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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

The New Look. Clad in gray green battledress, and grasping a rifle right end foremost, our intrepid Secretary for War Mr. Strachey, traversed the trackless bandit-ridden jungles of Malaya under strict orders to 'fall flat on his stomach and shoot.' Not a bandit was heard, not a Communist note. They had all fled.

Sheer imperialist terrorism of the down-trodden native races, we call it.

From an article on that curious woman, Joanna Southcott, in the current number of *The Month*, we learn that the British-Israel propaganda had its origin in the pronouncements of her contemporary, Richard Brothers, the self-styled "Prince of the Hebrews, and God Almighty's Nephew." Brothers, like Joanna, had a considerable following, but unlike her, became a political nuisance, and was committed to an insane asylum on the initiative of Pitt—admittedly, not conclusive evidence of anything but his politics.

We think that this interesting example of the growth of a myth affords confirmation of what we have suggested on other occasions; that it is an error, and possibly an important error, to attribute the *origin* of undesirable propaganda to the promoters, frequently well concealed, of the myth as developed for mass consumption.

It must be remembered that the kind of idea which captures the imagination of the masses *can be demonstrated to be, ipso facto, a fallacy; e.g.* "Labour produces all wealth," "the necessity for full employment," "all men are born equal." The real rulers of the world are much too able to waste time concocting these fatuities. A complete information service apprises them of the progress made by each catch phrase, and a careful assessment is made of the use to which they can be perverted—obviously a far better technique than that of inventor. In other words, the first rule to apply to the appraisal of propaganda is *Quis beneficet?*

A homogeneous people such as the early nineteenth century English, with hundreds of years of "Old Testament" instruction of the crudest variety behind them, would be perfect material for a synthesis of (a) The Chosen People. (b) One Englishman is worth ten foreigners. (c) The English are the Chosen People. (d) The English are the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, *etc.*

The efficacy of the British-Israel faith for the purposes for which it has been fostered has to be experienced to be believed. Its converts number millions; most of them are convinced that the only point of importance in connection with a Jew is that he shares with "the B'riths" the privilege of being God's Chosen, and in consequence, everything he does *must* be right.

We have always disliked the type of explanation for the ills of this country which relies on accusations of either incompetence or unqualified roguery as its main features.

Both of these are present, but not exclusively. The Financier-Socialist ("Labour") victory of 1945 was expressly designed to make too much roguery unnecessary by substituting ignorance and naivete for it. We have no doubt at all that a "Labour" Government was prepared with as much confidence as a ceremony of the Trooping of the Colour, the only difference being that many of the participants in the sham fight thought it was real.

The same line of thought is applicable to the phenomenon of the "sterling balances," and the disappearance of surplus war stores. . . . Superficially, both of them look like an unparalleled exhibition of roguery or ineptitude or both. Behind them, however, is a cool, calculating policy of which the first objective is "full employment" by the simple expedient of providing the purchaser *outside the country with the means of payment at the expense of the people inside the country.* The second objective is to make the United Kingdom a helpless helotry of the "United States," *i.e.* Wall Street, kept in being to supply the cannon fodder for the final war of domination. And the third objective is to use a currency, sterling, to "compensate" the owners of assets for their "legal" expropriation with a money, which is carefully kept non-exchangeable and which will be eliminated at a suitable date, leaving Wall Street in possession of all the real assets, the owners of sterling or sterling securities destitute, and the almighty dollar the unique world currency.

We notice in a recent issue of *The Listener* an article by a gentleman with the very suitable name of Wedgewood, on the Great Rebellion, otherwise—the Civil War in these islands. The appearance of such an article at this time suggests that the publishers of *The Listener*, or their controllers, are fully aware of the implications of Clausewitz when he remarked, "War is the pursuit of policy by other means." Probably the nearest true explanation of the Civil War was that it was fought to concentrate political power in the hands of the Money Power.

