

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### "Rightly Considered"

By NORMAN F. WEBB.

"... the question of producer and consumer ... not only are these entirely separate, but rightly considered they are completely different planes of thought."—*Economic Democracy*. p.90.

Apart from the comments it contains, very tentatively dealt with, (*vide T.S.C.* July 28) the "Chart" of Social Credit prepared by Major Douglas and published at intervals lately represents in diagrammatic form how the social problem, with which Social Credit is designed to deal, presents itself to Social Crediters. At the top of the Chart appears the word Philosophy, which is, or should be, the accepted starting point for everything; every itinerary, or plan of action, or statement. "In the beginning was the Word . . ." the impulse.

It is equally true that every conceivable problem has two aspects or appearances; the physical and the metaphysical. Another way of putting the same thing would be to say that every problem can be approached from two apparently different—and therefore differing—angles or points of view; those of means, and ends. This gives us a broad definition of the meanings attached to the terms Physics and Metaphysics; the latter being the realm of Philosophy, where metaphysical will, or impulse, originates, and the former its political embodiment. The fact that only by approaching our problems *simultaneously* from both these angles can we get an integrated picture of their nature and requirements, constitutes the immediate paradox of our existence on this earth. Though this is not the place to follow such a line of thought, it must be touched on, and the fact of its existence accepted, since it involves the question of precedence; the apparently endless question of who or what goes first and who follows. It is perhaps enough to say that its solution lies in the realization of the fact that there can be no question of precedence in the realm of ends, or metaphysics; the will to achieve something inevitably *precedes* any action for carrying it out, just as, if the action is successful in achieving the project, the end *follows* it as the result of the active means. This can be one meaning of the statement, "the first shall be last, and the last first."

To sum up the position, then: it would appear that Philosophy, the point at which this diagram starts, exists in the realm of metaphysics, where desire and impulse are generated. This impulse, or metaphysical Will emerges into the world of physics—of political action, and method, and hierarchy—along the line joining the two points of Philosophy and Policy, which last is the first move in the practical carrying-out in space-time of a decisive impulse. Somewhere along this line is the fractional point of contact between the two worlds, or planes of thought as they are called in the quotation at the head of these notes, of physics

and metaphysics, where they engage like two separately revolving wheels. It is here that impulse is transferred and becomes, as it were, incarnate, and physically active and political, and assumes a material form.

The social problem inevitably presents itself to the Social Crediter as the problem of the individual, how he can best (most fruitfully) co-operate with his fellows under physical conditions without losing his metaphysical individuality, which, in effect, means his liberty of individual action, his political rights. In that sense, Social Credit is not, itself, political—most certainly not Party-political. According to the Chart it has an Objective, which is not naturally aggressive, but reconciliatory: "Social stability by the integration of means and ends." Strictly speaking, then, Social Credit has no policy, [\*] but only strategy. It is a strategic proposal for creating social conditions favourable to the policy of the individual in his total capacity, as agent or representative of the metaphysical Will, whatever it may be.

Now if that is a correct picture of the situation, and Social Credit really represents the systematic advocacy of the maximum liberty of the individual compatible with his reasonable obligations to his association, why is there such opposition to it? The correct answer to that question—which is at the same time a practical problem to be solved—probably belongs to the realm of Philosophy and not to Policy; but shortly, it is that Everyman, himself, in his functional and specialized or professional capacity, is the opponent and obstructionist to what are his own best interests as a non-functional, consuming individual. To attempt to ignore that fact in any political activity is to invite complete failure.

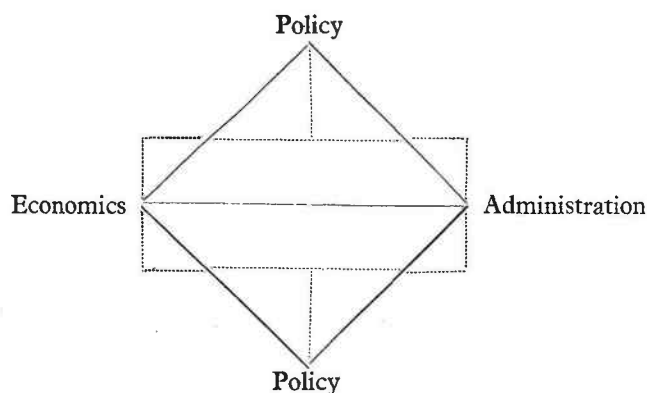
The point we have now reached in the Chart is that where Policy divides into Economics and Administration. This occurs, it is to be noted, in reading the Chart downwards, in the obvious way from top to bottom, and where we turn our backs, as it were, on the domain of Policy, ruled over by the complete, simple-minded consumer—the ideal Democrat—who knows what he wants as and when he gets it. Looming over the area occupied by these two functional departments the desolating picture it presents is that of two divided opponents facing one another without another mitigating factor to be seen anywhere. And if we look further in the same direction, the vista is one of progressive sub-division under various headings. This is the two-dimensional presentation of dialectical materialism; the incomplete, partial view of the situation, which is bound to be wrong.

