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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

The disorientation which seems to be common to Established (i.e., State) Churches is illustrated by a lecture delivered in Edinburgh by the Minister of St. John's Kirk, Perth (the Church of Scotland), as reported by The Scotsman. After remarking that distinction between the religious and secular was false and baleful, the lecturer, the Rev. W. A. Smellie, said "The Christian ought to be a party man, though not a very good party man. He would recognise that things got done in politics by men combining in parties. God wanted things done . . . the Christian would not detach himself from politics on the ground that it was a dirty game . . . he did his best in what he knew to be a highly ambiguous moral set-up, but remained critical."

Short of the Protocols of Zion, it would be difficult to imagine a clearer plea for the justification of means by ends. By what process does Mr. Smellie suggest that we arrived at our present "highly ambiguous moral set-up"?

It is perhaps logical that his lecture is to be followed by an address from Sir Stafford Cripps.

Mr. Strachey at Dundee said he was quite aware that his audience had something to grumble at, but he was not greatly perturbed that they were worse off than before the war. They were middle class and he preferred them to be worse off, if anyone.

We, however, are perturbed that Mr. Strachey is so much better off than before the war. We couldn't think of anyone for whose benefit a war was less worth fighting.

According to *Time* (N.Y.), the American General MacArthur has been made a 33rd degree Freemason. Anyone like to pick another Presidential candidate?

"AMERICAN" FILM STARS.

FILM NAME
June Havoc
Danny Kaye
John Beal
Cy Bartlett
Eddie Cantor
Edward Robinson

Melvyn Douglas

BIRTH NAME
June Hovick
David Daniel Kamisky
Alexander Bliedung
Sacha Baraniev.
Edward Iskowitz
Emanuel Goldenberg
Melvyn Hesselberg

We are informed on what appears to be good authority that these are all Russian Jews, and are either open or crypto-Communists.

"... The Soviet Union to-day is materially and spiritually bankrupt, and most educated Russians know it. The experiment in dictated Socialism has failed the Russian people."—VASILI KOTOV: "Stalin thinks I'm dead."

So let's try it. You never know-miracles do happen.

"Very few people are aware that in the early days of King Charles I's reign, when there were no Parliaments, the condition of the common people was such as it had never been before, or since, so well were they looked after, as a recent writer has incontrovertibly demonstrated."—M. E. M. Donaldson in *The Scotsman*, Feb. 5, 1948.

"Since Soviet Russian and American representatives in U.N. stood together on the partition project, the inescapable query arises—can it be possible that the Ziomkts and the Communists are one and the same?" (italics in original)—Economic Council Letter No. 181, Empire State Bldg, New York, I.

STELLA, Marchioness of Reading (Mrs. Rufus Isaacs), has gone to New York on the *Queen Elizabeth* with "travellers samples."

Fellow-travellers?

We suggest that for every one per cent, by which the cost of living, including taxation, rises, five per cent should be deducted from the salaries of every and each Cabinet Minister, and two per cent. from the salaries of every Member of Parliament supporting the Government.

We are far from being undiluted admirers of, or believers in, a certain widely boomed monthly "intelligence" bulletin, but in quoting a correspondent to the effect that, dangerous as is our present Administration, a "Conservative" government without a far more drastic reorientation of policy than has so far been adumbrated, would be almost certainly fatal, it is on sound ground. The policy from which we are suffering is that of P.E.P., of which Mond-Turnerism was the first chapter; it is rotten to the core and proceeded, and proceeds from quarters which are rotten to the core; but it still dominates the Party machine of the Conservative Party.

How much of it is that blind Whig selfishness which lost us the American Colonies, and how much the work of Fifth Column traitors is difficult to judge; both factors are present. But until it is expunged, no Parliamentary majority can do anything but make bad worse.

Re-quoted from The Australian Social Crediter: -

"CERTAIN ANTAGONISTIC FORCES . . "

The World's Press News, December 11, 1947, publishes a letter from "an experienced and responsible editor, who recently spent considerable time in the United States": The following are extracts, together with the extracts made by World's Press News from "several pages of advertisements

sponsored by the Zionists" which the correspondent submitted: [omitted for lack of space].

"... It is well for that point to be understood by British journalists. They do not all know just what has been going on in the United States. I didn't until I saw it for myself. It is just as well perhaps that they do not, although that ignorance might have far-reaching consequences. It is certainly good in my view that the British Press has not conveyed to its readers just what has been done in America to vilify Britain by the various Zionist Committees. I would not approve any popular paper telling its British readers about that poisonous work—the consequences might be bad—but I do think that in the limited circle of our own trade paper, circulating as it does to responsible journalists throughout the country, it should be permissible to explain to them the nature of the full-page advertisements that have been published over there.

