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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

The Conversazioni of the Royal Society are occasions when the scientific elite relax, so far as they are able, and try to entertain each other and each other's friends. There was one last week. One exhibit (if that is the right word for a Royally Scientific demonstration of even the lighter kind), was, we are told, an arrangement of two bicycles in line with one another but with their handle bars facing in opposite directions and their riders likewise. In addition to the chain mechanisms usual to bicycles, there was a supplementary chain, geared in a one/one ratio, which obliged one of the riders to resist the propulsive efforts of the other by backpedalling as fast and as furiously as the other pedalled. In full evening dress (as is proper at Conversazioni), but with their 'tails'—dress, not simian—removed, the athletic young scientists must have been royally funny without being vulgar. Meanwhile their oxygen consumption was recorded. We would ask our readers at this point to resist all temptation to allow mirth to interfere with their due consideration of the importance of this experiment. The pedaller, not the back-pedaller, "won"; from which occurence the inference is to be drawn that "positive work is harder than negative work." (We have given here the form of words in which the momentous conclusion was communicated to us, and it may, of course, have been just a sort of Royal Society slang. Had it been that negative work is harder than positive work it would have meant just as much and just as little. Our immediate apprehension is that the London School of Economics will hear of the discovery, and that, in consequence, future administrators of all parties or none in this country will push 'positive'-full-employment to the neglect of the 'negative'-full-employment from which they now derive their princely salaries untaxed. This will make work harder for everyone but administrators. We are not relieved of our burden of apprehension when we consider that the 'backer' of the athletic young scientists' demonstration (and nowadays all athletic young scientists must have backers) is the elderly physiologist who introduced the notion of "oxygen debt" into his science, thus adroitly approximating its standards to those of the banking fraternity.

In our innocence we have suggested that a less complicated but equally conclusive experiment would be to set two runners facing in opposite directions on a line and start them off on a race to the same winning post; but we understand that there is not a room long enough for this at Burlington House.

Another curious little sidelight on the remoter applications of the A+B Theorem is the rediscovery by that erudite little journal *Analysis* (Oxford: Blackwell.) that to divide a length into an infinite number of subdivisions is not the same thing as making it infinitely long. Perhaps we are seeing the introduction of Social Credit without knowing it—

but we think not: what we are doing at present, collectively at least, is becoming farther and farther alienated from any disposition at all to distinguish facts from fancies or to act from the basis of experience of facts.

And still another sign of the times is the suggestion that that pattern of social guidance, the Rockefeller Foundation, will soon begin, if it has not already begun, to close down on plain Medical and Surgical Research (such as it is) and put all its money on research in *Social* Medicine—and we know what that is.

The Mediterranean? Greece is an American Colony. Israel is an American 'plant.' Persia is—what? North Africa is an American playground. Italy is an American ally populated by Americanised repatriots. Spain "defers" to America and treats once Great Britain with "large official doses of disrespect." The American Navy demonstrates in force twice annually in the Tagus, which last year two British mine-sweepers had the temerity to visit.

We anticipate the grateful thanks of the organisers of the "Work-to-Rule" agitation in the Post Office for the assistance they have received from "above." The labour diverted to distinguishing blue penny stamps from blue two-penny-halfpenny stamps, green three-halfpenny stamps from green halfpenny stamps, and so on throughout all the familiar denominations, has made failure in conducting the war against the public impossible. What enemy action from the air, sickness through war-time stress and strain, and shortage of man-power through the demands of fighting services and war-industry could not accomplish has been effected by the stroke of—a tube of printer's ink. The 'early morning delivery' arrives after nine-thirty in all large cities and will soon reach its destination (if at all) not before the 'evening delivery' now a hazy memory of forty years ago.

Our readers will observe at least one inference which may rightly be drawn from the wave of internationalist altruism signs of the augmentation of which are at present apparent is that, whatever it is, it is not Charity, because Charity begins at home and the wave doesn't. When ardent other-nationists argue that while there is 'now' (why now?) plenty for some of the peoples but not for all the peoples, they may well be asked whether sewing machines and power plants feed anybody or anything but the employment figures. The ultimate end of full-employment is the abolition of leisure. The ultimate end of full-employment for the sake of full-employment is the abolition of other objectives of employment, e.g., production for use. No one can be both an advocate of a fuller life (man does not live by bread alone) and an advocate of full-employment.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: May 11, 1951.

