

THE NEW TIMES

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

VOL. 16 No. 42

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1950

SIXPENCE WEEKLY

Along the Socialist Road

with Menzies and Co.

By ERIC D. BUTLER

When Mr. Menzies made his famous admission back in 1941 that he was a "practical Socialist," he also said "People will take things from us they wouldn't take from the Labor Party." Apart from the excellent proposal to maintain and slightly extend Price Subsidies on the few items still being subsidised, Mr. Menzies' plan to defeat inflation is completely totalitarian and a blatant denial of every major promise made prior to the last Federal elections.

Perhaps the most damning indictment which can be levelled against the Menzies Plan is Dr. Evatt's comment, as reported in the Melbourne Press on Monday, October 9: "The Government proposes to turn a somersault . . . on the question of Government controls, which they denounced formerly as Socialistic." What a cry would have gone up if Dr. Evatt and his fellow-Socialists had announced their intention of imposing the Menzies proposals upon the Australian people. But, as Mr. Menzies truly says, "People will take things from us they wouldn't take from the Labor Party."

Professor Copland Pleased

The real intention of Mr. Menzies' anti-inflation plan is made clear by Professor Copland's eulogy of the plan as "courageous and comprehensive." It is most ominous that this totalitarian planner went on to say that the proposals "could be compared with the basic policy adopted in the depression, when equality of sacrifice was the watchword." As Professor Copland has since admitted that the sacrifices of the depression years were unnecessary, it is obvious that, like other economic "advisers," who undoubtedly framed the Menzies anti-inflation plan, he believes in sacrifices as a method of bringing the individual under more centralised control. If the rank and file of the Liberal and Country Parties are going to line up with the totalitarian planners in an attempt to further the policy of regimentation, the Australian people have now been resisting for years, they deserve even more censure than do members of the Labor Party.

Opportunity Being Lost

With the exception of the Price Subsidy proposals, the Menzies anti-inflation plan can and will do nothing to deal constructively with rising prices, because of the refusal to face the fact that rising prices are inevitable while present inflationary financial policies are pursued. Unless the anti-Socialists are realistic about this matter, they can only proceed to be driven

further and further along the Socialist road, which they have verbally denounced. And, in the process, they create the unfortunate impression in the minds of many people that they are political hypocrites. They are frittering away the great opportunity they were given last December. The tragedy of the situation is that an outraged public opinion may easily result in the political extinction of many sincere rank and file Liberal and Country Party members, but will leave firmly entrenched those really deciding the policies of this country: the permanent economic planners, the majority of whom are totalitarians.

Control Or Inducement

The essence of Mr. Menzies' anti-inflation plan is that price rises can only be prevented by Socialist controls. But the facts of history have proved time and again that controls solve nothing. If Mr. Menzies wants the individual to produce more, then obviously his Government should pursue policies, which will provide the individual with the necessary inducement to do so. Further controls will result in less inducement, less production. As far as greater production is concerned, anyone who suggests that greater production by itself will automatically reduce prices is again contradicting the facts of history. He is also shutting his eyes to the fact that, in the U.S.A., where production under free enterprise has been most satisfactory, price rises, even in the basic necessities of life, are even more spectacular than they are in Australia. It is estimated by American Government economists that American prices will probably rise another 10 per cent, by the end of this year.

Taxation and High Prices

Although high taxation is one of the factors responsible for the present inflation, Mr. Menzies appears to reason, as did the Labor-Socialists that it helps keep prices down. He is therefore going to turn his back on the pre-election promise to reduce taxation, and is to do the very opposite. The inevitable disastrous results will pro-

vide the planners with an ideal excuse to push for still more centralised control. One control creates the conditions, which lead to a number of further controls. One of the most astonishing features of Mr. Menzies' taxation proposals is that increases in sales tax can help defeat inflation. The sales tax is directly inflationary. Mr. Menzies says, in effect, that he is going to get prices down by putting them up! But it will be immediately stated that the idea behind increases in sales taxes is to discourage people from "luxury" buying, in order that greater productive capacity will be available for "essential" production.

(Continued on page 7)

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

Sacrifices for the "State"

"It was, time that Australia was told, far and wide, that substantial sacrifices are upon us. I have no doubt that this is the purpose of Mr. Menzies' series of broadcasts beginning tomorrow . . . This is a grim task. It begins with disappointment. But, as men's minds clear, they will rally to the State."—Sir Keith Murdoch, in a featured article in his Melbourne *Herald* of September 19.

Educated at the London School of Economics, Sir Keith can always be relied upon to further the Socialist policy of Monopoly. And his friend, Mr. Menzies, "the practical Socialist," has left no doubt that all "must rally to the State" and to make great sacrifices on behalf of "the State." "The State" is, of course, the power-lusting planners who operate behind the political scenes.

* * * *

Racial Qualities

Following their strong opposition to the bringing of German migrants to this country, the Jews should be the last to talk about "racial discrimination." If it is legitimate to talk about the racial qualities of the Germans, it is surely also legitimate to discuss the Jews in a similar manner. Organized in a highly centralized State, it is true that the Germans have allowed themselves to be used by power-lusters over a long period, but, when they have migrated to other countries, they have generally made excellent citizens. At least, it can be said for them that they have never produced the number of traitors, which the Jewish race has produced.