"That campaign has led directly to the partition of Palestine. I will not go into the probable outcome. History must decide. . . .

"My view, after what I have seen and heard, is that Britain is being subjected today to definite pressure by certain antagonistic forces and that those forces are imperilling not only her future but her very standards of life. Journalists, as trustees for liberty and freedom, in some degree, carry a big responsibility. They should know what is going on. They should investigate and be alert to watch how history is being played out before their eyes. The times are perilous, and care and judgment, allied to sound patriotism; are needed as never before. I subscribe myself.—Junius."

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: January 23, 1948.

Foreign Affairs

Mr. Pickthorn (Cambridge University): . . . I think it is a very good thing now that that truth should be generally recognised: and I think he [Mr. Bevin] also recognised that, right as it was that there should be a full and frank alliance with Russian power during the war in the latter part of the war, there was then an excessive amount of pro-Russian propaganda, and that that has been a part of the reason for the excessive strength of Russia in international politics since. Indeed, we were told yesterday that threats of that sort, or the use of the effect of propaganda in other countries, are made in international conversations. We were told that Molotov said, at Paris, I think it was, roughly speaking, "If you do not do what we want, you will find trouble in your own countries." That is an illustration of how propaganda, which anyway never goes on being believed for very long, has very great disadvantages. First of all, it makes quarrels more likely in the long run. Propaganda by a foreign country always excites a reaction, and is always liable to turn against the object for which it was intended. But the worst drawback to it is that if foreign countries think they have a party inside your country, that gives them a weapon which they would not otherwise have.

I want to ask hon. Gentlemen opposite, I hope without being excessively controversial, whether that consideration should not make them reconsider the speeches they are apt to make even now, about the propriety of using strike action for political, even foreign political, purposes. We have had quite recently from the Lord President of the Council and

others, and from the Foreign Secretary not long ago, boasts about the Council of Action and strikes stopping ships, and the effect it had and so on. That is a knife that cuts both ways, and, if we are to boast of that sort of action, in our position, we can hardly expect the Russians to take our sense of democracy, or to think it improper they should use in the present and in the future action of a sort used here in the past.

Mr. Cecil Poole (Lichfield): Tell that to the doctors.

Mr. Pickthorn: I could not agree more; the doctors are a very good case in point. How would the right hon. Gentleman opposite like it if the doctors now said, "Unless you make a close alliance with France, we will not see a patient for the next 12 months"? They would not like it at all. This continual remembering with complacency the use of action of that sort has a very bad effect indeed upon international affairs.

I think the order arises mainly from the excessive importance attached opposite to the economic factor in politics. I would ask them to consider another question. We were told yesterday that we were to get from the Marshall Plan a very small amount of steel and machinery, and far too much dried eggs and tobacco. Two days before we had been told that we are refusing to buy films with the dollars which we have already borrowed, or which we have tried so hard to get. No doubt that is right; but the question I want to put to hon, and right hon. Gentlemen opposite is to consider is it not now becoming plain that where you have all States controlling the movements of currencies and commodities, where bulk buying and bulk selling control all the most important markets, that it is quite impossible to choose what can be bought or what cannot be bought; or at any rate that the only people who can choose are those who happen to have the greatest number of dollars or whatever may be the strongest currency. It is not within our power to say to people who are perhaps prepared to lend us more dollars, "Thank you very much. We will take the dollars for this purpose and for that, but we will not take the dollars, for instance, to buy tobacco or films." What I ask hon. Gentlemen opposite to consider is whether there is not the whole of their philosophy tied up in that, and whether it really may not prove impossible for a free foreign policy to be conducted upon the basis of bulk buying and bulk selling. . . .

Mr. Chunchill: . . . Once we try to make a united Socialist Europe we put ourselves on the same level as those who are trying to make a united Communist Europe. It is simply the ideas of the Cominform with another label, and there would no doubt come into being on this strange theory a united Liberal Europe, a united Roman Catholic Europe, a united Right Wing Europe and so on, all quarelling with each other. . . .

. . . It is idle to reason or argue with the Communists. It is, however, possible to deal with them on a fair, realistic basis, and, in my experience, they will keep their bargains as long as it is in their interest to do so, which might, in this grave matter, be a long time, once things were settled. When this Parliament first assembled, I said that the possession of the atomic bomb would give three or four years' breathing space. Perhaps it may be more than that. But more than two of those years have already gone. I cannot think that any serious discussion which it may be necessary to have with the Soviet Government would be more likely to reach a

favourable conclusion if we wait till they have got it too. . . .