Anti-Communist Propaganda

Mr. Baker White (Canterbury): . . . May I try to give, very briefly, the picture of what is being done on both sides at present in the cold war? I will take the Russian side first. The Kremlin controls a great chain of broadcasting stations which runs from Leningrad in the north to Tiflis in the south, from Berlin and Prague in the west to Peking and Vladivostock in the east. All those radio stations play their part in the cold war. Moscow, Warsaw, Bucharest and Prague, at any rate, are broadcasting to an increasing degree in the English language.

But that is only a part of the machinery under the control of the Kremlin. In every democratic country the Communist parties are actively engaged in a cold war designed to destroy democracy. Let us have no illusions at all about that being their ultimate aim. Let me take this country as an example. In Britain, the printed output alone of the Kremlin's cold war machine—the Communist Party and its ancillaries—consists of each day, except Sunday, the Daily Worker and Moscow's own publication, the Soviet News. In addition, there are six weeklies, 14 monthlies, two quarterlies and four publications that appear at irregular intervals.

Coming into Britain and emanating from Communist sources outside the country, but circulating in appreciable quantities here, there are three weeklies, nine monthlies and three other publication appearing at irregular intervals. All these are in English, and this total does not include Polish and Latvian daily and weekly newspapers brought in in bulk and distributed to Polish and Latvian workers in British industry and agriculture.

What is being done on the democratic side? There are the B.B.C. broadcasts. There is the "Voice of America" and other stations broadcasting from Europe to countries behind the Iron Curtain. On 1st May a new medium-wave transmitter near Munich, Radio Free Europe, opened with large-scale broadcasts to Czechoslovakia. Then there are broadcasts by various anti-Communist political groups. For example, from Madrid there are broadcasts directed to Poland by a Polish group, and to Russia by the R.R.F.—the Russian Revolutionary Forces. From Berlin the Russian Socialist organisation, N.T.S., also broadcasts. There is as well, a steady infiltration under the Iron Curtain of anti-Soviet leaflets emanating from various emigré groups, distributed by brave men and women. All this activity is in one way or another countering the cold war, but no one can pretend that it is co-ordinated or that it is linked up with the defence organisation set up under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

In a situation like that, I suggest that His Majesty's Government should take four steps. The first is to establish a counter-cold war department under the Ministry of Defence; it is essentially a matter of defence. The second is to link up the present overseas activities of the B.B.C., the information services of the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, the Commonwealth Relations Office and the British Council, to ensure that without interference with their functions—I think that is most important—their output is co-ordinated for the common purpose.

The third is to take the initiative in setting up a psychological warfare directorate within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, with a high ranking official on General Eisenhower's staff. The duty of that directorate would be to co-ordinate all counter-cold war activity by the Western nations and the United States of America. The fourth is to take the lead in setting up a parallel organisation for the Far East, including the erection of powerful transmitters at Hong Kong and Singapore capable of carrying the truth to Communist China. That body would also co-ordinate the anti-Communist psychological campaign in Malaya, Indo-China and Burma. . . .

Colonel J. R. H. Hutchison (Glasgow, Scotstoun): . . . What, then, is this organisation to send, this central organisation, call it political warfare executive or as I prefer Truthinform, and organisation, as well endowed, as omnipresent as the Cominform, set-up and designed to combat the Cominform wherever it may meet it? What is this organisation to do when it has harnessed up all the publicity media to its support? Its programme in my view, would consist of two parts. To the countries on this side of the Iron Curtain it must tell of the living conditions in the countries which are behind the Iron Curtain.

But what it says must be simple. Ideological arguments may impress the intellectuals, but for the ordinary man in the street it must be the simple truths which are to be told; things like there being no right to strike, like the fate of the small farmers whose farms were collectivised and they separated from their families and sent away, very often for ever; how at their elections there is no alternative choice to the candidate officially approved by the Communist Party; how denunciations within a family are encouraged and listened to and how if one falls into disfavour or even under suspicion ones' fate is probably the forced labour camp.

I believe that the right hon. Gentleman is not sure that those facts can be proved, but there is a wealth of evidence accumulating all the time from most reliable sources about these matters. We have trade union delegations which went out there and came back and reported. We have the sayings and writings of U.N.E.S.C.O. and refugees, men like the unforunate Mr. Vogeler, who returned to the United States only the other day, and even the writings of Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky themselves. They tell quite enough if it is only unfolded and described. The Russians, with the realisation of the value that attaches to constant reiteration, go on pumping out their false and pernicious stuff. We, too, must learn to reiterate. It may be boring for some but in the long run it makes a permanent impression on men's minds; and so we would succeed in weakening the Fifth Column which Russia has achieved a certain success in setting up in Western European countries.

