Integrity in Politics

A heavy smoker, who, on opening his newspaper one morning read an account of the alleged connection between smoking and cancer, got such a shock that he vowed he would never read another paper. That is how the story was told to us, and we retell it, not primarily for enjoyment, but because the story illustrates points of human psychology which we think are of great importance. Many people do react in that way, at least temporarily, to the monstrousness of much of the news presented in the newspapers. They do it either because they want to avoid unpleasant sensations or because when they obtain a more accurate knowledge of the facts behind the news as presented, they find that they had an unnecessary shock, and resent it. In either case whether the reaction is avoidance of the source of fear or disgust at the distorted presentation of news, the motive for the remedy is escape.

The public’s attitude to politics has radically changed since the last war, and the attitude is in no small way due to shock propaganda, one aim of which is undoubtedly to frighten people into a course of action which on a plain statement of the evidence they would not take. In a large number of cases this succeeds. In others the frightening nature of the problem as presented induces apathy and an escapist psychology, which takes the form of steering clear of political thought. The power behind the evil propaganda wins in either case. But there is another, and in our view even more insidious danger, which springs from a different source. This is a sense of powerlessness and irresponsibility which is subtly injected into the electorate. Its nature is indicated in the following passage from one of the “Pink” weeklies which addle the minds of the public. It refers to politics before the war:

“Social euphoria—comfort, cheap travel, long country week-ends—was matched in the psychological level by a crushing sense, now extinct, of personal responsibility. It was the last age, consciously and feverishly the last, in which people had other feelings: that if they took the trouble to join something, get a party card, wear a special shirt, organise meetings and bellow slogans they would influence the course of events. Since 1946 nobody above the Jehovah’s Witness promise is the sacrifice of integrity to gain quantity.

As a statement of fact that is largely true but whether consciously or not, the reader is left with the idea that the fashion which all sensible people follow now is: “It’s out of your hands, leave it to the politicians; let events take their course, you can do nothing about it.”

Uncorrected it is an encouragement to disillusionment and apathy.

We have quoted from the review of a book, and it was in another review, in a Sunday newspaper of renown, that we read “Truth no longer solves arguments, it is only another argument.”

We certainly do not suggest to anyone that merely by joining something or organising or attending public meetings anything useful is achieved. It isn’t. But it does remain a fact that each of us is shouldered with some power to influence policy, the sanction which one vote gives us, and we cannot escape from the responsibility of how we use it. When we have used it we have a share in the responsibility for the policy which it supports. It is a special line of propaganda put out by all the parties that for an elector not to use his vote is to give evidence of irresponsibility and apathy. On the contrary, deliberately and of set purpose to withhold the vote, because you disagree with any of the policies presented, is an act of integrity and responsibility. To give a vote, and with it automatically become responsible, for the policy of one party because it is a lesser evil than the alternative offered is to act without integrity and to give away a power for good, your power for good. To withhold the vote and at the same time to declare publicly that it will only be given to a candidate who will give a pledge, backed by firm guarantees, that he will give precedence of support to the policy which you support, is greatly to increase your power for good. It is just this which is required above all else to bring sanity back to politics: a demonstration by determined people of strength of character based upon integrity of thought and action.

“Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free.” If Truth is ever again to be the dominant force in politics it has to be demonstrated as a principle of action. It has been said “The most irresistible social force is Integrity. Integrity is singlemindedness—the mind if a little child. It is the test of quality before quantity.” Compromise is the sacrifice of integrity to gain quantity.

Individual liberty is an absolute condition for a Christian way of life. Before God each and all have to make up their minds whether they will act for it or against it. There is no middle course. “He that is not with me is against me.”

J.M.

