

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### The Conspiracy of "Organisation."

by

G. D. GILLING SMITH

"Organize" . . . is likewise used in an obnoxious sense . . . 'Organiser une conspiration.' 'La division et la discorde organisées en France par les ennemis du dedans et du dehors.'"  
[*Lexicographia Neologica Gallica* (London 1801)].

Generalizations about the political significance of words and their uses seldom go beyond personal feelings about "nice words," or "ugly words," long words, simple words or "Civil Service jargon." I remember at one time finding a keen reader of "Aldous Huxley" who claimed to agree heart and soul with Social Credit as presented in conversation, was overjoyed when he heard that such a paper as *The Social Crediter* existed. Three weeks later a sad and rather disillusioned letter arrived saying that though he liked the matter he could read no more—what he called the "latinate" vocabulary of "ation" and "ization" tasted too much of the Socialist pamphleteering from which he had struggled so hard to escape. Of course one had to point out the alternative—did he expect us to invent a new language? Yet he raised a problem which faces and will continue to face us, that of Gresham's law in the field of language, bad meanings driving out good—the words remain the same. The building up of a vocabulary for clear-cut abstract thinking and generalization is a slow and laborious business.\* The definitions and concepts with which existing words have been endowed by the Social Credit Movement are examples, e.g., *Power* (which cannot be destroyed but only transferred); *Authority* which cannot be destroyed or transferred); *Religion* (a binding back of policy to one's conception of reality), *Increment of Association*, *Cultural Heritage* and *Social Credit* itself are but a few. Once embodied in words these concepts can be mastered with the aid of a little explanation and used in one's own thinking with a very small proportion of the effort required to give them original currency. Words are, as it were, midwives to concepts and in any circle where an idea is born or reborn one can usually rely on finding a new word or a special sense development of an existent word coming into being. If one is careful it is also sometimes possible to track an idea to its lair or within range of it by looking at the semantics of its "word."

The dangers of wishfully reading into words the history one has read into events are obvious. The classic example is the belief disseminated by Jespersen and others of the "cow and veal," "pig and pork," "sheep and mutton" stories. The picture presented is that of backward beer-swilling Anglo-Saxons being overcome by superior culture of "Frenchmen," etc. (vague modernistic associations of holidays in Paris). Their words are kept for the aspects of the animal with which they are concerned, the rearing and feeding, while the French words become associated (no doubt with overtones of modern

\* Boule, Hamilton and others have attempted to extend symbolical technique beyond the sphere of "grammatical" language.—Editor, T.S.C.

French cuisine) with the cooking and the eating. However Professor Tolkien has recently drawn attention to the fact that the French and English words are used interchangeably for the animals concerned until the Renaissance, as shown by the quotations given in the Oxford English Dictionary. If we dissociate the Romance influence on English due to the cultural predominance of central or Parisian France in the 13th Century, and which was felt throughout Europe, in such countries as Germany where there was no Norman Conquest, we get a picture of continental raiders whose speech was only a Patois and certainly no medium for writing down laws or history coming into conflict with a civilization which had a highly developed language for writing the everyday business of legal codes and administration. Leaving aside the fragments of earlier laws and charters that are extant and have been reprinted by various learned societies, we can find in the laws of Alfred the Great, drawn, as he said, from those of his predecessors and which he felt himself hardly competent to modify, something unparalleled in any other European country for another five hundred years. The story about his cakes seems to be one of those "camouflage histories" designed to distract attention from what is important. It was first written down after the conquest by William of Malmesbury in the 12th century—an event comparable with the "bad old day" mythology manufactured by Socialists. So the story of Alfred's translations, or translations done to his order, of the main books of his time, Orosius's *History of the World*, Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* (originally in Latin), Gregory's *Pastoral Care* and Boethius *Consolation of Philosophy* was not told. Of course, Old English made use of Latin words, said not to exceed 500. They are difficult to pick out as they were chosen in such a way as not to alter the existing appearance or structure of the language. But the translators  
(continued on page 2).

### Ten Years Ago

(From *The Social Crediter* of January 4, 1941).

"MAIZE AS FUEL. By a decree issued at Buenos Aires on October 4, a National Fuel Board was created consisting of the Minister of Agriculture as Chairman and representatives of the various departments concerned, as well as of the Central Bank. The principal task of the Board is the application of the measures for the utilisation of maize as fuel. The Board will co-operate closely with the National Grain Board which is conducting the purchases, for account of the Government, of the 1939/40 maize. Both fuel wholesalers and consumers will have to report to the Board the extent of their present stocks as well as the quantity of their monthly sales and their monthly consumption respectively, during the months from August, 1939 to July, 1940. In a communique issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the fuel deficit owing to import difficulties is estimated as equivalent to about 100,000 tons of coal a month which would necessitate the substitution by maize of no less than 30 per cent. of their requirements by the most important consumers."

