The export drive is lagging and that drive is not for prosperity but for existence. A nation cannot rise much above its dinner table, and Britain is struggling to buy essential food and raw materials.

Whatever may be her reputation overseas, "Made in Britain" is no guarantee of quality for the man at home. The best goods are "For Export Only" in most trades. Except at fancy prices, clothing and footwear are inferior to Australian products. I heard much grumbling about shoddy goods in Melbourne, but things are far worse here.

—PETER WESTCOTT, *The Herald*, Melb., June 22.

Export and perish under a totalitarian regime. The British are being compelled, under the present fraudulent Socialist-financier rules to seek exports at the expense of the home market to obtain dollars. As New York Jews control the allocation of dollars the reason for the present plight of our kinsmen becomes apparent. -International dollar racket is successfully challenged; both their conditions and ours will progressively worsen.

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CHARTER OF STABILITY

We again have the pleasure of quoting an excellent *Argus* (Melb.) editorial under the above title. It appeared in the issue of June 18. We take this opportunity of congratulating the *Argus* on its progressively improving standards and the relative soundness of a large number of its editorials. We suggest that our Victorian readers bear this in mind when ordering their morning paper.

Mr. Eric D. Butler's article on this page puts the important question of the Constitution in its correct perspective by showing that it is not only the charter of our liberties but also the charter of our national stability. It is something that stands high above party politics, though it is the very basis of politics in the • non-partisan sense of the word. For the Constitution is the political element that endures; and it is as appropriate to say of a country as it is to say of a man that its health depends upon a sound Constitution.

Australia's political health is not good in this respect; or at any rate it is threatened because its Constitution is being undermined. As Mr. Butler puts it: "*The Labour Socialists have over a number of years made it clear that they are irked by the fact that they must submit all proposed changes to the Federal Constitution to the electorate*" And because they are thus irked, they try to get round the Constitution, as we have pointed out before in this column, either by regulations or by tententious legislation.

The commonest method is a kind of bluff. They try to see how far they can get by perpetuating wartime powers. These powers were inherent in the Constitution; it is true, but only for the purpose of actual defence. Every attempt to retain them indefinitely after the war is an attempt to substitute the will of a party temporarily in office for the permanent rule of law envisaged by the Constitution.

LIQUIDATING BRITAIN

Having liquidated the geographical centres of the British Empire, the Fifth Column, which is in power in London, part of it probably quite unconscious of the work it is doing, is now clearly busy with the disintegration of our financial power.

Although the so-called gold-standard system was fraudulent, and was fraudulently operated, it did at any rate pretend to be a system, and could be "explained." But the "finance" of this Financier-Socialist Administration does not even pretend to be a system; it is merely a printing press. Neither wages, prices, imports, exports, "standard of living," taxes, Government expenditure, "plans," nor prospects betray any related connection to anything except the dictum of the Red Queen in *Alice in Wonderland*— "Faster, faster." After having "lost" practically all our overseas securities, and financed the greatest war in history, we are shovelling out untold millions of something we call pounds, the depreciation of which makes the purchase of raw materials and food prohibitive, and the necessity for a valuable foreign currency, dollars, more urgent. Wall Street is already pressing for the "devaluation" of the pound — higher prices for dollars. There is little or no protest; and it is demonstrated that

any attempt to make sound finance, by which we mean something very different from orthodox finance, a political issue under our equally insane "majority" principle, is, as we have always contended, childish.

We are under no delusion as to what is happening. It has happened in Russia and Germany under the same central direction. All property is being forced into the market, to be acquired by the payment of depreciated and depreciating currency. We shall then have a gigantic inflation, which will wipe out the purchase-money, Wall Street will be found in possession of everything and a "reform" of the currency will follow. We hope that those who clamoured for the "nationalisation" of the Bank of England, which has made the whole scheme easy and simple, are pleased with the prospect. But they probably think that it will be all right on the night.

Monstrous State

Undermining the Constitution and thus undermining the rule of law must, if it goes far enough, eventually force the individual to derive his rights from the State. And a State that thus assumes complete command over all our actions is pagan and monstrous, whether it is Socialist, Fascist, or Communist.