Urgent

The Manager of K.R.P. Publications, Ltd., suggests with compliments, to readers of any of the firm’s publications, that those who give their custom to a newsagent, unless they have some private motive for so doing, should:—

(1) Inform the Manager at 11, Garfield Street, Belfast, of their addresses, without prejudice to any further action by them, and

(2) Continue to exercise their choice of means for securing supplies of publications, while briefly reporting to him any difficulty they may experience.
CHRISTIAN CAMPAIGN FOR FREEDOM

We publish below two pledge forms. The first is contained within the second. Our reason for publishing one short and one long pledge is to demonstrate that we are not trying to pledge anyone other than ourselves: what we are trying to do is to provide a service. What each individual person pledges himself to do is a matter for his individual conscience. Some people have no conscience to worry about. Others have so little that they think that their honour is a matter which they can take into the market place for the highest bid, provided that the final act of shame is concealed in a secret ballot box. For our part we have taken to heart the injunction: “He that is not with me is against me,” and we openly announce that we have signed the more comprehensive of the two pledges.

Any who wish to draft their own pledges, should do so. However, we suggest to them that if they hide them under their hat, they have missed the virtue in the words: 

“Let your light so shine before men that they see your good works.”

We express a hope that there will be found in every constituency Christian men and women, recognising a responsibility to others, who will form independent groups and in association give others the opportunity to see and sign one or other of these pledges, while arranging a repository for the signed pledges, and taking upon themselves such other incidental services as are necessary.

We have decided for the time being to defer publication of what we consider to be a suitable undertaking to be exacted from politicians.

The two pledges will be made available separately shortly, in such form that they can be used both for collecting signatures and as an aid for obtaining subscribers to Voice. Meanwhile we should like to have an indication of probable demand.

LOYALTY PLEDGE (1)

Freedom of the individual is an absolute condition for a Christian way of life; it is the natural order in which men live, and therefore it conforms with God’s Law. It follows that legislation which diminishes freedom is against God’s Law, and that those who in any way lend support for such legislation offend against God’s Law.

A free man is a man who watches over his rights with courage and observes strictly the rights of others. “I came that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Hence, as history has shown, those nations which have respected freedom have been Christian countries, and vice versa. Hence also the Great Charters, on which have been built the law of freedom-loving peoples—Magna Carta and the American Bill of Rights—in which liberty is recognised as the prerogative and inalienable right of the individual, as a creature of God.

Most powerful, deceitful, lying and subtle propaganda is today flowing through the national press to disarm and disguise from the people of Great Britain the threat which exists to the loss of their liberties. Even the horror of the Hydrogen Bomb is being used cunningly to paralyse the will and soften the people into agreeing to the giving up of national sovereignty to a World Dictatorship.

Against this evil only a strong loyalty to God’s Law, and a proper sense of spiritual values, combined with absolute loyalty to the Crown can prevail.

Only by the weakness and cowardice of the good can evil prevail. To men and women of devotion to God and Queen we therefore direct this appeal to give a lead, not in compromising with the lesser evil, which is the sure way to defeat, but to INTEGRITY of action. Wash your hands of guilt. Sign this pledge:

THE PLEDGE

I hereby declare that I will not vote for any candidate for Parliament unless and until he gives a written pledge, backed by suitable recognisances, that he will not support any government until that government declare:

1. That under no circumstances will it surrender any part of the sovereignty of Her Majesty’s Realm of Great Britain.
2. That it will establish the right of the minority to contract out, without penalty for so doing, of the following:
   a. The National Health Service.
   c. Any Trades Union.
   d. All Marketing Acts.
(e) The provisions of any Food and Water legislation which prevents anyone from obtaining pure food and water.

(f) National Education.

Signature........................................................................ Address........................................................................

LOYALTY PLEDGE (2)

"To secure the triumph of Evil over Good, all that is necessary is that good men should do nothing." (Burke.)

Opportunity to sign the following pledge is provided for those who, with us, acknowledge God as the Creator and Law Giver of the Universe, are of the Christian Faith, and accept as axiomatic that Man cannot be Man except in a state of Society, and that Freedom and Responsibility are complementary and inseparable from one another: —

(1) I pledge my loyalty to Him “Whose Service is Perfect Freedom.”

(2) I acknowledge that it is disloyalty to Him to support or to condone any policy which is destructive of Freedom.

(3) In consequence, I pledge myself that I will not use my vote in support of such a policy, or in support of a party supporting such a policy, or a person supporting such a party, since in so doing I must accept responsibility, with them, for a policy which I do not entertain.