* * * *

The Old Technique

"Mr. Menzies brought before the people his 14-point plan to defeat the Devil, Inflation. There was much in it that would be unpalatable to a democracy in normal times. But the present, as every housewife and wage earner knows, is an emergency. Only drastic steps can meet a drastic situation."

—Melbourne *Sun* Editorial, October 9.

The old, old technique: Create a crisis and then stampede people into accepting another turn of the totalitarian screw as a "solution." Dr. Evatt must be really green with envy when he sees the excuses Mr. Menzies and his colleagues can use to impose upon the Australian people the same Monopoly State he fought so vigorously to impose.

* * * *

"They"

The following terse comment on the political situation was recently overheard: "I can see it all now. When they want the working class belted, they have Labor Government. When they want the employers belted, they have a Liberal Government."

"They" are obviously the people to deal with.

A Rumour Dented

It is reported upon good authority that there is no truth in the rumour that, in order to set an example to those they are exhorting to sacrifice, Government Members are going to reduce their own salaries and expense allowances.

* * * *

"Agrarian Reformers"

"Russia and China have ratified a treaty of alliance and mutual aid, and agreements on Port Arthur, the Dairen railway and Soviet credits to China, according to Moscow Radio today."

—Obscure Press report on October 9.

This does not appear to confirm the view of Mr. Dean Acheson, American Secretary for State, and others, that the Chinese Communists are not really Communists at all. Neither does the report that the Chinese Communists have now started to "liberate" Tibet.

* * * *

Political Expediency

When Members of the present Federal Government were in the Opposition, they criticised Mr. Chifley and his colleagues when they refused to take any notice of telegrams from electors, protesting against Bank Nationalization. They held these telegrams up in the House as evidence of the outraged feelings of the electors. They said that the electors were expressing their democratic rights.

But, apparently, support for democratic principles is merely a matter of political expediency, so far as politicians are concerned. Mr. Anthony, Postmaster General, has described telegrams of protest to Members from woolgrowers as "offensive," "threatening" and "intimidatory." Apparently, woolgrowers must not answer back to their paid servants; they must submit passively, along with other sections of the community, to every new dose of Government robbery.

* * * *

Bushranging

Sir, —It is reported that: "Treasury officials have claimed that some higher postal charges would assist the Government's policy of draining off excess revenue."

This would surely be the depth of despairing cynicism, and a clear manifestation of the utter bankruptcy of constructive thought on the part of those governing us.

A Government ostensibly aiming to put value into the pound sets about yet another chipping-off of its value.

One authority fixes wages at what is deemed a just level; another whittles them away.

Furthermore, the added postal costs will simply be passed on to the public, thus sharpening the monetary crisis.

It is at least an open question as to the morality of this "draining-off" process by the Government.

Some would apply the euphemism to cruder, but no less effective, enterprises—bushranging, for example. Yours, etc.,

F. R. BANHAM (Essendon), in the Melbourne *Age*, October 9.

Snowy Hydro Power Project

In his defence of the Snowy Mountains hydro-electric project, which some people are urging should be postponed because of its contribution to existing inflation, Mr. R. G. Casey states that some power will be produced within three or four years.

In introducing the Snowy Mountains project, the Labor Party initiated the claim, now being repeated by Mr. Casey, that power at half the present costs would be supplied.

It would be interesting to learn how it is proposed to produce this result.

One authority, who has examined the scheme closely, claims that it is more likely that, by the time power is delivered to industrial centres, it will be in excess of the present charges.

Surely it would be more realistic to spend a small portion of the hundreds of millions proposed for the Snowy Mountains scheme in stepping up coal production to increase power output immediately

ERIC D. BUTLER

(Vic. League of Rights).

—*The Age*, Melbourne, Oct. 12

Sport of Stealing

In a recent statement protesting against the Federal Government's taxation proposals for the wool industry, Mr. John Foster, President of the Fine Wool Sheep Breeders' Association of Tasmania, said that, if the Federal Government persisted with its wool tax plan, woolgrowers should refuse to market their wool.

High prices for primary products could do nothing but benefit the people of Australia, he said.

Had the woolgrower not been restricted by the artificial feeding of our secondary industries and large, useless Government enterprises and other waste of effort and money, the woolgrower of Australia could have brought the necessary machinery, improved his land, retained his competent men, paid them well, and today be producing enough wool to meet the demand.

"Wool will not stay in short supply for long. If economists have their way, people will use synthetics instead. If nature has her way, the woolgrowers will soon produce more wool."

"We guide the size and weights of our weights and measures very jealously, but the pound note, the measure of value, is lengthened and contracted by our economists in a thoroughly dishonest way."

"Until we dispose of our Fabian-Socialist economists and their sport of stealing from the primary producer (to take property from people even by the force of law is still stealing), and set up a new and decent monetary system, we will have nothing but wrecking and trouble."

"I advise all sane people to write to their politicians and say Hands off our primary industries' before they make more of a mess."

"The only thing they can produce is chaos," concluded Mr. Foster.

" Full Employment"

By JAMES GUTHRIE ("The Australian Social Crediter")

In the modern political world the words "Full employment" are used as being synonymous with "Full empayment," or to be more explicit, "Full employment" has come to mean receiving a steady income by punching a clock in some organisation; the emphasis, of course, is on the income, not the employment.

