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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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Two Letters

The two letters which follow were not written with the intention that they would be published. The advantage is evident in a directness easier to attain when a writer is addressing an individual than when he pictures a group, however small or however large, for each of whose minds he feels he must make allowances. Both writers concern themselves with matters of consequence to us, and both come from places far from Liverpool. Only time can provide a complete answer to either, though both call for thought and for action in the present. The future contains the present, as the present the past. If the anonymity we impose needs explanation, we would say that the Spirit, which bloweth where it listeth, bloweth where it listeth—that is to say in these letters, and not merely in the names of their authors, whose consent to publication, we have not sought. Further, we think that in this case, as in so many others, anonymity is not a complication but a simplification of the reader's problems.

I.

I have been thinking quite a lot about the Movement and the Secretariat, as I am sure we all have. I referred to the latter . . . as a Pilot Plant, a working model, and the more I think of it, the more I am convinced that it is, or should be, and that C.H.D. was far too realistic ever to have regarded it as anything else.

I think this matter is bound up with the problem of our failure "to put it over," and that in some way we must succeed in realizing our ends to some degree in our means, which are the movement and the Secretariat.

Cannot we Social Crediters [act], like an inventor with a prototype which he claims to be absolutely revolutionary in providing a vital social need? In our case it is the key to fruitful association, Christian Abundance,—what you will. Suppose your inventor were to call or someone to demonstrate a perfect washing agent for dirty linen and oily trousers, and he proceeds to explain that it does this, that and the other, just as soon as the general conditions are adjusted one hundred *per cent.* to its needs. That might be conditionally true; but it is besides the point, which is one of salesmanship, to persuade someone, or a group of people, to try this wonderful invention.

Whatever the conditions are, they are the same for everyone, and if his own shirt is not at least some degrees cleaner than the average, the salesman's arguments lack force. They may be logical and concise and clear, but they will be incapable of moving even the smallest molehill, let alone mountains.

That may be oversimplified; but it serves to emphasise my point about the Pilot Plant. I am thinking aloud and

entirely of myself and from my own standpoint. As Douglas said, in regard to Alberta, one is never allowed to choose one's conditions in this world. And, however apparently adverse they may be, one just must produce some results. Unsuitability of time and place and a hundred other factors may conspire more and more to narrow the field of operations, till it comes down—perhaps that is where it always was—to the confines of one's own mind. A lone and lorn conclusion, you might say: yes, the utter loneliness of the cross and the tomb. But there, too, there must be results in the shape of tangible demonstration of what one's prototype is good for, to be recognised in what it has achieved and is achieving.

These are the thoughts which come into my mind this Christmas, when the movement has, as it were, come of age, or at least been weaned, as a result of Douglas's physical removal; which is all the more reason for us to get together occasionally where he can be with us . . . [A page omitted.]

. . . The Secretariat has suffered all these years from the defects of its virtues, and you must give us credit and sympathy, that we suffered, quite gladly, with you.

I am not dispirited. But I have not quite found my bearings. . . [The concluding few lines are personal and irrelevant to the argument.]

II.

The reading of "On Michaelmas Morning" and the Chairman's statement to the meeting of November 1, prompt me to try to put a few thoughts into words.

I am very much aware of the weakness of the Social Credit cause in ——— (as you would assess it). There are very few who make an attempt to get at the full significance of what we stand for; and of the depth and width of the degradation to which men generally have been subjected. We seem to be an inadequate force in the circumstances.

One can recognise a number of people who have sensed the lack of reality which marks many accepted 'thinkers.' For instance, in J. Middleton Murray's *Keats and Shakespeare* the writers says: "For this knowledge of God by the soul is essentially [*sic*] a concrete knowledge of the necessity and harmony of all that is. Knowledge of God is acceptance of life. But this meaning becomes overlaid and hidden in the pullulation of theology and the multiplication of ceremonies. The accidental and outward parts of religion suffocate its inward life . . . Therefore true men rebel against it."

I do not think this is adequate; but it is an indication of a quest, which would be much more productive of good

(continued on page 8.)

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: December 15, 1953.

Butter and Bacon

Miss Burton asked the Minister of Food (1) what instructions have been issued by his Department to retailers concerning the sale of larger rations of butter and bacon to people able to afford such purchases;

(2) what instructions have been issued by his Department to retailers for the return of unsold rationed goods, such as butter and bacon.

Major Lloyd George: It is an offence to supply more than the prescribed quantities of rationed foods and retailers should reduce their own purchases to the extent that rations are not fully taken up.