. . . I believe it right to say to-day that the best chance of avoiding war is, in accord with the other Western democracies, to bring matters to a head with the Soviet Government, and, by formal diplomatic processes, with all their privacy and gravity, to arrive at a lasting settlement. There is certainly enough for the interests of all if such a settlement could be reached. Even this method, I must say, however, would not guarantee that war would not come. But I believe it would give the best chance of preventing it, and that, if it came, we should have the best chance of coming out of it alive. . . .

Mr. Henry Strawss (Combined English Universities):
... It is really most dangerous to ignore Communism, because after all it is a dogmatic, secular religion held with enormous conviction and its sacred book, the one from which I propose to quote, is Stalin's "Leninism." We know Communism is based on the dictatorship of the proletariat and that its method is the method of revolution and its object the conquest of the world. Let me give one or two quotations from "Leninism.":

"The Russian Revolution constitutes the first stage of the world revolution, and a mighty base for its further development."

What the dictatorship of the proletariat means in practice may be seen from the explanation that it is "based on force" and "unrestricted by law.":

"The scientific concept, dictatorship, means nothing more or less than power which directly rests on violence, which is not limited by any laws or restricted by any absolute rules. . . Dictatorship means unlimited power, resting on violence and not on law."

Not only do we know the theory, but we have now seen this armed doctrine advancing in practice to enslave half Europe. I heard with interest the extremely clever speech made yesterday by the hon. Member for Gateshead (Mr. Zilliacus), and I welcomed it on one ground only—that it is always good to hear the Communist case presented as ably as it can be presented, although, unfortunately, we cannot expect that very often from those who are labelled "Communist" in this House.

Mr. Gallacher: Listen to the democrats.

Mr. Strauss: What was alarming to note was the joy with which it was received by so many on the benches opposite in contrast to the silence which greeted the greater part of the Foreign Secretary's speech. So many of the speeches, including the interesting speech of the hon. Lady the Member for Epping (Mrs. Manning)—and there were several yesterday—talked, I think, misleadingly, about what was happening in Eastern Europe, as though it could be attributed to an "ideological difference." It seems to me an extraordinary thing that, when men are being slaughtered and imprisoned, and when the countries indulge in what is known as "social engineering" meaning the destruction of whole masses and creeds, that should be spoken of as an ideological difference, like a difference between two scientists about some matter of which the merits are not decided.

Let me remind the House of the sickening technique that we have seen in country after country. It is not as if any of these countries had chosen their present régimes. What happens? The Communist leaders are brought in with the advancing army: very often those who signed the alleged and pretended dissolution of the Comintern; they are now

running the countries into which they were introduced. They arrest Opposition leaders, some of whom are never heard of again, while others are brought to trial after months and months in prison. The method is at once to give certain key posts—generally the interior, justice and war—to the Communists. As to Parliament, two methods are adopted; sometimes one and sometimes the other. If Parliament is allowed to meet at all, one method is to have completely fraudulent elections in which one side is suppressed. The right hon. Gentleman the Foreign Secretary and the right hon. Gentleman the Minister of State, in answering Questions, have frequently given descriptions of such fraudulent elections in various parts of Europe. There is no doubt of the fact.

An alternative method is to have a comparatively fair election—as was the first election in Hungary—and then, when it does not produce the Government the Russians want, the elected Government is overthrown by a coup d'état. Of that, too, we have heard a description from the Government Front Bench. The Opposition is prevented from holding meetings; their leaders are arrested. Sometimes there is a second stage in which the Opposition parties are accused of plotting civil war, the main evidence always being that their members have spoken to an Englishman or an American. Then, the Opposition Press is banned. The next step is to arrest, try and execute, by a parody of justice, the most important of the Opposition leaders, including, in particular, the leaders of the Peasant Parties. Next, the Opposition parties are banned altogether. If by any chance, at the end of the whole process, there remain in Parliament a few independent men who do not agree with the reigning tyrants, they are told when they oppose the Budget that it is proposed to hang them. To talk of countries in which this state of affairs obtains as countries with which we have merely some ideological difference is to show oneself lacking in humanity and decency to an extent which I find perfectly shocking. . . .

House of Commons: January 29, 1948.

Knitting Wool

Mr. Scott-Elliot asked the President of the Board of Trade whether there is an acute shortage of knitting wool; and what steps are being taken to remedy this.

