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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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## From Week to Week

Mr. Creech Jones, Under Secretary for the Colonies, accompanied by Mr. A. B. Cohen and secretary, is going to East Africa for a month's Food Talks. The Nairobi Hotels and Clubs have good cooks, and the climate is pleasant at this time of year.

It is quite possible that nothing will save this civilisation. It is a profound mistake to assume that a death-bed repentance, even if there were any sign of it, automatically carries with it a miraculous return to health of the body politic. If such a sequence were automatic, it would not be miraculous. But if health is to return, one premise is primary. Not merely have we to regain the almost forgotten habit of minding our own business, individually and nationally; but we must get out of the vicious hypocrisy that we have any concern with that of our neighbour, unless it is genuinely solicited by the persons affected, and by no other persons.

This fundamental premise is just as true in the case of delegated function, of which there is far too much, as in the activities of the busybody whose retribution is often averted by a claim to be rendering "public service." No one can fail to notice the growth of spying and snooping in this country—a type of behaviour which, fifty years ago, would in all probability have led to a ducking in the village pond. It has been fostered by the "detective" story and the Hollywood cinema film; the man who reads your gas meter or "adjusts" your telephone is probably a gestapo informer; and the co-operative delivery man finds it helpful to report details of household movements.

It is clear enough that the German-prisoner-slave-labour, an institution which transgresses every canon of international custom, decency, and elementary honesty, is the Jew taking his revenge on the lower-class German who was genuinely "anti-Semitic", unlike the Hitler gang who merely used the lower-class Jew just as the upper-class Jew uses him.

Our present Administration has a good deal more lower-class Jew control than previous Governments, which have been instruments of the Cassels, Rothschilds, Zaharoffs and others of the same stamp. But it must be remembered that the native of these islands has nothing whatever to gain from a "Conservative" Party which had a large majority from 1935 to 1945, and whose official pronouncements, even in opposition, seem to be merely a plea to be allowed to be bigger and better Socialists. The most profoundly sound remark made in the past century—a remark which is nearly incomprehensible to the present generation—is that of the Duke, who said that what he liked about the Order of the Garter was that "it has no damned nonsense about merit attached to it." Mr. Emanuel (God with us) Shinwell

warns us (Emanuel is a great warner, if not much of a coal-getter) that "There are far too many people in this country who are rendering no useful service to society whatever." The peculiar insolence of this statement ought not to blind us to the fact that it is an assertion of a standard of life, not to say of a religion; and if it is sustained, the day of England has passed, and the sun of freedom has set.

THE PLANNERS. Our local "authority" with much sweat, blood and tears, decided to erect twenty prefabricated houses and with more s., b., and t. obtained an allocation from the various Ministries concerned. The local builder rushed up the concrete foundations and the necessary service pipes and outlets. A deep peace then fell on the site for some months, after which the local authority woke up again, and demanded delivery of the promised pre-fabs.

The Ministries concerned tossed the ball about for some weeks and then "regretted" that the type of house demanded could not be supplied. The local authority has now gone into a huddle with the local builder to find out what, if any, kind of house can be fitted to the planned foundations.

Mr. Sidney Hillman (Schmuel Gilman) and his World Federation of Trades Unions have not taken long to demonstrate how much they have to do with trade. They do not possess an army, navy and bombing air-force—yet, but every once-sovereign nation is to place a sufficient force at their disposal to enforce "d'markrazi" of the Moscow and Baruch brand on Spain, just to begin with, followed by Argentina and other countries, if any, who don't see eye to eye with Messrs. Gilman and Baruch. As an entrée to this delectable entertainment, the world is to be turned upside down for the holiday months of July and August by demonstrations everywhere against Franco. Waal, waal, waal, or whatever the Yiddish for it is.

## Channel Islands Debt Question

Mr. Gaudin points out that the background of his essay on the Channel Islands Debt question from which we quoted in our issue of June 22 was drafted in 1943 and that obviously he could not have filled in some of the details given in our extracts until after the Islands were relieved. Mr. Gaudin's essay was written last April.

## Twilight of Propaganda

The special correspondent of the *Catholic Times*, writing from Lowicz, says: "The people around me are showing not the slightest reaction. Their indifference is complete . . . the illusion of escape from politics has gone."

## PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, June 19, 1946.

### Aliens (Entry, United Kingdom)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—[Mr. R. J. Taylor.]

Mr. James Callaghan (Cardiff, South): It is with great regret that I keep the House at this time of night. I feel I ought to on this important subject. With great regret I find it my duty to criticise the administration of the Home Secretary in relation to the immigration of people into this country. I do so with more regret because I am aware of the very fine reforms he is carrying out in other fields, notably that of prison reform. I wish I could offer him some congratulations in relation to his policy with regard to immigration. . . . I think it is thoroughly bad that we should have what can only be described as sex discrimination. An Englishman who marries a foreign girl can bring her to live in this country immediately and without question. A British girl who marries a foreigner must either live here separated from her husband or join him in his own country. That seems to me on all social grounds, to be thoroughly bad, and I put it to the Home Secretary that the policy of his administration should be so framed that normally where a British woman has married a foreigner, unless there are good grounds for keeping him out of the country, he should be permitted to enter. There are many fields in which I think State intervention is much better than private enterprise, but if there is a case for private enterprise it is certainly in the choice by a British girl of her husband. I warrant that she will choose someone better to bring into the country than the Home Secretary can.

There is the broader question. We in this country are short of manpower. The Home Office are acting on the assumption that we are still living in the 1930's. Let me read from one answer that I have had from the Home Office in relation to entry of foreigners.

"At the present time when so many British ex-Servicemen are looking for houses or for jobs, and having regard to the present shortages in this country of food and other commodities, aliens who came to this country as members of the Allied Forces or as merchant seamen cannot be permitted to remain here, even though a considerable number of them have married British born women."

I suggest that that attitude is completely misconceived. We are not suffering in this country from a shortage of jobs at the moment. . . . We are living in an expansionist era. Surely, this is a Socialist Government committed to a policy of full employment? In a few years' time we in this country will be faced with a shortage of labour, and not with a shortage of jobs. Our birth rate is not increasing in sufficient proportion to enable us to replace ourselves. Both sides of the House are agreed on the necessity for the Government to take steps to maintain full employment. We are turning away from the shores of this country eligible and desirable young men who could be adding to our strength and resources, as similar immigrants have done in the past, and I suggest that this policy is shortsighted in the extreme.

It may be revolutionary to suggest that we ought now to become a country to which immigrants are welcomed, but that is really the logical development of our present position in the world. . . . We should break away from this artificial segregation of nation from nation that has existed for so long. . . .

Viscount Hinchingbrooke (Dorset, Southern): I only desire to intervene for three minutes in the hope that this will not be regarded as entirely a party matter, because I would like to associate myself wholeheartedly with the eloquent appeal. It is wholly time the Home Secretary should declare his policy, and the policy of the Government, in this matter of immigration, and, for that matter, migration. There are a number of young men and women in this country who wish to migrate to the Dominions and Colonies, and that only makes the problem more serious from the point of view of the hon. Member for Cardiff, South (Mr. Callaghan) because it leaves a bigger gap to fill by immigration into this country.

(The following is the table circulated by Mr. Dalton to which reference was made, T.S.C., June 29:)—Official Report, House of Commons, June 19, 1946—

Direct and Indirect Taxation per head\*.

	Year ended.	In local currency.		In Sterling to nearest £†.	
		Direct.	Indirect	Direct	Indirect.
Great Britain	31.3.46	£43	£23	£43	£23
Australia	30.6.45	£A30	£A16	£24	£13
Canada	21.3.46	\$130.1 including \$18.35 refundable proportion of I.T. and E.P.T.	\$68.43	£29	£15
South Africa (European population).	31.3.44	£S.A.42 Direct and indirect	Included in previous Column. No separate figures are available.	£42 Direct and indirect	Included in previous Column. No separate figures are available.
U.S.A.	30.6.45	\$260	\$44	£64	£11

\* The figures include only taxation levied by the Central Governments and, therefore exclude State, Municipal and Local Taxes.

† Converted at current rates of exchange.

It seems to me the policy of the Home Office is in a glorious muddle. We have had no coherent statement about migration. . . .

*Mr. Pritt* (Hammersmith, North): I would like to add a word or two in support . . .

*Mr. Mallalieu* (Huddersfield): I will not add any more to the cases already given to the House. . . .

*Captain Francis Noel-Baker* (Brentford and Chiswick): I would ask my hon. Friend when he replies to say something about a category of men who, I believe, deserve extra consideration. Those men are the aliens demobilised from the British Forces. . . .

*Mr. Driberg* (Maldon): In addition to the cases mentioned by my hon. Friend the Member for South Cardiff . . .

*Mr. Sydney Silverman* (Nelson and Colne): I will keep the House only for a few moments, because time is getting short, but I think this is one of the occasions when the Home Secretary should hear what the House has to say rather than that the House should hear what the Home Secretary has to say. . . .