(Continued from page 1).

had to wrestle with the Latin in order to endow English words with the equivalent concepts, unlike the writers in the Romance languages descended from Latin who had merely to go through a semi-automatic process of reforming Latin words according to the pattern of similar shaped words in the current dialectical mispronunciation or deviation from their originals. The Normans had no "language" in our sense of the word. Their early charters were issued in English and it is said that William, "the Conqueror," known in his own time as "Wilhelm le batârd," attempted unsuccessfully at the age of forty to learn English. But the Normans were unable to make use of the heritage which they had seized and had to fall back on the mutual knowledge of Latin by French and English ecclesiastics for their administration. As living links with the society broken up at the conquest became sparser, so the tradition of the written language became confined to a small area of the West Midlands. Elsewhere sporadic writings appeared though usually the words were being spelt according to French standards of relationship between letters and speech sounds. In the English of this period it is perhaps ironical to notice that the first recorded Norman French word to be adopted was "sot." "Thief" and "bastard" soon follow along with "fool," "jailbird" and "rogue."

The other popular superstition of this period is to reinforce the belief in the Normans as the civilizers who brought the feudal system, by pointing to the French words "marquis," "baron," "viscount," "duke" and "crown." But Professor Tolkien has again pointed out that the few words which Jespersen in his *Growth and Structure of the English Language* has dismissed as English exceptions "King," "Queen," "Lord," "Lady," "Earl," "Abbot" and "Archbishop" are the feudal system. The French terms point to an elaboration of formalities which is no doubt a typically French characteristic and in any case came much later than the conquest. "Marquis," a Provençal or Italian word for the ruler of the marches or border territory was only used of foreign nobles until about 1400. "Viscount" is not used as an English Title until 1450, a deputy for an Earl. "Baron," a word of obscure Romance origin, originally a functional word of feudalism, meaning a man in relation to another man, was first used as a title by Richard II. A "Duke" was a leader of an army who seized virtually independent power and made it hereditary. This situation had not occurred in England, and William the Conqueror was still called an Earl as late as 1124. The word was first used as a title by Edward III. "Crown" can hardly be related to the Conquest as it is used all over Scandinavia and Germany.

The setback caused by the attack on the English tradition at the conquest had a sequel at the time of the so-called Renaissance. A continual tradition of spoken Latin had existed throughout the medieval period. It had been developed by the thinking for which it had been used and contained the expression for all the concepts that were responsible for the birth and growth of such a thing as the former British constitution. It was protected from being misused in every day speech, as our thinking language is not, by the fact that it was not a democratic language. It could not be plundered as our specialized vocabularies have been plundered to provide novel alternatives to everyday expressions. There come the humanists and purists of the "Renaissance" who have suddenly discovered the ancient

world and that "Latin is not what it was." Setting the absurd standard not to write any word, or put any word in any case, not to be found in the pages of Cicero, they were bound to limit their thinking capacity or cut themselves off from everything that had been thought since Cicero. The superstitious respect for Ciceronian Latin was perhaps the most potent factor in turning Latin from a living into a dead language; alongside the fact that the use of English and other vernaculars was developed to the extent of being able to do much of the business previously done in Latin and that the Reformation reduced the use of Latin in England and other countries in the ritual of the Church, where it had been kept alive for over a thousand years as a spoken language. What Ezra Pound has called the Renaissance gold rush for the largest latinate vocabulary is perhaps an indication of how much thinking had previously been done in Latin; these words had not been needed before in English. It is significant that the words "educate" and "depopulate" are first recorded by the O.E.D. in statutes of Henry VIII. The word *organize* which Dr. Tudor Jones has so aptly deflated with the comment "you cannot confer organic qualities on something which does not possess them," is first recorded in 1413, in the sense of "to furnish with organs." The quotation given is "The body was organysed kyndely in power for to receive the sowle withynne hym." In 1597, Hooker in his *Ecclesiastical Polity* writes "Even as the soul doth organize the body." John Florio, "the translator of Montaigne," renders in 1598 *organizzato*—"well proportioned, organised." The etymology given is the Medieval Latin word *organizare* in the same sense. The second sense given by the O.E.D. "to form into a whole with naturally connected and dependent parts . . . to give a definite orderly structure to, to systematize, to frame and put into working order (an institution, enterprise, etc.) to arrange or get something up involving united action, is first quoted in 1632. The quotation, however, shows that the word was still innocuous—"I organize the Truth, You allege the Sense." The next example given is for 1791, Edmund Burke writing on the Whigs (Works VI. 231). "The several orders . . . so organized and so acting . . . they were the people of France."

