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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

It appears to us to be axiomatic that (what, in fact, its experts have always contended) religion, in the sense of a binding back of life to reality, is of primary importance. Until you have some kind of reliable chart, you are a mere waif on the ocean. Clearly religion in this sense is a seven-days-a-week matter, and requires to be distinguished carefully from "good conduct." It ought to result in good conduct, and in fact be the only test of good conduct, but that is something else again.

Speaking, then, as determined laymen, and not with greater claim than that to be heard, it appears to us that there is excessive and unnecessary controversy amongst the experts on mere words. What we ought to recognise, and what we seem in danger of losing the power to recognise is that we are playing the game of life.

*On a board untrue,
With a crooked cue,
And elliptical billiard balls.*

We must have a datum line. We do not overlook the claim that we have such a datum line, but the fact is indisputable that most people cannot see it. How many persons, taken at random in a small provincial town, could enunciate the Christian Doctrine of the nature of Man and his relation to this earth in terms which would define a "Christian" agriculture? Probably very few people would accept the story of Genesis as a literal narrative of Creation, dates included; but how many can extract usable information from it as an allegory? We lack, not large generalities, but usable formulæ.

By the simple device of cornering the financial credit through the Bank of England, and initiating a policy of "full employment" on non-consumable goods, the Financier-Socialist Synagogue of Satan has wrecked the social-domestic and economic system of this country, which was built up over a period of a thousand years, in four. It must be conceded that it is a remarkable achievement. The family unit of the middle class required, and requires a supply of domestic service which was willingly and even proudly rendered. Even the most labour saving house, with its cooking requires services which are not now available. The consequences of this situation are not yet even faintly understood. We do not refer to the thousands of silent tragedies in both town and country; doubtless they are paralleled in every area in which Satan is unchained; we have in mind the coming (short of a miracle) anarchy which the development of this policy renders certain.

In the current number of that very able little review, *Blackfriars*, the unfamiliar and startling, but not novel proposition is advanced that the great enemy of Man is the Divine Law. This may sound shocking; but it appears to be evident from the context that it is what the Orientalists call Karma, the Law of Cause and Effect, to which reference is made,

although the word is not used, and the doctrine is attributed to Paul.

Little reflection is necessary to see that an inescapable chain of cause and effect establishes determinism—man becomes simply an automaton. We think it was Dr. Tudor Jones who suggested that the key doctrine of Christianity is the supremacy of repentance over the Law—that there is what may without irreverence be called a technique by which the chain of causation can be broken. If this is so, it is certainly far from an easy technique; and there is room for a very wide exercise of it at present.

We note with interest the appearance of yet another Social Credit review, this time in British Columbia. It bears the attractive title of *Pacific Current* and is edited by Major A. H. Jukes, D.S.O., O.B.E. It is well produced and printed on good paper. The office address is Saanich Publishing Co. Ltd., Saanichton, P.O., Vancouver Island, B.C.

"I heard one Cabinet Minister after much discussion along these lines, laugh it all off by saying 'Of course sooner or later we're bound to be your forty-ninth state. The only thing that really interests me is whether Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will get two Senators apiece.'"—*New York Herald Tribune*, February 14, 1949.

The Constitutional Issue

We note that among the periodical exhibitions of books and documents arranged by the Library of the University of Liverpool is at present one of books, papers and photographs in connection with the celebration by the City of Bordeaux last December of the bicentenary of Montesquieu, born in January, 1689. An explanatory introduction states, concerning the *Esprit des Lois*, "Its political theory, and in particular its acute analysis of the nature and value of the principle of the separation of powers (executive, legislative and judicial), was based largely upon British practice and powerfully affected the character of free governments set up after it, notably those of the United States of America and of post-Revolutionary France.

"The considerable degree of personal and political freedom enjoyed by nations with parliamentary institutions and the reign of justice and humanity over wide regions of the earth are in large measure due to the beneficent influence of the *Esprit des Lois*."

Among the exhibits, which are not numerous, are photographs of the Château de la Brède, Montesquieu's birthplace and chief residence, near Bordeaux, and a copy of the first edition of the *Esprit des Lois* in Great Britain (Edinburgh: Hamilton and Balfour, 2 vol. in 8°.) This edition was seen through the press in 1750 by David Hume, who was a great friend and regular correspondent of Montesquieu. The exhibits are lent by Professor F. T. H. Fletcher.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: February 1, 1949.

Juries Bill

(The Debate continued)

Mrs. Braddock (Liverpool, Exchange): . . . I appreciate the Bill and I think it will have the support of the majority of right thinking people throughout the country: I believe special jury, in the sense in which the Attorney-General spoke of it, is an anachronism which was introduced by the ruling class of this country to protect their property. As far as my personal position is concerned, the fact that they are to be abolished gives me a great amount of satisfaction. [*] I wish to support the comments of my hon. Friend the Member for Hornchurch (Mr. Bing) on the question of the abolition of the property qualification for jurors. . . .