What is this organisation to pour out to the satellite countries? It must tell them of the meaning and aims of democracy, that what we set out to do is not to dominate their country but to set their country free to decide its own destiny—a thing it never had the chance of doing under Communism; of supporting the rights of human individuals; of our standards of living and rates of pay; of how much value we attach and with what tenacity we cling to the right of free speech and free thought; to explain why they are relatively so poorly off and are still rationed in many countries in bread; why they are dragooned and sent from pillar to post; tell them the reasons for the new and sinister collectivi-

sation of agriculuture; that dog eats dog under Communism; tell them what happened to Litvinov, Tukachevsky, Petkov, Kostov, Rajk and Clementis.

That is the story which has to be told and constantly repeated. It is much cheaper and more humane to bombard human beings with words than with shells, and the result may indeed, at the end of the day, avoid the shells. In the end, truth pursued with equal vigour and determination will defeat the lie, but it must be pursued with equal vigour and determination.

Major Legge-Bourke (Isle of Ely): Unlike my hon. Friend the Member for Canterbury (Mr. Baker White) and my hon. and gallant Friend the Member for Glasgow, Scotstoun (Colonel J. R. H. Hutchison), I have had no connection with political warfare. I know that both of them have distinguished records in that field, and are able to speak with that authority which one hopes that one day we shall be able to bring to every subject which is debated in the House.

I have, however, taken an interest in this question because I have seen something of some of the countries which are now behind the Iron Curtain or which have escaped very narrowly. I am convinced of one thing. If, which God forbid, it should ever come about that we do have to go into Europe again because we could no longer carry on politics save through war, then, in the interests of our own troops, we should make sure that everything is done to ensure that a friendly population will greet us, rather than one which is opposed to us.

with in the world today is the anti-Christ materialism of Bolshevism. That is the great enemy of the kind of world we want to see. I do not refer to that anti-Christ materialism merely because I am a Christian, or because I believe that everyone who wishes to lead our way of life is necessarily a Christian. I believe that the anti-Christ is not only the enemy of the Christian but of many other religions, which, also, would suffer gravely if the materialism of Bolshevism was allowed to establish itself throughout, say, the Western world.

Believing that to be the greatest enemy, where then is the greatest weakness in that enemy? I believe the greatest weakness in the Bolshevistic concept lies in the terror they have of allowing people to know enough either of morals or moral politics to enable them to think for themselves. It is because that weakness exists, and because we and the other free peoples who are endeavouring to do something about it tend to confuse the issue rather than simplify it, that I hope the right hon. Gentleman will be able to tell us that he has paid very careful attention to what my hon. Friends have said about co-ordination. I am sure that there is no greater danger to a good cause than that individual groups should try to express it in their own way, and as a result, give an impression to those at the receiving end that no one of them has made up his mind as to what it is, in fact, that they are trying to do. I think there is a very great danger in that today.

Since I have been interested in this matter, I have been in communication with many people who have had experience in this particular type of activity, and with those who are anxious to see other countries restored, or shall I say rebuilt, on lines in keeping with the modern age. I think there is a very great danger, and we ought to face up to it, that this type of warfare—if that is the word we must use, and I am afraid it is—will fall into the hands of those who were dis-

credited in days gone by and who are discredited now in the countries concerned. This must not be just a refugee organisation.

There could be nothing more fatal to the Christian and Western cause than for it to be thought in the countries behind the Iron Curtain that all this propoganda is being done to restore the old and discredited regimes. We must produce something better than that; what we have to do is to try to rebuild a religion which will fight the anti-Christ of Communism. Unless we do that, and unless we have it based, first of all, on the spiritual side, I do not believe that however effective we may be on the purely material and political side it could ever last.

My hon, and gallant Friend the Member for Scotstoun spoke of making the message simple, and I would agree with him. It is important that we should make the message simple, but I do not think that we can ignore the intellectual. I think the Bolsheviks would be the first to claim that much of what they have achieved has been done through the intellectual idea. In fact, a leading Bolshevist not very long ago said:

"All the victories of the Bolshevik Party are due to its ceaseless anxiety for the theoretical education of party cadres."