Suppose, however, we make the effort suggested, to see the Chart in both directions at once; so to speak, simultaneously from the bottom as well as the top. The natural result is a concentration on the strategic centre, where, in place of a division of Policy into two heads, we get an

\*"Social Credit is the Policy of a Philosophy."—Editor, *T.S.C.*

incompleted triangle, with Policy at the apex and Economics and Administration at the two base angles respectively. This, we can mentally fill in, and beginning with Economics, and reading from left to right, we get the complete, in place of the incomplete, dialectic; Thesis, Antithesis, and Synthesis, which is reversible. Everyman's warring functional personalities at the base—his creative and administrative duality,—are seen to be integrated, or reconciled at the top, in himself as the whole and complete individual, the embodied End to which they are both equally the means. Thus, the creative, productive Technocrat, and the regulative, conditioning Bureaucrat, are reconciled by being brought to see that their strategic objectives, instead of being opposed are one and the same (identified) in their shared Democratic Policy of consumption, only realisable in conditions in which their mutual relationship is comparatively stabilized.

It would also be possible, in order to emphasise our double approach to the problem, to construct two triangles on the same base. Thus:



This might be called the system of Beneficiary Control, Economic Democracy; the Democratic doctrine of the complete individual, in his consuming capacity as the Sole Beneficiary of the fruits of his association, and in addition, the final arbiter as to the nature and quantity of those fruits, or results.

This it is suggested, constitutes the correct Social dialectic,—Dialectical Metaphysics; put forward not as a substitute or rival of dialectical materialism, or physics, but as its completion,—“I came not to destroy, but to fulfil.” It is the break-down of the existing ideological world-rivalry into its true elements, showing it to be, not as it appears, an irreconcilable political war between two absolute Principles, or rather, the Policies arising out of them but a comparatively easily settled misunderstanding between two relative, and closely related aspects of the strategic approach to the achievement of a policy which is common. This has been done by the substitution of the correct trinitarian, three-dimensional form, or picture of the social problem for the prevailing and conventional presentation. It is this popular presentation which has trapped modern Society by its incomplete dialectical form of assertion and counter-assertion—thesis and anti-thesis—into endless strategic dispute over questions in which principles are in no way involved. The lengthy debates of Foreign ministry representatives in Paris is the most recent and glaring example of this.

What this situation demands is a mental revolution on the part of the organic individual, such as all genuine Social Crediters more or less actually feel to have taken place within themselves, involving a mental, or metaphysical turning-round, which is the exact opposite to a physical revolution, or turning-over—upset, revolt—within organised Society. This change of position is the proper one from which to see the correct relationship within the individual; that is, within one's own individuality, of his triple or trinitarian capacities as Technocrat, Bureaucrat and Democrat. Possibly it would come nearer the mark to say between the democratic last, which is also the first, and the intermediate aspects. These belonging to the field of applied physics, covering means or methods, in which, of their nature, they must continually strive to enlarge their area of specialized, dictatorial control; each at the expense of the other, and, both in combination, at the expense of the individual, the democratic amateur in the field of applied metaphysics. This is the unspecialized field of Life for its own sake, *i.e.* for the love of it; the domain of the embodiment of that integrating force with which the Gospels—and the Fourth Gospel especially—are almost entirely concerned. He the Democrat, is himself the integration of means and ends, and only requires scope and opportunity to prove it; as well as the truth that, at bottom, the rift that apparently divides society is not, as is commonly supposed between means and ends—physics and metaphysics—but between the rival departments of physical means; Economics and Administration.

The individual democrat is, in himself, both the creative benefactor and the consuming beneficiary in one, and at one, in his complete enjoyment (love) of the fruits of association, which combines all the pleasure of making and giving with all the pleasure of receiving and consuming. It is, too, in his amateur capacity as consumer, in its widest sense,—a sense in which experience itself is consumption,—that the democratic individual wields what amounts to absolute temporal authority. It would seem that this is dictatorship applied in its only tolerable form; that is, impersonally, on behalf of the metaphysical Will, of which the individual in his consuming capacity is representative or agent. Incidentally, we see in this the operation of that self-control (self-government), which is of the very nature of Democracy, acting automatically as a pressure applied equally to Everyman, (including himself) in his functional capacity, by Everyman (including himself) in his amateur, consuming capacity, and as final arbiter of everything on this plane of physical strategy.