. . . I think it will be very much easier and less complicated if every able bodied person between 21 and 65 who has not the disqualification of having been convicted or is ineligible for some other reason were selected as a jurymen, or woman. Then and then only would we get a cross-section of opinion throughout the country. . . . Many alterations should be made and the two most important are a complete abandonment of the property qualifications for serving on a jury and a completely new and more democratic method of selecting from the lists as jurors people who will sit on particular cases. Every hon. Member would say that anything that is secret is always open to some sort of suspicion. I have never been able to find out how names are selected. . . .

Mr. Paget (Northampton): . . . I would turn to the common jury which also has a property qualification which puts outside about 95 per cent. of the community. Only about 5 per cent. of the community qualify for the jury panel. As I understand it, the whole principle of trial by jury is that a man should be tried by his peers, by people brought haphazard from the community as a whole of which he is a member; people who should be a fair cross-section of that community. People who are drawn from a mere 5 per cent. of the community, a 5 per cent. set aside because of a property qualification, are not the ordinary man's peers. They are not representative of the general run of the community.

I would quote some sort of figures from the Borough of Paddington. If we take a working-class ward, where people are comparatively poor, there are in the Queen's Park Ward 7,784 electors, and there are 41 jurors. That is .03 of the population—one in 300 are rich enough in their houses to qualify. In a better class ward of richer people, the Hyde

[*] Later: "Mr. Turner-Samuels (Gloucester): . . . I was rather struck, first of all, by the observations of the hon. Member for South Ayrshire (Mr. Emrys Hughes), who was apparently very anxious that the jury system as constituted should be unbiassed; but a greater demonstration of bias than his speech could hardly be witnessed. He condemned all lawyers out of hand, without exception, and he reminded me of the incident where a person was being tried before a court of quarter sessions and took exception to some of the evidence. The chairman of the court said to the accused, "Don't worry; you will get British justice." The accused replied, "I do not want British justice; I want to get off." It seemed to me, while listening to a good deal of the reminiscences which we have heard today about political and personal cases, that there was a good deal of that element about the views which were expressed . . ."

Park Ward, for instance, there are 6,500 electors and 551 jurors. . . .

The Solicitor-General (Sir Frank Soskice): . . . I would say that three questions of principle actually emerged in the Debate. It was first said by my hon. Friends that it was entirely immoral not to abolish the property qualification so far as juries were concerned. As the Attorney-General said, we can see the force of that argument, but this is a Bill with a limited object. It is not easy to divorce the question of property qualification from other questions affecting juries—for example, the question of the jury exemptions. However, we have in mind what has been said. As I have already stated, and as he said before me, we do see the compelling force of the arguments that have been advanced upon that score. I shall not add anything further with regard to that particular question.

Only one voice was raised against the general principle that juries should be paid, and that was the voice of the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Brighton (Mr. Marlowe). He, as I understood him, regarded jury service as something which should be done, so far as the jurymen are concerned, entirely gratuitously: it was service to the State for which they should receive no payment.

Mr. Marlow: I am sure the right hon. and learned Gentleman does not wish to misrepresent me. I agreed that the expenses should be covered, but drew the line there. . . .

The Solicitor-General: . . . With regard to the general principle of the abolition of special juries, I would respectfully submit to the House that there can really be only one view which can carry conviction. Let it be accepted—I do not accept it, but let it be accepted for the purpose of argument—that some sort of differentiation should be drawn in the matter of juries, and that we regard some as more fitted for particular classes of cases than others. I do not accept it as a matter of principle. I do not think it carries any conviction. Even if it were so, however, there can be no possible argument for retaining the worst possible measure of differentiation, namely, the purely property qualification. If there were any justification for the property qualification upon the basis that persons who were better off 100 years ago received a better education and, therefore were intellectually more qualified to tackle cases of difficulty, that certainly, I should have thought, was not the case today; and that being so, whatever justification there may have been 100 years ago for that particular type of property differentiation surely has long since gone, and is a pure anachronism, which there can be no possible justification for retaining. . . .

House of Commons: February 7, 1949.

Bermuda (U.S.A. Base)

Mr. Platts-Mills asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is aware that the Supreme Court of the U.S. has ruled that Bermuda base leased to U.S.A. by the United Kingdom is a U.S. possession; and whether he will make it clear that His Majesty's Government are not prepared to accept this ruling.

