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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

The heavy slump in the prospects of Mr. Aneurin Bevan is perhaps the most significant political straw of recent months. When Mr. Churchill, with a moderation unusual to him, referred to Mr. Bevan as a squalid nuisance, it is quite possible that he intuitively selected the fundamental quality for which the backers of the Minister of Health have been willing to advance his fortunes. "Nuisance value" is a well-recognised political asset: the Parnellite Home Rulers developed the attribute to the virtual stultification of much larger parties. But it must be a tool, not a habit.

We suspect that Mr. Bevan is so intoxicated with the exuberance of his own verbosity that he is coming to believe that one, with Mr. Bevan, is a permanent Parliamentary majority. A Minister who, with another General Election in the offing, will inform the Swedish Press that the reason that the English middle class complain that they cannot get domestic servants is because they want someone to order about is not any kind of asset, but merely—a squalid nuisance.

"Labour" is on the way out; but only under that name.

The important point to notice in exhibits of the Bevan and Shinwell type is that they base their self-esteem, and their claim to public approval, on the proposition that labour produces all wealth, has a "right" to all wealth, and is the only ground for a claim to consideration. It is, of course of the essence of their support that labour shall be a permanent majority. They are the mighty champions of virtue against the usurping parasite, and "full employment" is the outcome of their high-minded selfless (£5,000 *per annum*) efforts. Two world wars, with a third on the way, are powerless to expose the fallacy, because "labour" has become the most rigidly organised and controlled vested interest in existence, as Mond (Melchett) recognised in the Mond-Turner Conferences that it could be. The mass of contradictions in which the "axiom" is involved makes it essential to keep the subject on the plane of emotion and away from reason. Once this is done, as it is done, the "scarcity of Labour" serves the same purpose as the intrinsically (nearly) valueless gold cornered by the same interests. There is no limit, in theory, to the racket—every "labour-saving" device can be diverted to "the service of under-developed countries", war, or just plain waste.

That civilisation perishes will, of course be explained as progress.

When the nineteenth century cost-cum-profit system was operating there was a real check on labour monopoly because wages and production (even if the wrong production) had an organic relationship. But with the nationalisation of the Bank "of England", the glorification of the Keynesian deficit-spending racket, intimately connected with credit monopoly, and the systematic propagandisation of employment-as-an-

end-in-itself, *i.e.* "Full Employment," this check was removed.

Messrs. Shinwell, Bevan, and other scum are a minor consequence.

There is no sphere in which the old warning *Timeo Danaos dona ferentes* is more applicable than that of Party Politics; and although we are very far from concerned to support Mr. Manning, the *soi-disant* Social Credit Premier of Alberta, we look upon the violent attack by the Liberal "Party", Mr. Prowse, made upon him recently, with a contemplative eye.

From its earliest days, the Liberal Party in England, and perhaps, by emigration, in the British Dominions, has been the favourite tool of the Jews. There is no question that Jewish interests have been very active in Canada in general, and Alberta in particular in the last year or so. We should like to know a good deal more about Mr. Prowse and his affiliations before we become too enthusiastic about his sudden passion for "real" Social Credit.

The result of the Referendum on the return of King Leopold appears to put beyond doubt what many of us have for some time suspected, that the "will of the majority" basis of sovereignty is a Freemasonic racket. While the preponderance of votes for the King was not large—about 57 to 43—it was in proportion, more than twenty times the Socialist Parliamentary Majority which claims the right to rule us in this country. There are certain factors which can normally be depended upon to produce a majority vote for the wrong policy, hence the Freemasonic advocacy of d'markrazi. In this case something has slipped; so of course the vote must be disregarded, and all good Socialists must foment strikes to prevent the return of the King. In passing, notice Mr. Aneurin Bevan's impudence in the House of Commons.

How to Count Heads

"The three choices for this country now would seem to be: to preserve the British system as it is; to adopt the alternative vote, which would eliminate the minority member but not the minority Government; or to adopt the larger experiment of the single transferable vote in, say, five-member constituencies."—*The Times*.

We are assured that a policy of policy-choosing by the British electorate is *not* at present under consideration by anyone but ourselves.

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PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: March 13, 1950.

Sugar

Mr. Ralph Morley asked the Minister of Food when he will be in a position to increase the sugar ration.

Mr. Harrison asked the Minister of Food whether, in view of the increased world supplies of sugar, he will now increase the sugar ration.

Mr. Webb: I am looking into the whole problem of our sugar supplies, but I feel it my duty to tell the House now, in view of our available supplies at the moment, that there is no immediate prospect of an early increase in the ration. Indeed, I shall feel happy myself, if I can hold the ration for the time being. We are buying the whole exportable surplus of sugar from Commonwealth countries, and any extra sugar would involve using our dollar reserves. But I am surveying the whole situation, and will give the House the full facts as soon as possible.