Mr. H. Wilson: Although supplies of hand-knitted yarn are still rather short, deliveries to the home market in 1947 were 7 per cent. greater than in 1946. I hope that it will be possible to maintain supplies at or about this level, but it will be difficult to secure further improvement for the time being, since hand-knitting yarn is a very valuable export and any increase of production must be reserved for that purpose.

Mr. Scott-Elliot: Is the Minister aware that hand-knitting wool is more than rather short, and that good quality is practically unobtainable?[*]

Cinema Newsreels (Length)

Mr. Keeling asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he will consider permitting an extension of the

(Continued on page 6.)

^[*] A review of the wool trade given in the report of Dalgety and Company, the Australian merchants, showed, to quote the Manchester Guardian of November 27, "that the enormous stocks which were overhanging the world market at the end of the war have been substantially reduced, and that their existence has not prevented prices from rising steadily."—Editer, T.S.C.

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Pointer

We think that unless some focus of positive and immensely powerful action develops quite quickly in this country, its national history will come to an early close. A drastic reorientation of policy is essential. For this reason, we recall the following facts:—

The Netherlands from the time of Cromwell and Manasseh-ben-Israel has a special and peculiar connection with Finance and the Debt System, and most probably, with the foundation of the Bank of "England." The Queen of Holland is said in certain quarters to be one of three heads of a most powerful Secret Society. The U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands is Dr. Herman Baruch, brother of Bernard Baruch. The facial resemblance of Dr. Herman Baruch to Mr. (Lord) Montagu Norman is startling.

So far as we are able to judge, Mr. Bernard Baruch is one of the most dangerous men of the past thirty years. Mr. Churchill, and Mr. (General) Marshall are his intimates.

Both the Roosevelt (a Dutch Jew family) and Truman Administrations were and are almost completely dominated by a Zionist group having affiliations with Baruch, the late Moritz Mond and other International Jews.

The primary objective of the United Nations farce is to further the interests of this group, at any cost. What may happen to "Britain," or any other nation, as a result, is not worth a moment's consideration, and will not receive it.

The South African (Dutch Boer) Gold War, General Smuts, and the Gandhi South African period, all fit into this picture.

Anglo-American Relations

That very influential, if somewhat specialist publication, the Worlds Press News, has let a welcome breath of fresh air into Anglo-American relations by publishing an extract from an article sent to Esquire (U.S.A.) by Mr. Sydney Horler, in which he explains why we dislike Americans (with the usual reservations). After listing the main reasons under the headings: (1) Colossal conceit, (2) Ignorance of the rest of the world, (3) Brashness, of the Mickey Rooney variety, (4) Corruption in politics and government generally, (5) Incredible vulgarity, (6) Lack of sense of sportsmanship, Mr. Horler, in a few well chosen words, states what he thought of the general behaviour in this country of the American soldier.

We have previously stated our conviction that the slavering nonsense which has disfigured our press for fifty years at least, and has concealed from the British public the contempt and dislike for us of the post-Civil War dregs from Europe who supplied the raw material of the American public, has been not merely nauseating; it has been highly dangerous. There is a small but influential public in the . . . States whose affiliations with the real England are deep and important; our press (under the influence of people like Sir Ernest Cassel) has antagonised them, since they were and are under no delusion as to the qualities of their populace. In our opinion the Worlds Press News has given a lead to honesty which will be welcomed in the only quarters in U.S.A. which merit attention, as well as in every country which has been afflicted by American troops.

All the information at our disposal goes to suggest that the Communist-Zionist penetration of Canada should be taken very seriously. One glance at the map of the Behring Straits region will indicate the connection between a special effort to build up a Fifth Column in Alberta, and the evident determination of "Russia" to coerce the U.S.A.

In Step!

The Polish Press Agency, under date February 8, says that following the pattern of the Stakhanovite movement, conceived and enforced throughout Soviet Russia, a "work competition movement" was launched a few months ago in Poland.

A nation-wide campaign, supported by numerous articles in the press, mass public meetings, and pronouncements and exhortations from government and party officials, is gathering impetus. Promoted by the Polish Workers' (Communist) Party, the movement embraces an ever-increasing number of workers in industry, commerce, mining, agriculture, and in government and local government offices at all levels.

"Norms" are fixed for every kind of work, and targets set for the total output of all state-owned enterprises. Propaganda, mingled with threats and cajolery, calls on workers for a greater effort to achieve and surpass their norms, and thus fulfil, and overfulfil, the production plan.