## The Social Credit Secretariat

### NOTICE

Letters on Secretariat business which would normally be addressed to the Social Credit Secretariat or to Dr. Tudor Jones personally should be addressed as indicated below until October 1:—

**Mr. Hewlett Edwards,  
Nether End,  
Austrey,  
Atherstone,  
Warwickshire.**

## PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, July 16, 1951.

(Continued).

### Consumption and Exports

*Mr. Nabarro* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power, respectively for the six months ended 30th June, 1951, and 30th June, 1950, the excess of coal consumption over coal of 1951; and the revised planned aggregate figure for coal production, excluding American coal imports; whether the restriction upon coal exports is to continue for the remainder of 1951; and the revised planned aggregate figure for coal exports during the year 1951.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker*: During the first six months of 1950, the consumption of coal, including exports and bunkers, was 3.7 million tons greater than the output. During the first six months of 1951, it was 600,000 tons greater than the output. I regret that I am not yet able to forecast what the exports will be during the present calendar year; up to the end of June, exports and bunkers were 5.2 million tons.

*Mr. Nabarro*: In view of the Minister's statements upon many occasions in the last few weeks, that consumption is now greatly in excess of coal production, is it his general policy to continue to deplete exports over the next six months in order to satisfy the domestic market?

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: My policy is to do everything possible to increase output, and I am working on that with all the means at my command. But, of course, if exports have to be weighed against the needs of British industry, I think British industry comes first because then we shall be able to export coal in the form of manufactured goods.

### Treason Prosecutions

*Sir W. Smithers* asked the Attorney-General how many British subjects have been prosecuted for treason since 1945.

*The Attorney-General*: Two in the year 1945—in addition to Joyce, who was not a British subject—and two in the year 1946.

*Sir Waldron Smithers*: May I ask the right hon. and learned Gentleman whether, if the Government are anti-Communist, he will now prosecute the Dean of Canterbury . . .

### Imported Cream

*Wing Commander Bullus* asked the Minister of Food if, in view of the availability of shipping, he will now reconsider his decision not to allow the importation of cream.

*Mr. Webb*: I would refer the hon. and gallant Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Kingston-upon-Thames (Mr. Boyd-Carpenter) on Wednesday, 11th July.

*Wing Commander Bullus*: Does not the right hon. Gentleman think it is a fantastic argument that just because he and his Ministry cannot distinguish between imported cream and cream produced in this country, consumers should have to do without it at this season of the year when shipping space is available for it?

*Mr. Webb*: It is not fantastic. It is an awkward and difficult matter and shipping is not the problem. Obviously, if we could have solved this problem, shipping would not

have been a limiting factor. The trouble is to distinguish between imported and home-produced cream, and there is no practical way of doing that.

### Tea Ration

*Wing Commander Bullus* asked the Minister of Food if, in view of the increased supplies of tea available, he will now increase the tea ration.

*Mr. Webb*: Arrivals of tea are seasonal in character and although they have lately been good there is no adequate basis yet for an increase in the ration.

*Wing Commander Bullus*: Does the right hon. Gentleman hold out any hope of an increase in the ration in the near future?

*Mr. Webb*: I could not say about that. We cannot test the overall supplies of tea in this country until the late autumn.

### Sugar Ration

*Mr. De la Bère* asked the Minister of Food whether in view of the increase in the world sugar production for the past season, he will consider increasing the sugar ration by 2 ozs. per person per week.

*Mr. Webb*: I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member (Mr. C. S. Taylor) for Eastbourne on Monday, 2nd July.

*Mr. De la Bère*: Is the Minister aware that that is not a sound answer at all? Is he aware that the sugar supply of the world is increasing every month? Why is it that the people of this country are denied the simple things which they need in their everyday life? Why is it we have to keep on pressing the Government?

*Mr. Webb*: The hon. Member again has his facts wrong. First of all, the supply is not increasing to the extent he supposes. but, equally, the demand is increasing and I claim that on the facts as we can now see them we are getting as much sugar and distributing that sugar as well as we can in this country at the moment.

*Mr. De la Bère*: Thoroughly unsatisfactory. Monstrous.