Mr. Morley: While thanking my right hon. Friend for his very full and courteous reply may I ask him if he has observed the great quantities of sweet jam and sweet cakes on sale in shops, often at prices beyond the capacity of ordinary working class housewives to pay? Will he consider a smaller allocation of sugar to the manufacturers of jams and cakes, and using the sugar saved thereby to increase the sugar ration for housewives?

Mr. Webb: We must get a balance between all the claims on our sugar supplies, and that is one of the factors we are looking at at present.

Mr. Harrison: Are we to assume that the recent Colonial conference on the production and distribution of sugar has been something of a failure? I am thinking of the Caribbean Conference.

Mr. Webb: There is another Question on the Order Paper on that subject.

Sir P. Macdonald: If there is a shortage of Empire sugar why restrict the production of sugar in the Colonial Empire instead of encouraging Colonial producers?

Mr. Webb: That is one of the subjects under discussion.

Mr. A. Edward Davies: Will my right hon. Friend be kind enough to consider the request of some of the older people, that they should have the option of giving up their sweet ration in exchange for more sugar?

Mr. Webb: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Boothby: Will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind the desirability of giving priority to housewives in the manufacture of jam, and say whether any sugar for home-made jam may be available in the near future?

Mr. Webb: That is very high up in the list of claims, but as the hon. Member will realise, there are a good many claims on our limited supplies of sugar. My job, I should have thought, is to balance them, and arrive at the best possible equitable allocation.

Fruit Canners (Sugar Allocation)

Brigadier Medlicott asked the Minister of Food how soon he expects to receive the first report of the working party set up to consider the difficulties caused by the proposal to cut the allocation of sugar for fruit canning in 1950.

Mr. Webb: It has just been decided, after reconsideration of the allocation, to allow rather more sugar to fruit canners this year. But I must reserve the right to examine these supplies in the light of our general problem of maintaining the domestic sugar ration.

Ukraine and Byelorussia

Major Beamish asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what efforts have been made to establish diplomatic relations with the Ukraine and Byelorussia, both members of the United Nations; and what facilities the Soviet Government allow to the British Ambassador and his staff in Moscow to visit these two countries.

Mr. Younger: In August, 1947, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow requested the Soviet Government to transmit to the Government of the Ukraine a proposal that this country and the Ukraine should exchange diplomatic representatives. As no answer was ever received from the Ukrainian Government, it did not seem worth while approaching the Byelorussian Government with a similar proposal.

Members of His Majesty's Embassy in Moscow are prohibited from visiting the Western parts of either the Ukrainian Soviet Republic or the Byelorussian Soviet Republic. The capital cities Kiev and Minsk, are included in these prohibited areas. The remaining parts of the two Republics can only be visited if the Soviet authorities are notified in advance and afford the necessary travel facilities.

General Election (Spoiled Ballot-Papers)

Sir W. Darling asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many spoiled voting papers were returned in Scotland due to the failure of presiding officers to stamp the ballot papers.

Mr. McNeil: I am informed that the total number of ballot papers lacking the official franking and for that reason rejected in Scottish constituencies in the recent General Election was 1,849.

House of Commons: March 14, 1950.

Spoiled Ballot Papers

Sir W. Darling asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he is aware that some thousand votes were spoilt in the last Election by the failure of the presiding officer to put the official stamp on the ballot paper; and if he will take steps to prevent such irregularities in future Elections.

Mr. McNeil: I am informed that the total number of ballot papers rejected for want of the official franking in Scottish constituencies at the recent General Election was 1,849. In no case was the number sufficient to affect the result. I have no doubt that returning officers, who are responsible for conducting the Elections, are fully alive to the importance of securing that ballot papers are properly stamped, but my Department will be discussing with them shortly the general experience of the Election and will certainly discuss this point with them.

Sir W. Darling: Will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind that nine votes in the House of Commons are just as important as nine in the constituencies?

State Appointments (Security)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Prime Minister what steps he takes, before inviting any honourable Member to accept ministerial office, to ascertain, as in the case of other servants of the Crown, that they are reliable persons from a security point of view.

The Prime Minister: I cannot accept the implications in the hon. Member's Question. In any case, I would remind him that it is established constitutional practice that the Prime Minister of the day is solely responsible for recommending ministerial appointments to His Majesty, and it is not customary for him to answer Questions on these matters.