I do not know what history will record about this modern age, but I should be surprised if a great deal of the credit for extreme Left Wing thought is not given to such journals as the New Statesman and Nation, with its appeal to the intellectual. In fact, that opinion has very often guided those who have not had the good fortune to have had as good an education as some of the more intellectual members of the community. If that be so, it would seem to me that we are running a very great risk by simply appealing to the vast mass of the population and omitting a special message for the intellectual. There is a very great danger of having the intellectuals in the countries which we are trying to reach deliberately spiking the guns of our own campaign, which is directed to the vast mass of the population there. That, I think, would be fatal.

There have been many methods worked out by bitter experience during the last war, and we know that there is a wealth of that experience ready, if the Government cared to draw upon it. At the moment, as the right hon. Gentleman said to me on 23rd April, we have the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, the Commonwealth Relations Office, the Central Office of Information and the British Council. Is there all the co-ordination in our own plans that there ought to be? Still more, is there that co-ordination with our friends overseas that there should be? All the reports that I am receiving show that there is a considerable divergence of method and of the line of approach between the Americans and ourselves. It seems to me that what we have to do first is to put our own house in order, because that is very far from being the case at the moment.

My hon. Friend who raised the matter, and I think we are all grateful to him for doing so, suggested that the Minister of Defence should have the main responsibility as co-ordinator so far as our own efforts are concerned. I do not believe that that would be enough. We have been asking over and over again for a combined Chiefs of Staffs organisation to be set up, so that we may have a world concept of the defence problem. If this political warfare organisation is to succeed, it must work on lines something similar to those

(Continued on page 7).

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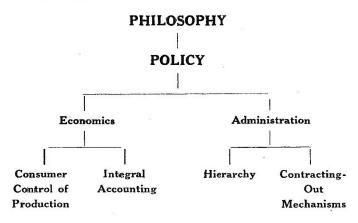
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WHAT IS SOCIAL CREDIT?

Social Credit assumes that Society is primarily metaphysical, and must have regard to the organic relationships of its prototype.



OBJECTIVE: Social Stability by the integration of means and ends.

INCOMPATIBLES:

Collectivism, Dialectic Materialism, Totalitarianism, Judæo-Masonic

Philosophy and Policy.

Ballot-box democracy embodies all of these,

CAB ouglas

February, 1951.

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Electorates Enthroned

An important but (to our mind) involved article in the issue of The Tablet for May 26 is devoted to the French and Italian elections, the first National and the second local, and introduces a discussion of the enthronement of electorates. The writer is apparently so careful not to discourage electors from participation in elections or to expose the grounds which "the Government of Italy and France" may have for "not trusting their electorates" as to obscure, to some extent at least, the positive contribution to politics which he makes. (1) "Sovereign nationalism and a belief in the supreme value of the people's will . . . were the two historical products of the French Revolution. They are cited now as final justification by the Communist regimes. . . . If . . . there is to be a real justification of Europe . . . then the roots of Europe must be rediscovered. It is not enough to heave sighs of relief when Communists in Italy or France say they have had enough of Moscow. . . . What is important is what they believe man to be. . . ."

We concur

Missions to Jews

The Church Times for May 18 reported the Bishop of Rochester, presiding at the annual meeting of the Church Missions to Jews in London as saying that he did not believe that the Missions could make any impact on Jewry at large until there had been established a strong Hebrew Christian Church. The Rev. W. A. Curtis, general secretary to the Missions, who has recently returned from Israel, said that Jewish prejudice against the missionary seemed to be as strong as ever. The Jewish authorities had set their faces against any fresh missionary endeavour. No new missions were permitted, and no existing missions could start any new work.

The Rev. F. G. Payne told the meeting about his work in Ethiopia among the Falashas, who are the only Jews in the world who still offer sacrifices.

"Full Employment"

"I am more than happy to be able to assure the sticklers for tradition that orthodox army medical methods have not 'suffered a sea-change, into something rich and strange.' It is true, of course, that the procedure now takes five times as long as it did previously and calls for about four times as much clerical assistance. That, however, is merely in keeping with the London School of Economics theory that the way to ensure full employment is to devise means of spreading a simple task over as many people as possible."—(From a letter to *The Scotsman*, May 22).

The Fall of a Sparrow

"There's special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come; it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come; the readiness is all, Let be," (Hamlet V. 2).