### Agriculture (Supervision Orders)

*Mr. Hurd* asked the Minister of Agriculture how many farmers are now under supervision within the terms of the Agriculture Act, 1947; and how many farmers were dispossessed last year after being under supervision; and if he is satisfied with the working of this system.

*Mr. Champion*: At 31st May this year 1,581 farmers were under supervision on the grounds of bad husbandry. Fifty-four dispossession orders for bad husbandry took effect last year. The value of the system is of course, not confined to the numbers of cases of formal supervision. My right hon. Friend is satisfied that it is having good results on the standard of farming generally.

### Departmental Staff

*Mr. Hurd* asked the Minister of Agriculture the numbers of staff now employed by the National Agriculture Advisory

(continued on page 5).

## THE SOCIAL CREDITER

This journal expresses and supports the policy of the Social Credit Secretariat, which is a non-party, non-class organisation neither connected with nor supporting any political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

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### From Week to Week

"It will be the largest gathering of the clans ever to be held—larger and more representative, it is claimed, than those which preceded the risings of 1715 and 1745." (*The Times*, concerning last week's gathering of the Scottish clans, later reported "swamped" by crowds estimated at half a million).

Not yet convinced, we distinctly envisage the possibility of believing that something hopeful is afoot in Scotland. Having pin-pointed four or five British Ass addresses, *A Scotsman's Log* "ended up by going to none of them, on the principle that less than enough is almost as good as a feast." And 'too much,' we are reminded is 'a plenty.'

If the rage against the refusal of Scots Bank Notes on the London Underground rises much higher, we may see the Scots teaching the English what's what by distributing the National Dividend.

"All great men are evil men." Since the days when we recorded our conviction that the only English politician worse than Churchill was Lloyd George, Lloyd George has gained two points on the Companion of Honour (1) he became of no further use to his backers and (2) he is almost forgotten (though "the evil that men do . . ."). Whether that will be so with Churchill may depend upon the truth or otherwise of Leonardo da Vinci's aphorism, "Every evil leaves a sorrow in the memory except the supreme evil, death, and this destroys memory itself together with life." Whatever the most evil *influence* may be, Churchill is the most evil *agent* in English politics since the Reformation. Da Vinci's opinion is not a Christian opinion; and ours perhaps is a human not a Christian sentiment. Let us console ourselves: "Nature is full of infinite causes which were never set forth in experience."

Lord Beaverbrook's *Sunday Express* wants us to take sides on the issue (which should be, but doubtless isn't, a technical, military issue, entirely, and would be in a state uncorrupted by all the columns of Power down to the fifty-fifth) whether the front line (infantry only) in the next war should be as near as possible to a line joining the Baltic with the Adriatic or as near as possible to a line joining Edinburgh and London. Perhaps it doesn't matter much where it is. If the outcome is already decided (known or unknown to the *Sunday Express*), it doesn't. If the present rulers of England were not traitors anyway, a division of popular opinion such as the *Sunday Express* tends to generate would be seditious. The ballot box—man's coffin.

You notice, don't you John, that these highly competitive modern newspapers don't spring at one another's throats, when one of them starts something? Oh, no! "Live and Let Live"—the Freemason's motto.

Myself when young did eagerly frequent  
 Doctor and Saint, and heard great argument  
 About it and about: but evermore  
 Came out by the same Door as in I went.

(Which—the coming out by the same door—is what may be called the security of the elect, or, simply, INTEGRITY. Those who lack integrity stay inside. Or, those whose singleness of purpose is not to discover Truth stay inside. They die there, and, for them, Leonardo's words have effect).

### Persia and Naval Fuel

Before the war, there was a controversy as to the wisdom of the Royal Navy's being wholly dependent for its motive power upon foreign oil, to the exclusion of British coal. Many people, without investigating the subject for themselves, accepted the views of naval officers of their acquaintance who, in some cases, expressed a strong preference for oil. Civilians and others did not realise that this preference was based solely upon the supposed and apparent technical superiority of oil. The naval officers consulted had not been under any obligation to inquire into the security of the sources of oil-supply or the strategic and political consequences of dependence upon oil derived from the European-Asiatic land-mass, as distinguished from His Majesty's possessions overseas—there being no oil in the British Isles. They could not have considered the enormous tax upon naval resources imposed by the need to convoy oil-tankers, whether carrying oil or in ballast, or the question of the currency to be used in paying for the oil. Moreover, there is no reason to suppose that they realised the existence of modern devices for the automatic bunkering and stoking of coal, which had not been put into use on a large scale, because coal was used only by the most far-sighted shipowners who had refused the public subsidy for converting their ships from coal-burning to oil-burning.