Major Tufton Beamish asked the Prime Minister whether he is now satisfied that no persons known to be sympathetic with the aims of Communism or known to have had connections with the British Communist, or with any foreign Communist Party, are now employed in positions where they could come into possession of information the conveyance of which to a foreign Power might prejudice the security of the State.

The Prime Minister: The Government's policy is, as indicated in my statement of 15th March, 1948, to ensure that no one who is known to be a member of the Communist or Fascist Party, or to be associated with them in such a way as to raise legitimate doubts about his or her reliability, is employed in connection with work in the Civil Service the nature of which is vital to the security of the State. Similar precautions are taken in the armed forces. I am satisfied that all necessary action is being taken.

NATIONAL FINANCE
Anglo-Israeli Agreement

Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further releases have been made to the Israeli Government under the recently-concluded Anglo-Israeli Agreement.

Sir S. Cripps: The ordinary sterling release to be made to the Government of Israel under the terms of the Agreed Minute signed on 10th February is £3,000,000. His Majesty's Government have also agreed to release £4,000,000 to constitute a working balance which Israel has not had hitherto; and sterling to pay for Israel's essential requirements of oil supplies of £250,000 a month for the months of November and December, 1949, and up to a maximum of £435,000 a month in 1950, for so long as these supplies cannot be obtained as they would in normal circumstances, from the Haifa refinery.

Civil Service (Communists and Fascists)

Major Beamish asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (1) how many civil servants have been moved from their employment since 15th March, 1948, for security reasons for alleged Communist connections; how many of these were members of the Communist Party when moved; how many were not members of the Communist Party but had been in the past; and how many had never been members of the Communist Party;

(2) how many civil servants have been moved from their employment since 15th March, 1948, for security reasons for alleged Fascist connections; how many of these

were members of the Fascist Party when moved; how many were not members of the Fascist Party but had been in the past; and how many had never been members of the Fascist Party.

Mr. Jay: Forty-eight, of whom 22 have been removed on grounds of membership of the Communist Party, one on grounds of membership of the Fascist Party, and 25 on grounds of association with the Communist Party in such a way as to raise legitimate doubts as to their reliability.

House of Commons: March 15, 1950.

KING'S SPEECH (ANSWER TO ADDRESS)

THE VICE-CHAMBERLAIN OF THE HOUSEHOLD (MR. POPPLEWELL) reported His Majesty's Answer to the Address as follows:

I have received with great satisfaction the loyal and dutiful expression of your thanks for the Speech with which I have opened the present Session of Parliament.

Tanganyika (Constitution)

Mr. John Hynd asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will make a statement on the proposed constitutional changes in Tanganyika; what are the objections of European settlers to these proposals; what are the reactions of the non-European communities; and what progress has been made by the unofficial committee of the Tanganyika Legislative Council set up to study the problem.

Mr. Sorensen asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies by whom objections have been raised against proposals in Tanganyika for developments towards better constitutional representation for Africans; and the terms of such objections.

Mr. J. Dugdale: The Governor of Tanganyika communicated certain suggestions confidentially to a committee composed of all the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, and of two officials, and I understand that these suggestions have become publicly known in East Africa. They were designed to secure a more representative method of selecting the unofficial members of the Legislative Council. One feature of them, the suggestion that on both the Provincial and Legislative Councils there should be joint arrangements for selecting the European and Asian members, has, I understand, met with objections from the European community; but as the committee in question has not yet reported I think that it would be premature for me to make a statement on the public reactions. No decisions have yet been taken; in fact, the committee, which, of course, has an entirely free hand in the matter, has decided not to take the Government sponsored memorandum as a basis for discussion, but to approach the whole question with an open mind.

Mr. Hynd: Can we expect from the Minister a further statement when the report of this Committee is received?

Mr. Dugdale: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Sorensen: Is my right hon. Friend aware that statements have been made by some Europeans, amounting almost to threats, that they will impede or obstruct these proposals, and can we take it that any such statements or implied threats will be not accepted as a reason for postponing these proposals?

(continued on page 6).

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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Saturday, April 1, 1950.

Now For the G.P.

Not without some difficulty, we have reached the conclusion that what is already known as "the Collings Report" is a very curious exhibit, and relative to our problem.