These examples, however, have been supplemented by an excellent article by Frazer Mackenzie in *English and Germanic Studies*, Vol. I. 1947-8 (Birmingham University Publication) called *Some new aspects of the English Language*. He poses the question "at what moment, or in what country was there a need felt, for the first time of using the phrase *to organize society*? Was it due to the *philosophes* or the *physiocrates*? It is practically certain that such a combination of words was not used before the 18th century. Kant thanked the French for having given that idea universal recognition . . . .

"The word 'responsabilité' appears in the French text of 1787. It may have been borrowed from English at this period when every Englishman was conscious of his *birth-right*. In 1787 the French word is not yet used in the phrase *responsabilité du roi*, but *responsabilité des ministres*. However, within two years (1789) the word was employed with reference to one person, the King of France, in all kinds of texts, and constantly. From France the whole family of *responsable* became *international*, and the group *irresponsable* soon followed. *Responsabilité* entered into the French Code which began with "Sous votre responsabilité." From the time of the Revolution every French citizen is expected to be conscious of his responsibility. . . .

“Brunot . . . considered that the basis of contemporary French life depended on the notion of every French citizen being *responsable*. The idea grew and became a world concept at the moment when France was forming her republican doctrines.

“Here is an interesting passage from Dupré's *Lexicographia Neologica Gallica* (London 1801). It shows that the popularity of *organisation*, *disorganization*, *re-organization* is, like the word *responsabilité* due to the international repercussions of the French revolution.

“*Organiser*, to organise. This verb, formerly applied only to the situation of the human body, on the formation of mechanical instinct, is now used in every physical, moral, or political sense to which it can be adapted. The Revolution in France, wonderful in its progress, has produced a revolution even in the language of the country, new words and phrases have been everywhere sought for, and old ones have varied and extended their significations. The extensive use made of this verb . . . will appear in the following . . .

“Le royaume de France dénaturé et tout désorganisé devait être réorganisé dans ses fondements. . . .

‘L'assemblée Nationale qui s'était constituée et organisée elle-même, organisa les finances, le clergé, l'état militaire et toutes les parties du gouvernement. . . .

‘Organiser une Université, une Bibliothèque, Organiser des spectacles civiques. . . .

‘It is likewise used in an obnoxious sense,—‘organiser une conspiration. La division et la discorde organisées en France par les ennemis du dedans et du dehors.’”

The examples given could not be arranged in better order, or presented with a better sting in the tail. A better justification of our long-standing suspicions of this word could hardly be asked for; and produced by a philologist from outside our ranks, reduces the possibility of the explanations' reading more into the history of the word than was really there. Of the sense development itself something might be added. It implies an arrogation to himself on the part of the first user of the conception of a divine capacity to confer organic qualities. As a metaphor it has its uses. Human beings in association do in certain respects, especially spiritual, as in the Catholic conception of the members of the Church as the mystical body of Christ on earth, behave like an organism, but to base all one's calculations on the assumption that human beings collectively can always be treated as if they were an organism is a deliberate ignoring of reality.

Frazer Mackenzie has one or two other relevant uses of words in his article which are worth our attention. “*internationale* is an anglicism coined by Jeremy Bentham . . . *Pouvoir arbitraire* comes into French through a translation of Milton . . . *constitution de l'état* can be found as early as 1683 in translation from English. . . . Scholars will inevitably find that, when a word crosses the Channel, it is frequently because a new idea, however small, crosses at the same moment. It will become apparent that some of our fundamental concepts have been “borrowed” . . . The O.E.D. cites Gibbon's *Decline and Fall*, xxxi, III. 257, as the first example of *Public opinion*. But Rousseau speaks of *Opinion Publique* in his *Premier Discours* (1750). “*Public Opinion* appears on the 30th page of the English translation of 1752. Schulz-Bäslér considers that Rousseau coined this expression.”

Whether or not he coined it he is always credited with

the origination of the idea by the enthusiastic “philosopher” supporters of the “Mass Observation” business. One might almost say he invented it, for if such a thing really existed why is it so often reinforced with such remarks as “public opinion was unanimous”—“One is one and all alone and ever more shall be so” as the old song had it. It would be interesting to know what word the Jews had to express what they meant by the “Public opinion” that cried for Barabbas. The management of a handful of Italians in official occupation of a Ghetto by the leading Ben Hechts and Weitzmans of the time offers great scope to a speculative imagination. But the Jewish influence on the languages of Christendom has yet to be written. Evidence is scanty, and one is left with a few Yiddish origins which Eric Partridge gives in his *Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (Routledge 1949—3 gns.). One suspects that, as with Marx and the rejects of European political thinking, and the Old Testament, Kabbala and their conglomeration of tribal folk-lore, no doubt borrowed from now-extinct tribes, the Jews are in this respect also the Cuckoo race *par excellence*. One has perhaps as a case in point the relationship of Yiddish to German, and the jargon of the East End or New York to its parent ‘English.’ It is not so much what they bring to a language that would have to be studied but the sort of things they bite out of it when they get their teeth in. A little everyday observation, like that which taught us to beware of *organization* before we knew where it came from, will probably give us a shrewd idea of what we would find.