The Minister of State (Mr. McNeil): On 6th December the Supreme Court of the United States gave a ruling that certain United States legislation was applicable to the leased area in Bermuda. Implications of this ruling are being

studied but I should emphasise that the court made it clear that there was no intention to query British sovereignty.

Mr. Platts-Mills: Whatever the Court suggested, is not the obvious implication that the American court were saying that this is American territory? Will the right hon. Gentleman be at pains to resist any such encroachment, however indirect the implication may be.

Mr. McNeil: I should not like to put my legal opinion against that of the hon. Gentleman, however much I would like to put other opinions of mine, but it seemed to me that the Court expressly reserved the position of British Sovereignty.

Mr. Oliver Stanley: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean by "reserved" that they pronounced no opinion? Surely that is hardly satisfactory, in view of the pledge given to Bermuda at the time of the lease that there would be no abatement of British sovereignty?

Mr. McNeil: His Majesty's Government may be depended upon to see that the pledge is upheld if it is likely to be in danger. I have no reason to believe that it is in danger. I should add that one of the parties to the action has asked for a re-hearing.

Mr. Eric Fletcher: May we take it from what the right hon. Gentleman has said that he will not accept the decision of the Supreme Court as involving any variation of the conditions on which these bases were leased?

Mr. McNeil: I do not see that the action in the Court sought to vary the conditions of the leases. The action in the Court dealt with certain conditions of working in the leased area.

Mr. Sydney Silverman: Does the decision mean anything more than that American law will prevail as long as and no longer than the base is leased to the United States of America?

Mr. McNeil: Since the action is to be reheard, I should not care to commit myself on what will be a subject for the Court.

Mr. Platts-Mills: Does the right hon. Gentleman agree that one of the effects of this decision is very greatly to increase the wage rates of certain employees in this American possession? Will he consider representing to his right hon. Friend that the wage rates of other Colonial peoples in the same area should be increased in the same way?

Mr. McNeil: I am sure that my right hon. Friend would be so impressed by the support given by the hon. Member to the American way of life that he would take great notice of it.

House of Commons: February 8, 1949.

Elections, Northern Ireland

Sir Ronald Ross asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that the Prime Minister of Eire has taken steps to interfere with the elections for the Parliament of Northern Ireland; and if he will protest against such interference with elections in a part of the United Kingdom by the Government of a country outside the British Commonwealth.

Professor Savory asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that the Prime Minister of Eire has taken steps to give active support to Republican candidates at the General Election now being held in Northern Ireland; and whether he has protested to the Government of Eire, which

is now a foreign country, against such interference in elections being held in a part of the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Attlee): I assume that the hon. Members refer to the statement issued by the conference of representatives of all the Eire Parliamentary Parties, which was held in Dublin on 27th January. I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by making representations to the Eire Government on this subject.

Sir R. Ross: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that, no doubt encouraged by the attitude of their Government, a mob of several hundred people, who were not voters in the constituency or British subjects, invaded Strabane last night and attacked people attending a Unionist meeting, throwing stones and bottles, and I understand women and girls were among the injured?

The Prime Minister: I have not had information of that incident. I have had news of quite a number of incidents in Northern Ireland which shows that elections there are not conducted on quite the same lines as over here.

Hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Oliver Stanley: In view of the very serious allegations that the Prime Minister has made, will he now specify the methods in which they differ and give the proofs on which he bases what I imagine—coming from the Prime Minister—is a considered statement?

The Prime Minister: I have had the complaint of the hon. Member for Londonderry (Sir R. Ross). I have also had complaints from persons on the other side in politics. I have also had explanations from persons as to why this occurred, and it is quite obvious, I think everybody knows, that elections in Northern Ireland tend to be a good deal rowdier than on this side of the water.

Mr. John McKay: Is the Prime Minister aware that Robert Emmet, the great Protestant and patriot, when he was sentenced, said, "When my country takes its place among the nations of the world then, and not till then, let my epitaph be written"? Is it not sad that that epitaph cannot yet be written? Is the Prime Minister aware that it is to the best interests of this nation that a more enlightened view of the needs of this country and the necessities of Ireland should be ventilated in Northern Ireland so that— . . .

Professor Savory: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he is aware that the Prime Minister of Eire instituted a collection to be taken last Sunday and the Sunday before in every parish in Eire and that this money, amounting to over £50,000, was taken to Belfast by a delegation consisting of two Senators, a deputy and a barrister, of which I have a photograph in my hand taken at an hotel in Belfast; and according to the "Irish Times" the first instalment of £300 is to be paid to each of the Republican candidates towards their election expenses?

The Prime Minister: The hon. Member seems to be giving me information rather than asking a question.

Professor Savory: Why should I not?

Mr. Stanley: May I ask the Prime Minister whether he is not constituting a very serious precedent in making no protest against this official interference with an election by the Government of another country, and whether it is not a precedent which may now be willingly followed by other Governments which are more hostile to his party?