It doesn't matter whether a *person is doing useful work or not, or if his work is a menace to society*, all that matters is that he punches a clock in the proper place at the proper time. It should be noticed as a strange and rather sinister fact that with the increase in the numbers of people uselessly employed, has come an increase in the demand to victimise those people who don't punch clocks, i.e., those who receive dividends.

When the various "leftist" movements attacked the private ownership of property as evil and immoral, they showed that peculiar facility for wrong emphasis, which we have come to expect from socialist writers; what the socialists should have done was, not to attack the private ownership of property, but to make it easier for more people to own property. The same applies to dividends; to suggest that employees should be the sole beneficiaries of the modern productive system is just silly. If labour-saving machines have any meaning then labour charges in industry should be decreasing and dividends increasing; the distribution of dividends would have to be on a national scale, increasing with the assets of a country. In other words, the income tax office would be used to pay dividends instead of collecting them.

The distribution of dividends on a national scale is justified on three counts:

- (1) The reduction of prices and hours is of little benefit to those not employed in the industrial system, or to those without an income; some other means of a distribution is therefore required.
- (2) Since the capital development of a country is based on the work of past generations, this forms the best possible grounds for the distribution of a dividend.
- (3) The capital assets of a country should appear in the balance sheet as an asset and not as a liability, and no matter in which way they were financed, and since the whole community bore the real costs of construction, the whole community is entitled to some kind of dividend.

The fact, that the "income" or purchasing power, of a community is generated in the process of production has several nasty consequences. This matter is so important that it requires closer study than we can give it here; however, the main facts can be stated thus:

The money, which a community receives to pay its debts, is, in the process of production, distributed by factories and other organisations in the form of wages, salaries and dividends. These organisations are financed by credits created by the banks, and the producers' debts to the banks are liquidated by the community when it pays for their goods and services.

When, however, production stops, the distribution of purchasing power stops, irrespective of whether or not the shops are crammed full of goods for sale. This,

then, was the position during the last financial "depression," which was epitomised under the phrase, "Poverty amidst plenty." Immediately the banks financed the governments to build armaments, money came into circulation, in the form of wages and salaries, and enabled the people to buy the goods already in the shops.

The manner in which purchasing power is issued and how it has encouraged a colossal waste of human labour, and degraded the whole conception of useful employment, is clearly stated by C. H. Douglas in *Economic Democracy* as follows:

"... if production stops, distribution stops and, as a consequence, a clear incentive exists to produce useless or superfluous articles in order that useful commodities already existing may be distributed.

"This perfectly simple reason is the explanation of the increasing necessity of what has come to be called economic sabotage; the colossal waste of effort which goes on in every walk of life quite unobserved by the majority of the people because they are familiar with it; a waste which so overtaxed the ingenuity of society to extend it that the climax of war only occurred in a moment when a culminating exhibition of organised sabotage was necessary to preserve the system from spontaneous combustion.

The simplest form of this process is that of 'making work'; the elaboration of every action in life so as to involve the maximum quantity and the minimum efficiency in human effort. The much-maligned household plumber who evolves an elaborate organisation and etiquette probably requiring two assistants and half a day in order to 'wipe' a damaged water pipe, which could, by methods with which he is perfectly familiar, be satisfactorily repaired by a boy in a third of the time. ... A little higher up the scale of complexity comes the manufacturer who produces a new model of his particular speciality, with the object, express or subconscious of rendering the old model obsolete before it is worn out."

Major C. H. Douglas has gone to great lengths to prove that the main stream of purchasing power paid out by the productive system in wages, salaries and dividends is always less than the prices of the goods produced. This fact was disputed by economists for many years, but every fact and every event of economic history stands as proof of Douglas' statement. Let us look at some of these economic facts:

- (1) Every industry expects to get back in prices more than it pays out in wages, salaries and dividends. Where does the extra money come from?
- (2) If current purchasing power is equal to current prices, why are private, municipal and government debts increasing?
- (3) If power driven machinery is efficient, why does it not reduce prices?
- (4) If in an efficient industrial country like America, industry issues enough

purchasing power to buy its own production, why have the financial houses to issue vast sums of money (as a debt) to help people buy the goods for sale by the hire-purchase system? The hire-purchase system is worth discussing at some length. *It means that even in a "prosperous" period in a prosperous country the people have to call on next year's salary to pay for this year's production, even in spite of the fact that vast quantities of goods are being given away each year in "Marshall Aid."*

The fact that big financial organisations in America have convinced the people of the necessity of hire purchase shows that, they know quite clearly, that the people cannot purchase this year's production with this year's income, nor have they been able to do so for very many years. And the fact that vast sums of money are tied up in consumer credits (hire-purchase) is causing a fair amount of misgivings as to the stability of the American financial position, and it looks as if "organised sabotage (will be) necessary to prevent the system from spontaneous combustion."

The orthodox economist (socialist economist) maintains that the productive system in the process of manufacturing goods issues sufficient purchasing power to liquidate the price of the goods for sale. This is quite untrue. Major Douglas, as a logical consequence of his analysis, suggested that the prices would have to be reduced by means of a subsidy, so that the current incomes of the people would equal the current prices of goods and services they collectively produced. In America the consumer credits (hire-purchase) finance, issued to augment the people's incomes and raise them to parity with prices, comes into circulation as a debt, and is a process that obviously cannot continue for long.