Certain officers, however, expressed themselves in no uncertain terms upon this subject. They advocated alternative firing—that is to say ships constructed to burn either coal or oil, there being such ships in all navies, but the British and U.S.A. navies.

Among the officers who drew *public* attention to the danger of total dependence upon oil there were:—

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt, G.C.B., D.S.O., Admiral Sir Howard Kelly, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O., Admiral Sir Frederick Tudor, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond, K.C.B., Admiral Sir Douglas Nicholson, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., Admiral Sir Reginald Hall, K.C.M.G., C.B., Lieut.-Colonel Sir Arnold Wilson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.M.G., D.S.O. (formerly British Resident in the Persian Gulf and Chief Political Officer, Iraq, and later the Resident Director in Persia of the Anglo Persian Oil Company), Admiral Sir Barry Domville, K.C.B., C.B., C.M.G., Rear Admiral Sir Edward Inglefield, K.B.E., Engineer Rear Admiral H. S. Garwood, C.B., O.B.E. (Engineer-in-Chief, Royal Navy), Admiral Wilmot Nicholson, C.B., Vice Admiral Humphrey Hugh Smith, D.S.O. There were many others of less note.

PARLIAMENT (continued from page 3).

Service, the county agricultural executive committees and the total staff, administrative and technical, employed by his Department.

*Mr. Champion:* The staff now employed by the National Agricultural Advisory Service numbers 1,674, and by the county agricultural executive committees 6,986. The total staff in the Ministry numbers 15,037, of whom 5,200 are professional scientific and technical workers and 9,837 belong to other classes.

**Dried Eggs**

*Mr. Hugh Fraser* asked the Minister of Food whether he proposes to sell to the public dried eggs recently purchased by his Department.

*Mr. Webb:* Not directly to the consuming public. It will reach them by way of the bakers and food manufacturers.

*Mr. Fraser:* Would not the right hon. Gentleman reconsider his decision, as it would be of immense benefit to the householder if more dried eggs were available?

*Mr. Webb:* We have to consider what is the best way to use this extra supply.

I am convinced that the best way to distribute it is in the way we have adopted, that is, to send it out through the bakers and confectioners and, in that way, give it to the consumers.

**Agriculture (Capital Investment)**

*Mr. Nugent* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the capital investment programme was allocated to agriculture in the years 1948, 1949 and 1950.

*Mr. J. Edwards:* The percentage of gross fixed investment devoted to agriculture was 4.3 in 1938, 3.8 in 1949 and 3.9 in 1950.

**Retail Prices**

*Sir W. Darling* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an arrangement whereby retailers who sell at half permitted profit with the object of lowering the cost of living may have a like proportion of Purchase Tax remitted.

*Mr. Jay:* No. Purchase Tax is levied when the goods pass to retailers and it would not be practicable to assess it by reference to prices charged after that point.

**National Finance (U.N. Subventions) (Cost)**

*Sir R. Glyn* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the present annual cost to the Treasury of subventions to the United Nations Organisation; and what proportion of this is the cost of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organisation and similar subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Organisation, respectively; and how these figures compare with those of 1949-50 and 1948-49, respectively.

*Mr. Jay:* The following are the contributions to the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies which were assessed upon the United Kingdom in respect of the calendar financial years within which these organisations operate:

	1948	1949	1950
	£	£	£
United Nations ... ..	990,056	1,145,929	1,355,044
UNESCO ... ..	301,757	262,128	353,870
International Labour Organisation ... ..	133,711	176,116	256,872
World Health Organisation... ..	88,522	151,945	288,930
International Civil Aviation Organisation ... ..	66,053	64,605	83,673
Food and Agriculture Organisation ... ..	179,701	178,771	273,571
International Refugee Organisation ... ..	136,672	128,189	102,783
Universal Postal Union ... ..	1,384	2,694	2,730
International Telecommunications Union ... ..	20,665	41,020	68,857
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>1,918,521</b>	<b>2,151,397</b>	<b>2,786,330</b>

House of Commons: July 17, 1951.

**Grass Acreage**

*Mr. M. MacPherson* asked the Secretary of State for Scotland in how many cases were directions served in 1950 limiting the area of pasture on any agricultural unit; how many farmers were involved; and what was the total acreage thus added to the tillage area.