Miss Burton: That answer gets us nowhere. Does the right hon. and gallant Gentleman realise that if anyone in the better-off sections of the community is having larger rations of butter and bacon than those less able to afford them it is the job of his Ministry to prevent it? Would he have an investigation made into average shops in one or two towns to find out what is the take-up in the lower income groups?

Major Lloyd George: I am afraid that the hon. Lady's further question gets us nowhere either, because the fact is so far as is known, and after very careful investigation, the lowest take-up of bacon is in the highest income group and the highest take-up is in the lower income group.

Mr. Webb: In spite of those figures, may I ask the Minister whether he is aware that large numbers of families in this country are not taking up their rations, simply because they cannot afford to? That is an undoubted fact. What action is he taking to prevent the retailers of these goods from selling quantities beyond their ration to other people, simply because they have the money to buy?

Major Lloyd George: If the right hon. Gentleman and many of his hon. Friends keep saying this kind of thing my reply is that if they have such knowledge it is their duty to take action. If they have not, then they have no right to make the statement. The only means I have of ascertaining the position is a means which was available to the right hon. Gentleman and to his predecessors over the last 10 years, which is the National Food Survey. The survey shows definitely that the highest income groups of this country take up the least bacon.

Mr. Webb: The National Food Survey to which the Minister refers, which is available this week-end, deals with 1950, when he was not in office.

Major Lloyd George: No, Sir. The right hon. Gentleman is thinking of the annual Report. I am talking of the survey which goes on the whole time. The figures I have quoted are the latest available, up to the end of September.

Miss Burton: Is the right hon. and gallant Gentleman aware that my Questions get us nowhere because he has not the answers to give to them? As he has asked where we get this information from will he go to the Old Age Pensioners' Association and ask how many old age pensioners are able to take up their full rations of butter and bacon? That is a challenge. Will he accept it?

Major Lloyd George: I will not only accept it, but I will answer it now. So far as the old age pensioners are concerned, the take-up of butter is practically up to the average of the whole country. The answer is practically the same in regard to bacon. At least this Government have done something to improve the lot of old-age pensioners, which is more than the party opposite did when they were in office.

Mr. Swingler asked the Minister of Food (1) his latest estimate of the extent to which the butter ration is not being taken up; and the reasons for this;

(2) his latest estimate of the extent to which the bacon ration is not being taken up; and the reasons for this.

Mr. Dodds asked the Minister of Food what reasons he can give for the fall in the take-up of butter and also for the substantial fall in the take-up of bacon in the four weeks ended 29th November, 1952, when compared with a similar period in 1951.

Major Lloyd George: The butter ration is being taken up in full. It is estimated that 90 per cent. of the bacon ration was bought in the four weeks ended 29th November, 1952, together with more than 8,000 tons of cooked gammon or ham sold off the ration. This new additional supply possibly accounts for the slightly smaller demand for rationed bacon.

Mr. Swingler: Does the Minister now admit that the figures given last week and this week show that increasing quantities of rationed foods are not being taken up; that this trend has developed significantly since the last Budget; and that it is obvious that the Chancellor has priced some of the big families out of the market? What does the Minister propose to do to ensure that prices are adjusted so that the big families can buy their rations?

Major Lloyd George: I think the hon. Gentleman had better have the figures. The bacon ration this year is five ounces; last year it was three ounces. During the period to which the hon. Gentleman refers 35,000 tons of bacon were taken up; last year 25,000 tons were taken up. In addition to the 35,000 tons, 8,000 tons of unrationed ham were available.

Mr. Chetwynd: As the upper income groups do not seem to be taking up their meat, butter, bacon and milk, can the right hon. and gallant Gentleman say how they are managing to live and what they are eating in place of these foods?

Major Lloyd George: I can only recommend the hon. Gentleman to listen a little more carefully. I said that the drop in milk consumption up to the end of September was highest in the higher income group. I did not suggest, nor would anyone be so foolish as to suggest, that they could not take it up.

Mr. Hastings: In view of the statement that one is often hearing that the butter goes to the wrong people, what action is the Minister taking to ensure that that does not happen, especially as butter is an extremely good food?

Major Lloyd George: I have tried to explain that the survey system has been in operation since 1940. It was used by the Labour Government throughout their administration. All experts advise me that it is far the best method of getting information from a good cross-section of the com-

munity. There is no better information at present. This is the only system we have, and we have to accept its results.

Mr. W. Griffiths: Can the Minister tell us whether the National Food Survey shows the take-up of the meat ration by people with an income of, say, £8 a week and four ration books?