Major Douglas suggested that the consumer credits created and issued as a price subsidy, i.e., to reduce prices, should not come as a debt but merely as a financial instrument to balance a fault in the accountancy system.

There is little doubt that the fate of the Menzies Government depends on how it tackles the problem of rising prices, Mr. Chifley prepared trouble for Mr. Menzies when he withdrew price subsidies; the question is, will Mr. Menzies have enough courage to defy his socialist "expert advisers" and re-introduce price subsidies. If he does not, the only thing that can save his party from the wrath of the electors, and save the system he administers from spontaneous combustion, is WAR.

Not Far Enough

Although the Victorian Government must be given credit for having refused to endorse the regulation sought by the Egg Board, giving its inspectors power to search farms and homes without warrant, it should go much further and refuse further support for Monopolistic policies which enable officials to claim complete control of various primary products like eggs.

Not only the Federal Government, but also the State Governments, should have their powers so restricted by constitutional safeguards, that every individual shall be secure in fundamental rights which cannot be tampered with in any way.

"New Times," October 20, 1950 — Page 3

THE NEW TIMES

Established 1935.

Published every Friday by New Times Limited, McEwan House,
343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

Postal Address: Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU 2834.

Subscription Rates: 25/- Yearly; 13A Half Yearly; 7/- Quarter.

VOL. 16

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1950

No. 42

NO AGREEMENT WITH KREMLIN GANGSTERS

Every spokesman for the Western Powers, who suggests that it is either possible or desirable to negotiate with the Communist gangsters regimenting the unfortunate Russian people, is guilty of a major crime against Christian Civilization. There is no basis whatever upon which the Western Powers can treat with Stalin and his associates. But, in spite of this obvious fact, Mr. Dean Acheson, American Secretary for State, states "negotiations between East and West would become possible as the Soviet Union's military superiority was reduced."

All past "negotiations" with the Communist leaders have resulted in further victories for these gangsters. Is Western Civilization so decadent that the best its "leaders" can suggest is a defensive policy against the persistent pressure of the Communists? This defeatist policy helps consolidate the Communist tyranny. The Western Powers should seize the initiative by immediately breaking off all relationships with the Communists, at the "United" Nations or elsewhere, and launch a major propaganda offensive designed to convince the Russians and all other peoples behind the Iron Curtain that the major policy of the Western Powers is to help the victims of Communism to free themselves from the tyranny they detest. This propaganda offensive could pave the way for the collapse of the Communist tyranny without a Third World War.

Needless to say, this realistic policy does not commend itself to those who want to maintain the Communist threat, in order that increasing totalitarianism can be imposed upon the Western peoples everywhere. The international gangsters seeking world dominion know that, without "war or the threat of war," they cannot make hundreds of millions of individuals submit to the tyranny proposed for them. They thus ensure that the policies pursued by men like Mr. Acheson do not seriously undermine the status of the Russian "leaders."

Not only has Mr. Acheson stated that "negotiations" can take place between the Western Powers and Moscow; a few weeks ago, he apologized to the Russian delegates to the "United" Nations because, at a U.N. dinner, at which these delegates were present, Mr. Dewey, Republican leader, drew attention to the fact that there were millions of slaves in Russian concentration camps. No genuine Christian could associate himself in any way with men responsible for what has been done to millions of Russians, still less apologize to them because their evils had been mentioned in their presence. If this issue were faced realistically, not only might a Third World War, with its disastrous consequences, be averted, but the whole Zionist-Communist conspiracy against Christian Civilization be destroyed.

Personal Independence and Responsibility

The British Commonwealth is not an end in itself; it is a vehicle for the virtues, which the men and women who constitute it can bring to human enrichment. And we are in some danger today, not only of destroying through sins of omission the Commonwealth, but also of destroying the character of peoples who comprise it. Fortunately, as the events of a few years ago showed very clearly, it is a character that takes a good deal of destroying.

Of what does that character consist? — or, rather, so long as Englishmen are true to themselves, of what should it consist? For on that question so much depends, since it is that character that has made the Empire. First and foremost, I should reply that it consists of a sense of personal independence and the sense of personal responsibility that springs from it. Unless a dominating part of the nation — and in a democracy that means a majority — possesses that sense, the British Commonwealth must ultimately lack it too and fail to assure for the world the advantages that its possession brings. If a majority of our people should become yes-men, queue-men, take-no-risks men, however convenient that might be for the officials who so painstakingly — and with such a prodigal expense of paper — administer our affairs, it would change the course of our history and of our part in human affairs. It was not yes-men, queue-men, take-no-risks men who threw down the gauntlet to imperial Spain and the Inquisition, who established the rule of Parliament, founded and peopled the British Empire, forced Revolutionary and Napoleonic France to respect international law and the independence of nations, or, for that matter, brought the brutal Prussian war-lords to book in our own time. There is still work of an English kind to be done in this unregenerate old world of ours, and long is likely to be; and only an England controlled by men of independence and responsibility will be able to do it. Well-meaning administrators and legislators should always bear that in mind.