The Offensive

"The World Government offensive followed a period of scare-mongering over the atom bomb. Mr. Bernard Baruch (Zionist "adviser" to successive U.S.A. Presidents) relinquished the Chairmanship of the Atomic Committee to David Lilienthal (reputedly a Zionist and Communist), and shortly afterwards, in an appropriate manner nicely designed to create mass-panic, the surprising news was released that Russia had the atom bomb. The inference was, of course, that unless war could be averted, the people in the democracies were doomed. Populations would be wiped out. The reaction not being sufficiently violent, the news was then broken that the uranium atom bomb had been superseded by a far more terrible weapon—the hydrogen bomb. And, of course, Russia has this, too."—L. W. Byrne in *Social Credit*.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: May 22, 1950.

Sugar

Mr. Peter Smithers asked the Minister of Food whether he can yet say at what date he estimates that there will be a sufficient supply of sterling sugar to enable the commodity to be derationed.

Mr. F. Willey: No, Sir, but certainly not for some time to come.

Mr. Smithers: But in view of the fact that the Ministry of Food are already negotiating with Empire countries about the time when they estimate there will be too much sugar produced in the Empire, cannot they now say when they think there will be enough sugar for housewives and manufacturers?

Mr. Willey: No, we are doing all we can to encourage the production of sugar to make ourselves reliant upon Commonwealth sources.

Mr. Somerville Hastings: May I ask my hon. Friend to remember that the price of an article, and the capacity of the public to buy it, have also to be considered if its equitable distribution is to be maintained?

Bananas

Mr. Peter Smithers asked the Minister of Food by what date he estimated that the supply of bananas will be sufficient to meet the demand of the home market.

Mr. F. Willey: It is very difficult to attempt an estimate. The production of bananas can be seriously affected by hurricanes and plant disease. Currency difficulties also limit what we can buy. At present, we have less than two-thirds of the pre-war quantity.

Mr. Smithers: Is the Minister aware that much of the former banana land is now under sugar cultivation? If he cannot estimate when there will be enough sugar or enough bananas, what is all the planning about?

House of Commons: May 23, 1950.

Officials (Power of Entry)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if he will give, by Departments, the number of officials who have the power of entry into private houses, offices and factories, respectively.

Mr. Jay: As the information is somewhat lengthy, I will, with permission, circulate it in the OFFICIAL REPORT.

Sir W. Smithers: May I ask the Financial Secretary whether all those officials have the right of entry into private premises, even though it is not practised?

Mr. Jay: If the hon. Gentleman will look at the answer, he will have that information.

Lieut.-Commander Braithwaite: While the answer may be long, could the hon. Gentleman give the total number?

Mr. Jay: No, I do not think I had better give individual details.

Mr. Shackleton: Is it not a fact that many of these powers arose from Acts of Parliament passed by previous Governments, and would my hon. Friend draw attention to the Lunacy Act, which has these provisions?

Mr. Jay: It is the case that most of these powers

have been placed on the Statute Book by past Conservative Governments and I am, therefore, looking into the matter to see whether they are all necessary.

Following is the answer:

[See table on page 8.]

Identity Cards

Sir W. Darling asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the cost of identity cards for Scotland; how many people are employed in administration; what premises exist; and where they are located.

Mr. McNeil: About 110 staff are employed in the Central National Registration Office in Edinburgh at a cost of about £30,000 a year. In addition, it is estimated that the equivalent of about 210 of the staff in local food offices in Scotland are employed on national registration work at a cost of £70,000 a year. There are no separate national registration staffs in local offices, the work being carried out by Ministry of Food staffs at offices of the Ministry throughout Scotland.

House of Commons: May 24, 1950.

Fiji (Constitution)

Mr. Geoffrey Cooper asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies in view of the recent discussions over constitutional reform that have taken place with the Governor of Fiji, what steps it is proposed to take in order to give more scope for the expression of democratic opinion and the elimination of the present dissatisfaction caused by the system of nominations on the unofficial side of the council.

Mr. William Teeling asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies in view of the official assertion of the Governor of Fiji that his Department had no evidence that changes are desired in the Constitution of Fiji, what steps have been taken to find out what public opinion in Fiji is on this subject; and what attention has been paid to the views expressed during the November session of the Council, by honourable unofficial Members of the Council.

Mr. Dugdale: Every opportunity was given to the unofficial Members of the Legislative Council to make known their views in the three-day debate last December on the Report of the Fiji Constitution Revision Committee. The voting showed that a majority of unofficial Members was opposed to substantial changes in the Constitution being made, and I see no reason to take any action contrary to their declared opinion.