Mr. Butler has done well to bring out the Christian character of the rule of law as we understand it in British countries — which imply the rule of the Constitution. This rule of law is an ethical concept, which again is higher than politics. It gives a spiritual basis to our liberties, and thus, as Mr. Butler remarks, enables the individual to derive his rights from God.

—*The Social Creditor*, June 11.

D.S.C.M. WOMEN'S GROUP

(VIC.)

Now Meets on
THE THIRD THURSDAY
of Every Month. All
interested are invited.

Dollar Crisis

High U.S. officials are advising how the next British economic crisis should be treated when, and if, it comes.

Reporting this the *New York Times* says they hope to lessen the strain on Anglo-American relations, which, it is expected, would follow the reduction of British purchases in U.S.

The paper says, "Discouraging as this official prospectus may seem, there are those high in this Government who contend that even if it materialises it may prove a blessing in disguise."

These officials believe that nothing less than a major shock in the form of increased austerity could impress on the British the dire necessity of reducing production costs.

It is believed that the situation may worsen in July.

Britain's gold and dollar reserve may then fall below the £624,000,000 mark.

This reserve must be maintained if Britain is to continue as a clearing agent for sterling countries.

The *Times* says that the British Chancellor (Sir Stafford Cripps) would be expected to announce Britain's plight in the Commons and to propose an additional reduction in dollar imports.

The paper says, "This cutting back of dollar imports would be expected to produce a great hue and cry against British 'discrimination.'"

"The resulting strain on Anglo-American relations would come at a most unfortunate time."

"The U.S. Senate would then be debating the appropriation for the European Recovery programme, including £294,280,000 for Britain."

The *Times* report emphasises growing American realisation that the American economy is closely tied up with European purchases from America.

The *Christian Science Monitor* recently itemised goods on which E.R.P. dollars are spent.

In commenting on the Congressional proposal to cut the E.R.P. appropriation, the *Monitor* said it would have meant an immediate and substantial loss of orders for machinery for various fuels and for wheat, corn, cotton and dairy products.

The *Monitor* said: "This concrete and telling argument is believed to have silenced the Senate Appropriations committee's pell mell demands for slicing E.R.P. funds." — *The Age*, Melb. June 23.

Result of Marshall "aid" increased austerity. Who would have thought that these nice "Americans" who are fighting so hard to save the world for "democracy" could be so unkind?

"SOCIAL CREDIT AND CATHOLICISM"

By George-Henri Levesque, O.P., Professor of Economics, Laval and Montreal Universities, Dominican House of Studies, Ottawa.

Introduction by Eric D. Butler.

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Planning the Earth

By GEOFFREY DOBBS.

In view of the use of soil erosion as a propaganda instrument to foist centralised "resource planning" on an unsuspecting public; together with such schemes as the Snowy River project and the State-sponsored collective farm in Central Queensland, we republish the essay under the above title which originally appeared in the *Social Crediter* during September, 1944. Part I appeared last week; Part II follows:

(II)

Although the aims of the Tennessee Valley Authority, as described in the preamble to the Act, which constituted it in 1933, are many and various, the navigation system "forms the logical and constitutional basis of all other activities of the Authority;" flood control and navigation alone being inter-State matters. The powers given to the Authority under section 22 of the Act are given directly to the President of the U.S.A., and apply not only to the Tennessee basin but to such adjoining territory "as may be related to or materially affected by the developments consequent to this Act." The spread of control from water to almost everything else makes an instructive study of the totalitarian nature of Planning.

Muscle Shoals

The first important Federal interference with the area took place during the last war, when a dam and power plant for the production of nitrates for munitions and fertilisers were constructed at Muscle Shoals. After the War the plant stood idle. In 1928 and 1930 Congress declarations in favour of Government operation were blocked by the Presidential veto. Nevertheless, for ten years before 1933 War Department engineers were busy carrying out a survey of natural resources and "basic engineering and economic data" in the area. It would be interesting to know through what channels they received orders which clearly coincided with the policy of the President's successor, which resulted in the building up of large power resources just in time for the next war.