"The Collings Report" ("General Practice in England To-Day") occupied thirty-one pages of *The Lancet* last week, and at once "attracted" (if that is the word) the notice of newspapers from *The Times* upwards. Unlike the Good-enough Report and the Beveridge Report, it is a one-man job, with the quality inseparable from individual enterprise: since "the style is the man," a committee cannot have style, and all style is quality of sorts. Dr. Joseph S. Collings's style is of a good sort. A Bachelor of Medicine of the University of Sydney (and a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) of the same University), Dr. Collings is "at present research fellow, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass." He is free to damn out of hand the B.M.A. in such a passage as the following:—

"The British Medical Association has expressed the official attitude of doctors to the National Health Service. Just how far this attitude of organised medicine in Britain represents the summation of individual opinion is open to question. From my contacts with a large number of doctors—some approving the official attitude; some disapproving it; but mostly "ordinary" doctors, asking no more than to be allowed to get on with their job as they see it—I was unable to correlate the thoughtful opinions of the majority with the statements of the organisation which represents them.

"It is perhaps significant that these thoughtful opinions rarely find their way into the channels of public communication. . . ."

The following is the major part of a short introduction and from it the reader may himself judge of that quality of which we have written:—

"General medical practice is a unique social phenomenon. The general practitioner enjoys more prestige and wields more power than any other citizen, unless it be the judge on his bench. In a world of ever-increasing management, the powers of even the senior managers are petty compared with the powers of the doctor to influence the physical, psychological, and economic destiny of other people.

"But unlike the manager, who exercises his controls over whole groups of society, the doctor exercises his in a microcosm and in relation to individuals; and for this and other reasons he is largely free from the limitations which democratic principles set on the acquisition of power.

"General practice is unique in other ways also. For example, it is accepted as being something specific, without anyone knowing what it really is. Neither the teacher responsible for instructing future general practitioners, nor the

specialist who supposedly works in continuous association with the G.P., nor for that matter the G.P. himself, can give an adequate definition of general practice. Though generally identified with the last-century concept of "family doctoring," usually it has long ceased to be this. Nevertheless its stability and its reputation rest largely on this identification.

"While other branches of medicine have progressed and developed, general practice, instead of developing concurrently, has adapted itself to the changing patterns; and sometimes this adaptation has in fact been regression.

"There are no real standards for general practice. What the doctor does, and how he does it, depends almost wholly on his own conscience.

"The conduct of general practice and of the individual practitioner is inextricably interwoven with commercial and emotional considerations which too often negate the code of medical ethics by which the public are supposedly safeguarded and from which the high reputation of medicine stems. Hence material and moral issues have become inseparable, and it is impossible to discuss general practice without discussing morals, and therefore without moralising. In this report the issues are kept separate as far as possible, but this is not very far. . . .

"My observations have led me to write what is indeed a condemnation of general practice in its present form; but they have also led me to recognise the importance of general practice and the dangers of continuing to pretend that it is something which it is not. Instead of continuing a policy of compensating for its deficiencies, we should admit them honestly and try to correct them at their source. If I do no more than convey this, I shall be satisfied."

Quite so: "The limitations which democratic principles set on the acquisition of power." The general practitioner is free from these? Then the power must be transferred. ("Power cannot be destroyed; it can only be transferred.") And to whom must it be transferred? Ah!

Dr. Collings's thesis is that the N.H.S. Act did not initiate the present deterioration of general medical practice: it only hastened and accentuated it. "In spite of this grim analysis of the present position and future prospects, the opportunity to re-establish general practice is still open. First, an attempt should be made to define the future province and function of general practice within the framework of the National Health Service. . . . Secondly, basic group-practice units. . . should be formed as soon as possible." What is envisaged is a group of 6-10 doctors, looking after 15,000-25,000 people in a team with nurses, social workers and technicians, "with the general practitioner as the co-ordinating agent of the team." In other words, general practice is to be institutionalised in the train of the immense expansion of high-cost diagnostic techniques which has been fostered during recent years.

It looks as though the general practitioner is now seen to be a man who will recognise anything from the hand of a committee or the B.M.A. as an item in the bag of "the same fellow who stuck his foot in the door yesterday." He doesn't seem likely to escape *this* young man unless he studies Mond-Turnerism to better effect than he has done so far. "Science" can invent much more expensive and exclusive diagnostic apparatus than it has done, without making the Slave State any more tolerable—or any healthier.

“Nationalisation in Practice”

There appeared in *The Gas World* on February 25 last, a number of letters from Managers and others of Gas Undertakings—who find themselves swept into the maw of nationalisation, that panacea of all our industrial ills! Now we are beginning to reap the advantages of the London School of Economics and the Planners who know so much better than experienced men how to run industry and who are making quite sure not only that the wicked capitalist and the erstwhile shareholders shall be mulcted in the interests of equality, but that now more people should do less effective work and that in the “national interest” the sharing of misery shall be extended.