The Prime Minister: I understand this was not the action of a Government but that it was action by a number
(Continued on page 6.)

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Saturday, February 26, 1949.

Mobilisation

There seems to be in progress an initial stage of mobilising of opinion against Communism and all that it means on a wider scale than we have been able *directly* to effect.

As mechanisms, there is exactly the same *kind* of relationship between the Corruption Enquiry in England and the Mindszenty 'trial' in Hungary as there is between a motor car and a Whitehead torpedo: these last are results obtained in the economic-industrial field, not essentially very dissimilar results; while the judicial disturbances we have witnessed are results obtained in the moral-political field. There may be something, doubtless there is, to relate the two fields. But, in the present, there is no sensible connection between anti-Collectivism in the dock and the torture house in Hungary and Collectivism (in its consequences at least) submitted to trial (no penalties) at Church House, Westminster.

Unless we are gravely mistaken, the reaction shows signs of a homogeneity of a most welcome kind, definitely suggesting the possibility, at long last, of convergence and cohesion of the forces which make for the establishment and maintenance of a stable order of society. There is far surer identification of the things which call for question than there was even a year ago, and while the enemy is working overtime to misdirect and to deflect the aim of any sure marksman within his range of vision, there is, in fact, much less misspent energy. The notion of policy as derivative from a philosophy is becoming, if not a commonplace, at least a fairly familiar if specialist idea. The episodic notion of history will cease to trouble us, and power and responsibility will rapidly become reassociated, as this idea gains ground. Programme-mongering loses its appeal in proportion. "The Pattern of Persecution in Eastern Europe" (the Bishop of Chichester's phrase) is a "pattern" in which peace has no place, and while the Anglican Bishop may be wrong in imagining that, however heavy their hearts, the Reformed and Lutheran Churches can have "made their peace with the State," he is right in claiming an identity of inspiration for all the persecuted of the world. "If you belonged to the world, the world would know you for its own and love you, it is because you do not belong to the world, because I have singled you out from the midst of the world, that the world hates you . . . They will persecute you just as they have persecuted me; they will pay the same attention to your words as to mine." The alignment of the real opposites of moral and social history is proceeding.

While the publicity secured by Roman Catholic agencies concerning the real issues behind current events in Europe evokes the greatest sympathy and admiration, we think some

barrier should be raised against the effects which must result from the blunting and blurring of the clear lines of political truth by such Oxford politicians as Lord Pakenham, who speak as Roman Catholics and excuse the results of caucus government, Party government, on grounds of expediency, and blind themselves, and others, to the importance of that world of policy-formation which is not open to the inspection of the newspaper reader and newspaper skimmer. We have already quoted (from *The Tablet*) some clear intimations, which must have reached a wide audience, that the press of even this country is almost closed to the truth about Communism. There is no greater service that could be performed than the correct representation to general understanding of the insubstantial defences which it possesses, and upon which too large a proportion of the popular force opposed to subversion of the Social Order relies (not in any case a large force, certainly not a *conscious* majority), against the developing peril. It is here, as we conceive it, that Social Crediters can be of inestimable value in pressing hard into the breach which has been effected. There must, if possible, be no retreat for the occult agencies, entrenched in great institutions of education and publicity, once the light of detection falls upon them. The greater in public estimation the organ, the greater the enormity. Yet this paralysing hand upon Truth can be made to relax, and as we have said, nothing could be more serviceable to us all than that this should be done. Among the great organs of publicity there is no exception, because there can be no exception.

Among the important documents which every serious student of politics should possess are several articles and reports concerning the 'trial' of Cardinal Mindszenty published by *The Tablet* during the past three or four weeks at least. The issue of February 19 has, in particular, two pages of matter summing up the trial and analysing critically various statements made concerning it. We intend to quote a passage, not exceptional in quality, but specially referring to the matter we have in mind, below, and may conveniently introduce it with the following foot-note:—

"We mentioned last week our view that Edward Korry, for the British United Press, was the best of these Western reporters, and it is worth adding here that he was one of the few who refused to sign the declaration that, on the suggestion of Mr. Peter Furst, of Reuters, was signed by most of the others, to say that they had not been handicapped during the trial by censorship or by language difficulties."

Does anyone know which accounts that he has read were subject to this handicap, which, if it was small or inconsiderable, why did Mr Korry refuse to excuse it with his signature? And, if he could not excuse it with his signature how far was his own report impaired by the 'handicap' he would not excuse? What newspapers avowed the limitations of their accounts of the 'trial'? It is a waste of time to expend energy here on 'writing to your newspaper' about it; no newspaper will tell its public that you have written, and it is your neighbour who needs to know such facts as these. He is next door, where most of the work of Social Crediters has always resided.