## The Stone and the Standard

“The Coronation Stone, which was stolen from its resting place beneath the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey during the early hours of Christmas day, was still being sought by Scotland Yard and police in many parts of Britain [on December 26]. A close watch was being kept on roads running north and on the Scottish border. The Scottish police have interviewed a number of persons who may have information to give.” (*The Times*).

But the Gold Standard is still safe in a GLUB-BOX, 2" x 1" x 4", in the Bank “of England.” Anyone who doesn't know what a glub-box is may consult a friend on the Stock Exchange.

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### The Menace of Governments\*

Unless they are effectively controlled, Governments are the individual's worst enemy. Not a day passes now but bears out the truth of this statement. While it is true that right throughout history all Governments have tended to seek more and more power over the individual, modern Governments arrogantly impose policies which in days gone by would have resulted in violent revolt. The major problem confronting the individual to-day is how to prevent Governments—and the power-lusters who manipulate Governments—from using him merely as so much raw material to further policies which are opposed to his personal desires.

It is claimed, of course, that because the individual has a vote every few years, he really has some control over Governments and their policies. But the individual's very vote is subtly exploited to enslave him. Having obtained a majority of votes at election time, Governments then proceed to legislate on the assumption that everything they do must be accepted by the individual. They claim to speak in the name of the majority. Hitler also used this technique.

If Governments are to serve any useful purpose on behalf of the individual, it is first essential to insist that the individual receive some benefit from these institutions. When the individual joins a cricket club or becomes a shareholder in a company, he does so in the confident anticipation that he will derive some personal benefit. But what benefits do individuals obtain from their Governments? When an individual becomes a shareholder in a company, he confidently anticipates that he will receive dividends which he can spend as he pleases. Electors are shareholders in what can be termed Australia Unlimited, but the Government refuses to make available to shareholders the company's profits. The Government and its "advisers" insist that the individual can only get access to some of his own profits if he is prepared to submit to increasing centralised control of his life. The policy of "Full Employment," as opposed to greater self-employment, is barefaced robbery of the individual by those who claim to represent him. The individual is compelled to submit to unnecessary work in order to get access to his own money.

There appears to be no hope of genuine reforms of any description until the power of Governments everywhere is deflated to the point where they have the minimum of power necessary for their legitimate functions. These functions should primarily consist of ensuring that the individual has the greatest possible freedom to develop his own life in this own way.

In *New Times* (Melbourne), November 17.

### Generators for Russia

" . . . The figures in the trade and navigation returns show that from January 1, 1946, to September 30, 1950, electrical generating sets and generators (including appropriate spares) were exported from the United Kingdom to the value of £43,696,340, of which complete generating sets and generators exceeding 200kw. accounted for less than £15m. The Customs and Excise Department supply each quarter a 'breakdown' of these figures to this association. There was exported from the United Kingdom to the Soviet Union alone equipment of the type referred to above to the value of:—

	£
In 1946 ... ..	940,617
" 1947 ... ..	1,469,070
" 1948 ... ..	1,158,179
" 1949 ... ..	4,280,670
" 1950 (to Sept. 30) ... ..	4,340,406

£12,188,942

approximately 28 per cent. of the total.

" Even that, however, does not give the whole story. Of the total of £4,340,406 exported to the Soviet Union alone during the first nine months of 1950 £329,269 represented Diesel generator sets over 200kw. and £107,741 represented parts and non-Diesel-driven generator sets, and the balance of £3,903,396 was for Diesel generator sets not over 200kw., all suitable for installation in Russian factories. Russia has been steadily supplementing the deficiency in her central station generating plant by assiduously and systematically importing generating plant of that type suitable for factories. Every one of the generator sets included in the £3,903,396 and many of those in the £329,269 could be used for supplemental power supply in British factories on or likely to be on production for re-armament or export to counter the stoppages of output now taking place and for some years inevitable through the disruptive power-cuts euphemistically called 'sheddings.' . . ."

(Sir Lynden Macassey, Chairman, British Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers' Association, in *The Times* for December 21).

### Apology?

We used to say we never apologised, since apology looked so much like weakness when it wasn't a confession of guilt. However that may be, we may say that the unusual appearance of this issue of *The Social Crediter* is due to the office boy, whose family (five of them including the office boy) were swept off their feet and laid flat on their beds by 'influenza' (whatever that is) when he should have been doing 'something for the paper.' Not even the prospect of the proclamation of Ike as the Messiah, could move him to a line of comment. This situation will, we trust, be repaired next week.

### SOCIAL CREDIT LIBRARY

A Library for the use of *annual* subscribers to *The Social Crediter* has been formed with assistance from the Social Credit Expansion Fund, and is in regular use. The Library contains, as far as possible, every responsible book and pamphlet which has been published on Social Credit together with a number of volumes of an historical and political character which bear upon social science.