*Mr. T. Fraser:* Eight directions were served in 1950. The directions involved six farmers and a reduction of 183 acres in the area under grass. The authorising Order came into operation on 16th December, 1949, and the agricultural executive committees were unable to make full use of the power in 1950 because farmers' plans for the cropping season had largely been made by them.

*Mr. M. MacPherson:* In view of the large size of the problem concerned and the smallness of the figures which my hon. Friend has given, does he contemplate extending this very serious policy of direction considerably in the future, or does he contemplate carrying it on in an experimental way?

*Mr. Fraser:* I cannot give precise figures for 1951 to to the present time, but I can assure my hon. Friend and the House that the agricultural executive committees have issued a large number of directions this year—and it is only this year that they have had an opportunity of giving effect to these powers.

*Colonel Gomme-Duncan:* In view of the fact that there is a good deal of misunderstanding on this subject, would the hon. Gentleman assure the House that the smaller size of the grass area does not by any means imply a smaller production of food, but in many cases may mean a greater production of food?

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*Mr. Fraser:* I tried to say that in the Agricultural debate the other day, but hon. Members opposite criticised us for having such a small tillage area.

*House of Commons: July 23, 1951.*

### Oil, British Empire

*Mr. J. Langford-Holt* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power, in view of recent developments in the Middle East, what special steps are being taken by His Majesty's Government to find new and more dependable sources of oil within the British Empire.

*The Minister of Fuel and Power (Mr. Philip Noel-Baker):* The oil companies are spending large sums in prospecting for new sources of oil supply in the British Commonwealth and Empire. It has not hitherto been thought necessary or desirable that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom should also undertake this work.

*Mr. Langford-Holt:* Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in one Dominion alone there are 160 oil companies operating which were not operating in 1946, and that not one of those companies is a British company? Would he consider taking action with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make such action possible by British companies?

*Mr. Peter Smithers:* Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the difficulty of the investor in this country in increasing his investment in the Canadian oil industry, and will he go into that point with the Chancellor of the Exchequer?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* Yes, Sir, I am aware of the great difficulties, but I am not sure that I can do much about them.

*Mr. Langford-Holt:* Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Canada hopes, by 1955, to be able to supply all her own oil at a great dollar saving? What help are the right hon. Gentleman and the Government prepared to give to enable this country to go somewhere in that direction?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* I think the Canadian oil industry is being developed as fast as it can be. I think there is no shortage of capital.

*Mr. Langford-Holt:* With American money.

### Production, Northumberland

*Miss Irene Ward* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power the average annual production of deep-mined coal in Northumberland for 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 and for 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950, respectively.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker:* The output of deep-mined coal in 1936 was 14.4 million tons; in 1939, it had fallen to 12.8 million tons; the average for the four years was 13.7 million. In 1945, the output was 9.5 million; in 1947, it was 10.7 million; and in 1950, 12.1 million. The average for the four years was 11.5 million.

*Miss Ward:* Can the right hon. Gentleman tell us the results of the conversations between the Prime Minister and Mr. Arthur Horner over the week-end with regard to the need to have more coal in the north of England than they have at the present time?

*Mr. Speaker:* That does not arise out of this Question.

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* The hon. Member asked for a set of

statistics. They show that under private enterprise there was a large fall—26 per cent.—over the period of 10 years and that since nationalisation there has been a great recovery.

### Coal, Mines (Inquiry)

*Sir Ian Fraser* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power whether, in the light of four years' experience of nationalisation of the mines, he will institute an independent inquiry into its operation.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker:* I would refer the hon. Member to the statements which I made in debates in the House on 25th October and on 12th December.

*Sir I. Fraser:* But does the right hon. Gentleman not think, that without fear or favour and without politics, it would be a good thing for the nation to find out why we cannot get as much coal as we need?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* Coal output is increasing rapidly. I have the highest confidence in the new National Coal Board. I am sure it would only hamper it in its work of reorganising and re-equipping the industry if we set up an inquiry now.

### Imports

*Air Commodore Harvey* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what quantities of coal he intends purchasing from the United States during the coming year.

*Mr. Gammans* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what orders have been placed in the United States of America or elsewhere for coal to be imported for next winter.

*Mr. Nabarro* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what quantities of American coal he proposes to import during the coal year 1951-52.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker:* No decision has been made to import coal, either from the United States or from elsewhere.

*Air Commodore Harvey:* Will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind what happened last year when this decision was left so late that the country did not know where it stood with regard to coal supplies either for industry or for household use? Is it not his duty to make up his mind now one way or the other?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* I am certainly not likely to forget what happened last winter.