Virtue

There must be some virtue in the Conservatives (we think it is in the back-benchers) because it is so obvious that they are hated by the "B".B.C. Our wireless practically broke down sobbing in announcing the result of the Camlachie election.

With British Passports

"OTTAWA. CANADIAN PRESS. JAN. 13, 1948: Aliens smuggled into Canada in a transatlantic plot now under investigation are mainly Jews of various European nationalities, a high police official said to-day. "They were provided with faked British passports."

The Church of England

Will readers kindly correct T.S.C. January 31, page 1, column 1, paragraph 3, lines 1 to 3? The following is correct:—

Douglas postulates the first step in the rehabilitation of the Church of England as an open and unequivocal repudiation of "Rationalism and its absurd claims." He goes on: . . .

Six Lectures on Politics and Political Action*

(6)

We now reach the concluding lecture of this short series. It has been remarked that, beginning easily, the lectures have increased in difficulty. It is, however, fair to claim that what has really occurred is the unfolding of an immensely difficult problem. It is the problem which has been seen to be more difficult the better acquainted with it we have become. There is another point about the lectures which may have escaped observation. It is that, in a very important respect, the time has not been spent in familiarising you with a scheme, or plan, for setting our political lives in order. The question, and it is, of course, a very important question, "What are you going to do about it?", has not been answered, and, indeed, no attempt to answer it has been made. In a course of lectures dealing with politics, this is very unusual. Let us pay a little more than a passing attention to the question: "What are you going to do about it?" When you hear this question as a rule, the emphasis is on the word do, and this emphasis is inherent in the point of view of the questioner, as a rule. There are two other peculiarities about the question, simple as it seems. "You" is much more frequently the "Party," "the Executive," "the organisers", etc., and very rarely you. What can you do?

Let me draw your attention to an even more important point: there is another little word in the question which usually becomes submerged under the torrent of accusation which it is usually meant to convey. — What are you going to do about it? What is it? Most lectures on politics leave it very largely to the imagination; but in this course we have devoted all but the last lecture to it, the situation about which we are hoping to be able to do something, and we have left what we are going to do about it, or any discussion of what can be done about it until the last. Every remedy is the remedy for a condition, or it is no remedy at all. Filling the tank up with petrol is no remedy for a choked carburetter; nor is it a remedy for a broken axle. But it is a remedy. This fact is what is so disconcerting to the vast majority of electors: They are primed with a list, long or short, of political remedies; but it does not follow that the remedies advocated at any particular moment are correctly chosen with regard to the matter to be remedied: IT. This is fatal. "Just give it another turn, and see if she doesn't go! . . . Ah! There you are! I wonder what was the matter!" "I don't know," answers the perspiring husband, adding "Let's hope in any case, that we don't have any more trouble." So at each successive election we "Give it another turn," and you must consult your own experience to decide whether it works or not. Let me point out that if you decide that the method works, there is no need for you to remain a member of a political organisation: you don't need its assistance: you have found a way of getting the results you desire. I don't imagine the membership of your group will fade away because of this candid statement. Rather I fancy the unusual candour of it will confirm the intention of many to remain and perhaps attract some who are not members. But do not let us lose sight of the point, namely that the first necessity of successful association for a common purpose is the clear establishment of the objective, and if this objective is to remedy some defect in our circumstances, we must know

what this defect is before we can hope to get very far.

Now, for us, we have detected something in our environment which so far from expressing the immensely enhanced productivity of the modern world—the almost limitless energy freely accessible to us, which may be converted, through the medium of our cleverly devised machinery, to our uses; the resulting congestion of the markets of the world with unsaleable goods, until planned restriction began to operate, and also the increasing power we have to wage terribly destructive wars every so often, these only partially conceal from the view of a needy population the fact of "poverty in the midst of plenty," and that instead of expressing the increasing power to supply our needs, there is something in our political and economic environment which actually leads to a reversal of the advantage which man has gained by centuries of effort. The situation is paradoxical. We live at present in the midst of a planned scarcity. Even Mr. Aneurin Bevan has said that "this country is built on coal and surrounded by fish; it would take a genius to organise scarcity here." If that statement is evidence of anything, it is evidence that the people whose wits are pitted against yours have genius to guide them. But don't let that frighten you. You have truth on your side, and right. You have the whole weight of the desire of men and women for Life and Life more abundantly; you have on your side the eternal urge towards the light: towards the clarification of the meaning of human existence, towards the attainment of the purpose inherent in human life: the motive and impulsion which has characterised all ages is with, not against you: every striving for the attainment and realisation of the true end of man is on your side and against those who plan destruction, limitation, control and-literally -death, if not in war then in peace, if not of the body, of the spirit.