*Mr. Durbin* (Edmonton): I should just like to say that before the war many professions assumed a very restrictive policy. In the medical profession, it was insisted that highly qualified doctors should go through elementary tests in medicine before being allowed to go into practice. The result was, that when war came, we found such doctors tending, not our own wounded, but the wounded of our enemies. As a result during the war, the teaching standards of our universities rested largely on refugee economists . . .

*Mr. Royle* (Salford, West): I feel I should like to add one word to this spontaneous and almost unanimous appeal to the Home Office . . .

*The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department* (*Mr. Oliver*): As the time left to me is very short, I think I ought to say at once that the observations that have been made tonight on this matter will be seriously considered, because the Home Office is quite satisfied that the House is concerned on this particular matter.

*Mr. Stokes* (Ipswich): I should jolly well think so. . . .

*Mr. Stokes*: May I ask a question about the hon. Gentleman's preceding remark? Does he mean to tell the House that it is his intention to purge the Home Office of the undesirable elements that are now in it?

*Mr. Oliver*: I do not know to what the hon. Member refers when he speaks about undesirable people in the Home Office.

House of Commons, June 20, 1946.

### National Insurance Publicity

*Mr. Goronwy Roberts* asked the Minister of National Insurance if he is now in a position to indicate how he proposes to have the principles and provisions of the National Insurance Scheme explained to the general public.

*The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of National Insurance* (*Mr. Lindgren*): My right hon. Friend appreciates the importance of making the practical details of the National Insurance scheme known to all members of the public, and it will be his aim to do so by every available means of publicity. He must, of course, await the passing of the Bill into law

and the making of certain regulations before authoritative statements can be issued. . . .

*Mr. Roberts*: Can the Parliamentary Secretary say if my right hon. Friend is considering setting up a distinct section of the Department to do this very necessary piece of work?

*Mr. Lindgren*: Whilst I cannot guarantee that it will be a distinct department, there is a section of the office giving special attention to the general question of publicity and public relations.

### Family Allowance Claims

*Mrs. Ayrton Gould* asked the Minister of National Insurance how many claims to family allowances have been received so far; and how and when claimants may expect to hear the result of their applications.

*Mr. Lindgren*: Nearly 1,900,000 claims have so far been received and notifications to successful applicants will begin to be sent out on 10th July. . . . The total which could have been received is 2,500,000. Of the claims so far received, only 2 per cent. have had to be rejected. . . .

### Police (Powers of Search)

*Mr. Challen* asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he has considered criticisms, communicated to him by the hon. Member for Hampstead, concerning action taken by the police in stopping people in the street in daytime and requiring them to reveal the contents of their pockets and handbags; and if he will make a statement on the subject.

*Mr. Ede*: Yes, Sir. The Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, gives power to a constable to stop, search and detain persons reasonably suspected of having or conveying in any manner anything stolen or unlawfully obtained.

*Sir Waldron Smithers*: The Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*Mr. Ede*: My right hon. Friend is very careful to keep his depredations within the law. . . .

### British Broadcasting Corporation Charter

*Mr. Farmer* asked the Assistant Postmaster-General when the new draft Charter for the B.B.C. will be made available to Members of this House.

*Mr. Pearson* (*Treasurer of His Majesty's Household*): I have been asked to reply. His Majesty's Government have the matter under active consideration, but it is not yet possible to make any statement.

### Germany

#### British Information Services

*Mr. Stokes* asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster the name of the officer in charge of the information control section of the Military Government in Germany, together with the names of his chief staff officers and the journalistic experience of each of them.

*The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster* (*Mr. John Hynd*): Mr. M. L. Balfour is in charge of the British Information Services Control Branch in Germany. His

(continued on page 6)

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Saturday, July 6, 1946.

### Corrupt Government

All Governments are corrupt, and it is probable that, by accommodation, the degree of their corruption may be said to be directly proportional to their pervasiveness, multiplied by the square of their idealism; idealism, in this case, being a synonym of utopianism.

No doubt because of this aspect of the matter, and not because the human material composing it is (with certain reservations) much worse, or better, than that of its predecessors, the present Government of Great Britain is easily the most corrupt and conscious swindle inflicted on the inhabitants of these islands within the past thousand years. This is not intended to be abusive, but rather, objective. There is only one disaster we risk greater than that inflicted on us by the mixture of Jews, Bloomsbury Pinks, Trades Union Monopolists, Land Taxers, and Cartelist-Communists, and that is that, in sheer desperation, by some means or other, we turn them out, without having a clear and effective alternative.