Major Lloyd George: There are four categories—groups A, B, C and D. Group A represents those in receipt of £13 a week and over, and group D covers those in receipt of £4 10s. A different section is taken every month. That is the way it is done.

Mr. Dodds: If the right hon. and gallant Gentleman continues to claim that the rise in the cost of living has not affected the lower income groups but has compelled the richer people to cut down on milk, bacon and butter, does not he realise that before long he is likely to get an offer to top the bill at the Palladium as a straight-faced comedian?

Fresh Milk (Consumption)

Mr. Dodds asked the Minister of Food in respect to the 2 per cent. reduction in the quantity of milk supplied to the public in October, 1952, as compared with October, 1951, in what groups and to what extent fluctuations took place; and by what methods the information was obtained.

Major Lloyd George: As the answer involves a number of figures, I will, with permission, circulate a statement in the OFFICIAL REPORT.

Mr. Dodds: In view of the statement last week by the Parliamentary Secretary that the reduction is in the higher income groups, will the right hon. and gallant Gentleman consult the large milk retailers who will tell him, on the over-whelming evidence of their roundsmen, that following the last price increase it is among the poorer customers that the reduction has taken place, particularly where there is a large family, and among old-age pensioners? Will the Minister consult them?

Major Lloyd George: I must tell the hon. Gentleman that the best system known in this country for checking on all parts of the country is the National Food Survey—

Mr. Dodds: But those figures are only up to September.

Major Lloyd George: I know. I will give the October figures as soon as I can. But up to the end of September, as the hon. Gentleman will see when he reads my reply, the biggest fall in consumption is in the higher income groups. The consumption among old-age pensioners, as the hon. Lady the Member for Coventry, South (Miss Burton) would like to know, has not fallen off.

Mr. Dodds: I am talking of the 2 per cent. reduction which is for October, and the Minister admits he has not the figures. Why will he not consult the milk retailers?

Major Lloyd George: I prefer to wait and obtain the survey which I shall get in due course. It is no use going on what hon. Gentlemen opposite say from time to time. The proper way is to get the survey, which is a national survey.

Sir H. Williams: Will my right hon. and gallant Friend urge on the T.U.C. that there should be no more differentials

in wages, so that all skilled men may be brought down to the level of unskilled men?

Following is the information:

The following table shows the average consumption of milk by different income groups during the third quarter of this year (the latest period for which information is available) and during the corresponding period a year ago.

Weekly income of head of household	Pints per person per week	
	July to September, 1951	July to September, 1952
A. £13 and upwards ...	6.1	5.8
B. £8 to £13 ...	5.0	4.8
C. £4 10s. to £8 ...	4.6	4.6
D. Under £4 10s....	4.6	4.6
E. Old Age Pensioners (included in D) ...	4.7	4.7
Average for all households	4.79	4.76

This information was obtained from the National Food Survey, and is based on records of food purchases by a representative national sample of households.

Essential Foods (Take-up)

Mr. Willey asked the Minister of Food what action he proposes to take, in view of the declining take-up of rationed and essential foodstuffs.

Major Lloyd George: As I have no evidence of any general decline in the consumption of such foods, the question does not arise.

Mr. Willey: Will the Minister reconsider the figures he has already revealed to the House? If he will stop confusing the take-up by retailers with the take-up by consumers he will see that there has been a decline due to the price.

Major Lloyd George: The hon. Gentleman amazes me sometimes; he was Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry for a long time. The Question asked about the take-up figures, and I gave the take-up figures, based on exactly the same procedure as that followed by the hon. Gentleman's party when they were in office. When Questions are asked about consumers' take-up, we then get the figures from the Survey, which is the only possible method. The hon. Gentleman must take those figures, whether he likes them or not.

Mr. McAdden: Has my right hon. and gallant Friend had any representations made from the Co-operative societies about the enormous quantities of rationed foods that would be left on their hands if the allegation contained in the Question was substantiated by the facts?

Mr. Lewis: Is the Minister aware that, for some months past, over 16,000 dockers have been unemployed, and that they have been getting £4 8s. per week, or, less deductions, a net sum of £4 per week? Is he aware that they cannot possibly afford to buy bacon at 5s. 9d. per lb., and that many dockers' families cannot afford their basic rations?

Mr. Vane: Would my right hon. and gallant Friend give as wide a circulation to his answers as possible, other than simply through HANSARD, so that a wider public can see how feeble are these complaints?

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THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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Saturday, January 10, 1953.