—Arthur Bryant in *The London Illustrated News*, July 8, 1950.

Modern Education

The *Daily Express* for September 11 prints in conjunction the following items:

"The University of Georgia will include in this year's correspondence studies a course on how to, make out income tax returns."

"General Mark Clark, chief of America's ground forces, promised today that army recruits will now be ready 'for the most brutal kind of warfare' after six months of training."

A Warning

"Man was so rapidly destroying his environment that it would not feed him much longer." —Sir Stanton Hicks, quoted in the *Adelaide Advertiser* on May 18, 1950

The Right Hon. Winston Churchill

The following copies of correspondence from "The Social Crediter," September 30, should be of interest to our readers.

(i)

Penrhyn Lodge,
Gloucester Gate, N.W.I. Aug. 23, 1950.
Dear Sir,

It is reported that you are to make a broadcast speech in the near future.

As former supporters of yourself we have, during the last few years, viewed with increasing misgivings the policies that you, Sir, have been pursuing.

While formerly you appeared to be one of the strongest advocates of the British Empire, it seems quite clear from one of your recent speeches that you are prepared to surrender the sovereignty of this country "for the sake of a world organization." Your advocacy of a "European Army" is also a pointer in this direction.

If "the abrogation of national sovereignty" forms a part of so-called "Conservative" policy, then we shall be compelled to repudiate that Party and its leader. Our loyalty is to His Majesty the King.

We would end by asking how it has come about that the British Empire, even now the greatest potential political force in the world, has been handed over to the "Americans" without at least a protest from yourself and other leading politicians of the once-Conservative Party?

Yours faithfully,
(signed) Basil L. Steele, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Russell V. Steele, M.B., B.S.
Evelyn Steele. Anne Steele.

The Right Hon. Winston Churchill, O.M.,
C.H., M.P., House of Commons, S.W.

(2)

House of Commons,
London, S.W.I. September 6, 1950.
Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Churchill to thank you for your letter of the 23rd August.

Without more details I am afraid your criticisms of Mr. Churchill are quite incomprehensible. You do not state to which speech you are referring which is naturally necessary for the correct answer to be given you.

The suggestion of a European Army, in which all freedom loving nations would contribute their shares does not diminish the national sovereignty to which you refer any more than did the fact that we were fighting side by side with many allies in the last two wars. I should have thought that Mr. Churchill's record during the great struggle of 1939-1945 would cause him to be remembered as one of the greatest exponents of British and Empire prestige and, if his foresight in regard to the dangers that lie ahead cause him to suggest a close unity of the powers ranged against Communism, I think you can rest assured that this will in no way imperil the national sovereignty to which you refer in your letter.

Yours faithfully,
(signed) EDWARD A. H. ODDY,
Hon. Secretary.
Basil L. Steele, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

(3)

(Will the Private Secretary kindly pass to Mr. Churchill for personal perusal.)

Penrhyn Lodge,
Gloucester Gate, N.W.I. Sept. 14, 1950.
Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter of September 6.

While our quotation was from your speech made during the House of Commons Debate on the Schuman Plan, it would appear from your letter that its content does not differ sufficiently from other speeches to render it identifiable as a departure in policy.

With all respect, may we point out that during the Schuman Plan Debate you pressed to a decision a motion censuring the Government for not participating in the discussions on the Plan in Paris, although such participation, as M. Schuman himself insisted, involved agreement in principle to a surrender of sovereignty over the nation's heavy industries. To abandon that independence of economic action would obviously be, for a heavily industrialized country such as our own, an abandonment of political independence.

It is true that the Conservative Party later produced a compromise scheme, but that was only after Major Legge-Bourke and other Conservatives had strongly expressed themselves on the subject.

The question here is quite a simple one: Did you, Sir, wish, or did you not wish the British Government to agree in advance to the principle of placing our coal and steel industries under an international authority?

Then, Sir, there are your Strasbourg activities. Mr. Robert Boothby, generally regarded as one of your protégés, has often publicly expressed the hope that the Council of Ministers will become the Cabinet, and the Assembly the Parliament, of a Federal Europe. Has Mr. Boothby ever been repudiated, or even reproved, by his Chief?

The Bretton Woods Agreement, involving a clear surrender of sovereignty and making possible a situation wherein the Dominions might be obliged to apply economic sanctions to Great Britain, and vice versa, was regarded as of so little importance that you, Sir, did not even take your followers into the lobby to vote against it or against the provisions of the American Loan Agreement. Why?

Again, it is now generally known that the bilateral pacts signed by the Western European countries and the United States, together with the agreements reached at the recent Atlantic Pact conferences in London, imposed upon Great Britain a virtually dictated arms production policy—as a result of which we are committed to specialisation in light naval craft and fighter planes, while the heavy striking forces are to be very largely an American Monopoly. If this policy is realised, it will ultimately be impossible for this country to engage in any war without the authority of the United States. Yet so far from leading a revolt against the Government's surrender of sovereignty you, Sir, appear not only to have condoned it, but to be restless because the process is not being intensified and accelerated.

Coming now to another point — that of your advocacy of a "European Army" —

fighting side by side with Allies in the last war is, with all due respect, quite a different thing from becoming "integrated" in a European Army. When France "went bad" — if she were not "bad" from the start — it was at least possible to pull out at Dunkirk, whereas an integrated army would be unlikely to countenance any such power of detachment.

