

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### From Week to Week

"The capitalist system is tottering to its fall, but, like the Bolshevik Government, which (according to official communiqués), began to totter at its birth, and continued to totter until it has infected half the world with its congenital instability, it may carry on for a long while, if its opponents obligingly demonstrate at short intervals their inability to supplant it by something better." (C. H. Douglas in *Credit Power and Democracy*, 1920.)

It is thirty-three years since 1920. Allowing that we have met an occasional moron who thinks (or at least says) that what he thinks of as the old order (*i.e.*, capitalism) has been supplanted, and that 'this' is what has supplanted it, and this is 'better,' we still think we are justified in saying that, among writers on recent history and politics, Douglas is the only one who does not date.

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Readers will soon have an opportunity of assessing how far we were right when, in the spring of this year, we forecast the tale of the succeeding months.

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"When we envisage in the future Catholics operating, perhaps in Lancashire, a television station reaching more than a million of the faithful, this is primarily thought of as a great new scientific aid in the formation of Catholic homes and individuals, . . ." (*The Tablet*, July 11.)

*Cp.*: "The Church, moreover, had continued the policy adopted since the conversion of the Roman Emperors, the policy of receiving into her fold masses of people who became Christian because their rulers did so. These mass conversions from above had serious consequences. These spiritually immature men and women could grasp the Catholic faith only in a crude and highly imaginative presentation. They could not penetrate below the surface. And they inevitably contaminated its understanding and practise with their credulity and superstition . . . The vast mass of the laity were more than ever the brute beasts St. Gregory had termed them. And the Church was rendered too dependent on the support of the secular rulers . . . Bishops and Popes wasted their spiritual power on political struggles waged by political and even military weapons. . . ." We often wonder how much of Christian journalism is itself almost the direct outcome of the policies which here Mr. E. I. Watkin criticises (*Catholic Art and Culture*, pp. 51-2).

Also relevant to our observations last week are (1) the remark of Mr. P. Ingress Bell, Q.C., M.P., in the correspondence columns of *The Tablet* that "the thirst for power—the exclusive power of 'informing, instructing and amusing'—is the "oldest of temptations," and (2) the

following by Gerald Kendall:—

"Sound broadcasting and television have one peculiar feature as forms of entertainment: *that it is impossible for the provider of the entertainment to recover its cost from the consumer.* This difficulty is overcome at present by the expedient of an annual charge made by a central body for the mere possession of a receiving apparatus. It is a difficulty which does not arise in any of the other forms of entertainment to which *The Tablet* refers, *e.g.*, theatres, films, newspapers, periodicals and so on where one pays as one consumes. If this difficulty did not arise it might be possible to have a number of private television companies corresponding to our publishing houses, theatre managements, *etc.* Now, such a state of affairs would clearly have *everything* to be said for it. It would be in line, to use the words of your article, with some of the strongest things in our national tradition. But nobody has yet suggested how such a desirable state of affairs could be brought about. Instead, we are offered 'commercial television,' and the dishonesty in the argument appears when it is pretended that this is anything like the same thing. . . . Instead of immediately recovering the cost of the entertainment provided, the commercial televiewer hopes to recoup in the form of increased sales for some commercial product. He is not in fact in the least interested in the entertainment except in so far as it serves this end. This is *not* private enterprise in television, but something quite different masquerading under that name."

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Johnny! Just watch the little dog's tail being converted into little dog while he eats it!—"Acting in accordance with the State Department's directive, the Bombay office of the U.S. Information Department has removed from its shelves *Union Now* by Clarence K. Streit. Three years ago, Mr. Streit edited another book called *The New Federalist*, which advocated precisely the same policies as those he had put forward in *Union Now*. *The New Federalist* contains an introduction which says that the book 'deserves, and I trust will receive, widespread consideration.' It praises Mr. Streit as a man of 'political vision, wisdom and courage.' The introduction is by Mr. John Foster Dulles." (*The Observer*.)

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Dr. J. B. Matthews had an article in *The American Mercury* for May in which he says: "If all the colleges and universities in the United States had been closed for the past thirty-five years, there is no reason to believe that our national situation would be any the worse, *insofar as an intelligent approach to the problem of Communism is concerned.* In fact, a case can be made for the argument that we should be in a much better position in this respect if they had been closed."

## PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: June 18, 1953.

### Trade with China

*Dr. Stross* asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he will make a further statement on the export to China of antibiotic drugs, including the results of recent official conversations with other European countries which are supplying these drugs since British exporters were refused licences.

*Mr. P. Thorneycroft*: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Wavertree (Mr. Tilney) on 30th April, when I informed the House that those Western European Governments which had hitherto permitted the export of pharmaceuticals to China without restriction had now agreed to impose similar restrictions to ours.

*Dr. Stross*: Does the President's answer mean, in effect, that we have lost the £2 million order which was offered to manufacturers in this country and that there is no further hope of securing any increase in the trade?

*Mr. Thorneycroft*: If the hon. Member wants to put down a Question about a specific order perhaps he will do so. My answer means that we and other European countries are having controls similar to one another instead of different ones.

*Mr. S. Silverman*: Does the right hon. Gentleman realise that the answer to which he referred in his answer today is now wholly out of date in the new circumstances and that the new agreement with the European countries is not likely to mean much in view of what we all hope is the rapidly approaching end of hostilities with China? Does he realise that, in any case, to regard these drugs as strategic material has always been offensive to the consciences of many people?

*Mr. Thorneycroft*: I would agree with the hon. Member at least in this—that of all the controls that were forced upon us by aggression in Korea the control of drugs which can be used for the relief of suffering is among the most distasteful. But the circumstances with which I have to deal are as they are today and not what they might be at a future date. On that we and the rest of the European nations are acting in conformity with the United Nations Resolution of May, 1951.

*Dr. Stross* asked the President of the Board of Trade how much streptomycin has been exported to China since 1st July, 1951; and whether, in view of its value in the treatment of tuberculosis, he will permit a substantial increase in the amount.

*Mr. P. Thorneycroft*: Exports of streptomycin are not separately recorded. As regards the second half of the Question, we would be prepared, as my hon. Friend the Secretary for Overseas Trade stated in the Adjournment debate on 15th May, to permit within the quota any reasonable increase in the supply of any drugs primarily required for the civilian population.

*Dr. Stross*: While thanking the President for his answer, which I think is helpful, may I ask whether he is aware that it is said that in China there may be up to 40 million people suffering from tuberculosis and that the term "normal

civilian requirements," which is often used, is rather a mockery? Will the right hon. Gentleman bear this in mind in future?

### Nurses (Penicillin Sensitivity)

*Mr. Hargreaves* asked the Minister of Health the number of district nurses who have developed a sensitivity to penicillin and cannot undertake further nursing duties; and what special precautions are available to protect nurses exposed to this risk.

*Mr. Awobery* asked the Minister of Health how many nurses have been reported as becoming allergic to penicillin; how many had to abandon their nursing career as a consequence; and what is being done to assist nurses who find themselves in such a position after undergoing several years of training.

*Mr. Iain Macleod*: The total number of district nurses affected is not known, but a special inquiry has shown that in 70 local health authority areas 73 nurses had become sensitive to penicillin, and had to give up nursing for varying periods. There is evidence that the incidence can be reduced by strict observance of technical precautions, and I have at once obtained advice on this from my Standing Medical Advisory Committee. I am circulating this advice urgently to local health authorities and others concerned.

Nurses who have to give up work by reason of sensitivity to antibiotics are entitled to the normal sick leave allowances and may, in appropriate cases, qualify for incapacity benefit under the National Health Service (Superannuation) Regulations. They may also, when the circumstances warrant it, qualify for industrial injuries benefit. The numbers, if any, who may have to give up nursing permanently are not yet known.

*Mr. Hargreaves*: Would the Minister consider approaching the employing authorities in these cases, so that they may gain the requisite information from their nursing superintendents? Would he compare the means whereby penicillin is administered in hospitals where the incidence of this sensitivity is less, and possibly learn of a method by which this risk can be reduced for nurses who have to undertake the administering of a great deal of penicillin?

*Mr. Macleod*: I will look carefully into what the hon. Gentleman says. I know there is a great deal of truth in it. Perhaps I might send him a copy of the advice I have been given by the Medical Advisory Committee, which covers many of the points he raises.

House of Commons: June 23, 1953.

### Electricity Generation (Peat Burning)

*Sir David Robertson* asked the Secretary of State for Scotland why the project of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board for the generation of electricity from peat continues to be delayed.

