

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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## From Week to Week

The Republican landslide in the United States is probably the most important event in recent political history—a statement which does not assume that the Republican Party, in common with the British so-called Conservative Party, is guided by any very exalted principles, or is, at the top, likely to respond less readily to the crack of the Wall Street whip.

But we doubt very much whether Messrs. Strachey, Shinwell, Dalton and Co. belong to the same Lodge as the Republican leaders. And the *popular* reaction is the death warrant of the New Deal, the opposite number of our ruling P.E.P.-Fabian racket. In view of the effect on our own situation, we shall publish at an early date a commentary on the result written by Major Douglas.

• • •

Mr. Strachey, speaking no doubt with the Fabian Society Revivalist Meeting in mind, said that the Government is aiming at a British Socialist Commonwealth, not merely a Socialist "Britain."

Anyone who has followed the gyrations of Mr. Coldwell and the Canadian C.C.F., Mr. Walter Nash and his pocket dictatorship in New Zealand, and Dr. Evatt in Australia (all of them united with Professor Laski and the London School of Economics) must have been amazed at the contrast between the manufactured resentment which sweeps Canada, Australia and New Zealand at the slightest sign of "interference" from the official British Parliament, and the quiescence of all of them in the presence of an all-embracing plot to subvert their life and constitution by alien propaganda, admitted by Mr. Strachey to embody the Socialist objective. We should not ourselves wish the Dominions to consider our advice, other than on its merits; but in order that they might do this without interference it might be helpful if they returned Mr. Coldwell and Mr. Walter Nash to their country of origin and inspiration, in spite of their dislike of it; and Dr. Evatt would, we feel sure, be happy in that Washington, whose policies he much prefers to those of more native growth. We hasten to add that we would not feel their loss.

• • •

Ignoring the use of the word as a street-corner term of abuse, "Fascism" is a symbolic name for corporate action, and its nearest ideological equivalent is Guild Socialism, or the Corporative State. If you once admit the premise of producer control of the State, the fundamental premise of all Socialism masquerading under its opposite, State control of production, there is little doubt that Fascism is much superior to Russian Socialism. As in nearly everything nowadays, however, it is the premise, not the logic, which is vicious.

CONSUMER CONTROL OF PRODUCTION IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE BASIS OF FREEDOM; AND NO METHOD OF OBTAINING CONSUMER CONTROL HAS EVER BEEN TRIED WITH SUCCESS WHICH DID NOT BAN STATE CONTROL OF MONEY AND CREDIT AND INCLUDE DECENTRALISED INDIVIDUAL CREDIT POWER.

A phenomenon which probably has something to do with the fixed belief in British political hypocrisy is the attribution of good intentions to politicians engaged on patently disastrous courses while enjoying large emoluments and great power. We associate this idiotic convention with the perversion of Christian education which was a feature of the nineteenth century—the "gentle Jesus, meek and mild" type of thing, which greatly assists the rogue by suggesting that his victim ought to be grateful for successive thefts committed upon him.

The legal maxim that a man must be responsible for the logical consequences of his actions is a method of saying that a man who takes action without considering the consequences is a danger to society, and is either a fool or a knave, both of whom, and perhaps even more the former than the latter, are conspicuously out of place in politics. That they are found there is greater profusion than elsewhere does not alter the fact. To say that a man who draws £5,000 per annum, with extras, which is several times his earning power in business or industry, does not know that he has been allowed to attain that position in order to do the dirty work which he is plainly doing, in the face, or behind the back, of his "constituents", is to be an accessory before or after, or during, the crime.

\* \* \*

There is an unfailing test of political sincerity, and it is in the means to the result aimed at, and not in the nature of the words used to protest it. Does it claim to pay Peter by robbing Paul, or does it indicate to Peter how he can become as rich as Paul, leaving Paul untouched?

We might add that the present Government is consciously aiming at robbing both Peter and Paul, and that if its constituent members do not know it, their place is in a kindergarten for afflicted children, not in positions of usurped power.

## Investigation?

"When the new Congress meets, the first action of the Republicans will be to declare the war officially over, thus depriving the President of the unusual powers he enjoys under the War Powers Act. An attack on the remnants of war controls on government expenditure and the privileges of labour will follow and it seems likely that the Republicans may use their new power to authorise an investigation into every aspect of the Democratic record."—*The Economist*.

### Social Credit Secretariat: Diploma of Associate

The following satisfied the examiners in the Examination (British Isles) held in April, 1946:—

WALTER BUCHANAN DUNSMORE.  
THOMAS VICTOR HOLMES.  
ELLEN MILBURN.  
COLIN YOUNG.\*

\*Owing to illness a special paper (Paper B below) was set for this candidate.