From Week to Week

Strange how potent "public" opinion is when it is 'racial' (i.e., anti-racial). The anti-racialists (or racialists) in the . . . States have moved the President to what Senator McCarran calls "a propaganda blast" which, he says, is using "the left-wing's big lie technique to kill his Act. Apparently only Congress is in favour of a belated act of government adequately (perhaps) to protect the United States of America. "Tough on Communists" is Senator McCarran's own assessment of a measure which the anti-racialists describe as "amazingly savage." The . . . States pride themselves on their "toughness." Why they shouldn't be tough against their enemies is a mystery of the universal decline of order in civilised states. We wonder how long the McCarran Act will last in face of the disapproval of the *New York Times*.

It is beginning to appear as though the charge which should have been brought against Mr. Alan Nunn May was that of being mistaken in his opinion of what was good for Great Britain. Unfortunately, this is not actionable. The restoration of Responsible Voting, would be a step towards it.

The . . . States think once-great Britain is "too toothless" to meet the "grim age of A-weapons," although the F.B.I. are hunting at least seven Communist gaol-breakers and arrest-evaders accused of plotting the overthrow of the American Government. How long will it be before the world wakes up to the fact that the forces of anarchy in the modern world have escaped from control and are strictly uncontrollable, and the only hope is to construct an order in their midst, and see which is the more viable, order or disorder? The task is to collect and integrate those who desire order, and really there does not seem to be any other task worth while.

An article in a new journal containing fewer words than *The Social Crediter* but priced at 1/3d. (monthly) says "The main task before Distributists now is to understand fully what we stand for. . . ." In the cant phrase of today, "We couldn't agree more." We suggest they spend the first three months on a realistic analysis of the 69 words written by G. K. Chesterton in 1926, which are stated to embody the principles of distributism, defining at least half a dozen of the more familiar words used. (In parenthesis, our mention of the price of the new paper, *The Defendant*, is neither a reproach to our contemporary nor a threat to our own readers). Either G. K. C. meant what he said, or he

didn't; but the important thing is, What did he say? And what does what he said mean?

"Bond. A noble word in the sense of an obligation, a covenant, a binding agreement. A noble word in the context of private life. My word is my bond. What has brought it into disrepute? Just putting the adjective Government in front of it. A government bond—a scrap of paper." At least that is all a government bond is—but it had exemplars, such as "I promise to pay." The writer quoted is Schwartz.

"One knows where to look in social thought for the technical concept of society. It is in the gigantic enterprises of modern industry. We do not intend here to express an opinion on the necessity, the utility and disadvantages of these forms of production. Indubitably they are marvellous manifestations of the inventive and constructive genius of the human spirit. It is right for the world to admire enterprises that in the area of production and management succeed in co-ordinating and mobilizing the physical forces of men and matter, and the present age may take legitimate pride in the stable beauty of their external set-up. But what must be denied is that modern life should be regulated by them or made to conform to them. . . . Will a world in which the only economic form to find acceptance is a vast productive system . . . be . . . fitted to exert a happy influence upon society in general and upon the three fundamental institutions of society in particular [Family, State and private property]?"

"We must answer that the impersonal character of such a world is contrary to the fundamentally personal nature of those institutions which the Creator has given to human society. . . ." (From the Pope's Christmas Eve Allocution.)

Some time ago, certain Roman Catholic ecclesiastics, invited our criticism by their advocacy of full employment as a worthy objective. Despite pressure to engage the enemy, we refrained, and are now rewarded by noticing in a further passage in the Allocution above quoted the following:—"The intention of guaranteeing full employment with a constantly rising standard of living may well evoke the anxious query, to what degree expansion is possible without provoking a catastrophe, and above all without bringing in its wake mass unemployment." A later sentence contrasts "the level of employment" with "the stability of employment," a subtlety which escapes us. Let the engines be reversed, as the Vatican desires, and we shall see exactly what they knock over.

Mr. W. J. Wilcox

We deeply regret to record the death on Christmas Eve, following a stroke, of Mr. W. J. Wilcox, Treasurer of the Southampton Douglas Social Credit Group.

Mr. Wilcox had been for many years a very active supporter of the Social Credit movement, and his loss will be keenly felt by his many friends in Hampshire and the movement generally.

A Matter of Accounting

by BEATRICE BEST

It is an odd fact and one meriting some attention that the words we apply specifically to arithmetic and accounting matters—sums, calculations and the keeping of accounts; from the payment of household bills to trading and national accounts and budgets—we employ also in speaking of human affairs that are in no way associated with arithmetical or monetary matters. Phrases such as ‘summing up a situation,’ or enquiring what it all adds up to: calculating how to do such and such: ‘accounting for a person’s behaviour’: ‘paying off’ and old ‘score’ are familiar instances.