The fundamental difficulty with which we are faced is, of course, the plot, already nearly successful, to substitute centralised police-power for diffused money-power. To indicate how desperate is the problem with which we are faced by the manipulation of idealists by rogues, we may take as an instance Mr. Richard Stokes, M.P. No one in his senses would doubt Mr. Stokes's honesty and sincerity. No one with any knowledge of the real nature of the problem which has to be solved or we perish can fail to recognise the gift from Heaven, or the other place, which Mr. Stokes's opinions and policies offer to the world dominators. His advocacy of a "nationalised" Bank of England, already accompanied by an inflationary process producing, and intended to produce, the meanest possible swindle on the dupes of the Savings Campaign, as well as on those "compensated" for confiscated property, is well paralleled by his advocacy of the Single (Land) Tax, the Bankers' Pet Child. We know it is quite useless to implore Mr. Stokes to consider the fact that land does not grow money and that taxes are paid in money not in land, and the myriad implications thereof; but we do think he might ponder for a while on the relationship of a Land Tax to a money system controlled from "Bretton Woods." Nearly all taxation is vicious; but land taxes are insane.

### The 49th State

The Satanic nature of the attack upon the people of this country is exemplified by its many sided nature, and most of all by the carefully arranged policy of frustration, than which nothing is more destructive to faith—"the substance of things hoped for, the *evidence of things not seen.*" The

technique of this is simple but effective, and bears a good deal of resemblance to the theory and practice of mercantilism. Mrs. Jones can no longer choose chops for lunch—the butcher chooses, and sends corned beef. Mr. Brown has looked forward through a busy life to building himself a house—four bedrooms, a bath, and a lounge hall. Various Ministries inform him that he will be fined £5,000 if he builds a henhouse, but they are going to build some flat-topped aluminium dwellings, with refrigerators, and if he votes Labour he may be allowed to have one.

Mr. Robinson would like some petrol for his car. Dr. Dalton says this requires dollars, and he requires all the dollars available to pay for Hollywood films which depict the population of these islands as half-witted figments of the imagination of Mr. P. G. Wodehouse. Apart from exceptional cases, a few months of this, combined with the lavish salaries of our Kommissars, their frequent Food Talks, deteriorating railway services and higher fares, induces a widespread feeling of "what the h...l, let them do it!" Which is, of course, exactly what is required to reduce us to the forty-ninth state of the Union.

### Anglo-Saxon Commentary

POST-WAR SERIES: NO. 4.

Lyrical rhapsody inspired by the uplifting utterance of Mr. Bernard Baruch at the first meeting of the Atomic Energy Commission of the United States in New York on Friday, June 14: "... we must provide immediate, swift and sure punishment of those who violate the agreements . . . "\*

#### Song for A. D. A.

(ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION)

It's nearly in the bag, boys, it's nearly in the bag.  
 The loftier the sentiments, the lovelier the swag.

A high ideal

Has such appeal—

One bomb, one world, one flag—

AND it's nearly in the bag, boys; it's nearly in the bag.

EXCALIBUR.

\* "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." *St. John XV, 12.*

### Another Palestine?

Soon after the Balfour Declaration had created The Palestine Problem, Lord Northcliffe visited Palestine and wrote that this policy was like to create "another Ireland" in Palestine. Events have proved him right. We should not like to see our Government (which bears no responsibility for the other Ireland in Palestine) help to create another Palestine in Ireland. We have noticed hardly anything in Our Press about a recent by-election in Northern Ireland. A former Common Wealth candidate (defeated in our own elections) was sent across by our Labour Party to contest it as a Socialist. With the approval of Labour headquarters here he fought on a "United Ireland" platform. We would not like to argue the right and wrongs of the division of the Irish island into Eire and Ulster, or to conjecture whether it would be better or worse for the two to be united. We know, however, that the Northern Irish would fight against the loss of self-government and enforced union, and should think our Government has enough on its hands without fanning these flames.

—*Tidings*, June 22.

## A Tasmanian Broadcast

(Hobart, March 24).

In *The Mercury* recently the following report appeared:

"In the Legislative Council last night Mr. Wedd said if apples were going to rot on the ground, he would organise a fleet of lorries to bring them to Hobart for those who could not otherwise get them. He would defy prosecution.