The Director for Lectures and Studies reports that Question 1 (Paper A) was not answered well by any candidate who took this paper.

#### The Papers

(A)

Answer Question One, and three of the remaining questions:—

#### QUESTION ONE.

Discuss, in relation to Social Credit, the statement: "It is sheer delusion to suppose that men ultimately mould an organisation. The exact contrary is the case. The *effective* man is moulded by his pursuits . . ."

#### QUESTION TWO.

Draft a reply to the following, assuming the letter to have been addressed to yourself by an acquaintance:—

"Dear . . . , Thank you for the copy of *The Social Crediter* you have sent to me which I can honestly say I have read, although there is a lot in it I do not understand. I won't mention the Jews, who are a problem; but it does seem to me that you chaps who have such an interesting case to make against High Finance and all that are making a great mistake in neglecting the organising side of your movement. Why don't you go out more and preach your gospel and make it a force which can compete with the great parties, even if it takes a long time and means a lot of hard work, instead of talking above our heads so that very few can understand you and many are put off by quite unnecessary attacks?"

(Do not write more than 300 words.)

#### QUESTION THREE.

Defend the proposition "Taxation is Robbery", with or without modifying the statement to accord with your own view of taxation.

#### QUESTION FOUR.

State briefly the arguments for and against a wide expansion of large-scale electrical power distribution.

#### QUESTION FIVE.

What do you understand concerning the policy of an individual who is said to be

- (a) a Communist
- (b) a Theosophist
- (c) a "free-thinker"?

Do these descriptions mean anything to you, or influence your political attitude towards them?

(B)

The Candidate is expected to answer all the questions.

(1) Discuss in not more than 300 words the following opinion which refers to lines 11, 12 and 13: p. 58. *The Brief for the Prosecution.*

"In saying that many otherwise effective men are moulded by their pursuits I take it that Major Douglas meant that their minds were limited by them, and that they are unable to deal with matters which lie outside them. I am sure he did not mean that men should not try to learn something from their pursuits and understand their true nature."

(2) (a) If you are satisfied with the adequacy of the quoted opinion in the foregoing question, but not otherwise, state what you understand by the phrase "Economic determinism."

(b) Whether you have answered 2a or not what do you understand by (a) Dialectical; (b) Mechanism; (c) Organisation; (d) Cyclical?

(3) What, if any, defects do you personally recognise in the Feudal System in so far as it was established in Scotland? Where necessary indicate to what points attention should be

### SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

(Advisory Chairman—Major C. H. DOUGLAS)

### ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL CREDIT

*An introductory Course of Lectures published with the authority of the Social Credit Secretariat, "a non-party, non-class organisation neither connected with nor supporting any political party, Social Credit or otherwise."*

#### CONTENTS

The Lectures and Studies Section of the Secretariat:

CONSTITUTION

ORDINANCES

SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION

COURSE A

COURSE B

LECTURES I TO XX

NOTES ON COURSES

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directed in endeavouring to correct such defects as you mention.

(Marks will be given for brevity consistent with sufficiency).

(4) Is purchasing power rising or falling at the present time? Do you regard the power to pay taxes as purchasing power, and if not why not?

## PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, October 28, 1946.

### Statutory Monopolies (Circulars)

*Mr. Norman Smith* asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he will consider an amendment of company law to prevent statutory monopoly firms from circularising political propaganda to their customers.

*Sir S. Cripps*: I do not think that an amendment such as my hon. Friend suggests would be appropriate for inclusion in a Companies Bill.

*Mr. Smith*: Is my right hon. and learned Friend aware that only last week every customer of the Western Kent Electric Co. received with his quarterly account a leaflet which says, among other things, that under nationalisation the price of coal is going up and up, and does my right hon. and learned Friend think it is desirable in that way to mix business with mendacity and malice?

*Sir S. Cripps*: That seems to be a matter for the shareholders of the company.

*Mr. Ronald Chamberlain*: Is my right hon. and learned Friend aware that in my own constituency of Norwood the South London Electric Supply Corporation have been issuing a lurid pamphlet which ends up by saying that nationalisation will mean high prices and bad service, and does he not agree that such a statement is entirely unwarrantable, hypocritical, misleading, and untrue?

House of Commons, October 29, 1946.