Without emphasising that point again, we conclude with the passage from *The Tablet* to which we have referred:—

" . . . we regard it as certain that Dr. Zakar was driven out of his mind before the trial opened. He, as was noted here last week, conformed much more than the Cardinal to the classic figure of an accused man in a Soviet trial; and

nothing was more characteristic, or more macabre reading for those who knew him in London, than the reports of how he, while the Cardinal was offering a solitary Mass in his prison, spent the Sunday after the trial, while they awaited sentence, in reading 'the Marxist classics' . . .

"One very significant moment occurred during the first day of the trial, about which we are indebted for our information to the *Gazette de Lausanne*. While the cross-examination of the Cardinal was in progress, the President of the Court, Dr. Olti, asked, according to the British United Press: 'Are you mentally tired? Shall we adjourn?' 'Cardinal Mindszenty said he was willing to continue.' Other reports mention this without quoting the Cardinal's words. But M. Pierre Dentan, of the *Gazette de Lausanne*, relying on the broadcast of recordings made in the court by Budapest Radio, says that the Cardinal replied in a faint and halting voice: 'Yes . . . Mr. President . . . Mr. President . . . I am'—long silence—'a man . . . broken in his mind'—long silence—'and in his body.' [The Hungarian words are given by *The Tablet* in a footnote. Concerning this, also *vide infra*.]

"We printed last week a text of the Cardinal's letter to the Minister of Justice, which, written before the trial, was read to the court on the opening day, at the beginning of the proceedings. This letter, written in Hungarian, was says Reuter, 'in a few places obscure in its terminology.' 'German,' Reuter's report continued, 'is the Cardinal's native tongue, and his Hungarian is not regarded as perfect.' But the fact is that German is *not* the Cardinal's native tongue. His mother is pure Hungarian, and his father's family has been in Hungary for six hundred years. Hungarian is his native tongue. In many of the reports of the trial, from *The Times*, British United Press and other correspondents, there are these references to an alleged German accent, and to his imperfect knowledge of Hungarian. Yet there are many Hungarians in London who have often heard the Cardinal speak, and they all agree that he spoke perfect Hungarian, with no hint or suggestion of a German accent. They laugh incredulously at any suggestion to the contrary.

"It must be remembered that, whatever the credentials of the correspondents present, none of those from the Western countries spoke Hungarian. [A footnote here quotes the *Rome Il Popolo* for the statement that the official translator was changed at the last minute.] The Vatican wireless has been pointing out that the only national of a Western country in Budapest who did so, the Second Secretary of the United States Legation, M. Koczak, was expelled from the country just before the trial began. The newspaper men appear to have been told that the Cardinal had a German accent because it was thought that that would help to discredit him. Indeed his 'very bad Hungarian, full of Germanisms' even appeared in the *New York Herald Tribune* for January 20, a fortnight before the trial began, as an argument for the authenticity of the Yellow Book! But it is certain that the Cardinal's speech contained no trace of any accent, either before his arrest or during the trial; even though during the trial it was often laboured and painful in the extreme. 'One of Hungary's greatest ecclesiastical orators,' writes a correspondent who listened to the broadcast recordings, 'was speaking in a kind of monotonous, mechanical chant which gave the impression of a person talking in a kind of hypnotic trauma, and from time to time making desperate efforts to regain a grip of his own dwindling ego.'

These revelations should assist Mr. Campbell's campaign against tied lawyers in Scotland (or in England).

The Perfection of Technics

"Mechanism is of its nature destructive; and in seeking to prove this he demolishes the whole mythology of progress. It is not true, he tells us, that machines save labour; rather they increase it. The fallacy arises from the quantitative comparison of the product of the machine with that of the handicrafts-man. This comparison is deceptive because it ignores the fact that the existence and operation of the machine depend upon a tremendous and ever-increasing organisation. Nor is it true that the machines create wealth, for indeed they destroy it. What the machine creates is consumption upon a scale that devours the resources of the earth. For the same reason it is false to say that the machine eradicates poverty; rather it universalises poverty by its ruthless and wasteful destruction of wealth. Thus it brings into being the vast bureaucracies of business and government and so increases the proportion of unproductive workers. These two factors, the exhaustion of resources and proliferation of parasitic employments, hasten that complete mechanisation of Society that we call totalitarianism; for it is scarcity and not abundance that leads to the demand for the rationing of goods. In a healthy economy the destruction of materials is limited by the possibilities of replenishment; that it is impossible to put any such limitation upon technical progress proves that its true genius is not economic at all but something antithetical to economy. It is not even true that technological industry is profitable to its owners and managers, for it leads by its nature to diminishing returns and to accumulating deficits. Not only that, but in the long run technology tends to obliterate the very concepts of property and ownership. It destroys the value of money, because its financial requirements soon surpass anything that can be contained within a sound monetary system, and because it requires that money must be constantly in motion."