Freemasonry and the Church of England

Convocation of Canterbury met on May 22 at Church House, Westminster, the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Fisher) presiding in the Upper House, and the Pro-Prolocutor, the Rev. C. E. Douglas, (ordained 1898) in the Lower House, in the absence through indisposition of Canon R. Whytehead, the Prolocutor. On the morning of the meetings, the Daily Mail said:—

LEFT IN SOLITUDE?

A witch hunt in the Church of England, with Freemasons as the quarry.

Eight indignant anti-Masonic vicars will today demand an investigation to decide whether a Freemason can remain a member of the Church.

The anti-Masons would be unwise to press their heresy hunt too far. Otherwise they might find that there were no members at all left in the Church of England. None, that is, except the Dean of Canterbury.

This remarkable announcement is here set out in bold type in order that it may not be lost sight of.

Newspaper reports of the ruling 'out of order' of a motion on Freemasonry standing in the name of the Rev. Dr. H. S. Box (Chichester) received headline notice on the same and the next day, but were fragmentary. The Times gave the wording of the motion, "suggesting the appointment of a committee of the House 'to inquire whether the theological implications of Freemasonry, as distinct from its benevolent activities, are compatible with the Christian faith as held by the Church'"; and also that of an amendment in the name of the Rev. W. J. Torrance, "to substitute 'That in the opinion of this House, the theological implications of Freemasonry are compatible with the Christian faith as held by the Church of England.'" The fullest report we have seen of this item of the House's business appeared in the (London) Evening News of May 22, as follows:—

"The Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury, anticipating a full-dress debate on Freemasonry to-day, received a surprise when the Pro-Prolocutor, the Rev. C. E. Douglas (Southwark) ruled discussions on motions dealing with it out of order.

"Dr. Hubert Stanley Box, Vicar of Scaynes Hill, Sussex, was asking the House to appoint a committee to inquire whether the theological implications of Freemasonry were compatible with the Christian faith, as held by the Church.

"Dr. Box, who is a writer on ecclesiastical subjects, sits in Convocation as a proctor for Chichester.

"His motion stated that the usages and customs of Freemasonry are officially declared to 'correspond in a great degree with the mysteries of ancient Egypt,' that the name of Jesus Christ is excluded from all Masonic rituals under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge; that the names of certain pagan deities are pronounced with great solemnity in the Royal Arch ritual; and that many members of the Church of England enter Freemasonry without realising its doctrinal implications.

"The announcement by the Pro-Prolocutor was received with cheers.

"He said: 'The motion is bad both in form and in content—bad in form because it invites the House to accept, as fact, a schedule of unverified statements and to use them

as justification for inquiry in a field over which the Church has no direct jurisdiction.

"'It is bad in content because, as far as is known, there is no precedent for any synod of the Church, general, local, or provincial, and therefore a fortiori (with stronger reason) for any constituent part of the Synod to take action regarding false doctrine, except judicially—that is to say by impartial trial and judgment of a definite issue joined between two parties in accordance with the procedure laid down in Matthew xviii, 15.'

"After dealing with 16th-Century history relating to controversies concerning the constitutional issue involved the Pro-Prolocutor commented: 'We are treading on very delicate ground here and I hope the House will realise it.'

At the foot of the report, The Evening News appended the note:—

Matthew XVIII, 15, says: 'Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee thou has gained thy brother?"

In its issue for May 24, the Liverpool Daily Post gave further news of the Convocation:—

"Yesterday the Rev. G. B. Bentley, of Lincoln, gave notice of a motion to ask the Archbishop of Canterbury to appoint a joint committee of Convocation to consider what guidance should be given to members of the church concerning Freemasonry.

"The motion was accepted by the Rev. C. E. Douglas (Pro-Prolocutor). It will be placed at the end of the agenda, and, if it is reached, will be discussed at the end of business to-day.

"On Tuesday the Pro-Prolocutor ruled out of order, as being 'bad in form and in content,' a motion by Dr. H. S. Box (vicar of Scaynes Hill, Haywards Heath, Sussex), which asked for the appointment of a committee 'to inquire whether the theological implications of Freemasonry, as distinct from its benevolent activities, are compatible with the Christian faith as held by the Church.'

"Giving his decision yesterday, the Pro-Prolocutor told the House that the assessors on Tuesday considered the whole question of matters of this description.

"'There are one or two things that ought to be said here. The first is that, in order to preserve the liberty of members, it is advisable that we do not strain our rights too far,' he stated.

"'The second is that, according to practice, nothing which is improper or treasonable, or that sort of thing, can be put in a motion, except in argument.