The extracts from these letters will confirm “the success of nationalisation and the morality of public ownership!” Here they are:—

(1) “Until a year ago, I was a happy man, keen and mentally active, going to work with enthusiasm each morning. Now I find a heavy weight of foreboding in my stomach as I go . . . every criticism is met with the reply, “The Board has decided—”. Lastly, Sir, a year ago I would have hoped never to fear putting my name to a letter—but under present circumstances, I beg to remain, Yours faithfully, “A Manager.”

(2) . . . “it is a well known fact that the local chief executive officer, in general, is extremely unhappy.

“The gas engineer and manager was always an individualist . . . What we did not expect, for instance, was the whittling down of one’s personal standing, to have one’s designation altered without prior consultation, to have one’s salary, emoluments or expenses decreased without explanation and, above all, to see the hope of future advancement fade.”

(3) “The new circumstances in which many engineers and managers find themselves to-day is nothing short of tragic. How right it is to say that managers of small works are in the main treated as though they were small boys . . . the new area or group manager, who has probably come from some large undertaking, having little or no knowledge of the problems peculiar to the small undertaking—it is condemned out of hand, and as I’ve seen it, with a touch of sarcasm that adds to the humiliation to which so many of the small men have already been subjected. . . . Numbers of small men see many things going wrong, but must not raise their voice in protest, it is not good policy for them to do so.”

(4) “The general clerical staff in this district has been increased by 66 per cent. There has been no accompanying increase in business efficiency, however, nor have the terms per ton of coal carbonised been increased. The only practical effects are soaring overhead expenses and a feeling of numbness in the minds of the clerical staff who, in spite of the increase of numbers in their midst, are incapable of dealing with a never ending multiplicity of returns . . . The gas industry under nationalisation is in its infancy and one of the diseases that has attacked the child is impersonality.”

(5) “I am no longer allowed to think or order; everything has to be requisitioned from headquarters and we are governed by remote control. Providing we fill up the forms and carry out such duties of an office our salaries are not affected and we retain the title of Manager, but the soul has been taken out of our work and it is members at head office who get all the credit for running the nationalised gas industry.”

(6) “. . . after 30 years in the gas industry and with a sound local knowledge I had come to a position of local responsibility which in the course of a few months has been reduced to that of a glorified office junior . . .”

It is to be observed that such is the atmosphere of trust and confidence in the “set-up” that only one of these contributors dare sign his name!

In the light of the foregoing the extract given hereunder from a letter on “The Election” under the signature of L. David Levison appearing in *The New Statesman and Nation* of March 18, appears to argue that black is white.

“May I add that in the immediate future the Labour Party could well spend *all its propaganda effort* on the true slogan of ‘the success of nationalisation and the morality of public ownership’ until Tory progaganda against them is in high reverse, and the truth dinned into the floaters’ heads.” (The italics are not in the original).

Hardly the propaganda to woo and win even floating geese!

R.G.

“Insurance at Lloyds” and “The Ship of State”

“If only we could inculcate into the hearts of mankind a little spirit of brotherhood,” political parties “would be so unnecessary.” To which I reply—If only we could inculcate into the *minds* of party politicians a little sense of responsibility, the spirit of brotherhood could well be left to look after itself.

“Responsibility!” In the world of business, a captain of a ship or a manager of a factory is held RESPONSIBLE FOR RESULTS. In the world of party politics, a representative of the people or a minister of the Crown escapes all responsibility. Whatever the damage to our credit, the squandering of our money, the robbery of our property or the betrayal of our rights and liberties, the party politician is blameless. Has he not delivered the political “goods” ordered—“Nationalisation,” “Full Employment,” “Social Justice” or what? If the “price” now demanded in increased taxation and depreciated currency appears exorbitant, that is just too bad. No one ever asked the “price,” anyhow!

Any loss of expected income due to “Act of God” can be covered at Lloyds. Can loss of expected income due to “Act of Political Parties” be similarly covered? Can a man of say £1,000 p.a. cover himself at Lloyds against “loss of purchasing power” arising from increased taxation and/or depreciated currency during the next five years by paying a lump sum down? If he can, what would be the rate for the present Labour administration? What would be the rate for an eventual Conservative administration?

All political parties should be required by law to “price” their political “goods”—to “quote a rate” at which they will guarantee any voter against loss of purchasing power due to increased taxation and/or depreciated currency in the event of their administration. The party politician would then “cost” his political “goods”, and the citizen “spend” his political “vote” with a due sense of responsibility. “Devaluation” at the command of Wall Street thugs would be no more! But until that happy day arrives when party politicians treat their elector customers with the honesty of simple traders, why should not Lloyds blaze a political trail by “quoting the odds” against the rival party administrations

for anticipated loss of purchasing power resulting from such increased taxation and/or depreciated currency?