The foregoing is from a review in *Human Events** for February 2, of *The Failure of Technology: Perfection Without Purpose*, by Friedrich Georg Juenger; translated from the German by F. D. Wieck, Hinsdale, Illinois: Henry Regnery Company. 2.75 dollars. The reviewer, J. M. Lalley, says:—

"This interesting and alarming work was finished on the eve of the second great war but was first published about three years ago in Germany as *Die Perfektion der Technik*. Perhaps a literal translation of the title would have been better for this English edition; since where there is no purpose there can be no failure. Anyway, Herr Juenger's thesis is that modern man is discovering to his bewilderment and panic that his technologies are not means to an end but ends in themselves, to which every human purpose must be subordinate. The whole world has become a machine, and all life and nature must be brought within the mechanistic pattern." The review continues:—

"Nor again, Herr Juenger tells us, is it true that the machine has brought more leisure into our lives. What it has done is to deprive us of the sense of natural and living time, which is measured by the rhythms of nature, such as the progression of the seasons; it has imposed upon us an abstract and mathematical, or, as he calls it, 'dead' time, which can be measured by clocks and efficiency experts. Thus we have actually no time for life. As the technical organisation into which we are absorbed grows more and more complex, we lose more of the character of rational beings and acquire more of the purely functional character of machines. Hence

*The address of our American contemporary is 1323 M. Street N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

our aimless and nervous hurry; for the characteristic of machines is motion. The automatism which govern our motions at the assembly line, govern us also as we drive home at the precise pace prescribed by the synchronised traffic lights. Yet beneath the automatism is a deep unquiet, a sense of sterility, frustration and danger, and a craving for security. But this craving can never be satisfied, for the insecurity actually arises from the knowledge of our dependence upon organisation; the cure we demand in the form of social insurance merely aggravates the disease."

Alphabetical

A is for Attlee whose Artless Articulation Acts as an Antidote;
 B is for Baneful Bevan who Brags and Boasts with Bravado;
 C is for Christlike Cripps who Cuts and Curtails for Cash;
 D is for us Dupes who are Driven and Drowned in Despair;
 E is for Egregious Experts whose Excelsior is Eternal Exports;
 F is the Focus on Fuddle which Feeds the Faithful Fool;
 G is for the Guy who is Gulled by the Government's Generous 'Gifts';
 H is for the Harassed Housewives who Hie the Highways Hoseless;
 I is for the Itch of Irritation which Ill-advised Impositions Inevitably Induce;
 J is for the Jugglery which Jockeys Jackanapes into Jurisdiction;
 K is for the Knighthoods which Knit Knaves to Kings;
 L is for the Lapses and Levity of Leaders whose Lubricity Leaves Loopholes for Looters;
 M is for Marx who has Monkeyed-up the Minds of Muddled Meddlers;
 N is for the Nemesis which Nudges Nervous Nations into Negotiations;
 O is for that Officialdom which is so often Officious and Offensive;
 P is for the Principle of the Proletariat which is to Pinch Pelf from Peter to Pay Paul;
 Q is for Queer Quotas which Querulous Queues Quickly Question;
 R is for Red Revolution which Rumbles Round the Restive;
 S is for Shinwell who Seems to Shine in all Situations;
 T is for Transport House which Truckles and Trades for Toughs;
 U is for U.N.O. where Unanimous Understanding is Unknown;
 V is for the "Vermin" who are Victims of Vicious and Virtuous Vengeance;
 W is for Worse and Worse to come and Woe is We;
 X is for the Xhortations which Xasperate and Xhaust the Xhorted;
 Y is for the Yawns of the Years which Yearn for Ye-end;
 Z is for Zilliacus the Zany whose (z)ooze is Zymic.

—E. de Coudenhove.

PARLIAMENT (continued from page 3.)

of persons of all parties. It is not clear that this was a governmental action.

Professor Savory: The Prime Minister organised it.

Mr. McGovern: In view of these allegations which strike at the roots of democracy, would not the Prime Minister consider the setting up of a commission to investigate the suggestions and send men from this country to do that?

Sir R. Ross: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that the all-party meeting to which he alludes originated at the suggestion and instigation of the Prime Minister of Eire; and is this interference with United Kingdom elections to be allowed to other foreign countries or is it one of the privileges that Eire alone enjoys?

The Prime Minister: The hon. Member will remember the statement which I made with regard to the position of Eire which was not classified as a foreign country.