"Mr. Wedd said the season was moving towards its height. There would be terrific wastage of millions of bushels under trees while city dwellers, especially children, were deprived of apples. He realised that previously 8/- to 16/- a bushel had to be paid to the Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board for apples, and children had to pay 1d. each for them in the shops. This was while huge dumps rotted under trees.

"The Government should subsidise shopkeepers so that people could get the fruit at 2/- an open case as formerly. During the cabbage glut Hobart people were enabled to buy at 6d. each, and thousands of cabbages were disposed of. The Council shortly would be asked to approve expenditure of thousands of pounds on hospitals. Apples, if made generally available would remove the necessity for much of this cost by improving health.

"He said if the same conditions as last season were allowed, he would dump the apples in parks where people could get them. Last year many people were glad to obtain supplies from the large quantities dumped at New Town tip. 'You will not be allowed to take them from the orchard,' a member interjected. 'I will do it, and if need be, be prosecuted,' replied Mr. Wedd. 'Somebody will hear something about it if nothing is done'."

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Mr. Wedd in the strong fighting attitude he has taken towards the wilful destruction of our food supplies by the Federal Labour Government, and we hope the people of Hobart will get behind him in stopping this disgraceful and dishonest practice.

The Federal Government and the Marketing Boards are supposed to produce what is called *orderly* marketing. I wish you to pay particular attention to the word *orderly*, because it is a word dearly beloved by "planners" of all kinds, especially accountants and similar people who play about with figures.

The Marketing Board is supposed to give a fair price to the producer, and in return the producer sells all his produce through a central Government agency. The Government regulates the supply of apples so that there are not too many on the market at one time. If the demand is not big enough, that is if the people are unwilling to buy at the government price, the Government withholds the apples from the market.

In the past the Government has paid the growers for apples and then told them to leave the apples on the trees. The grower is not allowed to give the apples away or to sell them to anybody, because the Government says that since the apples have been paid for they no longer belong to the grower. But these apples belong to the people; they have been paid for through taxes, and the Government has no right to destroy them.

The Federal Government knows very well how to get these apples distributed to the people; it has known the method for a good many years now, and has used it to some

extent—but for its own particular purposes. There is no doubt at all about the effectiveness of the method.

During the last financial depression in England there was a glut of potatoes in a small town where lived many unemployed. The Government thought it would perform an experiment and it subsidised the potatoes to reduce the price by half; and all the potatoes were bought, even by the unemployed. And if the Government wishes the people to buy all the apples it will have to stop this silly business of selling them by ones and twos, and sell them by cases. Yes, and at 2/- a case, as Mr. Wedd suggests.

And why not? Isn't it better to subsidise food than to subsidise hospitals and to issue free medicine? All during the war the British Government subsidised the food prices so that people could all get their basic requirements at a reasonable cost. The cost to the government was hundreds of millions of pounds—and it was well worth it. And after all, what is money for but to distribute goods and services to those who want them? That is the supreme function of money and it has no other legitimate purpose.

The Government talks a lot about inflation, but what is inflation but a scarcity of goods, and who has done more to produce a scarcity of goods than the present Government? It should be obvious that there is something seriously wrong with our price system, and that if such things as "Progress", Science, Invention and New Methods and power-driven machinery have any meaning then prices should automatically decrease, instead of which they have continuously increased.

I have in front of me a list of prices taken from the *Dundee Advertiser*, Scotland; the time was 50 years ago. Here are the prices: Oranges, 100 for 3/6. 1 dozen bottles of whisky, 28/6, that is 2/4½d. per bottle—and that is for Scotch whisky not the fire water for which we pay over £1 per bottle. Fruit cake, 3 lbs. for 9½d; cheese 4½d. per pound; cigarettes 400 for 8/9., or 40 for 10½d.; bacon 4½d. per lb., and so on.

The steady increase in prices is not the only, or even the worst feature of this tragic story of money. The deterioration in quality makes the increase in prices much more alarming and much more spectacular, and nowhere has the deterioration in quality been more disastrous than in the value of our foods.

Dr. Cahill, who recently examined over 15,000 children in Tasmania, said: "I have been deeply concerned at the prevalence of such serious diseases as malnutrition, dental caries and goitre—even in districts which should be the healthiest in Tasmania. Sir Albert Howard, who was a government expert in plant diseases for 45 years, states in his latest book: "I regretfully came to the conclusion that most of the money devoted by the State to further agriculture by means of the experimental station and the agricultural college has only succeeded in creating an effective bar to all progress and to all new ideas."