Mr. Cooper: Can my hon. Friend say how the democratic opinions of the people of Fiji can ever be represented on the Legislative Council under the present system? Will he give further consideration to the whole question of revision so as to enable democratic opinion to be expressed?

Mr. Dugdale: No, Sir. I am having regard to the views expressed by the unofficial Members of the Council, and I think that is a reasonable thing to do.

Mr. Teeling: Is the hon. Gentleman not aware of the very strong feeling among the people of Fiji on this matter at present? Will he not strive to find out what that public opinion is, since it does not necessarily mean going to the unofficial Members?

Mr. Dugdale: Public opinion is expressed in the Legislative Council, which has expressed the views which I have stated.

Mr. Teeling: Are they not all nominated Members?

Mr. Cooper: If I send my right hon. Friend extensive memoranda on the subject, will he reconsider the matter?

Mr. Dugdale: Certainly, Sir.

Ration Books

Mr. David Griffiths asked the Minister of Food the cost of distributing ration books annually from the commencement up to date.

Mr. Webb: We expect that the cost of distributing the new ration books this year will be about £675,000 against £790,000 in 1949. These figures include the pay of regular and casual staff, the rent of distribution centres, the cost of the books themselves, advertising and everything else. I am afraid there are no comparable figures for earlier years.

Mr. Griffiths: While appreciating the slight reduction in the cost, may I ask my right hon. Friend whether he is aware that, whereas in one area where 200 ration books were recently distributed six clerks were engaged, in another area the ration books were distributed by the Women's Voluntary Service at no cost?

Mr. Webb: I should like to look into that particular case if my hon. Friend will give me the information.

Sir Herbert Williams: Does this include the cost of distributing the points books, which have been rendered unnecessary since the Minister's statement last Friday?

Mr. Webb: Points are part of the ration book.

Sir H. Williams: Do I understand that all the points coupons were printed despite the fact that they were soon to be rendered useless?

Blood Plasma (Imports)

Mr. G. Jeger asked the Minister of Food what quantities of blood plasma are being imported; which items of manufactured foods contain this ingredient; and to what extent special action is taken to ensure its purity.

Mr. Webb: Licences were issued for the import of 15 tons in 1949 and five tons so far this year. There is a two-fold check on the purity of these imports—by examination of samples and a veterinary certificate supplied by the country of origin. Blood plasma is used mainly in flour confectionery as a substitute for egg white.

Points Rationing (Abolition)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Minister of Food to state approximately on an annual basis the number of forms which will not be required to be filled up owing to the abandonment of points rationing.

Mr. Webb: About 25 million a year.

Sir W. Smithers asked the Minister of Food how many employees of his Department will be surplus to requirements as a result of the abandoning of points rationing.

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Mr. Webb: The abolition of points rationing will enable us to make a reduction of about 10 staff in the points division at headquarters and rather over 1,000 in the local and regional offices.

House of Commons: May 25, 1950.

Secondary Grammar Schools Examination (Welsh Language)

Mr. G. Thomas asked the Minister of Education what representations he has made to local education authorities which insist on a knowledge of Welsh being compulsory for entrance to a secondary grammar school; and whether he will make a statement.

Mr. Tomlinson: I have made no representations on this matter to Welsh authorities, of whom five, I understand, require some questions in the Welsh language to be attempted, but I am keeping their arrangements for conducting this important examination under observation. It seems to me that this is a matter which the Welsh authorities themselves might well consider through the Welsh Joint Education Committee.

Mr. Thomas: Will the Minister bear in mind that, where the child comes from a home where the mother is English speaking, it is a great injustice to deprive the child of secondary grammar education because it is not fluent in the Welsh tongue?

Mr. Emrys Roberts: Will the Minister also bear in mind that this matter should be left for the Welsh education authorities themselves to decide?

Mr. Thomas: Is the Minister aware that any matter of injustice is a matter for this House?

Young Children (Teaching)

Mr. De la Bère asked the Minister of Education if he will give an assurance that the present instructions from officials of his Department to those in charge of small children's homes throughout the country, to the effect that the children should not be taught to say "Please" and "Thank you," will be rescinded.