So the problem for us is in the first place to define our understanding of what is the matter: the "IT" that we are intent to do somehing about, as well as we can. As Major C. H. Douglas has expressed it, we have to define our objective "in terms not too abstract for practical application" and yet not too technical for general understanding, lest we dissipate energy through the conflicts set up by intellectual dishonesty and the exploitation of that by our enemies. Education, the spread of information, enlightenment—these things are only of subjective importance unless the individual concerned knows how to use them for some objective purpose. And if it isn't it ought to be apparent to us that the politicians know how to use economic and social theories for the attainment of their ends better than we know how to use them for the attainment of our ends. We need to strike a mean, and, of course, the right mean between some formula which breaks down when put to the test of actual application, something nebulous and misleading, and on the other hand, a formula so technical that only a very exceptional person knows what it means, let alone whether it is right or wrong in conception, or would lead in practice to desirable or undesirable results.

I propose that we should approach this question low down and work up. Then we shall see at what point we reach unequivocal practicability (escape from the realm of abstractions). We may find that we need not go any further: we shall have reached the mean which we deem to be necessary. You will recognise that the community as a whole is served by almost a superabundance of technically competent persons. What does not occur is that their services are correctly related to the demands of individuals—e.g., to use a famous German illustration, the individuals whose efforts alone can

^{*}Lectures prepared for and delivered to the members of an ad hoc body active in some parts of England and since revised.

produce either must, for political reasons not stated, or incorrectly stated, accept delivery of "guns instead of butter." This illustration at least gives us a useful definition to start with:—

DEFINITION: A political system is a system relating policy (the objective) to sanctions (the power to call for the necessary effort and secure its availability).

I should think it is axiomatic, i.e., it does not seem to require proof, that the Political System under which we live relates policy to sanctions by force. Our political system rests upon force, not upon voluntary agreement unlimited by the show, and, if we enquire closely, the use of FORCE,—I don't mean 'natural forces'; but artificial, coercive force sustained by human agency. I picture, as I expect most of you do, this coercive force directing human energy into a channel which is unnatural and, in the experience of most of those concerned, degrading, demoralising, killing, crushing, limiting, restricting. A POLITICAL SYSTEM is the Pursuit of Policy systematised. And we are confronted with the pursuit of a wrong policy systematised.

You have to combat a force inimical to the lives of your members. This force, if it does not reside in the Political System, works through it. The mechanisms for its expression are located in it.

Now observe that it isn't that you have got to alter that Political Sysem so much as the fact that you already have altered it, and are altering it that is important and significant. You can see that if you look back upon what you have done already, although you have only just begun. You are generating another force to oppose the force which oppresses you, and this new force (if it is new) arises from something deepseated in the consciousness of man and springs from the ultimate sources of his approval. What you have to do is to go on steadfastly as you are going, at every step obeying the simple rules you have discovered to be those which control successful action in line with your policy. And I think this short course should close with a brief statement of these simple rules:—

The first rule is the Rule of Association: All association is for the attainment of an objective, expressed or not expressed. When it is not expressed it is nevertheless inherent in the working of the association. The subordinate rule of mechanism stems from this, namely that every mechanism embodies a policy; e.g., clocks go, thermometers register variations in temperature, a sieve sifts, a political system assists, facilitates or impedes association. An appropriate mechanism acts similarly to its prototype, but according to design. Good clocks keep time, true thermometers act consistently, sieves sift according to their mesh, political systems work satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily according to the experience of those whose co-operation they entail. If you keep this rule in mind, you will save yourselves endless argument and much frustration, because your eye will be always-on results and the correct assessment of results, not on theories and schemes.

The second rule I should mention is the Rule of Attachment. Power and responsibility should never be permitted to become separated. "All (accredited) power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." I am in half a mind to say that steady attention to this rule would carry your group to success almost unaided by anything but your wills that it should succeed. Watch your group, the mechanism which is the corporate expression of your policy

and expresses only your own energy, to see that at every level, including that level in it to which you individually belong, power and responsibility go hand in hand.