*Mr. Henderson Stewart*: There has been no undue delay. As my hon. Friend is aware, successful experiments have been carried out in the burning of peat in gas turbines. Sir

Edward Appleton's Committee have now recommended that the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board should receive financial assistance through the Development Fund to establish an experimental peat-burning station in Caithness. This proposal is being carefully considered, and I hope that an early decision may be reached.

*Sir D. Robertson:* Is it not a fact that all these decisions by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, by Mr. Tom Johnston, the enthusiastic Chairman, by Sir Edward Appleton's Committee and by John Brown and Company were made a long time ago—some years ago—and that there has been a very serious delay? Will my hon. Friend do something to bring it to an end, because we urgently want the work and wages in Caithness?

*Mr. Stewart:* First of all, the capital cost of this project is a very large sum and could not be approved without very careful consideration. All that is being done now, and I assure my hon. Friend that we at the Scottish Office are most anxious to get a decision.

*Mr. McNeil:* Would the hon. Gentleman not agree that the scientists and administrators concerned having approved the project, nothing can stop the Government finding the funds for a pilot plant to be set up on the site and for further investigation directed to the huge by-products in the form of the agricultural growth that we may expect from the development of such a plant?

*Mr. Stewart:* We are fully aware of the potentialities, but the capital cost is a very considerable sum, and it has, as the right hon. Gentleman knows, to be worked out what proportion should be for this and that, and so on. I assure the House that we are doing our best to get a decision.

*Mr. McNeil:* Would the hon. Gentleman tell us what kind of capital sum he thinks is involved in a project for a pilot plant for Caithness?

*Mr. Stewart:* Something of the order of £500,000.

*Mr. McNeil:* Would the hon. Gentleman not agree that since relief has been given to the extent of £45 million or £50 million in taxation in the present Budget it is utterly disgraceful that this project should be hung up for the approval of £500,000?

*Mr. Stewart:* The right hon. Gentleman is not in a position to call this project disgraceful. It is not a new one. It is an old project. We have the duty of bringing it to fruition, and I am saying that we are doing our best to do that.

### Detergents

*Mr. Rankin* asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what information he has received from his technical staff to show which detergents are harmful in their effects on the skin particularly in producing eczema, and should therefore be avoided.

*Mr. Henderson Stewart:* None, Sir.

*Mr. Rankin:* Could the Minister tell us if there are any periodical analyses conducted by his technical staff in order to ascertain and keep themselves fully informed of any pos-

sible change in the constituents of detergents?

*Mr. Stewart:* I think that is done. I should perhaps inform the hon. Member that the Department of Health chief medical officer advises that while there have been isolated cases of dermatitis here and there, and while there have been suggestions made that they might have been caused by detergents, neither the Department, the Ministry of Health, the Minister of Labour nor the Ministry of National Insurance have any positive records to show that dermatitis or eczema is being caused by detergents in general or by any particular types of them.

*Sir H. Williams:* Will the hon. Gentleman consult with the Minister of Housing and Local Government, who recently appointed a committee to inquire into the effects of detergents and all that sort of thing?

*Mr. Stewart:* We are in touch with all these developments.

*Lieut.-Colonel Lipton:* Is the Minister aware that there have been constant complaints by housewives south of the border, and will he consult with the Ministry of Health to ensure that some independent research through the Medical Research Council is conducted into the constituents of these detergents with a view to removing the fairly widespread anxiety that exists?

*Mr. Stewart:* I will convey that suggestion to my right hon. Friend.

### International Agencies (Tax Free Salaries)

*Mr. Grimond* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the Government's policy about the payment of tax-free salaries to British servants of international agencies.

*Mr. R. A. Butler:* It is the Government's policy to see that British servants of international agencies are treated no differently from the servants of other nationalities of the same agencies. So far as exemption from United Kingdom Income Tax is concerned, the matter is governed by the International Organisations (Immunities and Privileges) Act, 1950. This requires that privileges may not be granted until an Order in Council has been made and approved by each House of Parliament.

*Mr. Grimond:* May I ask the Chancellor whether the decisions are uniform throughout all these agencies? Also, while I appreciate the great difficulties of drawing up any international salary scales in view of the taxation position, may I ask whether there is not now some anomaly between the position of some people working in these agencies and others doing similar work in international services?