A deposit of 15/- is required for the cost of postage which should be renewed on notification of its approaching exhaustion.

For further particulars apply Librarian, Croft House, Denmead, Portsmouth.

## PARLIAMENT

*House of Commons: November 30, 1950.*

### University Students (Grants)

*Mr. Awbery* asked the Minister of Education how many university students are now receiving State grants; and what are the maximum and the minimum grants paid to students.

*Mr. Tomlinson:* The number of university students receiving State grants is at present 24,266, including some 3,800 intending teachers. The standard figures of maintenance for holders of State awards are set out in Administrative Memorandum 332 of which I am sending my hon. Friend a copy. In addition allowances for wives and dependants are available for students under the further education and training scheme and for certain other older students.

*Mr. Awbery:* Can my right hon. Friend say how the number of students and the amount paid in grants compare with the pre-war figures?

*Mr. Tomlinson:* Not without notice.

### Non-Utility Footwear (Tax)

*Mr. Hugh Fraser* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the increased price of raw materials doubly reflected in proportional increases in Purchase Tax have forced, and are forcing, high quality shoemakers to shut up shop; and whether, with a view to preserving craftsmanship in this trade, he will consider the abolition of a tax which affects less than 1 per cent. of the whole trade's output.

*Mr. Jay:* My right hon. Friend has received various representations about the effect of Purchase Tax on sales of high-class non-utility goods, including footwear, and will consider these in the next review of the tax.

*Mr. Shepherd:* Is the hon. Gentleman aware that it is precisely in this class of footwear that we have the biggest chance of securing a market in the United States of America?

*Mr. Jay indicated assent.*

*House of Commons: December 4, 1950.*

### Margarine (Composition)

*Mr. Digby* asked the Minister of Food what is the content of the margarine in the present ration; and, in particular, what percentage of animal fat it contains.

*Mr. Webb:* Margarine issued for the domestic ration contains no animal fat, in the normal sense of the term. It is at present composed of vegetable oils and marine oils (which are animal) in the proportion of 77 per cent. to 23 per cent.

*House of Commons: December 5, 1950.*

### Conway Bridge

*Mr. William Elwyn Jones (Conway):* In the debate earlier in the evening we have been discussing communications in South Wales. In the short time at my disposal I desire to discuss the road communications of North Wales and to draw the attention of the House to the condition of Conway Bridge. This is the bridge which links the main route of

traffic coming from the counties of Flint and Denbigh and Lancashire— . . . with the counties of Anglesey and Caernarvon. The bridge is one of Telford's bridges and is now 150 years old. In its day it has served the people of North Wales exceedingly well, but by now it is quite inadequate to carry modern traffic. The bridge belongs to the Conway Corporation, who are the Conway Bridge Commissioners; they acquired it in 1878. They have always employed a firm of consulting engineers to make regular inspections of the bridge and its condition.

In 1933 the bridge engineer and the firm of consulting engineers decided that the time had come for the bridge to be strengthened and enlarged. Unfortunately, the statute under which the Conway Bridge Commissioners operate did not permit them to erect a new bridge, and so an approach was made to the then Minister of Transport with the request that the Commissioners should be allowed facilities to promote a Bill in the House to give them statutory powers for the construction of a new bridge. The then Minister indicated that it was a matter for his Department and that he was prepared to undertake the task of building a new bridge across the river.

Plans and specifications have been prepared. Protracted negotiations have taken place between the Conway Corporation and the Minister of Transport, and by now the plans and specifications for the new bridge have been completed. The time has arrived for tenders to be invited and for the contract to be placed; that is the position at present. I understand that the difficulty is that the Minister has no funds at his disposal with which to carry out the project.

I want to offer to the Minister one or two observations why this matter should be regarded as one of special urgency. As I have indicated, the bridge was considered to be inadequate as far back as 60 years ago. It is much more inadequate today. There is only one-way traffic over the bridge and during the summer months there is serious congestion on the road, which is a most important traffic route and carries some thousands of commercial vehicles and tourists on their way to the seaside resorts of Caernarvonshire and Anglesey.

During last summer there were serious congestions at both ends of the bridge. I was involved in a hold-up myself for at least an hour to an hour and a half, and this kind of thing occurs constantly. The bridge which was designed to carry the traffic of 1826—pedestrians, horses, animals, carts, and so on—is totally inadequate to carry the modern traffic of 1950. This inadequacy of the bridge to carry modern traffic is the first point I want to make.

The second point is that it is dangerous. Tests have been made, and in consequence it has been found necessary to place certain restrictions upon the traffic which crosses the bridge. . . .

. . . I am informed that the Penmaenmawr Granite Quarries have been given notice by the Commissioners that only vehicles under a certain weight may cross the bridge. This affects the production costs of the company and may affect the prosperity of that industry. . . .