The reason for this identity may, perhaps, lie in an innate desire to be right, to find the correct answer, an instinct for authenticity, a dislike of dubiety and ambiguity. And this accuracy, this correct accounting belongs naturally to the sphere of arithmetic, of mathematics. There is no dubiety about figures; 2 and 2 make 4 is not a matter of opinion, and offers no ground for argument or disputation. A mistake in calculation can be located and corrected. If, however, the mistake, for whatever reason, be hidden or overlooked it can have no matter how slight, disastrous consequences, falsifying, as it must, all subsequent calculations based upon it. Thus it could, for instance, cause the collapse of a bridge, with consequent injuries and deaths and far-reaching results in the lives and destinies of those involved in the accident. Subsequent enquiries would be concerned with the cause of the accident, with an endeavour to find and give a correct account of the how and the why of it, and finally of who should be held responsible.

The above has bearing on the contention that the error in national accountancy, discovered and revealed by Major Douglas, accounts for the appalling state of affairs in which we find ourselves today. Furthermore, the fact that this error is ignored or denied constrains those concerned to give some account of this state to contrive and offer a variety of explanations. These give rise to confusion and conflicting counsel, but they are useful for diverting the mind from the main issue and may be likened—by analogy—to an endeavour to ‘cook’ the accounts.

The method employed is mainly one by way of the use of slogans. These are designed to suit all tastes, and to suggest plausible and acceptable reasons to account for our condition. One example, especially designed one would say to appeal to and satisfy the moralists, is that it is due to man’s selfishness. This—if one may refer to the illustration of the bridge—amounts to accounting for the accident by attributing it to the moral failings of the people who were crossing it at the time. (Also, incidentally, one might observe that selfish people do not generally direct their affairs to their own manifest disadvantage.)

Other slogans current today present the trend of events as inevitable. We are also told that this is an age of ‘confusion’ or ‘anxiety.’ These suggestions, when they are accepted as satisfactory accounts, offer the advantage of allaying any wish or demand for further investigation.

But a slogan that merits special attention because it concerns a factor in the situation peculiar to our age, and also seems to appeal to high brow and low brow alike, is the

one that declares that man has become the slave of the machine.

Maybe it is not so surprising to find the generality of people, not given, perhaps, to much reflection, and not finding much time for it anyway, succumbing to this particular form of mass hypnotism. A man tied to a machine for most of his life, or finding himself ‘displaced’ or ‘unemployed’ if someone invents a better one, might be excused if he regarded the machine as in some way his slave-driver or his enemy. But it is surprising to find our self constituted leaders of thought, our ‘intelligentsia,’ allowing themselves to be so successfully hoodwinked.

This comment is provoked by a passage which occurs in the second series of Gifford Lectures delivered by Gabriel Marcel in 1949-50 and published under the title of *The Mystery of Being*.

In Chapter IX, entitled “Death and Hope,” M. Marcel reflects on “. . . a dehumanizing way of behaving which must inevitably, in a world *which is more and more enslaved to the demands of technocracy, become universal . . .*” [my italics].

Now, while admittedly, “enslaved to the demands of technocracy” sounds more up-to-date and impressive than man as the slave of the machine, it is no less idiotic and misleading. How can ‘technocracy’ make demands? How can a machine enslave? From whence does the *initiative* ‘to make demands,’ ‘to enslave’ arise? It may be retorted that these phrases are merely employed by way of a *façon de parler* and are not to be taken literally.

Then how are they to be taken, and what do they mean?

In any case, from a philosopher of M. Marcel’s reputation who views the situation so seriously as to see in it a process of dehumanization, one expects a more searching enquiry and exact account than one that can be summed up by a *façon de parler*.

Indeed it is as if—to refer again to the example of the bridge—M. Marcel, having been called in to account for the accident and the ensuing calamities, had been content with declaring that they had all been caused by the bridge, which had unaccountably decided to collapse! Whereas, of course, the point was *why* did the bridge collapse and *who* was responsible.

By the same token then, *why* are we being increasingly enslaved and dehumanized by the demands of ‘technocracy’ and *who* is responsible for such a misdirection and misapplication of means? More precisely why has that factor in the situation that man has devised and developed as an instrument that could free him from the necessity of incessant labour to produce all his material needs, resulted in his enslavement? Why has it not been used by him to procure the leisure to pursue other and less material ends; leisure, for instance, to read M. Marcel’s books, or perhaps write his own; leisure to choose and to follow his own vocation?