### Press (Control and Ownership)

*Mr. Max Aitken (Holborn)*: . . . I have been looking into figures, as Members on both sides of the House have been, and I have got some up to date figures which, I hope, the House will listen to, and in which it will be interested. There are 11 national morning newspapers, including the *Daily Worker* and the *Manchester Guardian*—because, in the newspaper industry, we count the *Manchester Guardian* as a national newspaper—with a sale of 15,000,000 per day. There are 34 provincial morning newspapers with a sale of 3,000,000. There are three London evening newspapers with a sale of 3,350,000. There are 80 provincial evening newspapers with a sale of 7,000,000. . . . There are 80 provincial evening newspapers with a sale of 7,000,000. There are 16 Sunday newspapers, national and provincial, with a sale of 26,000,000. There are 859 provincial weekly newspapers with a sale of 10,500,000; and 560 small, unclassified newspapers with a sale of 1,000,000—a total of 1,563 publications with a total sale of 65,850,000. . . .

House of Commons, October 30, 1946.

### Feeding Stuffs (Rationing)

*Mr. David Eccles (Chippenham)*: I beg to move, "That the Order, dated 5th September, 1946, amending the

Feeding Stuffs (Rationing) Order, 1943, and giving Directions thereunder (S.R. & O., 1946, No. 1490), a copy of which amending Order was presented on 8th October, be annulled.

This is a most important Order, and I trust that a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture will soon be with us to deal with it. It is an Order which enables the Minister to cut the rations of balancer meal to certain classes of pig and poultry keepers. The cuts were announced on June 4, nearly four months ago. Even if the cuts were justified on June 4 by the then supply position of feeding stuffs, even if it was wise then to make provision that, on October 1, certain reductions in the ration should be made, I think I can show the House that there is no justification for such reductions now. This is not a party matter; it is simply a matter of trying to find the truth about the facts and figures of the feeding stuffs position, and then asking the House to decide whether the Minister's proposals, as contained in this Order, are sound or not. . . .

*Mr. Snadden (Perth and Kinross, Western)*: . . . The decision taken in June was taken in a time of acute shortage. At that time, figures were produced which showed that we were up against a very difficult position. Some may have felt that there was reason then for the steps that were taken. But that state of affairs no longer persists today. What is the position? The official crop of wheat in the United States is the best since 1940; it is a record crop. Of course, the reserves in that country have to be made up—I admit that—but nevertheless, we have to take into account that in America there has been a record crop of wheat. In Canada, our principal source of supply of wheat, the crop is 44 per cent. up on 1945. Admittedly, the 1945 crop was light, but nevertheless, 44 per cent. is a very great increase. In Europe the production has been raised by 30 per cent. on 1945. What about the Far East where, I am told, the production of rice, a very important commodity, has made a very considerable recovery? I deduce from that, that because of the increase in rice production in the Far East, the consuming countries will not require to import nearly as much wheat as hitherto.

Balancing all those facts, and putting them all together, where is this shortage of wheat about which we hear so much? I believe the Minister of Food was right when he decided to lower the extraction rate of wheat before taking off bread rationing, because by so doing he has made provision to maintain, as far as he can, our milk output during the winter which is the time when we want it. I suggest to the Parliamentary Secretary that if bread rationing is to be continued, the extraction rate of wheat might be reduced by a further five per cent. By so doing a further 300,000 tons of offal would be freed. Not only would this Order be annulled, but we would also go a very long way towards averting the very great difficulties which confront us. . . .

*The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food (Dr. Edith Summerskill)*: . . . Since these cuts came into operation on 1st October, a slight improvement in the position has taken place. That has been mentioned by nearly every hon. Member who has spoken tonight. The improvement has been the reduction of the extraction rate from 90 per cent. to 85 per cent. The hon. Member for Chippenham (Mr. Eccles), who moved the Motion, asked me why the increase in miller offals, which of course must follow the reduction in the extraction rate, could not be used. With all respect to the hon. Member, he has forgotten one important fact, namely, that any increase of this kind has to go into

(continued on page 6)

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Saturday, November 16, 1946.

### More Ballot-Box

We infer from the conduct of the Bye-Election in the Scottish Universities Constituency that this event, succeeding upon the elevation of Sir John Boyd Orr to the dignity (and emoluments) of an extra-national Commissar, has little or nothing to do with the Scottish or any other Universities, or their, or any other electorates, or indeed with the governed of this (or any other) country at all. The large field of five candidates suggests that what is still termed, euphemistically, a 'straight' fight might have been dangerous to some interest, and confirmation is not far to seek in the championship of Mr. Walter Elliot by Dr. O. H. Mavor (James Bridie), who was one of the sponsors of Sir J. Boyd Orr. Some ingenuity was required to effect this apparent transference of favour from sturdy "Independence" to resolute "Conservatism." When the 'Independent Principle' was being built up it was not foreseen that one of the "three most influential Scotsmen" of their time was wearing the wrong coat in full view of the electors of the Kelvingrove Division. But Dr. Mavor has given him absolution, (see *The Scotsman*, November 6). Dr. Mavor's friends "will not regard the result as altering the main principle—that university members of Parliament ought to be and must be Independent."