Sir Jocelyn Lucas asked the Minister of Education why the principal of a school, of whose name he has been informed, was instructed to cease to teach the children to say "Please" and "Thank you"; and if he will reverse these instructions.

Mr. Tomlinson: It is not part of the duties of His Majesty's inspector to instruct, but to observe, discuss and sometimes to advise. We all like children to say "Please" and "Thank you." But experience in good normal homes, on which we should all wish to base our practice, suggests that individual and friendly training is more effective and more appropriate with very young children than anything in the nature of drill or routine.

Mr. De la Bère: Will the Minister please make sure that every encouragement is given to ensure that the children are trained in both courtesy and kindness? Does he realise that the one aim of my life is to spread a little ray of sunshine?

Mr. Blackburn: Does my right hon. Friend consider that the hon. Member for Worcestershire, South (Mr. De la

(continued on page 6)

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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Saturday, June 17, 1950.

Let's Get It Clear

The most serious threat which we face today is not the atom bomb, the hydrogen bomb, or bacterial warfare, but what is commonly known as Socialism, the correct name of which is centralisation. Now, when Mr. Menzies professes to be glad to have it confirmed by Mr. Chifley's comments on the early results of the British General election that Socialism in England and Australia are part of one movement, he confirms our opinion that he does not really grasp what Socialism really is. Socialism in Australia is, in the main, represented by the bureaucracy; and the Labour Party is only, so to speak, the bureaucracy's best bet. Socialism is not native to the Labour movement; it has been grafted on. Let Mr. Menzies screen the upper part of the bureaucracy with questions designed to detect crypto-Socialists and—apparently—he'll get some more surprises. And let him really try to buck centralisation, and he'll get more still. If, for example, instead of substituting a Committee for a Governor to manage a centralised credit, he decentralised control of credit, he would meet some genuine opposition. Centralised control of credit is the king-pin of Socialism; and some of the earlier steps (and the early steps are the important ones, since they determine direction) were taken by Mr. Menzies, possibly in ignorance, but certainly under the influence of the advisers, whom he still retains and shows every sign of continuing to retain.

In a brilliant short article in the *Fig Tree*, Major Douglas drew attention to the importance of momentum in politics. As the momentum of a policy increases, it becomes more difficult to halt it. We think that already Mr. Menzies has lost valuable time. The cost of living is rising visibly daily; and before very long Mr. Menzies will be powerless but to accept the advice of his "experts" about a situation which he shows less and less signs of understanding. The advice will be, of course, greater efficiency through further centralisation. Simple, isn't it? —*The Australian Social Crediter.*

Major C. H. Douglas's

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Further Note on Mirabeau

Whatever his failings, Mirabeau had keen intelligence and public integrity. In his Twenty Ninth Note for the Court, of October 6, 1790, he came nearer than in the previous letters which I mentioned to an idea of the necessity for a tripod working constitution. He was discussing "the legal amendment of the faults of the Constitution," and said that this should be undertaken "either in the Assembly or in the second legislature, shewing the need of giving it a constituent or ratifying power," while "opinion would influence the choice of the second legislature and the powers that would be given it."

He was as alive as Disraeli to the power of the Press, and he said in his Twenty Third Note, of September 7, 1790, that "An almost infallible means [of forming opinion] would be a very cheap newspaper," which should "assure everybody of their rights without hiding from them their duties," for "there can be no liberty without obedience to the law, no law without public sanctions, and no public sanctions without faith in the executive power." The newspaper could educate opinion on "the qualities needed by members of the second legislature" and enlighten the people on such a vital choice."

Mirabeau considered that the Marquis de La Fayette was the chief menace to order, and called him "the Protector" and "Cromwell." He asked, in his Twenty Eighth Note of September, 28, "Has he any way of making himself necessary except through disorders, any purpose but to continue disorders, or any means of hiding his insignificance except by making himself popular at all costs?"

Other troubles were the Debt and consequent taxation, and the inability of the Ministry to deal with them. "The Ministry" (Twenty First Note of September, 1, 1790) "fails to see that the nearer the kingdom seems to approach the time when all its resources are energetically used, the more it daily loses the strength to support taxation." Mirabeau intended to liquidate the Debt and to use assignats in place of the precious metals. But M. Necker saw to it, perhaps unintentionally, that this alternative currency was discredited.—H. S. SWABEY.