*Mr. Butler:* The matter has received some public attention and it is a source of some anxiety to at least one international organisation, which has just started an inquiry. I can assure the hon. Member that if any such inquiry is instituted by an international organisation we, so far as we are concerned, will take an interest in the matter.

*Mr. Driberg:* The right hon. Gentleman did not answer all the last supplementary question. Could he say whether the scales are in fact uniform as between nationals of different countries? He says ours should be treated no differently

(continued on page 6.)

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Saturday, July 18, 1953.

### Western Economics Threatened by Peace\*

In a recent issue of the Melbourne Communist *Guardian*, a cartoon depicts a group of worried company directors, and a chairman, announcing, "Gentlemen, we are desperately threatened by peace!" We do not pretend to know what is going on inside Soviet Russia, but we are certain that if the Communist leaders persist with their "peace offensive" they are going to force all Western nations, particularly the U.S.A., either to modify their present financial policies drastically, or to move further along the road which leads to Communism, irrespective of what it is called.

Unlike most other people, Social Crediters have not been surprised by the recent reports concerning the growing trade war between the various Western nations. Although President Eisenhower stated before his election that he favoured the abolition of all impediments to free trade, enormous pressure is being exerted upon him by American producers who demand increased tariff barriers to protect them against imports from Great Britain and other countries. This has resulted in a chorus of criticism from outside America. The Communists exploit this criticism to their own advantage.

At the conclusion of a recent editorial on the subject of trade with America, the Melbourne *Age* commented: "With a heavy cut in foreign aid, and trade hedged about with multiple barriers and restrictions, the omens for countries trying to increase their exports and earnings in the U.S.A. are not good. Unless there is a change of policy in Washington, and a recognition that America, as the leading creditor nation, is strong enough to accept imports from friendly countries, many hopes that were encouraged a few months ago seem likely to fade." America's trade policy cannot be changed under present financial rules.

Ever since the war ended we have drawn attention to the fact that the American economy demonstrated the truth of the Social Credit financial analysis that a modern power economy cannot and does not distribute over any given period of time sufficient purchasing power to buy all goods produced. War, or the threat of war, has helped hide the growing deficiency of purchasing power. War and preparation for war means an enormous expansion of new credit to finance production which is not for sale. In fact, the basic idea is to "give" most of this production to the military enemy. But once "peace breaks out," it is necessary to try and give away portion of local production in order to achieve a "favourable balance of trade." Unfortunately for the Americans, they are now finding that Great Britain and other European countries are now rapidly recovering from war damage, are themselves producing enormous

quantities of the goods previously sent to them from America, and because of the very financial rules which force the Americans to try and export more than they import, are striving desperately to sell their "surplus" production in America. The Americans have reacted to this by increasing trade barriers.

If the threat of military war should continue to recede, it will not be long before every highly industrialised country will be faced with the same problem they had before the war; a local deficiency of purchasing power to buy all local production, and the growing necessity of trying to keep out most imports while exporting as much as possible. The result can only be a major trade war between the Western Powers, as classical Communist doctrine predicts, or a modification of domestic financial policies which enable a much higher standard of living and only sufficient exports necessary for desired imports. A modification of the financial policies of the Western nations would strike a death blow at the Communist conspiracy.

It is our opinion that the "threat of peace" is making it easier to get responsible members of the community to take an intelligent interest in the proposals we have put forward for a realistic financial policy. We therefore appeal to all to avail themselves of the opportunities with which we are confident events will increasingly present them.

### The Secret Vote

Mr. Christopher Hollis is one of the vast majority of parliamentarians who have not yet disengaged themselves from the debating society notion that political truth can be realised by strenuously debating how things can be done, the purpose of doing them being all the time kept as much as possible in the background: government by debate. His view of what would constitute a *sufficient* reform of House of Commons procedure differs from ours probably for this reason. In *The Observer* for July 12, he says:—

"The tradition of our Constitution is that the electors' vote is secret, and the debates of the Cabinet are secret, but that the Member of Parliament is a public man who has to vote in the public eye. If his real vote is the secret vote which he gives in the private party meeting, and the public vote is a meaningless formality, the whole purpose of the Constitution is violated. It would be better to make the Parliamentary vote a secret vote. But this would be a revolutionary change. The reform that is here suggested is much smaller and more easily practicable."