Most of you know that there is quite a large difference between one apple and another of the same type grown elsewhere; there is a vast difference between an egg from a mass production farm and one from an ordinary farm yard fowl. Very few people today have tasted a decent piece of bread, and most people have tasted no butter but the factory variety. Sir Albert Howard has placed before us irrefutable evidence, evidence which has been tested by practical men in many parts of the world, that you cannot

grow healthy plants, and healthy animals by mixing a few chemicals in some dirt, and even if you could, the land won't stand it, and in the U.S.A. Howard says sixty *per cent.* of the agricultural land has already been destroyed. As far as food is concerned, the people of Hobart will have to grow more of their own vegetables, or make sure they know where their food comes from; farmers and shopkeepers who are willing to provide healthily grown food will soon become known if you yourselves are interested.

## PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 3)

chief staff officers for Press control are Major N. B. J. Huijsman and Mr. P. de Mendelssohn. All three served during the war in the Ministry of Information and in the psychological warfare division of S.H.A.E.F. Before the advent of the Nazis, Mr. de Mendelssohn was on the staff of the *Berliner Tageblatt* and of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Later he was deputy chief of the continental news department of the Exchange Telegraph Company and a special correspondent of the *New Statesman and Nation*.

### National Finance

#### National Insurance (Cost)

*Sir W. Smithers* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the cost of the National Insurance Bill in terms of Income Tax.

*The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Dalton)*: This Bill involves no immediate increase in the charge to the exchequer. There will be a substantial progressive increase in the future, but it would be misleading to express this as a rate of Income Tax based on present yield.

*Sir W. Smithers*: Is not the fact of the matter that the right hon. Gentleman is afraid to say what the terms are in plain English?

*Mr. Dalton*: No, Sir. What I am afraid of is giving an answer that will be outside the comprehension of the hon. Member.

*Mr. Churchill*: Ought not answers given in this House in reply to questions which hon. Members have a right to ask, to be given in the sense of being comprehensible to the House as a whole?

*Sir W. Smithers*: I would say to the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor that I do not expect a silk purse out of a sow's ear. . . .

### Purchasing Power

*Mr. Lipson* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that increases in the prices of essential articles are causing hardship to persons of moderate fixed incomes; and what steps he proposes to take to check this inflationary process.

*Mr. Davies*: Is my right hon. Friend aware that today £1 will not buy what 4s. would 40 years ago? Will he explain where the 16s. difference has gone?

*Mr. Dalton*: I do not think that arithmetic is quite correct. I think my hon. Friend has somewhat exaggerated the inevitable consequences of six years of war.

House of Commons, June 21, 1946.

### Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Bill

[Lords]

*The Minister of State (Mr. Philip Noel-Baker)*: I beg to move, "That the Bill be now read a Second time."

The full Title of this Bill is:

"An Act to amend the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Act, 1944, in connection with the general convention on privileges and immunities of the United Nations approved at the first General Assembly thereof and in connection with certain resolutions taken at the said Assembly."

This Bill comes to us from another place, where it was introduced by my noble Friend the Lord Chancellor, approved and passed without Amendment. I hope it will have a similarly favourable reception here. It is needed not simply to enable us to give effect to the Assembly resolution and convention to which the full Title refers, but to enable us to fulfil certain obligations under the Charter itself. . . .

This House approved the ratification of the Charter, and by our ratification we are bound to the principles involved. This Bill is simply to settle the details of how our obligations under the Charter shall be fulfilled, and to enable us to settle them on the basis of the convention which the Assembly drew up and the Resolutions which it passed. . . .

*Earl Winterton (Horsham)*: Before the hon. Gentleman leaves that point, perhaps he will explain a little further. I understood him to suggest that because a convention had been passed by somebody outside this House it was, *ipso facto*, binding upon this country. That, of course, is a matter which is not even for the Government, but is for this House to decide.

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: Of course. My point was that under the Charter itself, which this House has approved, we are bound to the main principles on which this convention is founded. It is the details which this convention settles.

*Mr. Manningham-Buller (Daventry)*: Will the hon. Gentleman make it quite clear whether or not His Majesty's Government have yet acceded to the convention to which he has referred? In the White Paper appears the statement that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have not yet acceded to the convention.

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: Of course we have not acceded. . . .

The two points outside the convention with which the Bill deals are, firstly, immunities for the International Court of Justice. . . . It may be said that we are asking for a blank cheque. . . .

The second point with which the Bill deals is the consolidation of the privileges and immunities granted to preexisting international organisations, for example, the I.L.O., U.N.R.R.A., or E.C.I.T.O., or others—[HON. MEMBERS: "What is that?"]—European Central Inland Transport Organisation.