An Enigmatic Adjunct

by

HEWLETT EDWARDS

(continued)

To the scientist we owe much; but without him we should not now be threatened with extinction or, within the range of some of his experiments, with what seems worse. What has brought the investigator to work to this effect? Anæsthetics—explosives—household conveniences—poison gas—electronics, none can put limits to what may be conjured out of our enigmatic environment. The question is not what is available but what is sought, for those who seek in effect decide what is found. What is found is *chosen*⁴; from a field which includes all reality, 'material' and 'non-material' as well; for Life, Consciousness and Spirit are the beginning and the end of all exploration.

For whether scientist or not, the individual is not only an explorer, but is a part of what he explores; it is evidently impossible for him—a component—to stand apart from the whole (the universe) of which he is a component part. Reaction to this basic fact cannot be avoided; life itself is a rendering of it. Individual orientation either accepts the position, and is so 'with the grain' of the whole; or attempts to reject it, making fruitless endeavour to *be* the whole. In a universe where unbounded enquiry is met by limitless possibility, all flows from this. The 'right' possibilities will be found in working with the grain, towards *perfect* knowledge; against the grain, nothing but difficulty and eventual disaster are to be expected. This choice existing, it is gratuitous and unwarranted to assume that the human race is fated to extinction. But unless that assumption is made it follows that choosing 'right' must be inherent in us; that the 'right' orientation awaits recognition as the mainspring of personal experience. To hold steady on this course has become peculiarly the vital responsibility of the scientist, by virtue of the domination which his leadership into the future has secured; and from this responsibility he cannot be separated. Any detachment he may properly assume is relative to the inductive system. He may keep its rules, detached from extraneous considerations or self interest, but he cannot stand apart from what comes into the machine; *i.e.* from the objectives of his investigation. For there he has choice; he may accept responsibility, "the purely objective world is the spiritual world,"⁵ and he may search therein and hold fast the deepest source of his own inspiration; or he may (rejecting his responsibility) allow himself to be separated from it.

So far has science become subservient to the politics, economics and culture which follow the dæmonic urge to centralised domination, that the figures which typify such an integrity are in the past; it would be difficult to imagine anything less than complete correspondence between inner inspiration and outer activity in Galileo, Newton or Faraday. To many, probably to most, perfect knowledge has now become a myth which it is folly to pursue; exploitation is

all. In this difference of emphasis lies the core of the matter: the one effecting the preservation of balance between parts, the other destroying it; the one intent on the discovery of that *use* which increases harmony between components and entirety, the other careless of all but *exploitation* at whatever cost in terms of equilibrium. In the 'statistical science' developed over the last thirty years is the apotheosis of the latter phase. Endeavours towards the perfection of knowledge are abandoned; the exceptional and the unique which were once regarded as starting points for new advances, are now swept into or through the 'net' of statistics whose sole purpose is the collection of knowledge merely sufficient for the manipulation of people and things. In a recent broadcast Dr. Bronowski, representative of this section, discussed the value of the relativity formulæ. This mathematical exposition of the immanence of non-material unity may be regarded as of considerable interest when linked to the immanence of life, consciousness and spirit at the other side of the circuit. Dr. Bronowski did not look in that direction but chose the alternative, exploitation. Without the formulæ, he said, the atomic bomb would not have been possible . . . Exploratory ideas no longer spring from "the instinct for perfect knowledge from a mystic source welling up in our nature"⁶ but are planned and imposed upon those who operate the system.

Induction constitutes an exploration of reality. In its complete concentration upon the intellectual and the material there is both bias and deficiency; it has disregarded half—the strictly primary non-material half—of what it explores, for every material happening has its origin in and repercussions on the non-material, whence arises the direction and substance of further exploration. This bias has transformed the exploration of the whole into the exploitation and magnification of the part; as organised in many and various 'Luciferian' projects. This linkage between organisation and inductive science has profound effects in further stressing the rational and the material, diverting attention from all else.