*Mr. Gammans:* Does the Minister's answer mean that now in July the Government have not the faintest idea whether they have got to import coal or not? Does the right hon. Gentleman realise that if he waits until the autumn or winter either he will get no coal at all or else it will be at a much higher price than the price for which he can buy it now?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* My answer means exactly what it says.

*Mr. Nabarro:* Does the Minister realise that his late decision last year resulted in a chronic dislocation of the freight markets of the world, and that this year we are paying the price by a grievous reduction in iron ore imports, which, in turn, will affect our steel production? Now will he do something about it?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* If I announced a decision to import coal today it would have the same effect upon the freight markets. Shipping is very scarce today.

*Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd:* Will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind that the great congestion on the railways this year provides an additional reason, even above those reasons which became so obvious last year, why he should take an early decision? Have the Coal Board advised him that it is necessary to import American coal?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* I do not wish to add to what I have said. I am fully aware of the considerations which the right hon. Gentleman has advanced.

*Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre:* In view of the right hon. Gentleman's own figures about the present rate of consumption and the impossibility of building up the winter coal stocks, how can he say that he cannot arrive at a decision by this time? Surely it is necessary to do so.

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* I have not said it is impossible to build up the necessary winter stocks. What I have said is that it is necessary to increase output and to secure economy in the use of coal which, at present, is used very wastefully indeed.

### Hydro-Electric Development, North Wales

*Mr. Vosper* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power if the proposals for hydro-electric development in North Wales have now been submitted to him; and if it is intended to introduce legislation this year.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker:* No detailed proposals for hydro-electrical development in North Wales have yet been submitted to me by the British Electricity Authority. I cannot therefore, say if, or when, legislation may be required.

*Mr. Vosper:* Before the right hon. Gentleman considers sanctioning legislation, will he take into account the views of the sub-committee set up by the National Parks Commission to consider this matter and also those of his colleagues, including the Minister of Local Government and Planning, who said on the 10th July in the House:

"Quite frankly, I am against a lot of the projects for the Snowdonia area." [OFFICIAL REPORT, 10th July, 1951; Vol. 490, c. 179.]

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* I have discussed with the B.E.A. some of the questions of general principle involved in the North Wales hydro-electric scheme and have warned them that, in my view, some of the schemes are open to considerable objection on amenity grounds.

### Rural Schemes

*Mr. Crouch* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power how many rural electricity undertakings there were in 1922, 1939, 1948 and 1951, respectively; and how many farms were taking current during each of these years.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker:* Before the industry was nationalised, nearly all the electricity undertakings served rural, as well as urban, areas. All the area electricity boards now do so. I regret that I have no information about how many farms were connected to the mains in 1922 and 1939. On 31st March, 1948, the number was 80,770; on 31st March, 1950, it was 99,365.

*Mr. Crouch:* Were these increases brought about entirely due to the development of electricity and, proportionately, has there been no greater development of electricity in agriculture than of electricity in industry?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* I should not like to answer that without notice. What I can say is that I think the development of electricity in agriculture is going faster today than ever before.

*Mr. R. A. Butler:* In that case, would the Minister expedite schemes in North Essex which have been deliberately turned down on the excuse that it was impossible at present to make progress in this matter?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* The right hon. Member knows that the restrictions on total investment limit the number of connections that have been made, but the connections since 1947 have been more than before.

*Mr. Butler:* In that case, why did the right hon. Gentleman answer previously that things were "going very well."

*Major Legge-Bourke:* Will the Minister bear in mind that although some progress has been made, before nationalisation many of the companies had prepared schemes which, had they been allowed to go ahead with them, would by now probably have covered every village in certain areas, but that only very few have, in fact, been reached?

*Mr. Hugh Fraser:* Will the right hon. Gentleman also bear in mind that in Staffordshire there were schemes that were approved in 1939 but which are not yet completed, and will he make a statement to the House about his plans for rural electrification in the immediate future?

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* I am most anxious to help forward all profitable schemes—all schemes for the national advantage—but the hon. Member will, I am sure, recognise that there has been a war.

### Power Cuts

*Mr. Nabarro* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power, in consideration of those provisions of the Electricity Supply Regulations, 1937, which require electricity undertakings constantly to maintain a supply of energy sufficient for the use of all consumers, what action should be taken by a domestic or industrial consumer to secure redress for damages arising from interruption of electricity supply during power cuts, or diminution of supply during shedding of power load.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker:* The provisions to which the hon. Member refers permit the discontinuance of the supply of electricity in case of emergency, and the electricity boards do not make a cut, except when excessive demand would cause a break-down of their plant. I am advised that the boards are not, therefore, liable for any damage which may unfortunately result from power cuts, since they are acting within their legal rights.