*Earl Winterton*: Why not say so?

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: I beg pardon. It means the European Central Inland Transport Organisation. . . .

*Mr. Manningham-Buller (Daventry)*: In introducing this Bill the right hon. Gentleman devoted the greater part of his speech to explaining the Convention which was laid before this House in February of this year. He said singularly little about the great and far reaching changes that this Bill makes in the rights and liberties of people living in this

country. . . .

As time is short I will, before I deal with all the matters which are of importance contained in this Bill, come straight away to the extension of privilege which, if passed, it will confer upon individuals. The right hon. Gentleman said that this was a Bill to consolidate privileges and immunities given to individuals serving on international bodies. Well, this House passed an Act in 1944 for that very purpose, and I shall have to refer just a little to the provisions of that Act—to which the right hon. Gentleman did not refer—to show what great extensions are now being made. That Bill was introduced in 1944 by the National Government in which the party opposite were partners, and we were told then that there was no intention on the part of the Government at that time to give British residents in this country immunities and privileges such as foreign envoys enjoyed, and ultimately the Government moved an Amendment in the Bill to make that quite clear. That has now gone.

The 1944 Act divided individuals into two categories and I should like to say a few words in that connection. The first category comprises the higher officers of the organisation. The Act was designed specifically to deal with U.N.R.R.A. but, as the Attorney-General then said, also to enable other international organisations to be brought within its scope by Order in Council. The higher officers of the organisations, the representatives of member Governments of the Governing body or any committee of the organisation, were in the higher category, and now by the present Bill those privileges are extended in Clause 2 to members of the General Assembly or any council or other organ of the United Nations. I am not quite clear what can be covered by the phrase "other organ of the United Nations." The United Nations may perform many functions, but this goes much further than the right hon. Gentleman said because it means that anyone who is appointed to the council or to any committee of the United Nations or, indeed, of any other international organisation of which this Government are members, can have conferred upon him the privileges and immunities which a member of the higher category under the 1944 Act, as amended by this Bill, can obtain.

What are these privileges? They are those of an envoy of a foreign sovereign power. They give immunity from suit or legal process, inviolability of residence, and exemption from rates and taxes. The other officers or servants do not get all those privileges; they just get immunity from suit and legal process for things done in the course of the performance of their official duties, and I should have thought that that was all that was required by any of the servants, whether highly placed or junior. The junior ones only get exemption from Income Tax on the emoluments they draw as officers or servants of the Organisation. In the 1944 Act, those immunities and privileges were subject to this very important proviso. I will read it:

"That the Order in Council conferring the privileges shall not confer any exemption from rates or taxes upon any person who is a British subject and whose usual place of abode is in the United Kingdom."

That proviso was moved, by an Amendment by the Government, into the 1944 Bill after strong speeches had been made in opposition to that Bill by the right hon. Gentleman the Minister of Health, and also, if it will carry any weight with the right hon. Gentleman, by the hon. Member for Ipswich (Mr. Stokes). That proviso has been left

out of this Bill—

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* Of course.

*Mr. Manningham-Buller:* The right hon. Gentleman says, "Of course," but let us make it quite clear why this is done. The party to which he belongs is in power and has the sole responsibility for it. What is the effect of taking it out? It will mean that British subjects in this country—not just one individual but such individuals as the Foreign Secretary likes to name, whether they belong to U.N.O. or any other international organisation, people who are appointed to any organ of the United Nations Organisation—will be completely beyond the law.

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* With great respect, the hon. and learned Member is under a misapprehension if he is talking about British delegates to organs of the United Nations. These privileges are not granted to such persons.

*Mr. Manningham-Buller:* Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will look at the Bill. I say that the terms of the Bill give power to grant such privileges to British subjects whether they are on organs of the United Nations or any other international body, provided they hold high office. . . .

. . . I maintain that it is clear from this Bill that any person holding any of these offices may have conferred upon him the immunities and privileges of an envoy of a foreign sovereign power. Not only will those British subjects be above the law, but they will be freed from all these harassing controls in which the Government take a pride and delight. Employment in the high offices of one of these international organs will be most enviable, and if this Government follows the course its supporters so frequently urge, that is to say, of securing jobs for the boys, we shall get the odd situation of having a whole series of Socialists freed from the delights of bureaucratic control. Nationalisation will mean nothing to them. They will live in this country rent free, tax free and free from legal process. Food cuts will mean nothing to them. To them our rationing system will not apply. They will be able to get their houses repaired and redecorated without licences. They will be able to buy all their clothes without coupons, and to them Purchase Tax will have no meaning. Indeed, it will be a delightful, carefree existence, if one secures employment in one of these higher offices, an existence not subject to Paul Prys, *agents provocateurs*, inspectors, and form fillers.