Mr. Gallacher: Is the Prime Minister aware that there has been gross, deliberate and organised opposition of the most hooligan character directed against the hon. Member for West Belfast (Mr. J. Beattie), a Member of this House, by the supporters of the Stormont Government, and might I ask whether in view of the fact that we legally recognise the Government of the Irish Republic they have any right to interfere in Irish affairs?

Mr. Stanley: Are we now to understand from the Prime Minister's last answer that when he said he was not going to treat the Government of Eire as a Government of a foreign country he meant by that that he was going to allow them to interfere in our elections?

The Prime Minister: I implied nothing of the sort. I was correcting the hon. Member for Londonderry (Sir R. Ross) on a question of fact. . . .

Debt Commissioners (Stock Purchase)

Sir J. Mellor asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer why the National Debt Commissioners purchased £1,566,237 3s. 6d. undated 2½ per cent. Treasury stock at par for the County Court Funds Investment Account; what amount of this stock has been sold; and at what price.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: This was acquired to replace Local Loans Stock when the latter was redeemed on 6th January, 1947. Such a proportion of undated stock is entirely suitable for this Account, a large part of which can be regarded as being of a permanent nature. None of it has been sold.

House of Commons: February 9, 1949.

Human Rights (Draft Covenant)

Mr. Eric Fletcher asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps he proposes to take to promote the adoption by U.N.O. of the Draft Covenant of Human Rights, which will follow up the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and will be legally binding and enforceable in Member States.

Mr. Bevin: Our delegates have on many occasions emphasised the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to the Covenant of Human Rights. In particular, I would refer my hon. Friend to the words of our delegate in the debate at the recent session of the General Assembly:

"We are therefore most anxious that the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council should continue at all speed to draw up and complete these remaining parts of the International Bill of Human Rights."

This statement accurately describes the policy of His Majesty's Government, and we shall continue as members of the Commission on Human Rights to co-operate fully in the preparation of the Covenant.

Mr. Fletcher: While thanking my right hon. Friend, may I ask him if, in view of the high hopes aroused by this

proposal and some misunderstanding which surrounds it, he will continue to ensure that our delegates do everything possible to proceed with the Covenant, which will at any rate, include provision for reference to an international court?

Mr. Bevin: I certainly will press on with it. I think the Covenant is much more important than a mere declaration.

Mr. Gallacher: Might I ask the Foreign Secretary whether he recognises as essential to human rights the right of the workers to throw the wealthy parasites off their backs?

Gold Coast (Cocoa Tree Disease)

Mr. Keeling asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the report of the U.N.O. scientists that the swollen-shoot disease threatens the very existence of the Gold Coast cocoa industry, and that the cutting-out of diseased trees is the only measure known for its control, he now proposes to resume the compulsory cutting-out abandoned a year ago; and what staff he estimates will be required to enforce the cutting-out of the 50 million trees already infected and the additional 15 million infected yearly.

Mr. Creech Jones: The present action of the Gold Coast Government is designed to persuade the farmers of the absolute necessity of cutting-out diseased trees on an intensified scale. The operation is of course a considerable one but the question of the use of compulsory powers does not immediately arise. The Gold Coast Government is actively engaged in working out the requirements of staff and materials for a greatly intensified campaign with a view to presenting the plans for such a campaign to the Legislative Council. Meanwhile I am not in a position to give details, but I can assure the hon. Member that the gravity of the problem is appreciated by the Gold Coast Government who will do all that is practically possible to arrest this evil.

Mr. Keeling: As the Secretary of State said that the question of compulsion did not immediately arise, may I ask him whether he is aware that the U.N.O. scientists said that immediate action on a huge scale is imperative? In view of the political agitation against cutting-out, what hope is there of the cocoa industry being saved from ruin unless compulsion is resumed with a firm hand?

Mr. Creech Jones: Compulsory cutting is one thing and operation with the goodwill of the farmers and their general confidence in the Government is another. It is imperative, in this difficult political situation, that the Government should proceed along the lines upon which they are at present proceeding.

Mr. Sorensen: Are not the increased rate of compensation and educational methods already having a distinctly desirable result?

Mr. Creech Jones: Yes.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks: Is the Secretary of State aware that the answer which he has given today is almost identical with the answer he gave months ago on this subject, that his educative efforts have been completely unsuccessful, and that he will not achieve any results unless he again resorts to compulsory powers?

Mr. Creech Jones: I do not accept the assertion in the Member's supplementary question. I have always pointed out that it was necessary for the international commission to report, and for the Government in the Gold Coast to consider

that report. The Government are now doing that and taking appropriate action.

Mr. Bossom: Is the Secretary of State satisfied that the staff on the spot are sufficient in number, or are they still very short of people, as was the case some time ago?