There is no surer protection against the Communist menace than LOWER TAXES AND NO INCREASE IN PRICES. There is nothing easier for a political party administration to effect—GIVEN THE WILL. Therefore, in all seriousness, I do ask you to consult your numerous Lloyds friends and see if a rate can be quoted for this £1,000 p.a. would-be insurer. If Lloyds will not quote a reasonable rate, it can only mean of course that in their opinion, increased taxation and/or depreciated currency are MATTERS OF DELIBERATE POLICY, and that His Majesty's Ministers, whatever their sales-talk, are deliberately and/or irresponsibly steering the "Ship of State" onto the rocks of World Communism. But at least the country will know that our "Ship of State" is no longer considered "A1 at Lloyds" and WHO IS CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS RESULT.

T. V. HOLMES.

PARLIAMENT

(continued from page 3).

Gold Coast (Sentences)

Mr. A. Fenner Brockway asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on what charge sentences of imprisonment were recently passed in the Gold Coast on Messrs. Biney and Wood of the Gold Coast Trade Union Congress and Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Dr. Renner, Attah Mensah and others of the Gold Coast Convention People's Party.

Mr. J. Dugdale: Except for Mr. Attah Mensah, who was discharged, all the persons referred to were charged with inciting others to an illegal strike contrary to Section 6 of Gold Coast Ordinance No. 12 of 1941.

Mr. Brockway: Will the Minister bear in mind that these offences were either committed on trade union demands or demands for the extension of political freedom, and will he therefore seek to get some remission of these heavy sentences?

Mr. Dugdale: I cannot possibly guarantee that there should be a remission of sentences. I will certainly look into the matter, and no doubt my right hon. Friend will look into it further, but without any guarantee whatever that there will be any remission of sentences.

Mr. Dugdale: We shall not bow to any threats, if they are made.

Mr. O. Stanley: Are we to understand that these are not proposals in the sense that they are put forward officially either by the Government of Tanganyika or on his right hon. Friend's authority, and that they are merely a basis for discussion among the people of Tanganyika as to a new constitution?

Mr. Dugdale: I think the right hon. Gentleman will find, when he reads my statement, that that was made abundantly clear.

Sugar

Mr. De la Bère asked the Minister of Food whether the Government will take steps to encourage and develop supplies of sugar which could be made available for consumption in this country, with special regard to Jamaica, and with a view to taking sugar off the ration at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Webb: As I told the House on 13th March, I am looking into the whole question of our sugar supplies, including the future production of Commonwealth countries. I should, however, like to point out that we have undertaken to buy all the sugar the Commonwealth, including Jamaica, can send us until 1952.

Mr. De la Bère: Is the Minister aware there is no world shortage of sugar but a potential surplus? Surely the public ought to have a reasonable allowance of sugar. It is very important.

Mr. Driberg asked the Minister of Food how much extra sugar for domestic jam-making he expects to be able to allow this year; and if he will bear in mind the needs of people with small gardens growing only soft fruit and endeavour to make it possible for them to draw the entire extra allowance early in the season.

Mr. Webb: I am at present considering how much I can spare and hope to make a statement soon. I shall certainly bear in mind what my hon. Friend says, but I doubt if it would be practicable to make all the extra sugar available so early in the season as he suggests.

House of Commons: March 20, 1950.

FOOD SUPPLIES Northern Irish Apples

Professor Savory asked the Minister of Food whether he is aware that in South Antrim and County Armagh there are 9,500 acres of orchards and that present growers are in a serious plight because, whereas in 1948, with an average crop, 18,019 tons had been exported by February, 1949, this year, after a bumper crop, only 10,382 tons had been shipped to this country, while shops in London are flooded with Italian or other imported apples; and what steps he proposes to take to safeguard the future of this industry, in view of its importance to our food supply.

The Minister of Food (Mr. Maurice Webb): The crop in Northern Ireland consists almost entirely of cooking apples. The difficulty in marketing them was due, not to imported apples, which were mainly eating varieties, but to the heavy crop of cooking apples in Great Britain and the fact that much of the crop was of poor quality and had to be marketed quickly.

Professor Savory: Will the right hon. Gentleman make further inquiries? I think he will find that there was a very excellent supply of eating apples in Northern Ireland which could not reach the British market because of the importation of foreign apples.

Mr. Webb: I have made a good many inquiries into this and I am satisfied that the great bulk of the crop was cooking apples.

Book "The Groundnut Affair"

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter asked the Minister of Food if he will make a statement as to why his Department gave directions to the Overseas Food Corporation to try to prevent the publication of the book entitled "The Groundnut Affair," by Mr. Alan Wood; and what action was taken.