Why—to sum up—the insensate demand and cry for “Full Employment,” coming from *all* parties and echoed repeatedly from pulpit and platform alike, in the very face of that ‘thing’ that was devised, and should be used, to disemploy?

It is in the answer to this question that the true account of man’s enslavement and dehumanization must be sought.

But M. Marcel does not ask this question. One must therefore suppose that he does indeed believe that man's enslavement and dehumanization can be satisfactorily accounted for by "the demands of technocracy," otherwise by technological progress, and does not see the need to enquire any further: to enquire, for instance, why man has submitted to this tyranny, and why and by whom it has been imposed on him.

Moreover, M. Marcel appears to regard the situation fatalistically and to see it as an inevitable trend, and thus impossible to arrest. One is justified in assuming this, since in his last chapter he concludes that: "It may well be that we are witnessing a deterioration of the human species . . ." This is a dreadful conclusion to come to, and one calculated to induce despair, the devil's most potent weapon, and 'the final sin.'

Faced with it one is compelled to ask why this persistent and consistent *trahison des clerics*? Is it due to stupidity, to a lack of real intelligence, of true discernment? Is it due to ignorance? If so such ignorance must be classed as criminal. For the answer to this question that M. Marcel does not ask is known. Ignored alike by academic and official circles it has, notwithstanding, though responded to by few been carried round the world. One hesitates to suggest a third alternative to account for the 'blind eye,' the 'deaf ear,' so the question must be left open.

Nevertheless it leads one to reflect upon how small and negligible a contribution 'culture' has made to the civilising of man. It is a remarkable and familiar fact that some of the most refined and sophisticated cultures have existed side by side with the greatest cruelties both inflicted upon, and submitted to, by the people of the nations in which those cultures flourished. Periods characterised by a great flowering of literature and the arts have been also characterised by conditions such that it might well be thought no truly cultured people would tolerate in their midst.

And now, nearly 2,000 years after the revelation of Christian values, after Christ's promise to us of freedom and abundant life, after man, led by the spirit of truth, has discovered and devised ways and means by which these values could be realised by all, we find these same means being perfected and, unwittingly almost, and as though under the influence of some evil spell being directed by men for purposes of annihilation.

Is it not time our self-constituted élite, our intelligentsia, our teachers, our preachers, whatever their self-chosen titles, were called to account?

What have they said, what are they saying to enlighten the darkness, and to help to arrest the present hell-bent course towards enslavement, dehumanization, deterioration and death, they appear almost eager, at times with eloquence, to describe and deplore?

They patronise or deride those they are pleased to call the multitude, the masses; but it would be salutary if they were able to perceive that, with far less excuse, *they have allowed themselves to be caught in the same trap*. As it is they present the picture of a group of people who, confronted with calamity, stand by impotently and wring their hands.

Therefore, one is tempted by the thought that man, whilst preserving true cultural values, is destined to pass

beyond the cultural age into the purely social age, in which he may learn to love the Lord his God with all his might and his neighbour as himself.

PARLIAMENT—

(continued from page 3.)

Sir H. Williams: On a point of order. As this is the 20th Question based on the same alleged substance in fact—the failure to take up rations—is there no protection for the House against the same Question being repeated?

Mr. Speaker: They are different Questions.

Food Subsidies

Mr. Gough asked the Minister of Food the value to an adult of food subsidies on the weekly rations, together with milk and bread.

Major Lloyd George: Including eggs, about 11d. a week at current levels of distribution. This figure takes no account of the subsidies on animal feedingsuffs or fertilisers amounting to about £42 million in 1952-53, all of which have the effect of reducing the prices of home-produced foods to the consumer.

House of Commons: December 16, 1952.

Monopolies Commission (References)

Mr. Langford-Holt asked the President of the Board of Trade what matters have already been the subject of discussion by the Monopolies Commission; and what matters he has referred to the Commission on which no decisions have yet been reached by him.

Mr. H. Strauss: Since the answer contains a table, I will, with my hon. Friend's permission, circulate it in the OFFICIAL REPORT.

We have received only one report dealing with goods for which my right hon. Friend is the competent authority, and that report, dealing with matches, will be published in due course.

Mr. Langford-Holt: Is my hon. and learned Friend aware that there is a feeling that the delay in matters which are referred to and disposed of by the Monopolies Commission is undesirable as it is not in the interests of either industry or the community to have allegations unanswered or not dealt with for such long periods?