The third point is that the most modern traffic passenger vehicles are not able to use the bridge. I understand that the new regulations prescribe a width of 8 ft. for modern vehicles. . . .

*The Minister of Transport (Mr. Barnes):* . . . The Caer-

narvon County Council and other local authorities have pressed upon me the desirability, if we cannot provide the funds for a full scheme, to construct at least one deck of the bridge. That would cost £350,000. As I repeatedly pointed out, if we could undertake any of these schemes alone it might be possible to find the necessary funds, but I want to remind my hon. Friends that as late as 23rd November, when the Prime Minister was asked whether it was possible to provide additional funds out of the Road Fund, the Lord President of the Council made this statement.

"My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister regrets that, in present circumstances, it is not possible to allocate to the roads as large a share as we should all wish."—[OFFICIAL REPORT, 22nd November, 1950; Vol. 481, c. 338.]

Hon. Members have accepted that authoritative statement from the Government, and we cannot contract out of that for any specific project.

I quite agree, however, with my hon. Friend the Member for Caernarvon that we cannot continue indefinitely, in the face of the development of modern transport to allow our roads to be in the condition in which they are today. The fact is that, whereas before the war we were spending between £60 million and £70 million a year on our roads, today we are only able to allocate just under £50 million for that purpose. If we take the increased cost of such work since before the war, that means that, relatively, we are only spending between £25 million and £30 million today compared with £60 or £70 million before the war. In practice, that fund only permits the maintenance of our existing road system at not more than about 70 per cent. of the standard at which we used to maintain it before the war.

In these circumstances there are not the necessary funds available with which to undertake any new construction work. Apart from eliminating a limited number of exceedingly black or dangerous spots on our roads where the accident rate is exceedingly high, and maintaining the essential communications, there are no further sums available for new construction of this description.

### International Agencies (British Gifts)

Mr. T. Reid asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement showing the cash value of gifts made or promised by Britain since April, 1938, to each of the various international relief and other agencies and to each foreign country.

Mr. Gaitskell: Gifts made by His Majesty's Government to these agencies and countries, and future gifts covered by Parliamentary authority, are shown below. The list includes assistance given in kind to Allied countries during the 1939-45 war, but excludes regular contributions or subscriptions to international organisations, such as U.N.O. and its specialised agencies.

TABLE A

International Agencies		£ million
Relief and administrative		
1.	Contributions to international funds in connection with the civil war in Spain ... ..	.2
2.	Grants to voluntary societies for the administration of relief abroad ... ..	.3
3.	International Red Cross, Relief Fund for Prisoners of War ... ..	.2
4.	Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees ... ..	1.2
5.	International Refugee Organisation ... ..	21.8
6.	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration	153.2

7.	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund ... ..	.1
8.	United Nations Fund for Arab Refugees in Palestine	2.6
TOTAL TABLE A ...		179.6

TABLE B

## Foreign Countries

## (i) Gifts

£ million

1.	Austria:		
	Before 1st April, 1946 ... ..	10.0	
	Post-U.N.R.R.A. ... ..	7.5	
	Surplus machine tools ... ..	.1	
2.	Burma:		
	Cancellation of debt ... ..	15.0	
	British Military Administration expenditure (cancelled claim), etc. ... ..	21.0	
3.	China: Relief of distress (including grant to Friends' Ambulance Service) ... ..	.2	
4.	Egypt: Grant in aid to cotton cultivators ... ..	2.1	
5.	Ethiopia: Assistance to Government ... ..	3.1	
6.	Greece:		
	Armed forces' initial equipment, maintenance, etc. ... ..	31.1	
	Surplus Stores and relief supplies ... ..	2.0	
	Waiver of repayment of war-time advance ... ..	46.0	
7.	Hungary: Surplus machine tools ... ..	.2	
8.	Iceland: Subsidy for support of Icelandic industries ... ..	.2	
9.	Italy: Estimated value of surplus stores in excess of payments under financial agreement ... ..	55.0	
10.	Jordan: Assistance to Government ... ..	12.3	
11.	Netherlands: Estimated value of surplus stores in excess of payments under debt settlement ... ..	16.0	
12.	Palestine and Transjordan: Assistance to Government	42.8	
13.	Poland:		
	Welfare and social services ... ..	5.0	
	Surplus stores ... ..	6.0	
14.	Saudi Arabia:		
	Assistance to Government ... ..	12.7	
	Military supplies ... ..	.8	
15.	Sudan: Welfare and development ... ..	2.0	
16.	Turkey: Relief of earthquake distress ... ..	.1	
17.	U.S.S.R.: Provision of clothing to civilian population	2.4	
18.	Assistance to Polish refugees in neutral countries ... ..	.8	
19.	Civil Affairs (not recoverable) ... ..	49.0	
20.	Ex-Italian colonies, cost of administration ... ..	13.5	
21.	Miscellaneous ... ..	.6	
Subtotal ... ..		357.5	