(4) Further, to ensure that my loyalty to this principle is complete, I pledge myself to require assurances, backed by any form of penalty for infringement or breach mutually agreed upon, from anyone who solicits my support to secure his election to any public representative body, and particularly to Parliament, before lending such support, for which I, with him, am responsible.

EXCEPTION: Recognising that the integrity, sovereignty and security of Her Majesty’s Realm of Great Britain are essential conditions of the individual liberties of Her Majesty’s subjects, I pledge myself to exact from such candidates for my support, in advance of my support being promised or given, assurances similarly backed by penalty, that any infringement of personal freedom by the Legislature in emergency shall not receive his support unless firm guarantees are provided that such infringement shall cease immediately the state of emergency is over, and that a state of emergency shall not be continued or prolonged to order to defeat this intention.

(5) Specific infringements which I pledge myself to interdict are as follows: —

(a) The surrender of any part of the sovereignty of Her Majesty’s Realm of Great Britain.

(b) Limitation or restraint upon the right of any minority whatsoever to contract out, without penalty for contracting out (i.e., direct natural consequences are not envisaged) of the following: —

The National Health Service.
National Insurance.
A Trade Union.
All Marketing Acts.
The consumption of chemically treated foods and water.

(c) Limitation upon the right of the individual to buy any commodity or service obtainable (dangerous drugs, so scheduled, the free sale of which is restricted in the public interest alone excepted) at a price uninflated by the addition of ‘purchase’ or other retributive taxes imposed by the Government.

(d) Limitation upon the right of producers to produce goods and services as when and where required, whether exercised by governmental regimentation of producers or by monopolisation by public or private agencies of credit facilities. To secure this end, a half-yearly statement of accounts of production and distribution to be prepared by private accountants appointed by local Authorities, the statements to be by area according to existing Local Authority jurisdiction.

(e) Limitation upon parental choice of religious instruction, to the ends that there be recognition that freedom depends as much upon the freedom of the mind as of the body, and that all education, like all religion, is ultra vires of the State.

Signature........................................................................ Address........................................................................
Treason

"I will merely repeat that we are at present working, discreetly but with all our might, to wrest this mysterious force called sovereignty out of the clutches of the local national states of the world. And all the time we are denying with our lips what we are doing with our hands, because to impugn the sovereignty of the local national states of the world is still a heresy for which a statesman or a publicist can be—perhaps not quite burnt at the stake, but certainly ostracised and discredited."

THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

"The creation of an authoritative all powerful world order is the ultimate end towards which we must strive. Unless some effective world super-government can be set up and brought quickly into action, the prospects for peace and human progress are dark and doubtful. Without a united Europe there is no sure prospect of a world government."

THE PRIME MINISTER, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL.

"We have absolutely abandoned every idea of nationalist loyalty. We are deliberately putting a world loyalty before loyalty to our country."

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. CLEMENT ATTLEE.

"Repeat now after us our Suprme Vow;

"I swear to have no country but the Country Universal. I swear to oppose utterly, always and everywhere, the boundaries of nations, the boundaries of fields, of houses, and of workshops, and the bonds of family.

"I swear to overthrow at the sacrifice of my life the boundaries which the humanicide Christians have traced with mud and blood in the name of God. I swear to devote my entire existence to the endless triumph of progress and of universal unity, and I declare my adherence to the denial of God and of the soul."

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL 33RD DEGREE SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY.

Sir Winston Churchill is a high Freemason, as have been successive Presidents of the United States. If anyone knows of one member of the Government or Opposition Front Bench who is not a high Freemason we would like to know who it is.

The present writer, who for many years has worked for a Christian approach to politics and economics, and whose name is well-known over a large part of one County for this work, some years ago found himself in difficulties. He was approached by two men who are Freemasons, both of whom occupy leading and honoured positions in County life, and told that they would see him out of his difficulty on the condition that he completely ceased speaking and writing on such topics. Both of these people were "Conservatives," but they volunteered that it would be perfectly all right if he publicly supported the Labour Party or any other "recognised" political party.

It should be clear from the foregoing that against deceitfulness, lying, hypocrisy and cowardice which under a veneer of conventional honesty corrupts local and national political life, the only force which can be of any avail is the practice of INTEGRITY by Christians in politics. "Let your light so shine before men..."