The "reform that is here suggested" is an extension of the use of the Standing Committee, where rigid party discipline is less evident than in the Committee of the Whole House.

### Danger of Plenty?

Under the above heading, the *Daily Telegraph* for July 13 publishes the following letter from Mr. Paul de Hevesy:—

"Sir,—It seems that the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Benson, has expressed the hope that there was a 'chance' that drought conditions might spread in the Wheat Belt of the United States and reduce the size of this year's crop.

"It is surely a little odd that while millions are praying to God for their daily bread, a distinguished Minister of State should affix the term 'chance' to the calamitous possibility of a poor crop."

\*From *The New Times*, Melbourne, of May 15.

## The Constitutional Challenge

by NORMAN F. WEBB.

In these strange times, when the shape of events seems almost to dissolve and lose meaning while the events themselves are still taking place, one must rate the refusal on the part of President Eisenhower and the Supreme Court to reverse the death sentence on the Rosenbergs as an occurrence of immense significance. The mental and political pressure brought to bear can only have been met and withstood with the help of the largely-unexpressed, but real national feeling of what may truly be called, perhaps for the first time in history, the American People.

No matter what the side issues, or ideological cross-currents involved, and apart from any personal tragedies or even manipulations of justice there may or may not have been, the fact remains that the historical United States, the nation existing in space-time between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the borders of Canada and the Central American Republics, has achieved a real, concrete effect.

An interesting thing to note is that, like so much of *real* achievement in this life, this achievement appears to our human senses in the form of a negative. For the actual event that will stand out in historical retrospect is not at all the conviction of the Rosenbergs; an act of rough human justice that may easily, as the defence counsel alleges, have been more than ordinarily biased and faulty, but the refusal to yield to a challenge that was not a challenge to the quality of United States justice, but to the whole political Constitution of the country.

What is a Constitution? Rousseau notwithstanding, that it arises from a pact or contract is generally denied. For Montesquieu, it is what arises from the resolution of a state of war between individuals. For English lawyers, it is a growth which is the framework, not the source, of the organs of government. There can be no political society, no nation, without a political Constitution, written or unwritten, and *vice versa*.

A challenge to the constitution is a challenge to the individuals composing the nation, and involves an issue of supreme importance; that of the right of the individual, within reasonable limits, to freedom from outside interference. Can that right of the United States citizen be challenged inside his own country? Or can't it? Beside that tremendous issue the poor Rosenbergs fade into insignificance. Can the arch-manipulators of pressure-politics and synthetic public opinion move from one national area to another and successfully challenge the integrity of each in turn?

As Douglas was always pointing out, the Four Freedoms, promulgated at that fantastic conference between Roosevelt and Churchill in mid-ocean, as they were intended to be, and have been used, amounted to no less than a licence to Internationalism to interfere in the internal affairs—the Constitution—of all national units, and thus with the rights of their individual members to work out their "own salvation with fear and trembling," as St. Paul puts it.

In the light of Christian philosophy, if freedom depends on access to the Truth, *i.e.*, undoctored facts and information, it is a prime necessity to defend ourselves and our mental

integrity from *outside interference*, and to preserve freedom of access to the sources of Truth? That is the only Freedom worth having, and the one from which all other freedoms stem. And that freedom is invariably the focus of attack upon the individual; an attack engineered among the mobile squads of the chronically disgruntled but always vocal minority, whose voices, amplified by radio and press, are made to sound like the *vox populi*, before which politicians and even statesmen must bend.

But, on occasions, in Great Britain at any rate, the real national voice has been heard above the syndicated demand for this and that, that is almost always a demand in some shape or form to interfere with the other man's natural environment. Now, at last, it would seem as though the real United States of America has spoken, in what amounts to a plain request to outsiders to mind their own business, and keep their hands off the American Constitution. No doubt there are many other matters involved. It could hardly be otherwise in a land where McCarthyism is rampant. Nevertheless, if the term Communism stands for anything, it stands for an intention, if not a demand, to interfere in other people's affairs, and as such is the challenge which the President has so courageously resisted.

Familiarity with this world does not increase one's admiration for mere size. Quality is what counts. But quality plus quantity is undoubtedly impressive. It is for this reason that one feels this to be an event of such significance. That a national association, though amorphous, of such proportions as the United States of America should act through its accredited head, coming out *on the side of the individual* and his right to freedom from undue and above all underground and occult interference, is surely a great event, which might be taken as an encouraging example to lesser and more tractable national units.