How the Liberal candidate, the Labour candidate, the Liberal National candidate and the Independent Federal Union candidate view this decision remains to be seen. Doubtless one or two of them are well able to discern the nature of the manoeuvre against them, without necessarily disapproving of it very radically on other than personal grounds. Individual application to them should easily discover how much truth there may be in this surmise. *The Scotsman's* lack of interest in a letter published elsewhere in this issue is probably significant, and while it has impeded the execution of the plan suggested, it is not safe to infer from that fact alone that correct action for the restoration to public service of our parliamentary system is either impossible or indeed far from the possibility of attainment. We invite the intelligent co-operation of readers. When next a university Member of Parliament in Scotland exchanges independence of his electors for dependance upon UNOwhat, at least one constituency may then know how to deal with any would-be successor. And there may not be long to wait.

At the same time as the Parliamentary Election, the Chancellorship of the University of Glasgow is being contested by Sir John Boyd Orr and Sir Iain Colquhoun, Baronet, Knight of the Thistle, of Luss. Dr. Mavor is Seconder of Sir J. Boyd Orr. The Electors are the General Council of the University, *i.e.*, the Parliamentary Electors of the University of Glasgow (not the total electorate of the Scottish Universities). This is (or seems to be) a 'straighter' fight than Mr. Elliot's, and there seems to have been con-

siderable difficulty to secure it against several proposals for uncontested choice. The mass of both electorates, Glasgow and Scottish, is the ageing Intelligentsia, the younger members of which look up to the State to be fed.

In this connection, recent figures from another university concerning the source (nominal) of the financing of education are pertinent. The figures are: From endowments, 11 per cent.; from donations and subscriptions, 3 per cent.; from local rates, 11 per cent.; from fees 25 per cent. and from 'The State' 50 per cent.

### Sabotage of Food

Signed R. G. Hancock, the following letter appeared in *The New Times* for August 16, 1946:—

Sir,—You request readers to forward particulars of any evidence of food sabotage, *etc.*, due to taxation, controls and lack of transport, so I shall relate, for what they are worth, the following details supplied to me by various graziers for whom I have worked as a shearer in the Walget, Wee Waa area of N.S.W. this year—these matters are common knowledge in that area.

I have worked in all for 14 different landholders between February and June, became sufficiently acquainted with four of these men to discuss political and tax matters at some length, and learned that two of these four were deliberately restricting their production of sheep and wool because taxation is so fierce that it does not pay them to produce more than a certain value of goods. In one case a farmer with sufficient land and fodder to run 3,500 to 4,000 sheep, did not want to take the trouble and work involved by more than 2,000, because, he said, "More sheep mean greater risks to me, and if these risks are safely passed the Government takes practically all the extra profit." I believe this man was running only about 1,400 sheep; for the same reason, and despite the fact that some of his land is eminently suited to wheat growing, he would not bother with crops. This type of behaviour and reasoning seemed to me typical of all the well-established properties, from casual discussion with the remaining ten employers.

In the same area, farmers had difficulty to get their wool clips away reasonably quickly by rail. Such being the case, I imagine, though I did not question about it, that they would be hampered as regards getting sheep to city markets.

There is among practically all these men strong resentment at the dictatorial attitude of our Government, particularly the Taxation Department; but, in common with most Australians (I am myself Australian born) they are rather "hazy" and dilatory in political matters, and many, probably 80 per cent., would prefer discussion of racehorses to that of anything that called for mental effort.

I expect that conditions are similar in parts of Victoria and the Riverina.

I am pretty sure that the Egg Board prevents many potential poultry farmers from operating, and am given to understand that eggs produced in Narrabri (approximately 300 miles north of Sydney) are officially supposed to be sent to Sydney or Newcastle for grading and returned to Narrabri for retailing. Egg Board buys 'em at 10d., and finally sells 'em to the grocer for 1/9 or 2/- (these are last March's figures). Of course many are sold "under the lap" direct to retailers.

## Centralized Power Is Killing Democracy

By J. VANS MACDONALD

(From a Broadcast over Vancouver's "Town Meeting of the Air")

Many of you will recall the words of the wise Lord Acton, "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely." And I believe you will agree that no truer words were ever spoken.

In a true democracy, power would be decentralized, distributed and diffused among the people, and with decentralization of power would come this earth's greatest blessing—freedom.