*Mr. Nabarro:* When the right hon. Gentleman refers to an emergency, are we not going to have daily emergencies throughout next winter? Surely the industrial and domestic consumer must have some right to compensation in the event of injury or loss of life or damage.

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* I have given the hon. Gentleman the answer with respect to the meaning of the Regulations to which he has referred. Of course, we may have power cuts, as there have been power cuts in many countries where demand exceeds supply.

*Mr. W. Robson-Brown:* Has the right hon. Gentleman had a ruling from the Attorney-General on this point as to

whether the Regulations relate to break-downs? I doubt if that is the proper interpretation of it.

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* If the hon. Gentleman has any doubts he can probably advise somebody to go to the courts, but I am advised that the British Electricity Authority never cut power unless the excessive demand would cause a break-down of their plant. That would be so much against the national interest that it is an emergency.

*Mr. Nabarro:* What is an emergency? Will the right hon. Gentleman define an emergency?

### Treason Law

*Mr. Eric Fletcher* asked the Attorney-General whether the Government have now reached any decision to introduce legislation revising the law of treason in order to bring it into line with modern requirements.

*Mr. Peter Thorneycroft* asked the Attorney-General whether he has now given further consideration to the question of amending the law relating to treason and sedition; and whether he will be in a position to introduce legislation this Session.

*Mr. C. S. Taylor* asked the Attorney-General whether he is now prepared to introduce legislation amending the Treason Act, 1351.

*Brigadier Medlicott* asked the Attorney-General if, in view of the changed conditions now prevailing, the Government have yet reached any decision on the question of amending the law relating to treason and sedition.

*The Attorney-General (Sir Frank Soskice):* The Government have this matter under active consideration, but I am not yet in a position to make a statement and I cannot give an undertaking that there will be legislation dealing with it this Session.

*Mr. Fletcher:* Would my right hon. and learned Friend, in considering what legislation is necessary to modernise the law of treason, also consider the law relating to the claims of the Executive to prevent British subjects from leaving the country?

*The Attorney-General:* Yes, Sir. That will also be taken into consideration.

*Mr. Thorneycroft:* Would the right hon. and learned Gentleman agree that there are at present a certain number of men and women in the country who are, quite plainly, traitors in any ordinarily accepted sense of that term, and yet manage to escape the mischief of the rather ancient statutes dealing with this matter? Does not the Attorney-General regard it as a matter of supreme urgency—in fact, above almost anything else—that we should have legislation to deal with that limited class of persons at the earliest possible moment?

*The Attorney-General:* Legislation of that sort has wide repercussions affecting the liberty of the individual and needs to be extremely carefully considered.

*Brigadier Medlicott:* Ought this matter not to have been given immediate consideration as soon as British subjects began to form part of the international force sent into action in Korea over a year ago by the United Nations?

*Mr. Sydney Silverman:* Would my right hon. and learned Friend make it clear that he will never lend his great

authority, or the authority of the Government, to any change in the law which would reduce our position to the positions of Germans under the Hitler régime, in which everything was regarded as treason that was not acceptable to the Government or to the majority?

*Sir Ralph Glyn:* Is the House to understand that in the consideration of this matter the views of Dominion Governments will also be taken into account?

*The Attorney-General:* Naturally, we will endeavour to take into account anything relevant touching this question.

*Mr. S. Silverman:* Will my right hon. and learned Friend answer the question which I put to him?

*Mr. Hopkin Morris:* Does not the withdrawal of passports by the Executive make the demand for legislation in this matter urgent, in order to give the courts jurisdiction. Should not those whose passports have been withdrawn be proceeded against in the courts?

*The Attorney-General:* I can only say that that is the kind of question which we have under consideration.

*Mr. Michael Astor:* In view of the range and scope of Communist activities in the country today, is it not evident that stronger deterrents and measures are needed in this respect? Surely, with due respect, the delay which the right hon. and learned Gentleman has announced to the House is most disquieting. Would he not give an assurance that we shall get an earlier answer, without saying what the answer will be?

*The Attorney-General:* I can give no other assurance than that we are actively considering it in all its aspects, but, as I have said, it is a very difficult question and must be gone into thoroughly.

*Mr. Paget:* Can we at least have an assurance that opinion and expression of opinion will not be included in any definition of treason?

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