The letter that purported to be a last-moment, personal appeal to the President from the unfortunate Mrs. Rosenberg, is indeed an extraordinary document, suggesting much more the hand of her counsel, Mr. Bloch. By implication, it is written exclusively to, and for the Eisenhowers, and drives directly at the very mid-ribs of their family sentiment. But it is manifestly intended for a world audience, and contains every known device of mass-persuasion, not excluding thinly-veiled threats. One feels deep sympathy with the President in the circumstances; but if he ever had any doubts on the matter, this letter must have gone a long way to settle them, and help to stiffen his resolve.

What woman, on the very verge of execution, and pleading for life, would write: ". . . As Commander-in-Chief of the European theatre you had ample opportunity to witness wanton and hideous tortures that such a policy of vengeance had wreaked on vast multitudes of guiltless victims. [The policy referred to, of course, is the ordinary course of United States law regarding treason.] Today while these ghastly mass butchers, these obscene Fascists are graciously receiving the benefits of mercy, and in many instances being reinstated in public office, the great democratic United States is proposing the savage destruction of a small and unoffending Jewish family whose guilt is seriously doubted through the length and breadth of the civilised world."

Could any combination of words have been better cal-

culated than those to seal up and make impossible all chance of the reasonable exercise of personal clemency? It is obvious that the Rosenbergs have long ceased to be individuals with wills and needs of their own. They have just become symbols of a collective revenge complex as blind and insensate as the reprisals it incurs. Their reprieve, involving the giving way weakly to mental intimidation by the incipient national consciousness of the United States, with its growing sense of purpose and destiny within its own sovereign territory, had obviously become in the last two years a *fixed idea* with the forces of Organised Internationalism living within her boundaries, entrenched in their grotesque fortress on New York's East River. It wasn't the lives of the Rosenbergs that was wanted, except in so far as their reprieve would have signalled a further undermining and defeat of Constitutionalism in the United States.

But it was not to be. The natural instinct of self-preservation came to the surface in the United States, just as it has done at crucial moments in the history of this country and declared itself in an act—or refrains from action—on the part of the nation's executive, that was both realistic and courageous. One would like to see an appreciation of this encouraging fact showing in our own press and people. Instead the *London Observer*, in spite of its "American" affiliations, confines itself entirely to brief comment, displaying oblique and academic disapproval of the President's bold action. The *London Daily Telegraph* omits altogether to publish the letter of appeal, and refrains from any comment at all.

Opinion in this country, however, should keep on the alert. A brave act is always worthy of notice, particularly one of moral bravery. Whether she is fully conscious of the fact or not, the United States is engaged in calling a bluff, and when a bluff is well and truly called, the results are usually startling in their rapidity and scope. We in the Social Credit movement have engaged in an attempt to call what we, at least, consider to be one of the greatest bluffs of all time—the Central Bankers' claim to the ownership of national credit—which is undoubtedly one with the Internationalists' claim to the right of interference in, and subversion of, the internal affairs of every national group in the world, and, ultimately, in the policy of every individual constituent. Such an attempt requires, above anything realism for successful dealing with it; such realism as the unfortunate German nation appears to have lacked, and such realism as our socialist-ridden country appears to be lacking at the present time. Let us hope this last is only an appearance.

DR. AND MRS. C. G. DOBBS would welcome, for periods up to a week or ten days during August, 1953, a few people as (expense-sharing) guests who would be interested in combining a holiday in North Wales with a serious study of Social Credit. Applicants should be annual subscribers to *The Social Crediter*, or strongly recommended by social crediters of long standing.

Enquiries should be made to Mrs. C. G. Dobbs, Bodifyr, Bangor, Caernarvonshire.

#### PARLIAMENT—

(continued from page 3.)

from any others. If that is so, why does not the same principle apply to Servicemen in the various forces of the United Nations?

*Mr. Butler:* I should want notice of the exact situation of each particular international agency concerned. All we want to see is that our nationals are treated the same as other nationals. If the hon. Member cares to put down a Question on the other point, I will try to give him an answer.

#### Air Pollution Inquiry

*Mr. Bartley* asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government if he will ensure that the committee of inquiry into the problem of air pollution will include investigations into the effects of the discharge of sulphuretted hydrogen into the atmosphere in areas where there are colliery refuse tips and refuse from chemical works.