It is absolutely clear that this Bill gives this Government power to put British subjects in these islands in that position. That is why I say that, as far as individuals are concerned, this Bill, introduced by the opponents of privilege, extends it beyond all limits. Why, I would ask the right hon. Gentleman, is it necessary that British subjects should have these privileges to do their work in this island? If that contention be well founded, and if it prevails that they must have these privileges to do the work in an international organisation here, we shall next be faced with the argument that the work of the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues is really much more important than that of the officials of these organisations in this country, and we shall next be asked to remove the proviso I see inserted in the Bill that the representatives of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom shall not get these immunities. I am glad to see that, but I hope it will last a little longer than the proviso that no British subject shall get these benefits.

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* That was an earlier Act, wh

amending. This is 1946, not 1944.

*Mr. Manningham-Buller:* That was an earlier Act introduced by the National Government, in which I think I am right in saying the right hon. Gentleman held some office. It was introduced after reamendment in consequence of the strongest opposition from both sides of this House. That proviso has only lasted for two years. I am merely expressing the hope that this proviso that the right hon. Gentleman now desires to put in, may have a longer life than that. We do not know at all how many individuals will be affected by the operation of this Bill. We know one, it may be any number more. It is completely within the discretion of the Foreign Secretary.

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* It is nothing to do with him at all, it is the Secretary-General.

*Mr. Manningham-Buller:* The Secretary-General as far as U.N.O. is concerned, but the right hon. Gentleman does not seem to appreciate the fact that, as he said, this is a consolidating code intended, as the 1944 Act was, to apply to other international organisations. . . . If it be argued that a British man holding office in this country under one of these international organisations can only do his work if he lives rate free, tax free, and free from all Socialist controls, does the same argument apply to his wife and to his children? Why should a British wife and British children in this country receive these privileges at the hands of a Socialist Government?

*House of Lords, June 27, 1946.*

### Price of Building Materials

*Viscount Stonehaven* asked His Majesty's Government whether there has been any rise in the price of basic building materials and domestic fittings, *i.e.*, baths, basins, lavatories, *etc.*, during the past six months; if so, what was the extent of the rise, and how it is being allowed for in the maximum price for houses.

*Lord Henderson:* There have been increases in certain prices of basic building materials and domestic fittings during the last six months as follows:

*Slates.*—Increases in prices vary from 6 per cent. in the case of Welsh slates to 17½ per cent. for Westmorland slates.

*Salt glazed drain pipes.*—Increases of 22½ per cent. points in the standard list prices equal to approximately 20 per cent. for England and Wales and 15 per cent. for Scotland.

*Sanitary fireclay, sinks, basins, etc.*, Increases of 7½ per cent.

*Tiles (roofing and floor).*—An average increase of 15 per cent.

*Bricks (commons)*—Increases vary from 1/6 to 7/6 per thousand.

*Hollow Clay Blocks*—Increases of 4d. per yard for 2-inch and 2½-inch to 6d. per yard for 4 to 4¼-inch.

*Metal doors and windows.*—Increase of 5 per cent.

*Steel reinforcement ferro-concrete bars.*—Approximately 5 per cent. increase according to size and circumstances.

*Steel joists (basic section).*—Increase of 16s. 6d. per ton or approximately 5½ per cent.

*Light castings, rain water and soil pipes.*—Increase of 12½ per cent.

*Water waste preventors.*—Increase of 10 points on standard list prices.

*Cast iron baths.*—Increase of 6½ points on standard list price.

*Galvanised and corrugated iron sheets.*—Increase of 25s. per ton, equal to approximately 5 per cent.

*Pig lead.*—Increase of £15 per ton or approximately 50 per cent.

*Copper.*—Increase of £10 per ton or approximately 16 per cent.

*Brass foundry goods.*—Increase of 10 per cent.

*Galvanised tanks and cisterns.*—Increase of 17½ points in the plusages on gross list selling prices.

*Solid fuel cooking and heating appliances.*—Increase of 5 per cent.

*Gas meters.*—Increase of 7½ per cent.

*Sheet lead and lead pipes.*—Increase of approximately 37 per cent.

No alteration has been made in the maximum selling price allowed for a house built under licence.

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