You and I have witnessed in Canada and other countries policies of centralization of power. We have cartels, monopolies of goods and services, monopoly of knowledge, monopoly of money, and through it the control of the press, the radio, the screen and the very lives of the people.

Such centralization of power has been achieved principally through an outmoded system of finance. This will be rectified when we rid ourselves of this present counterfeit democracy and institute true political democracy, wherein 'Demos', the people, will exercise 'Kratos', the power.

In Italy, Germany and Russia, the minor monopolies of goods, services, knowledge and money were merged into giant state monopolies. These state monopolies were backed by sanctions such as the army, navy and air force. The most vicious form of monopoly is state monopoly which we term Socialism. In Italy Guild Socialism was named Fascism. In Germany National Socialism was named Naziism. In Russia Marxian Socialism was named Communism. True, they were different ideologies, but the philosophy in each case was the same—the anti-Christian philosophy that man was made for the Sabbath, the institution or the state.

In all recorded history, no tyranny has equalled that which exists in Socialist Russia today. Agreed that conditions under the Czars left much to be desired. Peter the Great, however, abolished serfdom in 1861, a year previous to the abolition of slavery in the U.S.A. Stalin changed all that by confiscating for the state every piece of property in Russia, liquidating more than ten million people in the process. Today one hundred and eighty million people are controlled body, mind and soul by this Oriental monarch and serfdom is re-established. This vast land, encompassing one sixth of the earth's surface, is the graveyard of freedom.

Yet there are simple souls in our midst who, forgetting that "Absolute power corrupts absolutely," would have us enjoy a false sense of security by thinking that Communism is solely for the Russians. To such people I would say: Read the works of Karl Mordecai, who changed his name to Marx; of Ulianov, known as Lenin; of Stalin himself. In these works you will find the plans for world domination and the answer to the question before us tonight.

Permit me to quote a few excerpts from "Problems of Leninism," by Joseph Stalin.

"Can such a radical transformation of the old bourgeois order be achieved without a violent revolution, without the dictatorship of the proletariat? Obviously not. To think that such a revolution can be carried out peacefully, within the framework of bourgeois democracy, which is adapted to the rule of the bourgeoisie, means that one has either gone out of

one's mind and lost normal human understanding, or has grossly and openly repudiated the proletarian revolution."

Stalin also approves the following statement of Lenin: "The victorious proletariat of that country, having expropriated the capitalists and organized its own Socialist production, would stand up against the rest of the world, the capitalist world, attracting to its cause the oppressed classes of other countries, raising revolts in those countries against the capitalists, and coming out in the event of necessity, even with armed force, against the exploiting classes and their states."

Could anything be plainer than Stalin's statement when he personally writes of the Russian Revolution that it "constitutes the first stage of the world revolution, and a mighty base for its further development."?

In his writings, Stalin fully endorses the following statement of Lenin: "The dictatorship of the proletariat is a most determined and most ruthless war; it is a persistent struggle . . . against the forces and traditions of the old society. . . . It is a war which is a hundred times more difficult, protracted and complicated than the most stubborn of ordinary wars between States."

These are Stalin's answers to the question, "Can democracy, as we now have it, live with communism in a world at peace?"

We have been taught, "By their fruits ye shall know them," and we judge Communism by the results in Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Greece.

We recall, too, the enemy within our gates—that most of the twenty-four convicted spies were ready to surrender our sovereignty to this pyramid of power seeking world dominion. People with a lust for power hope to be on top, with the rest of us on tap.

## Universities and Politics

The following letter, dated October 15, addressed to the Editor of *The Scotsman*, has not, so far as we know, appeared therein.

Sir,

It is alleged that the privilege of an extra parliamentary vote accorded to university graduates serves to record and express a political opinion in some way especially enlightened. There may be reasons why this quality should not be apparent to everyone; but certainly an election, and particularly a bye-election in a university constituency affords opportunities which other elections do not.

Shortly before the last election to Parliament of a candidate representing the Scottish Universities Constituency, you were so good as to publish a letter from me touching one aspect of the political question, namely the unfortunate disposition of experts in one branch of technology to advance their presumed competency in that specialty, as a reason for recognition of their sufficiency in the totally distinct and unrelated technique of representation of *Policy*.

The present election seems unlikely to raise the point at issue between the Government and the Governed in this form, and, in any case, evidence has accumulated since the general election concerning the defects of the form of ballot-box democracy to which our political system has degenerated.