"'It is my opinion, and the opinion of the assessors, that we can ask the Archbishop to appoint a joint committee on any subject whatever. What he will have to say when he receives this, if the House passes it, I do not know—but I can guess (laughter).

"'There are one or two objections to it, but they do not amount to sufficient to allow it to be ruled out of order. The first is that this seems to be a stage in a general agitation on the subject, and this House ought not to be brought into it.

"'The second is that it is really an attempt to dodge the ruling which the House received on Tuesday.'

"There were cheers and some cries of 'No.'

- "'I am simply stating my opinion,' retorted the Pro-Prolocutor.
- "'The third thing is, and this is most important, that this is a matter that concerns the laity more than the clergy, because more Masons are lay people than there are Masons who are clergymen.
- "'The Church Assembly will be meeting next month, and it seems to me that that, rather than this House, is the proper place to debate it, as the laity may take part in the discussions.'
- "The Rev. W. J. Torrance (vicar of Frome, Somerset), who on Tuesday had an amendment to Dr. Box's motion that 'in the opinion of this House the theological implications of Freemasonry are compatible with the Christian faith as held by the Church of England,' told a reporter that, as at present advised, he would not move an amendment to Mr. Bentley's motion.
- "'But,' he said, 'I shall vote against it, of course. I am against anybody investigating Freemasonry unless they are Freemasons."

In a news article on the opening day, the Daily Mail gave interviews with Mr. Box and Mr. Torrance, adding the information that. "From 1737 until 1907 sixteen English Princes joined the brotherhood of Freemasons. King Edward VII. was Grand Master for a time, and after him the Duke of Connaught.

"Among church dignitaries who have been Grand Chaplains are Dr. P. M. Herbert, Bishop of Norwich, Dr. D. H. Crick, Bishop of Chester, and Dr. Ernest Lovett, former Bishop of Salisbury."

At the concluding meeting of the Session, the Lower House decided not to discuss the motion asking for the appointment of a committee to consider Freemasonry in relation to the Church. The Times's account of the matter is as follows (The Times, May 25):—

"The Rev. G. B. Bentley (Lincoln) asked leave to postpone to the next session the motion of which he had previously given notice—'to ask his Grace the President to appoint a committee of Convocation to consider what guidance should be given to members of the Church concerning Freemasonry and to report.' He desired the postponement because there was much business before the House and the motion could not come up till a late stage.

"The deferment was opposed, voting proved equal, and the Pro-Prolocutor (the Rev. C. E. Douglas) gave a casting vote against the postponement.

"In the afternoon, when the motion had been reached in agenda order, the Rev. G. B. Bentley formally moved it without speaking to it, and it was seconded.

"The Bishop of Reading (the Right Rev. A. G. Parham) moved that the House should pass to the next business. He said the purpose of his motion was to prevent a discussion which might otherwise follow on a matter over which the House had no jurisdiction whatever. He did not presume to suppose that he could guide the opinions of the House on this matter, on which he felt very strongly because he was concerned in it, both as one to whom it had fallen to hold a number of not unimportant offices in the Order of Freemasonry and also as one to whom it fell to discharge, which was more important, offices within the Church.

"He hoped the House would not do so foolish a thing

as it seemed to him to be as to raise feelings between Freemasons and the Church which existed elsewhere but were wholly absent in our own country and under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England. The passing by the House of an ill-advised motion would alienate masons who were not attached to a religious body from the representatives of the Church.

"The motion to pass to the next business was agreed to. The Pro-Prolocutor pointed out that the Rev. G. B. Bentley would be free, if he so desired, to put down another motion on the subject in October."

Tweedledum and Tweedledee

"Even the most casual survey of the policy speeches of the Party leaders reveals no substantial disagreement on fundamental policies. Neither Labour nor anti-Labour promises to start decentralising power. Both advocate various measures for centralising power still further. It is true that Mr. Menzies does not appear quite as confident as Mr. Chifley in advocating more centralised controls. Perhaps he is worried that some electors might recall what he and his colleagues said prior to the 1949 Federal elections! Nevertheless, the policy announced by Mr. Menzies for helping to defeat inflation—selective credit control, restriction of credit, a capital issues board, a National Resources Planning Board, etc.—is basically totalitarian in conception.