Up to a point organisation is a practical and useful way of getting what we want of material things, but of necessity it is an interference with the growth—the unfolding of parts—in the cycle of natural events. It does not exist in nature, in which however, there is tolerance for *some* degree of interference. The stultifying effect of *too much* organisation is to be seen everywhere. Organised industry essays the reduction of individuals to standard units, in another phase of the pursuit of an illusory 'equality.' It separates human beings from the living growing things upon which all life depends; while organised agriculture, in the development of 'dust bowl' aridity, threatens their existence. Organised social 'services' abolish, transfer and confuse natural responsibilities and freedom to the damage and destruction of integrity; with radical deterioration in quality. Organised war as a substitute for personal defence holds no better prospect of survival. And for organised peace we have alphabetic bombs. In the last analysis the organisation of materialistic determinism (of physical truth without spiritual truth) denies life; seeks death, and discovers death.

It has been said that if the cycle of natural events is represented by a circle, then organisation is as a tangent to that circle; and the farther the tangent is extended, the

⁶Op: cit:⁷C. H. Douglas.

⁴"We now think it ludicrous to imagine that rocks, sea and sky are animated by volitions such as we are aware of in ourselves. It would be thought even more ludicrous to imagine that the volitionless behaviour of the rocks, sea and sky extends also to ourselves, were it not that we have scarcely yet recovered from the repressions of 250 years of deterministic physics."—Eddington. *The Philosophy of Physical Science.*

⁵Op: cit:

greater the divergence from the circle—from reality⁷. There is a limit to the tolerance extended by nature to this divergence; and the prospect of the 'B' (bacteria) bomb which Dr. Brock Chisholm⁸ considers has "put the 'A' bomb and the 'H' bomb out of business," only confirms what much has made evident, that this limit has been reached—that what General Bradley calls 'progress' has diverged *too far* from the cycle of reality. The option to conform to nature's ruling is still open; it may still be possible voluntarily to pursue the route of *de-organisation* in binding human affairs back to reality. There is no other route; to suppose that more organisation will right a balance which is almost upset by too much organisation is obviously erroneous. Failing acceptance, the option will expire, and in the event be superseded. In a convergent phase this situation was penetrated to the core by Lord Acton: "All power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely." What power could be more absolute than the control of these fearful weapons?

In implementing two hundred and fifty years of deterministic materialism, induction has sponsored a major experiment in life according to that hypothesis. The results are before us; more life—if any—is not to be had that way. The approach has been focussed upon the requirements of the body and of the intellect; but what comes first has been neglected, for both these are derived from the satisfaction of the requirements of the spirit. The isolation of material (physical) truth from non-material (spiritual) truth *does not work*.

Induction has brought us to this impasse, and induction, by the perfection of the truth within its own axiom may break it down. *That is Right which DOES work.*

Dean Attacks Controls

The Dean of Chichester, Very Rev. A. S. Duncan-Jones, speaking in the Cathedral on May 28, is reported by the *Dundee Courier* as follows:—

"To-day Governments of every kind are infected with the power-loving disease. We see how Governments in Democratic countries—so-called—regard large Parliamentary majorities as a sufficient justification for imposing their own will on the whole people.

"They are no longer the servants of the people, but their masters.

"Government by regulation increasingly takes the place of government by law. Is it not significant that the word 'whip' is used for the process which makes members of a party in Parliament the patient oxen, led this way and that by a Government that can completely control the political lives of its supporters?

"Political parties intent on climbing into power are tempted to bulldoze every section of the community, every spontaneous cultural activity, and all local life out of their way. Control becomes the watchword.

"The houses people live in are no longer their own. The trade by which they live and enrich the community must be held in a firm grip, control invades the things of the mind and the spirit. Education must be all of a pattern. Parents cease to have any choice in regard to the teaching that is given or the spirit in which it is imparted.

"The initiative of the ardent must be chained to the indifference of the indolent or the ill-informed.

"So far with us these are tendencies. The picture that presents itself is depressing, but the British are a virile people. They are worth something better."

PARLIAMENT

(continued from page 3).

Bère), is an arbiter of good and bad behaviour, and is he also aware that evidently there must have been a great lapse in his Department in the past, because it has undoubtedly failed to educate most hon. Members opposite?