Mr. Webb: No directions of any kind have been given by my Department to the Overseas Food Corporation about the publication of a book by Mr. Alan Wood. The second

part of the Question does not therefore arise.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: Does it follow from that answer that the fact that the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor personally informed the publishers that publication would be stopped, while Sir Leslie Plummer personally informed the author to the same effect, was merely a happy coincidence? In view of the implications of this matter with respect to freedom of discussion, will the right hon. Gentleman arrange for a public inquiry into the whole case?

Mr. Webb: As the hon. Gentleman pointed out, if any representations were made I do not know about them; they would be personal representations. As head of this Department, I could not take any responsibility for that kind of representation.

Mr. Stanley: How is it possible for a Minister while he is still in office to make personal representations about a matter that intimately concerns his own Ministry? Surely he can only do so in his part as Minister, and he and his successor must take the responsibility for it?

Mr. Webb: I am sorry. Obviously I can only take responsibility for what the Department does, and I have made most careful inquiries into this and at no stage has any communication, written or oral, gone from my Department to any responsible person on this matter.

Mr. Stanley: Does the right hon. Gentleman deny that a communication went from his predecessor, who surely was part of the Department at the time, to the publishers, and does not that constitute an official act? Are we to understand that in future we may get letters from Ministers written from their offices and afterwards be told, "This is only a personal thing; it is not a Department matter?"

Mr. Webb: I cannot deny anything on which I have no information. [HON. MEMBERS: "Oh."] Quite seriously, there is no record in my Department of any transaction of this kind. Therefore I have no record at all and I can neither deny nor affirm. All I can say is that my Department—and the Question is addressed to me on that ground—has at no time made any such representations.

Mr. Stanley: In view of the very unsatisfactory nature of this reply, may I ask the Prime Minister, who is responsible for all Ministries, whether he will look into this and see whether, in fact, any instructions were issued by the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor, whether unofficially or, as we are now told, in his personal capacity?

The Prime Minister (Mr. Attlee): I will certainly ask the Secretary of State for War about this point.

Imports

Mr. Keeling asked the Minister of Food if he will publish in the OFFICIAL REPORT a statement showing what percentage of our imports of meat, bacon, butter, cheese and eggs came from foreign countries in 1948 and 1949, respectively.

Mr. Webb: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Keeling: Could the right hon. Gentleman say now whether the figures show that there was an increase in the proportion imported from foreign countries, and if so, can he explain why?

Mr. Webb: There was a slight increase, but the figures are so complicated that I would rather await examination of them, when possibly the hon. Gentleman will put down a further Question?

Following is the statement:

The amount of meat, bacon, butter, cheese and eggs imported into the United Kingdom from foreign countries as a proportion of the total imports of those foods for the years 1948 and 1949 respectively were:

	1948	1949
	per cent.	per cent.
Meat of all kinds (excluding bacon and ham but including the carcase weight equivalent of imported fat cattle)	38	43
Bacon and ham (including canned) ...	31	80
Butter	23	35
Cheese	24	36
Eggs in shell	45	60

Sherry (Description)

Mr. Keeling asked the Minister of Food what was the object of the letter addressed by his Department to Messrs. John Harvey & Sons, Bristol, as to their description of their sherry; and what action he proposes to take as a result of their refusal to omit the words "milk" and "cream."

Mr. Webb: When a trade mark application was made recently for "Bristol Milk" Sherry, an over-zealous official wrote a letter to the company raising the question of whether such a trade mark might not be a misleading description of the product. He should not have done so and the letter was quickly withdrawn. The second part of the Question, therefore, does not arise. But I would like to apologise to the firm concerned for any inconvenience they may have been caused by this mistake.

Mr. Keeling: Does the right hon. Gentleman agree that to connect Bristol Milk, which has been sold under that name for 300 years, with the product of the cow is quite idiotic, and ought he not to employ officials who have a little more knowledge of the matters they are handling?

Mr. Webb: Since I have apologised, I do not want to add anything to the answer I have given.

Dr. Fuchs

Mr. Henry Strauss asked the Prime Minister whether His Majesty's Government received any warning regarding Dr. Fuchs from His Majesty's Government in Canada when the Canadian Royal Commission was sitting in 1946.

The Prime Minister: No, Sir.

Sir W. Smithers: May I ask the Prime Minister whether he has read the Report of the Royal Commission on the spy trial in Canada, and whether he is aware that in that report the Russian Ambassador in Canada was implicated, that this same Ambassador is now Ambassador here in Britain and that M. Zarubin has now gone to Russia; and is that the reason?