The defects to which I refer are now recognised on all sides—manufacture of majorities by mass suggestion methods, mobilisation of the votes so built up by scarcely veiled bribery (even in university constituencies, *e.g.*, “vote Labour, and more jobs for trainees”), progressive ‘stepping-down’ of the power of the individual voter by various exploitations of the revenge complex, *etc., etc.*—and I need not enumerate them. The hypnotic power of the revolutionary idea, Liberal or Socialist or Communist, veils from many people what it is that lies at the centre of this progressive deterioration, the irresponsibility and anonymity of the effective agent, the voter. Not knowing what he does or why he does it, by a mere sign, secret and, by design and instruction, furtive, he can dispossess a class, reaping only a harvest of weeds where formerly even he could see a park, destroy a culture which gave even him what sense of intelligibility there was in life, divide the world to suit the warmongers, conspire with Satan for the downfall and extermination of Man. It is more important that this current should be arrested and its direction reversed than that the errant electors of a suburban division should (if they should) be reproved by the non-errant electors of an Intelligentsia. A solution of the political problem as it confronts Great Britain and the British Empire (and the world) transcends in importance the convenience of individuals or of parties; and in the expectation that many in the Scottish Universities will agree with me, may I crave publicity for the following proposal? :

- (1) That a candidate be selected immediately to fight the election on an agreed policy, which is explicit and adapted to the political situation as it now exists.
- (2) That this policy be two-fold, designed (a) to attach responsibility to the vote cast, voter by voter, thereby encouraging sound judgment of political consequences, and (b) to rehabilitate those elements in the community of sound judgment in the national and individual interest.

To implement this policy the following skeleton proposals have been advanced. They appear to be sufficient. They are not my proposals:—

- (a) The secret ballot to be abolished and replaced by an open, recorded, and published vote. (The university vote is at present signed, and, therefore recorded.)
- (b) The Party System to be retained.
- (c) Prior to an election, each Party to put forward an outline of any legislative proposals together with both an estimate of the cost to the taxpayer and a designation of the interests and specific individuals affected.
- (d) The cost of Legislation by the successful Party, together with the proved loss to any individuals not having voted for the successful Party, to be borne solely by those having recorded votes for the successful Party, and any reduction to taxation directly attributable to specific legislation to be shared as to 25 *per cent.* by recorded supporters of the unsuccessful Parties, and 75 *per cent.* by the supporters of the successful Party so long as it may remain in power, after which the gains shall be equalised.

May I emphasise that it is my desire to receive communications from electors in the Scottish Universities Constituency who are willing to support my proposal. Discussion, independently of action we may take, in your columns, Sir, would doubtless be of great interest, but it is not

the main objective. The time is very short for the repair of the ravages of past political errors and betrayals.

Yours faithfully,  
(signed) TUDOR JONES.

Liverpool.

*PARLIAMENT* (Continued from page 3)  
the pool, and when we are being allocated feeding stuffs, our available supplies are considered before the International Emergency Food Council makes an allocation. [HON. MEMBERS: “Oh.”] Hon. Members opposite must not disregard international organisations. We shall not have peace until hon. Members opposite learn to respect international organisations, and if they sneer at an international food organisation, then they are capable of disregarding any international organisation. Hon. Members who have mentioned the extraction rate, have forgotten one important factor. Whereas during this bad harvest there has been more non-millable wheat, our barley harvest has suffered . . .

*Major Legge-Bourke* (Isle of Ely): The hon. Lady mentioned the matter of imported millers’ offal. Would she say whether the Emergency Food Council allocates to this country imported flour or grain? I am not clear from her previous answer whether or not the amount saved by the bread rationing had to go back to the central pool. If the grain had been sent back, does the Emergency Food Council reclaim on anything we save?

*Dr. Summerskill*: The International Emergency Food Council allocates all grain and feeding stuffs. [An HON. MEMBER: “To whom?”] I would ask the hon. Gentleman to examine these things a little more thoroughly, and perhaps if he goes back to the Combined Food Board and examines the difference he will have the answer to his question.

*Sir Ian Fraser* (Lonsdale): May I ask the hon. Lady a perfectly serious question? If the International Committee is to distribute this grain, and our chickens are not to get any, which nation’s chickens are going to have it?

*Dr. Summerskill*: Most of the nations of the world are members of the International Emergency Council today. The future ration is entirely dependent on our ability to import as there are no further home supplies which can be made available for use.

The imports of wheat, if sufficiently high, might permit of a further reduction in the flour extraction rate of 80 *per cent.* This would be a great help in increasing the available supply of millers’ offals. If we can import in future, if world conditions permit, which means that allocations will go up, we shall be able to reduce the extraction rate, and we shall have more millers’ offals.