Mr. Gibson: When are we likely to see the proposals

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for extending and improving the work of the Monopolies Commission and for enabling it to come to decisions more quickly?

Mr. Strauss: I cannot make any announcement on that subject today.

Following is the table:

Subject	Referred	Report received	Report laid before Parliament
1. Dental goods	1st March, 1949	3rd November, 1950	1st December, 1950
2. Cast-iron rainwater goods	" "	17th February, 1951	14th March, 1951
3. Electric lamps	" "	4th September,	4th October, 1951
4. Insulated electric wires and cables	" "	26th April, 1952	10th June, 1952
5. Matches	" "	} 3rd October, 1952	—
6. Match making machinery	" "		—
7. Insulin	12th December, 1950	7th August, 1952	14th October, 1952
8. Semi-manufactures of copper and copper based alloys (a)	" "	—	—
9. Printing of woven fabrics	16th April, 1951	—	—
10. Imported hardwood and softwood timber and plywood ...	8th October, 1951	—	—
11. Electrical and allied machinery and plant	4th April, 1952	—	—
12. Pneumatic tyres	19th September, 1952	—	—

(a) Calls for a report only on the facts; the other references cover both the facts and public interest.

Anti-Biotics (Exports to China)

Mr. Bing asked the President of the Board of Trade to state the reason why streptomycin is included among the list of goods of strategic importance whose export to China is prohibited.

Dr. Stross asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that West German firms are exporting to China anti-biotics and sulpha drugs for which his Department will not give a licence for export to China to British manufacturers; and whether, in the circumstances, he will remove anti-biotics and sulpha drugs from the list of strategic supplies which are banned as exports to China.

Mr. Mackeson: The export to China of anti-biotics, including streptomycin and sulpha drugs, is not prohibited, but it is limited to normal civilian requirements. I am aware of the export of these drugs to China from Western Germany and other European countries. The matter is under active discussion with the Governments of these countries.

Mr. Bing: Would the hon. Gentleman say what military value streptomycin has; and in these circumstances, for what purposes is it proposed to restrict it when there is a demand for it, and when an order has been placed?

Mr. Mackeson: I think the hon. and learned Gentleman had better put that down and I will have a look at it.

Mr. Bing: But I have put it down.

Mr. Mackeson: I wish to make it clear that we are not restricting the use of these drugs for civilians in China.

Dr. Stross: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the total order to be placed was in the region of £2 million sterling in value, that the first portion of £500,000 has gone to Western Germany and been lost to us; and in view of the fact that he says there is not an embargo, that it is not forbidden, does he not think it is scandalous that our reputable firms should lose an opportunity of doing the type of trade which we should all be proud of doing, letting it go instead to other countries?

Mr. Mackeson: I am looking into this matter very carefully.

Mr. Tilney: Will my hon. Friend take steps to urge on our N.A.T.O. allies a common policy in this matter.

Mr. Mackeson: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Mikardo: Does the hon. Gentleman realise that, while he is having an alleged look into this matter and having alleged discussions with our N.A.T.O. allies, there is growing unemployment amongst people working in the factories producing these drugs in this country; and what is the sense in creating unemployment amongst British workers to give employment to workers of other countries when China gets the stuff all the same.

Mr. Mackeson: The manner in which the various N.A.T.O. countries carry out their duties differs. This country has the highest standard of all.

Sugar Supplies (Eastern Europe)

Mr. Bing asked the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the exportable surplus of sugar likely to be available in the coming year from East Germany and Poland, he will initiate negotiations for the expansion of trade with these countries so as to obtain additional supplies of sugar from non-dollar sources.

Mr. Mackeson: I see no necessity to undertake special negotiations for the purchase of sugar from East Germany or Poland.

Mr. Bing: Has the hon. Gentleman's attention been called to the statement of Lord Lyle, the Chairman of Tate & Lyle, which appeared on 3rd December in the "Financial Times," in which Lord Lyle said that were imports of 200,000 tons of sugar to be obtained from Eastern Germany and Poland it would be possible to do away with the sugar ration and obtain all our sugar from non-dollar sources?

Mr. Mackeson: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman would put that Question to my right hon. and gallant Friend the Minister of Food.

Bank of England Governor (U.S. Visit)

Mr. Bence asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what directions in the public interest affecting major policy have been given to Mr. C. F. Cobbold, Governor of the Bank of England, in relation to his visit to the Federal Reserve Board of the United States of America.