REALISTIC CONSTITUTIONALISM
(Notes for an Address to the Constitutional Research Association at Brown's Hotel, Mayfair, May 8, 1947)
 by C. H. DOUGLAS

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The Poison in Agenised Flour

The recent statement from the Ministry of Health, which manages to assume credit for being about to abolish the commercial treatment of flour with nitrogen trichloride ('agenisation') without admitting any disadvantages in that treatment, is now followed by the isolation from agenised flour of a crystalline substance poisonous to ferrets.

In *Nature*, March 4, 1950, Drs. P. N. Campbell and T. S. Work and Sir Edward Mellanby describe its isolation.

The investigation into the nature of the toxic factor in agenised flour was undertaken after Mellanby had shown in 1946 that this treatment of flour gave rise to a toxic factor responsible for hysteria in dogs, and later found to be poisonous also to ferrets, cats and rabbits.

Campbell, Work and Mellanby took as their criterion of toxicity "the production of a typical epileptiform fit in a ferret." A toxic reaction is produced in a ferret with a much smaller dose of flour than would be necessary for a dog, though weight for weight a dog is more susceptible. Flour was agenised by the standard procedure but with ten times the amount of nitrogen trichloride used in commercial practice. A ferret fed on 100 gm. of this flour (1.9 gm. nitrogen) over three days had the "typical epileptiform fit." From this flour a crystalline toxic factor was eventually isolated which produced severe fits in a ferret when a total dose (over five days) of 3 mg. was given. Thus the pure "toxic factor" is 33,000 times as toxic as the original flour. It is slightly more toxic when given as a single dose than when the dose is spread out over several days—a single dose of 2 mg. is sufficient to produce the typical fits in a ferret, and a slightly greater dose kills the animal. But the cumulative nature of the poisonous effect is of vital significance: it was shown that a fatal result can be produced by giving, over five to ten days, doses of the crystalline poison that were only a fraction of the amount required to produce an immediate toxic effect.

The amount of the crystalline poison in flour is very small: 1 gm. in 33,000 gms. of flour.

These authors think it probable that the material they isolated from agenised flour is identical with a toxic substance isolated by other workers from nitrogen trichloride treated zein (a derivative of maize flour).

Through American Eyes

"BRITISH ELECTION LESSON: 'Liberal' commentators, with their usual loving concern for the welfare of the Republican Party are asserting that the British elections prove the soundness of 'me-tooism.' Since the Tories in the campaign claimed that they could run a Welfare State better and since they effectively crippled the Labour Government at the polls, therefore (say these 'liberals') the GOP should desert 'stand-pattism' and practice a policy of 'me-tooism', abandon Taft as a leader and follow the Fair Dealish Cabot Lodge. Whatever its factual merits the argument can cut both ways. If the Tories achieved unexpected success by their 'me-tooism', the Labour Government lost real power by practising 'me-tooism.' Such, at least, is the complaint of the Left Wing group headed by fiery Aneurin Bevan, which wanted an all-out routin' tootin', avowedly Socialist campaign, calling for bigger and better nationalisation of industries and stronger planning and controls. Bevan and his Left Wingers (who aren't afraid of calling themselves 'Socialists') are very disgruntled and blame Attlee and the

Right Wing for a soft campaign, for 'me-tooism' towards Capitalism. Any stand-pat Republican in argument with a 'liberal' should put this up to his crypto-Socialist opponent and watch his gyrations."—*Not Merely Gossip*, (Washington, D.C.).

Experience

Mr. Thomas Demarden Williams, seemingly an engineer graduate of a British university and a German *Technische Hochschule*, writes to *The Times* to say, *inter alia*:

"I did discover one arts student who loved to repeat 'The Ode to the Nightingale' and made it sound like a Beethoven symphony. But that was in my last year and, like most things in life, a trifle late.

"And the German *Technische Hochschule*? There was no lack of German engineers who were prepared, without prompting, to read anything from Goethe to Shakespeare and Racine to Cervantes. But the experience was not wholly edifying, and in any case it was better done by an old dame who ran our students' *pension*: she could declaim Schiller's 'Ode to Joy' with the same sincerity as my crippled friend at home 'The Nightingale.' Music was our common ground at the *Hochschule*. . . . The Germans in the department made up an appreciative audience. The *Technische Hochschule* students drew extensively on the opera house, the theatre, and the concert hall. As in the university, I found the balanced mind not so much in the discussions of the academic circle as in judicious contacts with the outer world. And the conclusion? The essentials of the full life are acquired in the home and at school. It is too late to start the process at university or at *Technische Hochschule*. For the purpose of development both will serve equally."

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