## (ii) Mutual/Reciprocal Aid furnished during the 1939-45 war.

		£ million
1.	Belgium ... ..	24.0
2.	China ... ..	11.0
3.	Czechoslovakia ... ..	30.0
4.	Denmark ... ..	1.0
5.	France ... ..	106.0
6.	Greece ... ..	34.0
7.	Netherlands ... ..	14.0
8.	Norway ... ..	7.0
9.	Poland ... ..	228.0
10.	Portugal ... ..	18.0
11.	Turkey ... ..	32.0
12.	U.S.A. ... ..	1,241.4
13.	U.S.S.R. ... ..	318.0
14.	Yugoslavia ... ..	14.0
Subtotal ... ..		2,078.4

## (iii) Intra-European Payments Agreement—net drawing rights exercised on United Kingdom.

1.	Austria ... ..	13.4
2.	France ... ..	46.5
3.	Western Germany ... ..	17.8

4. Greece ... ..	18.0
5. Turkey ... ..	11.8
Subtotal ... ..	107.5
(iv) European Payments Union—initial debit position ...	53.6
Subtotal ... ..	53.6
TOTAL, TABLE B ...	2,597.0
GRAND TOTAL ...	2,776.6

In addition, there have been cases of assistance in kind for which valuations are not available.

**Bankruptcy**

Brigadier Medicott asked the President of the Board of Trade how many persons were adjudicated bankrupt during the years 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949, respectively; and during the first six months of 1950.

Mr. Rhodes: The following are the number of persons adjudicated bankrupt during the years 1946-49 and during the first six months of 1950:

Year	Number
1946 ... ..	323
1947 ... ..	626
1948 ... ..	1,132
1949 ... ..	1,491
1950 (first six months only) ...	913

**Casual Earnings**

Mr. Haire asked the Minister of National Insurance whether, in order to assist old age pensioners to augment their income by occasional earnings, she will introduce legislation to increase the allowance for casual work to £2 or higher, before disqualification for a retirement pension becomes effective.

Lieut.-Commander Hutchison asked the Minister of National Insurance. (1) whether she will raise the maximum limit for earnings which a woman over 60, but under 65, in receipt of a retirement pension may earn, without reduction of pension, from 20s. to 60s. in any pensions week;

(2) whether she will raise the maximum limit for earnings which a man over 65, but under 70, in receipt of a retirement pension may earn, without reduction of pension, from 20s. to 60s. in any pensions week.

Mr. B. Taylor: One of the objects of the retirement pension provisions of the National Insurance Act, by providing larger pensions for those who go on working, is to encourage, in the national interest, continuance in regular full-time employment beyond minimum pension age. An earnings rule is an essential part of these provisions because, without such a rule, a person could notionally retire and thereafter earn such an amount that it would be impossible to decide whether he had retired from work or not. The figure of 20s. was fixed on the basis that for this and other purposes of the National Insurance Acts it was a reasonable measure of an employment which could be ignored. The suggestions put forward in these Questions would be inconsistent with this conception and might well tempt people deliberately to choose a life on pension supplemented by part-time earnings in place of regular full-time work, which is so much more important in the national interest. Some of the suggestions would amount to abolishing the retirement condition entirely and so reverse one of the major decisions embodied in the National Insurance Acts.

**Eggs**

Mr. Narbarro asked the Minister of Food what function will be performed during 1951 by the Eggs Division of his Department and the National Egg Distributors' Association Limited, respectively; what is the total cost of each of these organisations for the year 1951, including all overhead charges; how many persons are currently employed by each organisation; and what future plans he has for these organisations.

Mr. F. Willey, pursuant to his reply [OFFICIAL REPORT, Monday, 27th November, 1950; Vol. 481, col. 770], supplied the following information:

The functions of the Eggs Division of the Ministry and of National Egg Distributors' Association Limited are reviewed from time to time. As far as can be foreseen during 1951 the functions of these two organisations will be as follow:

(a) The Eggs Division will continue to be responsible for the purchase of imported and home produced shell eggs and imported egg products and for arranging their equitable distribution through trade channels to consumers.

(b) N.E.D.A.L. will continue to be responsible, subject to general directions by the Ministry, for the collection and distribution of eggs from packing stations and ships, supplying boxes and packing materials, making payments to home packers, arranging transport inspecting imported eggs and performing certain accounting functions.

The total number of staff employed by each of these organisations is 167 and 1,108 respectively. The latter figure includes 855 industrial staff. The total estimated costs inclusive of overheads for the financial year 1950-51 are as follow:

	£
Eggs Division ... ..	1,041,000
N.E.D.A.L. ... ..	330,000

It is not possible at this date to give an indication of future plans for Eggs Division and N.E.D.A.L.