"Both Mr. Menzies and Mr. Chifley have stressed the importance of increased production in order to defeat inflation. Neither have been very convincing in suggestions as to how the individual is, under a policy of controls, including high taxation, going to be stimulated to increase production. Mr. Chifley says that the Trade Unions will cooperate with a Labour Government, while Mr. Menzies says that once the Communists have been dealt with, production will be bettered. We agree that increased production of goods and services demanded by individuals is an excellent thing, and we also believe that increased and more efficient production may temporarily slow down the increase in prices. But we say that any political leader who claims that increased production by itself will reduce prices, is either ignorant or is deliberately misleading the people. Is Mr. Menzies not aware of how rapidly prices have been increasing in the U.S.A.?

"Australian electors must face the fact that none of the parties have put forward any genuine solution to the problem of how to defeat the twin evils of inflation and Communism. They refuse to accept a real solution, because it necessarily conflicts with their inherent will-to-power. There can be no solution until a Government is compelled to reduce very drastically the burden of Government, and, instead of spending the people's money on inflationary Socialist activities, applies it to a scientific price subsidy system which would stabilise the economy. Clumsy and unscientific as they were, Price Subsidies during and after the war years helped to stabilise the price structure. It wasn't centralised price fixing which was so vital, as Mr. Chifley now attempts to make out. New credit had to be created for the war, and Price Subsidies demonstrated beyond all argument that a portion of these new credits could be passed directly to the individual without increasing costs and thus increasing prices, . . . ," -The New Times (Melbourne), April 13.

PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 3)

laid down for the combined Chiefs of Staffs. It is part of warfare, but I believe that in respect of those who take part in it nationality must come second. In fact, I should say that they have to be, rather than supranational, perhaps ultranational, and that they have to place predominantly in their plans the idea that we are fighting anti-Christ in the world, and that, unless we combat it with the ideas which anti-Christ has set out to destroy, we have no hope of ever succeeding.

The Minister of State (Mr. Younger): . . . I think the hon. Member for Canterbury was quite right when he said we had to be on our guard against allowing this thing to develop into an unco-ordinated series of efforts by groups of discredited refugees and regimes. At the same time it would be unrealistic not to appreciate that complete uniformity of a policy line and of programmes directed from all parts of the free world to countries behind the Iron Curtain is a very much harder thing to achieve in time of peace than it is in time of war, where inevitably, one's field of vision is narrow and one's objectives are very much more precise and clear and, in a sense, short-term.

It is a fact that the attitudes of the sending countries which carry out these programmes are not in every respect identical, though their general attitudes come very close together. For instance, all the nations within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have a unity of purpose, but when it comes to detail they have all their points of view and their different emphasis on different political ideas.

We are making very considerable progress in the work of co-ordination by means of joint consultation, but I think it is unrealistic at this stage to imagine that we could at all readily put the whole thing in a strait jacket, or put it under a single organisation under the North Atlantic Treaty—in a department which would put out propaganda in a uniform stream. All the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have their contribution to make and they also have their own public opinion to consider. Even when it comes to putting matter out for the outside world one has to consider one's own public. Even on the international stage I think we must rely on joint consultation rather than on a hard and fast type of organisation.

been made, but on which I do not think hon. Members will disagree. It is that it must not be thought this combating of propaganda is entirely a matter of counter-propaganda. By far the most important thing outside the Iron Curtain itself is having our own constructive policy, having a sane and reasonable economy and being ourselves a going concern. If we have that the problem of our propagandists becomes relatively a simple one.

This debate was announced as one about the establishment of a political war-fare executive. A political war-fare executive became essential in wartime because of its military character, because much of the information, with which it was dealing was military information, because there were serious questions of security and secrecy and because the channels that had to be used to enemy territories were to a large

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extent military channels, such as the R.A.F. dropping leaflets. It was overt hostility. In that game there were no holds barred. We were prepared to enter into all forms of deception from the military point of view as a means to a relatively short-term military end. Those things do not apply in cold war however intense it may be.

Colonel J. R. H. Hutchison: That is why I like the word "Truthinform" better.

Mr. Younger: I quite agree, but it is a little more than a question of a word. It is only when these military considerations loom very large that we think it necessary to have an organisation, whether one calls it political warfare or 'Truthinform" doing the specialised job which is suggested by the words "political warfare executive."