In any case, is it not correct to say that you have not become an advocate of a "European Army" solely because of Communism? Were you not, Sir, very closely connected with the New Commonwealth Society? This Society, in the Thirties, agitated for an International Army involving, one can only suppose, the releasing of British troops from any allegiance except that which would be owed, not to the King, but to an international junta.

In view of these facts and the additional one that in 1940 you offered the French a common citizenship with ourselves, what confidence can we have that you will uphold and fight for the national sovereignty of this country?

We should be the last to contest your qualities as a War Minister, which are indisputable. We feel, however, that Great Britain has "won" three great Wars in this century, and in each case has suffered a heavy defeat in the succeeding "peace"; that she is now threatened with a fourth war from which she cannot possibly emerge otherwise than as a vassal of either one major contestant or the other; that without attributing unique responsibility to yourself for inter-war policies which have demonstrably made each successive war inevitable (but which could have been avoided), you are identified with all of them; and that, possibly by coincidence, they have uniformly tended to the interests of those whom it may be convenient to call "Americans" — as well as to the disintegration of European culture.

We must disclaim, immediate interest in "freedom-loving nations"; our concern is with the descent, in less than fifty years, of the greatest Empire the world has ever known, to the position of a hanger-on to the last Power to abolish chattel slavery.

While the British Empire is almost visibly falling to pieces and Dominions such as Canada are being deliberately led along a separatist path, it is most distressing to find that you, Sir, appear to be doing nothing to retrieve the situation, or to re-charge in the Motherland the British dynamic which could still be one of the most potent factors in the world.

Instead, the impression given is one of the frittering away of great energies in a series of cosmopolitan causes which have no roots and therefore no organic life — and which surely cannot be supposed to be a more reliable factor in Great Britain's defence than is her own spirit relying in the main upon her own strong right arm.

Your replies to these questions and considerations would be gratefully received.

We are, Sir,
Yours very truly,
(signed) Basil L. Steele, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Russell V. Steele, M.B., B.S.
Evelyn Steele.
Anne Steele.

The Right Hon. Winston Churchill, O.M.
C.H., M.P., House of Commons, S.W.



United Farmers' Association

An "all-in" fight against further political and bureaucratic interference with primary industry is the objective of an organisation, the United Farmers Association, which has been formed in New South Wales.

While commending the forthright statements made by this Association, we do not necessarily agree with all its views. Action taken to bring pressure to bear upon individual members of Parliament is, however, worthy of widespread support.

The association intends to concentrate on this one aim, and to wage unceasing "war" against individuals and organisations countenancing any move to rob primary producers of the fruits of their labours.

According to the general secretary, Mr. Colin Chapman, the immediate target for attack is the group of politicians supporting the proposed export levy on wool, together with their henchmen and "advisers." *"Economic Fanatics"*

"We shall not be satisfied," he said, "until this entire group of political and economic fanatics and red-tape merchants is placed in a position where they can do no further harm.

"There must be no come-back for these gentry. They have aimed a mortal blow at Australia's basic industry and they have only themselves to blame for their future eclipse.

"That a monstrous proposal such as the wool levy should be conjured up at the present time, when we have a non-Labor Government in power in Canberra, indicates what we could expect if Labor were again in power."

"A Dangerous Clique"

Mr. Chapman declared that the time had come to warn primary producers that a dangerous "clique" was operating behind the scenes in Canberra. Members of this "clique" were doctrinaire economists and others who had infiltrated into high positions in recent years - - quite a number under the wing of Mr. Dedman, when he was a Minister.

These men had developed a most ingenious technique for pulling wool over the eyes of politicians and the public.

Mr. Chapman continued: "When Labor was in power, these fanatics had a field day. They talked endlessly of 'agricultural economies' and succeeded gloriously in getting their Socialistic policies adopted.

Blinded With Science

"Most primary producers thought that these people would have been well and truly 'purged' when the new Government came into power. But we find them still in their positions, and still 'blinding' em with

science.' Quoting endless figures and results of surveys, they are doing their utmost to take the control of Australian agriculture out of the hands of the producers.

"Of great assistance to them, no doubt, is the political set-up in Victoria where, because of a purely local situation, a Country Party government is in power with the support of Labor — a factor which has its repercussions in Canberra.

"The United Farmers' Association is not concerned with political parties. It is concerned with one objective, and that is that no one — politician, public servant or anyone else — must be allowed to rob the producer of the results of his years of toil."

New Association's Aim

Mr. Chapman emphasized that the association did not wish to interfere in any way with existing rural organizations, except any that favoured or was willing to accept Government interference with primary producers. The association wished to co-operate wholeheartedly with any other organization that supported its general policy.

Existing rural organizations were, however, concerned with a wide range of rural problems, and it was often difficult for them to speak with a sufficient emphasis on matters requiring urgent attention. This played into the hands of the Canberra "clique."

To be effective, a producers' organization had to be in the position to keep pace with political and economic developments, and to speak with one voice the moment the time was opportune.

The U.F.A. did not have to consider any small minority among its members who might have been hypnotized by high-sounding phrases from Canberra. It knew from the start that its supporters, without exception, supported the single battle cry, "Hands off primary industry."