The first duty of the Tennessee Valley Authority was the rehabilitation of Muscle Shoals and its co-ordination with the wider plans. The next step was the building of other vast dams and the creation of immense reservoirs, the eventual aim being that "When the system is completed very little water will normally reach the sea without passing through turbines . . ." and hence coming under the control of whomever, at any particular time, controlled the sluice gates. The Norris Reservoir, for instance, is stated to have a shoreline of

775 miles. Interference with the earth's surface on this scale brings with it, besides centralised control of water and electric power, many "problems" which can be dealt with only by extending the interference still further. There is the employment of thousands of workpeople, the development of towns and camps to house them, the resettlement of the people displaced from the obliterated land, the diversion and rebuilding of roads (over 100 miles in the case of the Norris reservoir alone), and the problem of malaria control arising from the creation of huge sheets of water.

Silting Prevention

To prevent the silting up of reservoirs, the Authority is empowered to purchase such land as it thinks necessary around them. It "co-operates" also with the farmers, encouraging terracing associations, "in which the manufacturers of terracing machinery co-operate with the T.V.A. . . . The farmers themselves pay the cost of the terracing programme, including the necessary equipment." It also co-operates with the State Agricultural Colleges in moving some thousands of farmers out of the eroded areas. "Anyone knowing the Southern hill farmer," writes P.E.P., "with his Anglo-Saxon and Scottish traditions, will realise that this was not the least of the engineering problems encountered."

Chemical Fertilisers

The prevention of soil erosion by the use of fertilisers is one of the aims of the Authority. The fertilisers in question are, of course, of the chemical type largely blamed for the impoverishment of soils all over the world. The soil, like the Public in a Planned State, must take what it is convenient to produce, in this case the chemical by-products of "national defence," and of phosphate-bearing lands near Muscle Shoals. "Research" is being busily carried on into the best way to use these, and the cheapest way to transport them, and the development of new industries and various dodges for "taking up surplus labour." There are "some interesting experiments in housing" in the new town of Norris, built by the Authority, also in "highway construction, amenities and land planning." Indeed the whole business is most 'interesting' — for the Planners! First, where the labour may live, then how

the labour may live, and what it may labour at, and what sort of hutch it may live in, and what sort of roads it may walk on, and what sort of bath, and sink and lavatory it may use, and how it may poison the already dying soil most cheaply, and how it may amuse itself, and finally how and what it may think. "The whole T.V.A. enterprise has been visualised from the outset not just as a great public works scheme, but as an immense and significant programme of education."

World Propaganda

The number of books, articles, pamphlets, brochures, radio talks, etc., all over the world, boosting the Authority, appears to be legion. There seems to be a certain similarity about their style, and about the sort of people who approve of them and spread them about. The latest example I have come across in England is a book by Dr. Julian Huxley, of P.E.P., the B.B.C., and the Zoological Gardens. It has lots of shiny photographs of planned dwellings, and interiors and electrical gadgets, and it does not make use of capital letters, so you will realise what it is like. The broad impression, which it drives home, is that of the utter uniformity of planning everywhere. There is nothing in it, which looks like Tennessee rather than anywhere else. Nothing which has a recognisable character such as that of a Cotswold, or a Norwegian, or a Dutch village; and yet I had always understood that Tennessee was one of those parts of the U.S.A. which had a definite character of its own. It is a horrible thought that there is nothing about the work of the Tennessee Valley Authority which could not be copied anywhere; and it was intended from the first to be copied everywhere. In fact, one of the directors has stated that "every step taken, every project set up, every result, is weighed from the point of view of its possible application to other parts of the country" and, it is made clear by P.E.P., to other countries, particularly ours.

Electric Power

Probably the best "selling point" of the Authority so far has been the generation and distribution of relatively cheap electric power, which has been possible through the use of a privileged financial position to force policy upon privately owned companies, and local distributing agencies. This the Authority does by charging municipalities, etc., "only slightly less than wholesale prices through the country generally," but, as the price usually charged to the consumer is only one-sixth to one-tenth of the cost of generating, it insists upon a very much reduced retail rate, which greatly stimulates consumption. The local concern makes a loss, which, however, is soon made up.