*The Minister of Housing and Local Government (Mr. Harold Macmillan):* The committee's terms of reference will be wide enough to cover this, but I would prefer them to decide, from the evidence they receive, which particular aspects most need investigating.

*Mr. Bartley:* Is the Minister aware that the case of this discharge of sulphuretted hydrogen, to which I have drawn attention recently in this House, is one which has been the subject of a public analyst's report recently, in which a statement was made that this kind of atmospheric pollution might be a danger to public health? Will the right hon. Gentleman expedite an inquiry in order that local authorities may have information about the most up-to-date methods of preventing this pollution?

#### Mid-Ocean Club, Bermuda

*Mr. Mikardo* asked the Prime Minister whether he has examined the evidence submitted to him by the hon. Member for Reading, South, establishing that the Mid-Ocean Club in Bermuda, where he is to meet President Eisenhower, refuses accommodation to Jews as transient guests; and whether he will make a further statement.

*The Prime Minister:* I thank the hon. Member for the information that he has given me, but it does not in my view substantiate the charge that the Mid-Ocean Club discriminates against Jews as such. I am assured that Jews are accepted as members and as guests of the club. A member of the Jewish community who was introduced by another Jew happens to be staying there at the present time. I could furnish the hon. Gentleman with the names, although I do not wish to give undue publicity to private individuals.

*Mr. Mikardo:* While I thank the right hon. Gentleman for the interest he has taken in this matter and for carefully examining the evidence, may I ask him whether he is aware that an organisation representing 125 tourist bureaux in New York have said that on the experience of these bureaux the club definitely exercises discrimination against Jewish guests? Is he also aware that the club authorities were recently unable to explain why it was that a non-Jewish gentleman applying for accommodation was offered the choice of several rooms while a Jewish person applying for the same accommodation

at the same time was told that the club was full? Will he look at the matter again, because I am sure he has been quite inadvertently misled in this affair.

*The Prime Minister:* The club is a members' club and is managed by the members on their authority. Of course, Christians are not the only ones who sometimes get black-balled. I am assured that there is no inhibition on principle. I have very definite evidence. Some statements have been made. There is a New York travel agency which depends very largely for its clientele upon members of the Jewish community and which presses very much for their inclusion in this club as what are called transient guests. I am assured that there is no discrimination on grounds of racial principle at all, but one can easily see that an organised system of offering membership of the club might give an unfair commercial advantage to the agency concerned.

### Air Pollution Inquiry

*Sir W. Wakefield* asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government whether, in appointing the members of the committee which is to undertake a comprehensive review of the causes and effects of air pollution and what further preventive measures are practicable, he will ensure that a sufficient number of those appointed as members will be prominent men of science and qualified and independent fuel technologists.

*Mr. H. Macmillan:* Yes.

### Ministry of Health Food Poisoning, Lancashire

*Dr. Broughton* asked the Minister of Health the precise cause and the full extent, of the recent widespread outbreak of food poisoning in Lancashire.

*Mr. Iain Macleod:* The precise cause of the outbreak is the consumption of infected meat pies manufactured between 10th and 12th June. The identification of the method of infection of such pies is always difficult and is not yet complete, but the action taken a week ago to stop manufacture and distribution has prevented further spread. 1,131 notifications have been received up to date distributed as follows:

Lancashire County Districts—740 (23 in hospital).  
Preston—201 (five in hospital).  
Blackpool—187 (four in hospital).  
Blackburn—three.

There have been two deaths. The increase in numbers over those reported last week is mainly due to late notification.

*House of Commons: June 24, 1953.*

### European Agricultural Markets (Conference)

*Mr. H. Hynd* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the extent of British participation in the Green

Pool which was discussed at a meeting of European Ministers of Agriculture in March last; and what progress has been made in setting up this organisation.

*Mr. Selwyn Lloyd:* The Ministerial Conference held last March set up an Interim Committee, composed of representatives of European Governments, including Her Majesty's Government, which is to put forward proposals, by 31st October, for the organisation and unification of agricultural markets. A further Ministerial Conference will then be held to discuss these proposals.

*Mr. Hynd:* May we take it that the Government are watching this sympathetically?

*Mr. Lloyd:* We are watching it carefully. We must wait and see what the proposals are.