Mr. Lennox-Boyd: Can I please ask the right hon. Gentleman whether his very long answer, which, I must confess, to some of us seemed almost incomprehensible, meant that these instructions were or were not given by an official of his Department?

Mr. Tomlinson: No instructions were given, but advice was offered by the inspector concerned. For the benefit of the House I should like to say that I have gone to a lot of trouble to find out exactly what happened and I have full confidence in the inspector. Might I also point out that these children, about whom such a song and dance is being made, were three years and three months old.

Mr. Cocks: Could the expressions "Please" and "Thank you" be used by Members of Parliament at Question Time?

Sir J. Lucas: Is not the leaving out of any mention of the word "obedience" or manners or sense of duty in the curriculum of school children having a most disastrous effect at the present time?

Mr. Tomlinson: I would point out that this was a school in the nature of a nursery. If children have been waiting for hours between one meal and another, and somebody suggests that the only basis upon which they will be allowed to obtain their dinner is if they say "Thank you"—[HON. MEMBERS: "Why not?"] I am telling hon. Members why not. There are far better methods of teaching a child to say "Thank you" than by insisting that it should say it before it get its dinner.

Mr. De la Bère: Thank you very much.

Empire Day Celebrations

Mr. Braine asked the Minister of Education how many county and county borough education authorities, other than Middlesex County Council, gave school-children a holiday to celebrate Empire Day.

Mr. Tomlinson: Without making special inquiries I could not say. I have no doubt, however, that Empire Day was generally marked either by a holiday or in some other suitable way.

Mr. Braine: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that some education authorities do not recognise Empire Day in this fashion, and does he not think that the day is of sufficient importance to warrant a holiday for all children in the land? Is there any better way of fixing the importance and significance of the Empire in the minds of young people than by celebrating Empire Day?

Hon. Members: Commonwealth Day.

Mr. Tomlinson: There are differences of opinion as to whether a holiday is the best method of marking Empire Day. I am quite certain that it was recognised.

⁸Chairman of the International Food Organisation.

Parliamentary Private Secretaries

Sir H. Williams asked the Prime Minister how many Ministers in the House of Commons have appointed Parliamentary Private Secretaries.

Mr. H. Morrison: I have been asked to reply. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister thinks that about 20 or 25 such appointments have been made in this Parliament, but he is not prepared to make a categorical statement, as such appointments are matters for arrangement between individual Ministers and hon. Members whom they may ask to fill these posts.

Sir H. Williams: Does that mean that approximately 100 Members of the party opposite are now in the official bag and are debarred from differing from the Government in their views?

Mr. Morrison: That is a most offensive way of referring to anybody, even to Ministers of the Crown much less to Parliamentary Private Secretaries. This is a very modest number, much fewer than the number which existed in the Government of which I had the honour to be a member under the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition during the war.

Wing-Commander Hulbert: Would not the right hon. Gentleman agree that prior to the advent of the Socialist Government Parliamentary Private Secretaries were most discreet and did not heckle their chief's colleagues?

Mr. Chetwynd: Is it not a fact that Parliamentary Private Secretaries are quite capable of looking after their own business?

House of Commons: May 26, 1950.

Petrol Rationing (Abolition)

Mr. Ronald Williams (by Private Notice) asked the Minister of Fuel and Power whether he has any statement to make on the progress of the negotiations with the American oil companies.

The Minister of Fuel and Power (Mr. Philip Noel-Baker): Yes, Sir. As I told the House on Friday last, His Majesty's Government have for some time been discussing with the Government and with the oil companies of the United States how the dollar cost of imported oil might be reduced, and how additional supplies of petrol might thus be made available in the United Kingdom. My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Economic Affairs spoke of these discussions in a speech at Harrogate on 10th February. Last week in our Debate I brought the story of the negotiations up to date. I told the House then of some earlier proposals which the Government had not, to their regret, felt able to accept.

I also told the House that we had had a new proposal which we were then discussing. This was a proposal from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. It was to the following effect: that if petrol rationing in the United Kingdom were abandoned, the company were prepared to bring in additional supplies for sterling. The other United States company concerned, the California Texas Oil Company, agreed to a similar arrangement. Both companies undertook to spend the sterling so acquired in the sterling area on additional goods and services to be used by them in their oil operations, or on the building of tankers here.