This is the price-cutting stage, which is

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essential to the establishment of every monopoly. While it lasts it brings obvious benefits, but also more and more complete dependence upon the monopoly in the details of living. "The social results of increased electrification are illimitable," and include "a revolution in conditions of life and work." Running water, electric light, bathrooms, plumbing system's and radios become necessities of life where they were formerly unknown, and electricity brings additional income to the farmer, enabling him to branch out into small-scale, semi-industrial operations,—"employing more labour and raising the standard of life of the whole area."

Decentralisation

What is nowhere even hinted at is that this increased prosperity could have been built upon a broad and secure foundation of decentralised water power, instead of being balanced very cleverly upon the point of a single Monopoly owing its allegiance outside the area, which is about as safe as having your child suckled by a tigress. In this way every advance is fraught with greater danger, and every benefit is used as a bribe for the acceptance of further control.

Even the control of domestic details has not been forgotten. A separate body, the Electric Home and Farm Authority, was set up, at first with the same directors as the Tennessee Valley Authority, with an initial capital of a million dollars, and a credit from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of ten million dollars. Its aim is to supply electric appliances on easy credit terms, and to standardise them by means of a badge "for use upon those types which meet its requirements in design and in value for money."

In this connection it should be noted that the Authority advertises its belief in "a greater decentralisation of industry, scientifically planned and organised." The word should, of course, be *delegation* of centralised powers, a process without which no monopoly can operate, but which at the outset sufficiently simulates real decentralisation to secure its acceptance by a majority.'

It should not be supposed that the Authority has been allowed to swallow the

whole of its allotted prey without some opposition from among the smaller carnivores which had formerly made their happy hunting ground in the area. The Power Companies, in particular, very naturally attacked it, and the Authority received the heaviest available supporting fire, including a statement by President Roosevelt himself, which began "Crafty managers . . ." and ended with "rife with corruption and bribery." The Alabama Power Company succeeded so far as to get a favourable verdict in a District Court, but when the appeal was taken to the Supreme Court the Authority won by eight votes to one. We note the statement that "The large funds known to be behind the T.V.A. . . . give it, however, an immensely strong bargaining position."

"Non-Political"

Great care has been taken to represent the Authority as non-political, impartial, and untouched by corruption. The Board has to consist of three "persons who profess a belief in the feasibility and wisdom of the Act"; *i.e.*, they must be politically "New-Dealers." Examples given of its "non-political" behaviour are: equal pay and opportunities for Negroes—"a conspicuous victory over racial prejudice in one of its best-known strongholds,"—and the encouragement of trades unionism, both actions against which the strongest political feeling exists in that part of America.

Finally, we note the unlimited prospects for the expansion of this plan-infested area:—

"When more comprehensive plans come to be made, the T.V.A. will have to face the problem that, while the valley is an appropriate area for flood control and hydro-electric generation and so forth, its boundaries are meaningless for electricity supply, for transport, for industrial development and other purposes. This problem of the overlapping of optimum areas for different purposes is again a universal one. At present the T.V.A. system of having a defined territory as a nucleus, with power to go outside it where necessary, may be the most practical solution. Encouraged by the T.V.A.'s achievements, other regions are putting up schemes on similar lines."

To be continued.

IRISH SOIL EXPERT INVESTIGATES GROUND PHOSPHATE ROCK

Readers of the *New Times* will be interested in the following information which was supplied by the Eire Legation, Canberra:—

Dr. Thomas Walsh, Senior Soils Research Officer, Dept. of Agriculture, has gone to the United States for two months' study under the E.G.A. plan, which provides opportunities for advancing technical knowledge to all countries participating in the Marshall Plan. At a recent press conference, Mr. Dillon, Minister of Agriculture, said Dr. Walsh was at present directing a very large experimental project for the use of finely ground phosphate rock. The Minister said it was an experiment to enable them TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE SUPERPHOSPHATES MONOPOLY (our emphasis). It was hoped finally that finely ground rock phosphate would, in some measure, substitute for super phosphate.

Dr. Walsh, who is a Wexford man, said his itinerary had been chosen with the object of visiting States where soil problems closely approximated those of Ireland.

We suggest that there are many primary producers in Australia who would like the opportunity of using the finely ground natural rock instead of super, and so free themselves from the monopoly. First of all they must take steps to see that it is made available.