Unfair Taxes

Mr. Chapman said there was only one legitimate way for Governments to raise revenue — by taxation equitably distributed among the people and industry.

The "Canberra fraternity" was putting into practice a plan to take the "cream"

from any industry, which appeared to be enjoying a period, however brief, of prosperity. If this was allowed to go on, any industry would be at the mercy of the politicians and bureaucrats any time they saw an opportunity for plunder. Every industry would constantly be under the threat of being "stabilised," and this, in turn, would place more power and influence in the hands of Canberra.

Mr. Chapman said that the Australian wine industry had already experienced the very unpleasant results of Government "assistance."

Wine Tax An Example

The Federal Government had originally imposed an excise tax on fortifying spirit with the object of building up a fund to encourage the export of wine. By 1947, it had reached a total of £1,061,000 of which £359,000 was contributed by the Government. Of the total sum, £501,000 was paid into consolidated revenue, including £203,000 contributed by the wine industry. The balance, which was entirely contributed by the industry, was placed in a special Wine Industry Assistance Fund (a total of £500,000) to assist post-war marketing of Australian wine. The £500,000 was still in the Fund, under Government control; despite the present parlous condition of the wine export market.

The association, Mr. Chapman said, would show how other primary industries had already been robbed by government interference.

The association, he continued, was fighting the battle also of all those manufacturing, wholesale and retail firms, which sold a vast quantity of goods to the men on the land.

By imposing a levy on wool, the Government would reduce the purchasing power of the rural community and there would be a widespread and serious falling off in sales to the rural market.

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ALONG THE SOCIALIST ROAD

(Continued from page 1)

The Planners Know Best

The proposal to tax "luxuries" is pure, undiluted totalitarianism. Government planners are going to take it upon themselves to tell the individual that, if he wants a motorcar or a refrigerator, surely necessities in any modern civilized community, he must be prepared to pay more for it — or go without. In other words, he must sacrifice. The basic feature of the genuine free enterprise economy is that the individual consumer dictates the production programme by spending his own money in his own way. The Socialist idea is that Government — i.e., Government planners — can spend the individual's money much better than he can. If the members of the Liberal and Country Parties now support this Socialist idea, then they should be honest about the matter, and inform their electors that they have embraced the Socialist faith — even if they offer the excuse that they have done so to defeat inflation. But what rejoicing there must be amongst the real Socialist and Communist conspirators to see an anti-Socialist Government adopting Socialist policies under any conditions. No wonder they continue to propagate the thesis that Socialism is "inevitable."

There is still time for the rank and file of the Liberal and Country Parties to force the Government and its "advisers" to change direction, to move away from Socialism towards a genuinely free society. They are being anxiously watched by all those who realise that we stand at the crossroads. Only a society of genuinely free and independent individuals can resist the Communist challenge, whatever form or shape it may take. But increasing centralised control, as proposed by Mr. Menzies, will cripple the springs of individual initiative. And it will not even do what it allegedly proposes to do: prevent prices from rising still further.

Subsidies Versus Price Fixing

A system of scientific Price Subsidies, starting with all basic items in the economy, is the only way in which prices can be stabilised or reduced without Socialist planning. If Government Members think there is no virtue in this proposal, then why did those who were Members during the war years support the Price Subsidy system then? Admittedly it was a crude system, and, unfortunately, linked with Socialist centralised price fixing, but do they not admit that it was comparatively successful? Further, if, as even Mr. Menzies says, that there are virtues in Price Subsidies, as witnessed by the fact that they are to be continued on several items, why not extend the principle? Price Subsidies, which permit the individual greater purchasing power, and the freedom to spend it in his own way, should be the answer of Free Enterprise to centralized Price Fixing.

Centralized Price Fixing is Socialism, and is no solution to inflation. But on this point Mr. Menzies also proposes to implement what he denies. He condemns centralized Price Fixing, and then proceeds to announce that he is going to make the prices of certain goods so high — by taxation — that people will not be able to buy

Compost Successful

From J. S. Lennie, of Kew North, Victoria: —

I was interested in your article, "Seeking Independence on Five Acres," in September 29 issue of the "New Times," as, indeed, I am in all the "Rural Reviews." Mr. Carruthers, stressing the fact that organic enthusiasts should not make exaggerated claims, etc., impels me to relate my experience.

We have only been in our home about three years, and, when we went into it, it was the typical grassy, clayey, type of soil in this area. During the first year I set out in the back yard two flowering peaches, a prunus and a peach tree. They all suffered from curly leaf; they were sprayed with Bordeaux, but the next year they were as bad as ever, if not worse. I heaped compost around the peach tree and the prunus, and then the supply ran out. My wife insisted that I spray them, so I did, except for the peach tree, because I felt that I must see what the compost could do on its own. This year, the prunus and the peach tree are entirely free of curly leaf, but the two flowering peaches have it as bad as ever. I have sprayed them, but I've also piled compost around them, and I am confident that they also will be free from this disease next year.

Balance

In Nature, there is a proper balance between the climate, the soil, the vegetation and the indigenous animals, insects and birds. And the challenge to maintain the ecological balance must be accepted, even though it necessitates a modification of our form of civilization to suit the land."