The third rule I will mention may be called the Rule of Expediency. This is very important, for from it the whole of tactics proceeds. We all know the perverted use to which the word expediency has been put, in common with so many other words to-day. I am not urging that you should be guided by any low motive in deciding whether or not you advance this argument or enter upon that course of action. It is not so much a moral notion I have at all in my mind when I say the RULE of Expediency; but rather I am thinking of something like a runner whose path is obstructed by a strong and rapid stream. First he leaps to the right and then to the left, but with greatly reduced force; then he shortens, then lengthens his step; then pauses and balances himself, then throws all his weight into a forward movement. picture the occasion for each of these apparently inconsistent actions, and avoidance of action: the placing of the stepping stones in the current, their distances from one another, his own momentum, etc., caution, fatigue, warning cries from the bank. There is not necessarily any moral weakness or inconsistency in these varying actions and reactions. All the time, the man is crossing the river, his mind actuated by complete singleness of purpose, complete integrity. He is not a twister because he alters his course. He would be a twister if he thundered dishonest advice to a companion in similar plight. Expediency is purpose in action. Inexpediency is a failure of purpose in action. If with a like integrity you go step by step, you will not fail in action. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

(Concluded)

PARLIAMENT—continued from page 3.

maximum length of newsreels in cases where this length is insufficient for important official announcements in the public interest.

Mr. H. Wilson: Longer newsreels could only be permitted at the cost of forgoing valuable exports of unexposed photographic film. I am, however, looking into the arguments for permitting somewhat longer reels, and I hope very shortly to reach a decision.

Mr. Keeling: During his consideration, will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind the fact that during the talk on basic petrol by the Minister of Fuel and Power, now included in the newsreels, there is so much interruption by laughter that if it is to be of any use at all the talk ought to be lengthened by several minutes to allow time for the interruptions to subside?

Mr. Wilson: In looking into this matter, I will bear in mind all relevant considerations.

Mr. Low: Is it not a fact that this news talk was immediately preceded by a feature called "Take a Tub"?

Distribution Census (Opposition)

Mr. Collins asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that organised opposition to the Pilot Census of Distribution is being encountered in some of the towns chosen for the pilot census; and what action he proposes to take.

Mr. H. Wilson: Yes, Sir. I am aware that in certain towns covered by this census, retailers and others are being advised to withhold co-operation with the Government in this experiment. While the census is voluntary, it is very regrettable that traders should be discouraged in this way from completing their returns, and I can only suppose that those who are responsible for this opposition are under the impression that by limiting the success of the pilot census they will bring about the postponement or even abandonment of the National Census. This is certainly not the case. The Statistics of Trade Act passed last year made provision for a national census and the plans for this, which will be compulsory, will go forward whatever the response may be to the pilot census. The most the campaign can succeed in doing is to prevent us from framing the questions in the National Census in the form most convenient to traders.

I would also like to repeat the reassurance of my predecessor that any information given in individual returns received by the Census of Distribution Office will not be seen by anyone outside that office, nor will it be communicated to any other Government Department or used in any way other than to arrive at the census totals. In particular, it will not be used for such matters as Income Tax, rationing, price control or allocation of supplies. I can give the same assurance about confidential treatment of returns at the coming national census. Traders need, therefore, have no hesitation in completing their census forms, and I hope that the majority of them will do so as fully as they can and will send them in as soon as possible.

Mr. Collins: Can my right hon. Friend give some form of guarantee that will remove any fears retailers may have that the returns from the pilot census may be used to nationalise the retail trade and will he make it perfectly clear that the proper preparation of the National census forms will be quite impossible unless we can get correct information in the pilot census?

Mr. Wilson: The retail distributors have had already the fullest assurance on that point. The purpose of the pilot census is to enable us to prepare the forms which will give us the information required with the least possible trouble to retailers when we take the compulsory census.

Sir P. Hamon: Can the Minister say whether any evidence has come to the Board of Trade that can be relied on that this organised opposition referred to in the Question exists?

Mr. Wilson: There is plenty of evidence on that point. It is a fact that a number of quite high-powered representatives of the National Chamber of Trade are going round the country stirring up opposition to this voluntary census. When I met members of the Executive this week and asked them to invite their members to stop doing this, they said that they would not take any steps in the matter.

Mr. H. D. Hughes: Can the Minister say what advice or assistance is available to retailers to enable them to complete this extensive and complicated schedule?

Mr. Wilson: We have a number of information bureaux in various parts of the country who will help them, and also, of course, the National Chamber of Trade could provide services for that purpose.

Mr. Erroll: Does the right hon. Gentleman suggest that we are not allowed to protest nowadays when we want to?

Mr. Godfrey Nicholson: Is the Minister surprised that

retail traders are suspicious of the intentions of the Government?