Mr. R. A. Butler: The visit of the Governor of the Bank of England is for the purpose of maintaining ordinary contacts. The question of directions did not arise.

(To be continued).

TWO LETTERS— (continued from page 1).

if the intellectuals would condescend to see the significance of what Douglas has disclosed.

Spirituality, any form of mystical experience (and perhaps introvert drill, à la Krishnamurti) have a basic place and significance; but, as A. C. Benson puts it in his *Joyous Bard*, retreat for rest, prayer and re-creation are but interludes to equip one to sally forth to deal with the actual problems and battles of the world as it is.

Many of the cobwebs which seem to me to prevent parsons, priests and professors from facing material facts and from appreciating metaphysical realities need to be swept away.

Recently, the Society for S.P.C.K. published "The Fall of Jerusalem and the Christian Church" by S. G. F. Brandon. I fancy it should help to make men in religious institutions pause before they continue to uphold conventional "churchianities" (the word he uses).

Irrespective of these and other considerations. . . . [expression of continuing loyalty to Secretariat].

I do not expect a personal reply. I and others will cogitate concerning what comes to us in Social Credit literature to the best of our abilities.

At the outset, we did not promise extended comment on the contents of either of these two letters. As we have not studied Mr. Brandon's criticisms of Christian Order, we can only surmise what positive contribution they may make towards an understanding of all Order. The Statement of November 1, to which reference is made quoted a letter from one, friendly towards Social Credit, but not a Social Crediter, who was oppressed by the same half-resolved dilemma, which we might express (incompletely) as Whether it is nobler in the mind to be right and inactive or wrong and active. (In that formal presentation, its re-solution is, of course, inevitable, a fact which suggests in itself that either the form does not truly express the dilemma or that the dilemma itself is unreal.)

We believe the latter to be the case—that the dilemma is unreal. The image of the clean shirt is unquestionably appropriate. But there are varying standards of cleanliness. The image of the pilot plant is likewise applicable; but susceptible to a wide variety of misinterpretations, some of them highly dangerous.

(1) *Our shirt*: We are told that if a shirt just home from a Chinese laundry is washed immediately in clean water, the water darkens beyond belief or explanation.

(2) *The Pilot Plant*: The word 'élite' has crept lately into letters we receive. The word is used to contrast with our own a movement which gives hostages to demons. We are not an élite. The great painters of the Renaissance were not an élite. When artists became an élite they ceased to be able to paint. If they should ever envisage themselves as an élite, Social Crediters would become even more self-conscious than they are now, which would be disastrous. They are much too self conscious already, and must become less so. In this connection, it is curious that the last recommendation Douglas left us in his own hand-writing, was an association of our work with art—"the art of the possible: politics." This restores the argument to the clean shirt motif, and we shall resume it later on that level. The notion of a peculiar people of any sort is repugnant also. A colony of Social Crediters would not live a week (metaphorically) and its death would heap undying ridicule on Social Credit. The only experiments of this sort to have succeeded (if you call the U.S.A. a success) are the escapade of the Pilgrim Fathers and the establishment of the great monastic Orders. But consider their materials. Pilot plants do not belong to the category of the Organic. The Secretariat does, as does the whole conception of a Social Credit Order. Nor, of course, have we anything up for sale.

Back to (1):—Consider yourself to be standing before a great masterpiece of painting, or listening to a great masterpiece of music—your companion asks:—"Is it possible?" You say that of course it is possible—there it is! "Very well," says your companion, "then do it!" You evade the challenge: You cannot *do* what has been done: that is not doing it but merely repeating it. Or, less viridically, *tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis*. Neither we nor the times are changed. Neither we nor the times change. We suffer an illusion, the illusion that we have properly laundered our shirt. Let us prepare a shirt which is "noticeably cleaner than the average," and put it on. What the world has is a recipe for an Order. What we have is a recipe for properly laundering shirts meet for the Order. (The Order will be "added unto you": it is not a substitute for the Order.) By growth, by organism, the two will be prepared at the same time. This would be "realising our ends completely [not to a degree] in our means." But, so far as we are concerned, this is because it is possible properly to launder our shirt (our own shirt). The recipe is quite clear; but we do not read it. If we read it, we do not accept it. The spirit, we say, is willing, but the flesh weak. Though imperfectly, Miss Dorothy Sayers has demonstrated the recipe in her book "The Mind of the Maker." The art of the possible is all art, political or plastic, the art of music or the art of life. The essential is to establish and to sustain a correct relationship between the *Persons* of a Trinity—nor is this matter a "pullulation of theology."

THE SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT.

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