When we received this offer we asked the British companies whether, if petrol rationing were ended, they could

find the other petrol required from sterling sources. The refinery expansion programme has, I am glad to say, made better progress than we expected, and the British companies have therefore been able to give the Government an assurance that they are now in a position to do this. The supply of this additional sterling oil must, as the Government have always explained, involve some dollar cost, but in this case the amount is not appreciable.

The Government have, therefore, decided to end petrol rationing forthwith. . . .

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OFFICIALS WITH POWER OF ENTRY (Table: see page 2).
(The figures shown in column (2) are included in column (3))

Department (1)	Number who have power to enter private houses used exclusively as such (2)	Number who have power to enter business premises land and private houses not used exclusively as such (3)
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	—	2,979
Ministry of Civil Aviation	—	48
Customs and Excise	—	1,800
Ministry of Education	—	580
Ministry of Food	—	1,112
Forestry Commission	—	100
Ministry of Fuel and Power	—	267
Ministry of Health	20	136
Home Office	—	77
Inland Revenue	2,667	2,667
Ministry of Labour and National Service	—	2,430
Ministry of National Insurance	—	809
Ordnance Survey Office	—	2,411
Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	—	94
Tithe Redemption Commission	—	198
Board of Trade	—	173
Ministry of Transport	—	907
War Damage Commission and Central Land Board... ..	998	998
Department of Agriculture for Scotland	—	350
Scottish Education Department	—	122
Department of Health for Scotland	—	18
Scottish Home Department	—	66
TOTAL	3,685	18,342

The Observer and P.E.P.

The June number of *Housewives Today* publishes the following, a paragraph from *The Observer* and correspondence arising from it:—

"PRIVATE FACT FINDING"

"As State activities increase, many voluntary bodies find their functions redundant and their funds drying up. There is one type of voluntary activity that it is most important to keep alive and strictly independent of State support. That is the activity of furnishing facts on public affairs. P.E.P. (Political and Economic Planning) is engaged in this activity in the domestic field in the same impartial spirit that Chatham House brings to bear on international affairs. A financial distress-rocket was (privately) fired by P.E.P. last week. It should be answered by any person, business concern or newspaper interested in obtaining detailed information on such matters as the relations of Government and industry from an expert but unofficial and unbiased source. That the Government supplies a flood of such information these days makes it more, not less, important that P.E.P. should continue to function."—*Observer*, 30/4/50.

"The Editor,
"Sunday Observer,
"22, Tudor Street, E.C.4.
"Dear Sir,

"I enclose a letter on the subject of P.E.P., mentioned in your 'Comment' column to-day.

"I can hardly hope that you will publish it. I do not suppose that there are half a dozen newspapers in the United Kingdom who would print anything even remotely disparaging to this all-powerful organisation. But somebody must up and speak the truth even if Cassandra-like, she is not

believed.

"I am, Yours faithfully,

"Signed JOYCE MEW, (Mrs.)
"Chairman, British Housewives' League."
2, Stepney Green, E.1.
30th April, 1950.

"The Editor,
"Sunday Observer,
"22, Tudor Street, E.C.4.
"Dear Sir,

"P.E.P. may be expert and it may be unofficial but it is certainly not unbiased.

"This group of planners is a development of the Fabian Society. Having realised years ago that 'many people would rather die than think and most of them do,' P.E.P. set out to do their thinking for them; the preparation and arrangement of statistics, in particular, being thinking of a specialised sort, laying itself least obviously open to the charge of bias.

"So successful were they and so glad was the government of the day to have to hand material ready made that there are a number of White Papers which embody almost word for word the language of various P.E.P. reports.

"This is why those of us who do not believe in the Socialist State find the other political parties so disappointing.

"That the Socialist doctrines have so insidiously infiltrated all three parties is a measure of the success of these 'Fabian Tactics'."

"I am, Yours faithfully,
"Signed: JOYCE MEW, (Mrs.),
"Chairman British Housewives' League."

Housewives Today says the Editor of the *Observer* acknowledged the receipt of the letters, and stated the reasons why he was not prepared to publish them.

Mrs. Mew's letters were published in the *Peebleshire Advertiser*, with a supporting Editorial.