House of Commons: December 6, 1950.

**Baltic States**

Professor Savory asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the refusal of His Majesty's Government to recognise *de jure* the annexation by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of the three Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, he is prepared to bring before the Security Council of the United Nations the present condition of the inhabitants of those three States, large numbers of whom are being deported.

Mr. Ernest Davies: No, Sir. The matter does not fall within the competence of the Security Council since no threat to international peace or security appears to be involved.

Professor Savory: Will His Majesty's Government not support His Excellency the Lithuanian Ambassador in Washington in the protest which he is now making to the President of the General Assembly of the Society of Nations in order to have an investigation carried out into these deportations, which are taking place by the hundred thousand, and the substitution of Asiatics for natives?

Mr. Davies: I am not sure that the hon. Gentleman does not go a little beyond the facts, because I am not aware

of some of the facts which he has stated. I doubt very much whether it would serve any useful purpose if we associated ourselves with the protest in the way he has suggested.

*Professor Savory:* There is ample evidence here of all the facts.

*Mr. Molson:* Does the Under-Secretary mean that His Majesty's Government have no information about deportations which are taking place?

*Mr. Davies:* No, Sir I do not suggest that we have no evidence of that matter, but no evidence on some of the matters to which the hon. Member for Antrim, South (Professor Savory) refers.

### Naturalisation of Aliens

(Extract from Lord Vansittart's speech in the House of Lords on December 13, concluded:—)

*The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Henderson):* Yes.

[Lord Vansittart's question was whether there were the full eight sponsors in the cases of Fuchs and Pontecorvo]

*Lord Vansittart:* There were. I am very glad to hear that. I suppose that the joint weight of their sponsorship was held to be a sufficient guarantee against the subsequent betrayal. As I said, I wish to be reasonable in this matter, and I am not going to press the Government to reveal the names of those eight sponsors who unfortunately went seriously astray; but I am going to press them to make public the names of sponsors in future. The Government may say that this would not be in the public interest, but that argument will not work with an old professional like myself: I have too often known it employed. As a matter of fact, there could be nothing whatever against the public interest in publishing the names of sponsors. I have sponsored a good number of people at different times during my life and I should never have had the least hesitation in making public the fact that I did stand guarantee for them. Nor, indeed, can I imagine that any man of good faith and good will would object to some publicity in this matter. If he did object I should think there was something odd about this sponsorship.

Let us see again how the present arrangement has worked out. Take the case of Herr Fuchs. He was a refugee. Why was he a refugee? Was he a Jew?—because that would be an excellent reason for it. I do not think so. I have known many Fuchs in my time who were not Jews. It is not a Jewish name any more than Fox is. Was he a refugee because he had Communist affiliations or relatives? Now we know that he had. Did his sponsors know that when they made application, or exactly how much of him did they know? I do not want to press these particular cases of Fuchs or Pontecorvo too closely; I am using them as illustrations. In the case of Fuchs, I think there was clearly recommendation without knowing a sufficient amount of the man's background. Exactly the same considerations apply in the case of Pontecorvo. Again he was a refugee, and again he was probably a refugee not because he was a Jew but because he had affiliations and relatives in the Communist Party, which is the only other really good reason for his flight. Were these things known? If not, was it clearly stated that the sponsors did not know very

much of his foreign background, or knew only so much and no more? I urge your Lordships, in view of the intensely dangerous character of the times in which we live, to insist that provisions like that should in future be seriously considered, and that space should be given for an exact definition and not an approximate one of the knowledge of the applicant.

Sixthly, I think it is abundantly clear that our screening does not work satisfactorily in all cases. That brings me back to speak very briefly of something which I have said to your Lordships before now—that is, that our Security Services are, in my judgement, under staffed and underpaid. [later] . . . I should like to begin by thanking the noble Viscount, Lord Buckmaster, for the support he has given me on this matter. . . . I should have wished to conclude this debate on a note of good humour, but the noble Lord, Lord Chorley, has made that impossible. He referred to the Star of David. I think that that is the most groundless and offensive suggestion that I have ever heard in this House, certainly so far as I am concerned. The noble Lord charges me with xenophobia, but he is not going to get away with it. I am going to ask him which of my suggestions savoured of xenophobia. I proposed a number of security measures which might strengthen our security services, and then the noble Lord accused me of xenophobia. There are a great many aliens in this country. Is that xenophobia? I suggested that our security might be strengthened, if not in every case at least in exceptional cases or border-line cases, by a departmental committee, where knowledge may be pooled. Is that xenophobia?

*Lord Chorley:* My Lords, I think I will withdraw what I said. At the time I had a certain feeling about his remarks. I am prepared to accept the noble Lord's statement that there was no such thing in his mind. I withdraw the suggestion. . . .

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