SOCIALISING PIGS

Within three or four months, we are told; the first of the British Food Corporation pig-raising farms in Queensland will be in production. This might be taken as a praiseworthy achievement unless one knew that the pig industry in Queensland was well established by private enterprise until the Referendum denied further powers to the Federal Government.

The Government then refused further assistance to the growers of sorghum, which is needed to feed the pigs. This meant that the pig-raisers could not get sufficient food for the animals and were therefore forced out of the industry. This shortsighted policy caused considerable loss of food to Britain and the loss of a profitable industry to Australia.

Now at the enormous cost of £2 million the Government re-opens the industry in the true Socialist manner of collective farming. Will it, like all other Socialist projects to date, be a liability to the people of the Commonwealth? —MONICA LENNIE, *The Herald*, Melb., June 20.

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THE CULT OF MEDIOCRITY

The dangerous cult of mediocrity is spreading throughout the world and we must guard against it.

Professor of Fine Arts in the University of Melbourne (Professor Joseph Burke) said this in Brisbane last night when delivering the Syme Oration to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The Oration is a memorial to the late Sir George A. Syme, one of Australia's greatest surgeons.

Professor Burke made this comment after stating that there was a close affinity between surgery and art.

Surgery, so often a matter of life and death, could not afford the price of mediocrity, he said.

And what, he asked, was art but an attack on mediocrity of living?

The aim of the artist was so to paint, carve and to build that man and woman who beheld would go on their way with a heightened consciousness of life and its value.

No Nation Exempt

Professor Burke said one of the symptoms of the growth of mediocrity was the hostility increasingly shown to personal distinction in manner, speech, dress and intellect.

No great nation seemed to be exempt. "In the United States and Great Britain," he continued, "Second-rate film actors, writers, and even crooners, are mobbed as if they were national heroes.

"In Soviet Russia, painters who perpetuate the worst academic traditions of the nineteenth century are hailed as masters of the modern movement."

After referring to the standardisation of dress, taste, habit and idea, he said the uncommon artist or writer or scientist was increasingly isolated and, in some countries, actually proscribed.

"And yet," he added, "it is precisely on such uncommon men and women that the future progress of humanity depends.

"The history of surgery is particularly rich in examples of great men whose discoveries have been thwarted and denounced by the rigid and standardised opinion of their contemporaries."

It was surely a matter of some concern, he said, that the broad tendencies of society today were more favourable to the virtues of shared mediocrity than those of unshared excellence.

The Past

Professor Burke said he regretted a growing attitude of indifference and even hostility towards the past.

Respect for the past had ceased to be, for many sections of the community, an important factor in regulating and guiding political decisions.

For these sections the past was something to be swept away as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

In the sphere of manners, the consequences of this hostility were no less regrettable.

Professor Burke deplored the destruction of Australian early colonial architecture.

"In an age without respect for the past, and with little need for beauty, these gracious memorials of Australia's past seemed doomed to disappear," he said.

"Aristocratic"

Professor Burke said the profession of surgery was an aristocratic one, and could never be otherwise. It would always call for the best in a man's ability and achievement.

"In an age so favourable to mediocrity, it shares a mission similar to that of art, a mission of preserving the standards that are threatened by mass tendencies," he concluded.

—*The Age*, Melb. June 8.

We congratulate Professor Burke on his clear and correct statement of a fundamental problem. We unfortunately see no solution to the problem so lucidly stated within the present framework of Society unless three fundamental changes are made: (1) That the present secret ballot be replaced by an open recorded vote, thus making the individual responsible for political policy. (2) Alterations to financial rules to stop central governments and institutions generally eliminating the individual's credit. This would give the individual the independence necessary for him to appreciate excellence in others. (3) This would tend to flow from (1) and (2), that is, the maximum possible decentralisation of government economic and cultural activities.

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"The United Nations cannot justify its existence by giving way to nationalist demands when it is supposed to be the upholder of a broader approach. We fear that Dr. Evatt—who has had so much to do with defeating the hopes of the Spaniards—and many of the other supporters of Israel are carried away by their conviction that it is progressive and idealistic to support Zionism, and reactionary and obscurantist to support the Arabs, and have not really examined the question on its merits."—*The Tablet*.

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