We must remember that the world situation in regard to grain indicates that at least for the year 1946-47, the diversion of a considerable quantity of coarse grain from animal feeding to human consumption will have to take place. I make no secret of it. Next year, there will be food shortages throughout the world. We have now to decide how we shall allocate our available feeding stuffs. The production of milk has always been considered as having a priority claim on the supplies of animal feeding stuffs. We believe that this is essential before embarking on an increase in pig and poultry rations. . . . When the hon. and gallant Member for Down (Sir W. Smiles) addresses his constituents, I ask him to ask housewives whether they would prefer a cut in their bacon and

eggs, or their milk. I am convinced that they will accept the Government's decision to maintain the milk supply. . . .

*Mr. R. S. Hudson* (Southport): . . . It is not by any means—I am giving no secret away—the first occasion, during the last six years on which the question of the rations to be devoted to these individuals has come under discussion. Neither is this the first occasion during that period on which the country has been faced with shortage of wheat and grain. More than once during the war, our stocks got down to perilously low figures, and, on every such occasion, the question was raised whether or not a further cut should be made in the ration which had been accorded to domestic pig and poultry keepers. No one—again giving no secret away—was stouter in his defence and his refusal to agree to those cuts than the present Minister of Agriculture. He fought inside the Government for those people. The Government, in those days, wanted to cut the rations from, for example, the increased level of 5 lbs. per head but the present Minister of Agriculture fought hard to prevent that, and he succeeded.

I believe that a large number of individuals throughout the country will regret two things: They will regret, first of all, the levity with which this Debate has been treated by hon. Members opposite, and they will regret still more, the fact that the present Minister of Agriculture is not so tough as Minister of Agriculture, as he was when he was Parliamentary Secretary. If he were, we should not be having these cuts, because they are totally unnecessary. . . .

. . . My hon. Friend the Member for Chippenham (*Mr. Eccles*), and other hon. Members, mentioned 1,500,000 as the number of domestic poultry keepers. That is true. But that does not represent the families involved. The hon. Lady knows perfectly well—at least the Department know perfectly well—that well over 4,000,000 people are actually involved, because, on the last figures published, well over 4,000,000 shell egg registrations had been given up. Every one of those 1,500,000 domestic poultry keepers, in fact, provides eggs for two, if not three per family, or for their neighbours. Therefore, the total number of people who will be affected by the cut is very considerable. When hon. Members laugh and jeer, as they have been doing tonight, it is as well that their constituents throughout the country should realise the levity with which hon. Members opposite are treating this matter. In the considerable number of years that I have been in the House, I have very rarely heard such a miserable defence as that put forward by the Parliamentary Secretary. When she was asked some questions by some of my hon. Friends about what was happening to 300,000 tons of offals that were gained as a result of the reduction in the extraction rate of flour from 90 per cent. to 85 per cent., she said that that increase was taken into account by the Combined Food Board when they were making allocations.

There are two answers to that statement. The hon. Lady might have used that argument some weeks ago, but for her to use it tonight, on the very morrow of our being told that the United States authorities have thrown all allocations to the winds, is hardly treating the House with the respect that it deserves. The hon. Lady went on to say "Oh, but you have to remember that although we have gained some 350,000 tons of feeding stuffs by this reduction in the extraction rate of flour, we have lost some 300,000 tons of barley." Is she seriously suggesting that when we gain feeding stuffs on extraction that is taken into account by the Combined Food

Board, and when we lose by a bad crop of barley, that is not to be taken into account? Is the hon. Lady seriously suggesting that our representatives in Washington are so inefficient that they are prepared to accept a system under which we lose both on the swings and on the roundabouts?

*Dr. Summerskill*: The right hon. Gentleman says in one breath that they are not allocating, and then in the next breath says that they are going to allocate.

*Mr. Hudson*: I am merely showing that the hon. Lady is convicted out of her own mouth. In one breath she says that we cannot use the additional feeding stuffs that we have gained to increase our rations, because that has already been taken into account by the Combined Food Board, and then she says that when we lose as a result of a bad harvest, we have to suffer. . . .

. . . We have had a very bad harvest, with the inevitable result that there has been a considerable amount available of unmillable wheat that cannot be used for human consumption.

The best information that reaches me is that today there is no less than 200,000 tons of unmillable wheat lying on farms in this country, rapidly deteriorating. If the hon. Lady could induce her Department to get after that, she would quite easily be able to make good the amount of cereals involved in this cut, which is, I believe, something of the order of 60,000 tons. There is, undoubtedly, some 200,000 tons available. That is an unexpected change in the situation. It is a change that no one could have foreseen last June, but the gravamen of our charge is that in spite of this changed situation, the same old programme which we laid down in June, is being adhered to when we believe it should be revised.