Mr. Creech Jones: That is one of the problems to which the local Government are addressing themselves. An increasing number of persons are available for the work.

House of Commons: February 10, 1949.

Australian Wool Stocks

Mr. Hurd asked the President of the Board of Trade if the Government have now finally disposed of the stocks of Australian wool accumulated during the war.

Mr. H. Wilson: Of the stocks of 6.8 million bales of Australian wool, five million had been disposed of up to 31st December, 1948, by the United Kingdom Dominion Wool Disposals Limited, the joint organisation set up for the purpose of the disposal of all accumulated stocks of Dominion wool.

Mr. Hurd: Can the right hon. Gentleman say if most of this wool was sold for dollars?

Mr. Wilson: I could not say without notice. I should want notice to show into what markets the wool was sold. My impression is that a large proportion of it did go for sale for sterling.

Local Loans (Interest Rates)

Mr. Austin asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware of the increases in rentals which have resulted from the raising by the Public Works Loan Commissioners of the rate of interest on loans to local authorities from 2½ per cent. to 3 per cent.; what was the reason for this increase; and whether it is now intended to revert to the 2½ per cent. rate of interest.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: I am advised that increases in rents of local authority houses have been imposed by local authorities for a variety of reasons, of which an increase in interest rates is only one. The rates of interest charged for advances from the Local Loans Fund are fixed from time to time to correspond broadly with Government borrowing rates for comparable periods. At present, there is no ground for altering the rates now current.

E.R.P. (Surplus Commodities)

Mr. Piratin asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish in the OFFICIAL REPORT a list of articles that have been declared by the United States of America to be surplus commodities for the purposes of the European Recovery Programme and which, in consequence, this country is unable to buy outside the United States of America with European Recovery Programme dollars.

Mr. Jay: The list of commodities at present declared surplus is: dried and frozen eggs, potatoes, certain types of dried prunes and raisins, flax fibre, certain types of wool, linseed, linseed oil, turpentine, alyce clover seed, tobacco.

Statutory Instruments, 1948

Sir J. Mellor asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury how many Statutory Instruments were made during

1948; and how many were revoked.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: The figures are as follow: Instruments made during 1948, 2,858; Instruments revoked during 1948, 159; Instruments expired during 1948, 52.

"Where Do The Arabs Go From Here?"

"There is a general tendency in Britain at this moment to assume that the Palestine struggle is over; that Israel having established itself by force will succeed in fitting itself into the natural pattern of the Middle East; that the Arabs, having failed to prevent its establishment, will sooner or later reconcile themselves to its presence and enter into co-operation with it; and that the interest of the Western Powers in the security and peaceful development of the Middle East can now be achieved through the integration of Israel and the Arab countries into a common defence system. These hopes are enhanced in America (and the American hope is shared by Britain) by the facile belief that the dollar can solve all problems and buy for America and for the Western interest all the conditions needed for the triumphant establishment of the American way of life and the success of American policy throughout the world. . . .

"It is natural that outsiders, and particularly outsiders who have been in a large measure responsible for the Palestine tragedy and whose interest it is to see the matter end here, should delude themselves with such hopes and pretend that the ugly business is over and that a new and happier chapter of construction and co-operation will open in the Middle East. But these hopes . . . are entirely belied by the latent realities of the situation. They rest partly on a stubborn refusal to understand the real character and aims of the Zionist movement and partly on ignorance of the present state of Arab thought and feeling. And they involve an arbitrary rejection of the clear lessons of history in regard to Palestine and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

"These lessons show that between nations there can be no forgiving or forgetting the kind of wrong that has been done to the Arabs by the Jews in Palestine. They show that no people can come to terms with the kind of menace to their national existence which Zionism carries in its claws for the whole Arab world. They show that when part of a national patrimony has been wrested from its lawful owners by invaders who also harbour aggressive intentions towards other parts of it, the invaded and wronged people will concentrate all their thought and energies on recovering what they have lost at the first opportunity and on preparing themselves to take advantage of the opportunity when it comes.

"There is not one iota of evidence coming from the Middle East today to show that the Arabs consider their present reverse in Palestine as a lasting defeat or that there is any likelihood of their making real peace with the Jewish state, reconciling themselves to its presence and accepting it as a permanent member of the Middle East family. All the indications in fact are to the contrary. They show that the Arabs regard themselves merely as having lost the first battle of a long war; that even if they are unable to challenge the enemy to the next battle immediately they are convinced that sooner or later the time will come when they will be able to do so; that the present trend of Arab thought among enlightened patriots is to enquire—with much more courage and honesty in self-criticism than ever before—into the causes of the Arab failure in this first battle, and into what should be done to ensure victory in the next."—*Arab News Bulletin*, February 18.

An Irony of History

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

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