While I agree very much with a great deal of what has been said, I have some disagreement with three out of the four points which the hon. Member for Canterbury has put forward as definite proposals. I do not think that a counterwarfare department or "Truthinform" should be put under the Ministry of Defence. I believe it is essentially a matter of politics at this stage, although that must have repercussions on defence. The one point with which I do not disagree is the second one—that there should be an adequate link between the B.B.C., the Foreign Office, the Commonwealth Relations Office and the British Council to ensure co-ordination for a common purpose. It can be argued, but no evidence has been adduced that it does not exist at present, and I think that on the whole it does exist.

The third point was that an executive should be set up within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Presumably that:would involve uniformity of programmes, emanating not from individual members of the Treaty Organisation but from the organisation itself. In the first place, I think that would be difficult to obtain at present. However, if that were the only reason we should try. But I think we have not reached the stage when our information and propaganda should assume that military character internationally any more than it should come under the Minister of Defence at home.

The fourth point was that there should be a parallel organisation for the Far East and increasingly powerful transmitters. I am quite ready to agree with the argument that we should attempt to increase propaganda by boosting the transmission power of our radio or by some other methods. This is an important area of the world where our facilities probably do require to be improved, but, again, I do not think a separate organisation of the type envisaged is really necessary...

International Refugee Organisation

Major Beamish asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what representations he has made to the International Refugee Organisation for payments from its special fund for the benefit of non-German and non-Jewish refugees.

Mr. Younger: I assume that the special fund referred to is that allocated, under the terms of Article VIII of the Final Act of the Paris Conference on Reparations, to victims of the Nazi régime. His Majesty's Government have informed the International Refugee Organisation that in their opinion the terms of the agreement under which this fund is administered can be interpreted in such a way as to benefit non-German and non-Jewish refugees. The bulk of the funds available

has, however, now been allocated.

Major Beamish asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will make a statement about arrangements for the resettlement of those refuges for whom the International Refugee Organisation has responsibility, after that organisation has been closed down.

Mr. Younger: It is expected that by the time the International Refugee Organisation closes down there will remain on the books of that Organisation very few refugees capable of resettlement abroad and not already absorbed into the economies of the countries where they now live. Good progress has been made in solving the problem of the so-called "hard-core" and it is anticipated that the residue of some 10,000 institutional cases will be dealt with by the end of the current year, either by resettlement schemes abroad or by arrangements made locally.

After the Organisation closes down, Governments and private organisations will still be able to arrange for the repatriation or emigration of persons formerly on the books of the I.R.O. who may desire or be capable of such movement.

The principal functions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who was appointed by a decision of the United Nations General Assembly last autumn, will be to provide legal protection and advice, and he will not be responsible, as the International Refugee Organisation has been, for resettlement. He will however advise and assist States and private organisations in their activities relating to repatriation and resettlement.

National Finance, Pound Sterling (Value)

Mr. J. Morrison asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide a table showing, in pence, the fall each month in the value of the pound sterling over the past 18 months.

Mr. J. Edwards: Using the interim index of retail prices as price index, the fall in the value of the pound sterling over the last 18 months is shown in the table below.

| | | | June, | 1947 | = 20s. | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-----|-----|
| 1949, | October | | | | | | 17. | 10 |
| | November | | | | | | 17 | 10 |
| | December | | | | | | 17 | 9 |
| 1950, | | | | | | | 17 | 9 |
| | February | | | | *** | | 17 | 8 |
| | March | | | | | | 17 | . 7 |
| | April | | | | | | 17 | 7 |
| | May | | • • • | | | | 17 | 6 |
| | June | | | | | | 17 | 7 |
| | July | | | • • • • | | | 17 | 7 |
| | August | | | | | • • • | 17 | 8 |
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| 1951, | | • • • | • • • | | • • • | • • • | 17 | 1 |
| | February | | | • • • | • • • | | 16 | 11 |
| | March | • • • | | • • • | • • • | • • • | 16 | 9 |

Stamps

Mr. W. R. A. Hudson asked the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that as the recently-issued $2\frac{1}{2}d$. postage stamp so closely resembles the colour of the previously-issued 1d. stamp confusion has resulted, cheating of the revenue has been made possible and the closer scrutiny required by Post Office servants has involved loss of time and extra labour; and

whether he will consider withdrawing this issue and replacing it with an issue of more distinctive colour.

Mr. Ness Edwards: As explained in the Press notice which I issued on 9th May, the recent changes in the colours of the postage stamps were made in order to conform with the Universal Postal Convention and all practicable steps have been taken the reduce the possibility of confusion to a minimum. Difficulties will disappear as stocks of red penny stamps in the hands of the public are used up.

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