### East Africa (Groundnuts Scheme)

*Mr. Ellis Smith* asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies the present position and future intentions of Her Majesty's Government on the African Groundnuts Scheme.

*Mr. Lyttelton:* The Overseas Food Corporation is continuing the experimental programme described in Command 8125. The talks with the Tanganyika Government to which I referred on 25th February are still proceeding. I am not yet in a position to make a statement, but will do so as soon as I can.

*Mr. Ellis Smith* asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will publish a White Paper containing a full report, minutes of committees, letters and memoranda since the shortage of fats arose, the dates when the United Africa Company and Unilevers were approached and their replies and including any other information on record; and why Her Majesty's Government have now decided to hand over the management of the groundnuts and subsidiary industries in Africa to these organs of private enterprise.

*Mr. Lyttelton:* No. As I informed the hon. Member last week there is no truth in the report that the Government have decided to hand over the Groundnut Scheme to private enterprise. East Africa Industries Limited, with which United Africa Company are now associated, is in no way connected with the Groundnut Scheme, but is a subsidiary of the Colonial Development Corporation.

### Milk and Rice

*Mr. James Hudson* (Ealing, North): . . . I am arguing with the Parliamentary Secretary that at a time when milk consumption should increase in this country, as it is increasing in other countries, when we should be in a position to have per head of the population at least a consumption similar to that existing in America, there should be a much more careful appraisal of the problem facing us by the Government.

On the issue of milk for school children, about which there is a difference of opinion between the Government and

my hon. Friend, the figures in the Monthly Digest of Statistics show a remarkable fall in consumption. No matter who is right, the milk supplied through schools was never intended to be all the milk that children consumed; the scheme was intended to guarantee the absolutely necessary minimum for the developing health of the community. . . .

*The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food (Dr. Charles Hill):* . . . Now for the break-up of these figures. I have the figures for milk for the full financial year, to 31st March, 1953. . . .

. . . Let us look at what has happened under the various headings. The drop in the consumption of ordinary milk—not school nor welfare milk—in the United Kingdom is 2.2 per cent. There is no change in the school milk total consumption, but allowing for the rise in school population between the two years, the fall in consumption per head of those taking school milk is about 3 per cent. I am recording this fact and I, like the hon. Gentleman, deplore it. My only comment is that those who allege that price is the only factor in the consumption of milk must reckon with the fact that school milk is free and that the consumption per head of the beneficiaries has gone down by 3 per cent. That leads us into another field, but I want fairly to record the fact and to deplore it. . . . In the case of welfare milk, there has been a drop of 2.7 per cent, and, on the face of it, that is wrong. But if one does the honest thing and calculates the change in the number of beneficiaries, partly due to the fall in the birth rate, one finds that there has not been a fall, but that the figure per beneficiary is up by 2.75 per cent.

The House does not need to be reminded of what happens to the surplus milk. In May of this year, despite the fact that consumption of milk was equal to that of May last year, there was a greater quantity—in fact, a record amount—available for manufacturing purposes. Indeed, that available milk was one of the factors which made possible the extension of the higher rate of cheese ration. So, on the general topic, we have taken a sensible course of reducing the price of milk when it is flush but re-arranging the price structure for the year so as to keep the subsidy roughly at its present level.

Milk not consumed in liquid form is all consumed in some other form and, I might add, in forms which some people prefer, namely, as butter, cheese, dried milk, or tinned milk. But the fact is that liquid consumption is 60 per cent. above the pre-war level. Lest it be thought that this phenomenon occurred, as has been suggested today, during a Socialist Administration, let us remember that school milk was introduced in 1934, and welfare milk in 1940. Let us remember that the years of biggest increases were 1940, 1941 and 1942 and that, indeed, the bulk of the increase took place before 1945. For two years after 1945 the consumption of milk went down, and I suggest that that fall, associated no doubt with lower production, does not make it reasonable to claim that price, and price alone, is responsible for lower consumption.

I do appreciate the roundsman's difficulties in his arithmetic for the week in which the change occurs. Our

accounting period for other purposes is the calendar month, but I will give the assurance that if experience suggests that if seasonal prices are an advantageous way of securing the consumption of the milk available, I will do my utmost to see that this obvious inconvenience to the roundsman, if not wholly avoided, is minimised. . . .

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