Mr. Wilson: The retail distributors have done so well under this Government that I am surprised, and if the hon. Gentleman will turn up the answer which I gave a week ago on the number of bankruptcies in the retail trade while we have been in power, compared with the number when the party opposite were in power, he will see why.

Mr. Henderson Stewart: In order to put the matter in its right perspective, and as the Minister has given an indication of what he said to the National Chamber of Trade, would it not be fair for him to put to the House the case which that body put to him, so that we can judge?

Mr. Wilson: The only statement which they made of any relevance was that they were not behind any organised national campaign, and that the Executive of that body has not actively carried out this campaign. I fully accept that. The other arguments which they put were arguments which apply to the compulsory census of distribution scheduled for 1950, and agreed to by this House.

American Loan (Government Purchases)

Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the disposal of sums received by His Majesty's Government from merchants of this country for goods purchased by His Majesty's Government from monies made available to them under the American Loan.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: With the hon. Member's permission, I will circulate a statement of the accounting arrangements in the Official Report.

Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre: Will the Financial Secretary state whether these monies are taken into current account and included in the Budget and are more than responsible for what surplus is shown?

Mr. Glenvil Hall: The hon. and gallant Gentleman must be under considerable misapprehension. There is no secret about this. These figures are published every week in the Exchequer Return, and if he cares afterwards I will show him exactly where to find them.

Following is the statement:

Dollars made available under the American Loan are received into the Exchange Equalisation Account and this Account pays the sterling equivalent to the Exchequer. These sterling receipts are brought to account in the Exchequer Statement (published weekly) under the heading: "Money raised by creation of debt, Other debt—external."

The dollars thus received by the Exchange Account are available for sale to importers of American goods whether traders or Government Departments (e.g., Ministry of Food) and any dollars made available to these importers are paid for in sterling (in the case of Government Departments from Votes of Parliament) to the Exchange Account. Proceeds of the sale of goods by Government Departments are brought to credit in the account of the Vote that pays for the goods.

The net result of these transactions is that the sterling proceeds of all purchases made with dollars derived from the American Loan (whether the purchaser is a Government Department or a private trader) reduce Exchequer borrowings from other sources, *i.e.*, external debt replaces internal debt.

Petrol Sales (Foreign Countries)

Mr. Lipson asked the Minister of Fuel and Power how much petrol is sold by this country to countries outside the sterling area; which are they; and what imports are received from them in return.

Mr. Gaitskell: As to the first part of the Question I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Ipswich (Mr. Stokes) on November 20. I am giving at the end of this answer a list of the countries concerned. For particulars of imports from these countries, I would refer the hon. Member to the Trade and Navigation Accounts.

The following is the list of countries to which motor spirit is sold by British controlled companies:

Indo China Argentina Belgium Italy Brazil Japan Canada Libya Central America Norway Chile Pacific Islands China **Philippines** Cuba and other West Portugal Indian Islands Portugese East Africa Denmark Siam Egypt Spain Ethiopia Syria Finland Sweden France and French Switzerland North Africa Turkey French West Africa Uruguay and Congo U.S.A. Oil Companies. Greece

"Medicine"

To those unfamiliar with the ramifications of planning, or socialism and its connection with international finance, the following extracts from pages 42 and 44 of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* may prove illuminating:

"DR. PEPYS' (MORRIS FISHBEIN) DIARY

"Dec. 13—To the home of Mr. Bernard Baruch, where the executive committee came to discuss plans for medicine along with Dr. William Rawls.

"Dec. 15—Next with Elmer Henderson to visit A. A. Berg and to talk of Poe's "Tamerlane" and the Bay Psalm Book and other bibliographic jewels and also of international medicine.

"Dec. 16—Then still later to play at captain gin with Charles Wilinsky, now president elect of the American Public Health Assn.

"Dec. 17—The Board meets with the executive committee of the Public Health Assn.—Haven Emerson, Atwater, Heavell and Wilinsky—to encourage development of more public health services in counties and in districts. Thereafter to luncheon with the committee of the World Medical Assn. where Routley, chairman of its council, explained its plans."

Towards Responsible Voting

The latest "NeVer Again" Association's Information Booklet is entitled "Responsible Voting the Way to National Freedom" and contains articles by W. Wilson, Howard Jones, W. B. Laurence and M. Sturdy-Smith. Actually the first article only, that by Mr. Wilson, deals with the subject so near to the heart of this journal, "Towards Responsible Voting", and we cannot praise too highly this excellent summary of the case against the continuance of the secret ballot. The address of the "NeVer Again" Association is 5, Pelham Gardens, Folkestone.

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By C. H. Douglas: -

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