—Professor R. Robb, in *The Farmers' Weekly*, South Africa.

A Good Farmer

On a farm, if you are born to it, no day is ever long enough to accomplish all there is to be done. No city can offer any excitement comparable to what happens when there is a new purebred calf, or the whole landscape comes alive with the change of the season. No excitement can equal the slow satisfaction of witnessing a tired, worn field come back to life and fertility.

A good farmer in our times has to know more about things than a man in any other profession. He has to be a biologist, a veterinary, a mechanic, a botanist, a horticulturist, and many other things. He has to have an open mind, eager and ready to absorb new knowledge and new ideas and new ideals. A good farmer is always one of the most intelligent and best-educated men of our society.

—Louis Bronfield in *Pleasant Valley*.

them. This is a form of centralized Price Fixing. But no doubt Mr. Menzies is merely putting forward what the "experts" suggest. It is the "experts" the Government Members have got to deal with, if they are really sincere in their stated desire to free the people of this country.

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More Blood and Tears

By FOOTLE

When you come to think of it, we should know by now what ails our social existence; there are so many to tell us just what is hitting us. To take merely one issue of my morning newspaper, of October 2, I gather that our troubles are due to 1, Communism; 2, Inflation; 3, Lack of Patriotism; 4, Absence of spiritual vision; 5, The 40-hour week, and doubtless there are many other causes I have missed. The trouble about trouble is of course, that it is nearly always caused by something you and I could never have conceived while in normal health. I never knew, for instance, until I was told, the number of calamities caused by walking under a ladder or kicking a black cat, and to this day I have entirely failed to grasp why the starvation of the 1932-36 period was caused by too much food. So you could hardly expect me to pick a winner from the imposing list of causes spread before me by my newspaper.

Sometimes I envy people who have a singleness of mind, which never permits them to doubt. I envy them even while I feel obliged to sav rude things about them. I would really like to know who and why I am, but I don't want to be told by thirteen different people who and what they think I am. This feeling is probably at the bottom of my dislike of experts and politicians — or perhaps I should merely say "experts" for politicians are experts of a peculiar kind; they are really expert amateurs. I always feel that when the expert steps in, a door has been closed somewhere, shutting us away from the creative spirit, which breathes life into the forms destined to be inhabited and rendered stuffy henceforth by experts.

You can't always tell, of course, whether such apparent singleness of mind is due to a gift or to a defect; you can't even tell

whether it is genuine or not. All you know is that it is there confounding you at all points; even damning you when allied to authority—as it usually is.

The Minister for National Development, Mr. Casey, poses just this sort of conundrum, or so it seems to me from my reading of a report in the newspaper already mentioned. With a fine flourish of the truth that Washington might have envied (I mean George, of course) he is reported as saying, "the Communists were trying to destroy Australia from within, with inflation as an ally."

I don't know whether to call this announcement "timely," what with the Canadian spy revelations, the crop of suicides of American State officials some time ago, to say nothing of the present campaign against Communism in Korea. Nor would I hasten to call it original. The best marks I can give it is to accord it that Elizabethan regal quality which asserts boldly what cannot be hidden and gracefully concedes what cannot be withheld.

I must say, however, that I consider it a shade more than thoughtless to have left the "ally" inflation stooing around loose without a keeper. Where did that ally come from, anyway? No, don't bother! I don't want to touch off another mine of heterogeneous reasons. I'd rather read Sir D. Copland on "Velocity of Currency" or the late Lord Keynes on "The Ratio of Savings to Investment." I can at least get some innocent fun out of things like that. I wouldn't have mentioned inflation at all except that the newspaper report continues; "Mr. Casey hinted at drastic measures by the Menzies Government to curb inflation." Nothing to pin him down to, you will note; just kind o' snacks, like. But it isn't going to be easy, for, he said, "Just as there is no easy method of guarding against the atom bomb, so there is no painless remedy against inflation. The remedies are there, but they are unpopular and hard to take." I think Washington would appreciate that bit, too. (Not George this time.)

You might think from this that the atom bomb and inflation were turned out by the same organisation. I'm not saying they're not, mind you, but I didn't expect a responsible Minister to leave this thought in my mind. I am puzzled over another matter, too. I can't for the life of me see why ceasing production of the atom bomb should be "hard to take" any more than I can see why the cessation of inflation should be "unpopular." I think our love of hardship, blood and sacrifice has been grossly exaggerated in ministerial circles. If I may be allowed to dwell upon my own feelings in the matter, the abolition of both these things would be in the nature of "one clear call for me" with celebrations at the bar and all that.

But if one looks upon atom bombs and inflation as ordinances of Nature, like thunderstorms, spring tides, the money system and the divine right of majorities, then Mr. Casey might be right. Nay, I think he could have gone even further and asserted that the remedy IF ANY would be hard to take. I feel that in the matter of inflation (to keep to something within my own experience) that if there had been a remedy, Hon. Ministers would have applied it ere this, if only to mark the Rt. Hons. opposite.

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Not that I disbelieve Mr. Casey, mind you; he may conscientiously believe in a remedy other than strangulation at birth I don't know what to think. Politicians get me so confused that though I know that one of us can't tell a remedy from a disease, I have to stop and think which one it is.

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