The hon. Member for Taunton (*Mr. Collins*) stated that dollars were not the difficulty, and he led the House to assume that something else was—possibly supply of shipping. So far as maize is concerned, I do not necessarily accept the suggestion that 10 per cent. of the crop in the United States should be bought. It is a well-known fact that maize and wheat were both record crops in the United States last year, when the figure for maize harvested was the highest ever, not only for the United States but for any country in the world. There was every reason to fear that there would not be two bumper harvests running, but I understand that Providence has been kind and the United States has in fact had two bumper crops of maize in succession. There is no question that if the dollars are available—and I take the word of the hon. Member for Taunton that this is so—it should have been possible to have obtained from the United States, by ordinary private commercial channels, if it was not possible to do it by bulk purchase, the few tens of thousands of tons needed to avoid making this particular cut.

The hon. Lady made no attempt to defend the actual details of this Order. She talked about the additional protein that was to be allotted to dairy cattle. . . . In the case of pigs, the proportion of animal protein has been increased, and quite rightly, from 5 per cent. to 7½ per cent. as from last Monday. . . .

Why make the situation, which is bad enough through the reduction of the ration, worse by not trying to improve the quality of the miserable remaining balancer meal given to the poultry keeper. The total amount would have been very small. If you can do it for dairy cows and pigs, it should not have been beyond the wit of man, with a little good ad-

ministration, to do it for poultry. That is the second reason why we object to this Order.

The third reason is that human beings being what they are, very large numbers of people will undoubtedly do everything they can to try to save their stock—their hens and their pigs. One of the obvious ways of doing that is to feed to them increased supplies of potatoes. Now potatoes are none too plentiful. . . . I beg the hon. Lady to have another look, even at this late date, at this matter. I believe that if she could get the Minister, and her colleagues and officials, to look at this matter again, to forget for a moment the prestige involved, to forget that they committed themselves last June to a statement that this would happen; . . . I believe it would be possible, perhaps not to cancel the Order, but to mitigate it very much indeed. It is because I hope that she will do this and bring in a new Order, that I ask the House to annul this Order.

\* \* \* \*

Question put accordingly

"That the Order, dated 5th September, 1946, amending the Feeding Stuffs (Rationing) Order, 1943, and giving Directions thereunder (S.R. & O., 1946, No. 1490), a copy of which amending Order was presented on 8th October, be annulled."

The House divided: Ayes, 74; Noes, 208.\*

House of Commons, October 31, 1946.

### British Army

#### Trumpeters (Albert Hall Meeting)

Mr. Challen asked the Secretary of State for War why, having regard to the prohibition contained in King's Regulations, trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music have been permitted to play at a forthcoming political function at the Albert Hall sponsored by the *Daily Herald* to celebrate the jubilee of the Fabian Society.

Mr. J. Freeman: The engagement was accepted under a misunderstanding. As soon as the nature of the function was realised permission was withdrawn.

### Imports (Per Head Value)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the average worth of imported goods per year, per head of the population, for 1910, 1938 and at the latest convenient date; and what proportion of that was paid for by invisible exports.

Mr. Dalton: The average c.i.f. value of recorded imports per head of the population in the years 1910, 1938 and 1945 was:

1910			1938			1945		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
15	2	0†	19	8	0	22	10	0**

According to estimates published in the Board of Trade Journal, the net invisible overseas income of the United Kingdom in 1938 amounted to 36 per cent. of the c.i.f. value of recorded imports in that year. Corresponding figures for 1910 and 1945 are not available.

† Including the whole of Ireland.

\*\* Excluding munitions.

\*In the course of the debate only one person spoke against the motion, apart from Dr. Summerskill, who replied for the Government; eight people spoke for it, apart from Mr. Hudson, who summed up.

House of Commons, November 1, 1946.

### National Debt Office (Municipal Loans)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer why the National Debt Commissioners took up about 77 per cent. of the Birmingham Loan last July; what is the loss incurred by the taxpayer; who fixed the terms of the issue; and what amount the commissioners still hold.

Mr. Dalton: I cannot undertake, as a general rule, to answer Questions on current financial operations of the National Debt Office. The terms of this Birmingham Loan, as of other municipal loans, were agreed with the Bank of England. Under the usual arrangements made by the Treasury the National Debt Office took up that part of the loan not taken up by private investors, without charging underwriters' commission. I am glad to say that they have now unloaded all they took up, at a profit to the taxpayer, and that the City of Birmingham is borrowing at a cheaper rate than at any time in this century.

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(Order in Council P.C. 411, Feb. 5, 1946).

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