Diverted Social Credit

If Mr. Walter Elliot thinks that the piecemeal implementation of Major Douglas's ideas is an effective or a sufficient response to the contribution he made towards the solution of problems created by politicians he is mistaken. Probably the ex-Minister doesn't think so. The test of the sufficiency of any mechanism is not the bits which go to its manufacture, the bolts and screws and here and there a gadget, but the policy which animates it. In reintroducing the pundits collected by the B.B.C. to the (Douglas) idea of differential taxation as a political device, Mr. Elliot may have done a slight service. But the Social Credit idea was to use that device to induce responsible voting. Mr. Elliot's is to use it to correct the results of irresponsible voting apparent in the threat which the atom bomb constitutes to the life of overgrown cities, and thus to the communities which they dominate. A 'civilisation' (i.e., the political expression of a culture) such as was ours need never have got into its present desperate situation if the substitution of personal expediency for public policy as a technique had not been effected. Among the many epithets bestowed upon great cities when the intelligentsia foregathered in the Home Programme studio (which they mistook for the much-maligned Third) the other night 'corral' was absent. That is what London, Paris, New York and many another great city of a fifth the size, but, even so, vastly bloated and distended, are, in fact and possibly in intention: they are corrals into which the human cattle (goyim) are driven for branding or for slaughter, physical and mental, by Promethean Science and Industry. Differential taxation as an inducement to the cattle to redistribute themselves is merely the suggestion of bankrupt statesmanship. ("And where's the money from?'')

Mr. Elliot will no doubt object that differential taxation is, in fact, a very old device. Yes, an old enough device; but not old in a just connection, and new in a modern political connection. Why not resurrect it in an effective modern political connection?

To New Readers

New readers of this journal may, upon application enclosing 1d. stamp, receive copies to the extent of the limited number available of The Social Crediter for September 5 containing an Announcement of our plans for the future and, incidentally, an explanation of the present size of the journal, which was formerly of eight pages.

To both new and established readers we may say that The Fig Tree (quarterly) will resume publication early in the New Year (further announcement later).
the Social Credit Secretariat, what does this entail, how can his intention be implemented?

In choosing to support the Social Credit Secretariat, each individual supporter is electing to follow the advice of the Advisory Chairman, Major Douglas, and to apply it, for the realisation of Social Credit. The channel for the communication of the advice is the Secretariat, the official organ of which, The Social Crediter, is a weekly guide to strategy, as well as itself exerting pressure upon the opposition to Social Credit in a variety of ways. Hence its insistence upon its character as "a journal of policy, not of opinion." The Social Crediter is not the sole means of communication with the Secretariat's supporters. Special bulletins are, from time to time, circulated among selected groups of supporters, and direct communication with individuals is, of course, maintained.

It follows that, in our opinion, every supporter should be a regular and closely attentive reader of The Social Crediter, since it is there that he will find indications of the strategy which he, with others, as a self-elected supporter both desires and is destined to advance. There is further consistent exhibition of the reasons determining the choice of one line rather than another, and material designed to enable the reader more thoroughly to master the realities of the situation in politics and affairs. The ideal Social Crediter would be one who had become independent of such aids armed with an understanding of the situation in which he is acting and of the means available to him to meet it, he would work harmoniously, convergently with others, to gain the ground he desires. But this is a real world, and however well-prepared, the individual gains effectiveness through the increment of association with others.

At the present time, when the vast forces which have been generated during recent centuries seem to be moving rapidly towards a decision, the most potent force which it is within the power of a minority group to exert is the power of inherent quality. No confession is easier to elicit from most observers of good intelligence and undoubtedly deeply interested as well as involved in the political drama set before us than the confession of confusion of mind which paralyses action or precipitates it uselessly in a direction which serves any interest but the one the individual most truly desires to serve. The average mind seems to be in the grip of opinions which are not clear cut: they lack definiteness and therefore consistency and therefore truth and effectiveness.

Now, such is the spread of technical information nowadays (perhaps to an altogether undesirable extent, leading to much minding of anybody's business but the individual's own business) that most people know what chemists mean by a catalyst, i.e., some substance present among reacting elements or compounds, which itself may be present in exceedingly small amount, but which, in some way, by its very presence, determines action and reaction which otherwise would not occur. The nature of the more abundant reacting substances does not seem to be affected in the slightest degree; but by this catalytic link, which itself remains unchanged, these are brought to behave in a way in which they would not otherwise behave. So this WIDELY DISTRIBUTED NON-CLEAR-CUT OPINION which displays itself in tragic ineffectiveness at the present time can be made effective by the presence everywhere of a sufficiency of CLEAR-CUT OPINION. The establishment of such a condition is particularly the objective set before the supporters of the Social Credit Secretariat. All the efforts of the Secretariat are turned for the moment upon developing QUALITY OF ACTION of this kind at its highest possible intensity. If he is truly in affiliation with us, each supporter will participate in this development as fully as he can.

Lastly, a sufficiency of income is necessary to carry on the work of the Secretariat. The total sum required annually is not a large sum, and it is well within the ability of supporters to provide. Few appeals have been made since the beginning of the recent war, and it is a matter for satisfaction that a sufficiency of income has been forthcoming, almost entirely in contributions individually small, without such appeals. But this has thrown a heavy burden upon those most active in the Secretariat through diverting to routine activities time which should have been available for more important matters. It has therefore been suggested that a flat-rate subscription of £3 3s.* per annum should be asked from each subscriber. While it is hoped that existing supporters, as well as new subscribers, will find this convenient, it must be emphasised that affiliation is by no means conditional upon such payments.

The accounts of the Secretariat are audited annually, and the auditors' certificate to the effect that the expenditure of the Secretariat's income is in accordance with the relevant parts of this statement is available to inspection by arrangement.

Arrangements concerning the formation of groups, as well as detailed information to meet special cases may be had on application to the Director of Organisation. Nevertheless, it seems not inappropriate to state here the attitude of the Secretariat to activities organised on a group or regional basis in affiliation with itself. Firstly, the Secretariat does not encourage mere organisation as an objective in itself. The time, money and effort devoted to organisation per se should, in all cases, be minimal. Mere arrangements to facilitate the meeting of Social Crediters with one another without there being, as the primary objective, the attainment of some significant and clearly envisaged concrete end in view lead nowhere. It is required, before encouragement is given to supporters to form groups, that evidence be forthcoming that effectiveness in action of the individuals likely to be interested is the motive which brings them together. Assuming, then, a group of Social Crediters who are active for the advancement of Social Credit, its function is spiritual rather than organisational in any sense. It is easy to slip from a real increment of association of the kind envisaged in the subtile verses of the New Testament (Matt. XVIII. 18, 19, 20)—the unreal cannot be bound, on earth or in heaven—into a spurious relationship which makes all who participate "all one with the heathen and the public." The increment of association is not something added to give it a flavour, but is a necessary concomitant, positive or negative in sign, of every association. The Secretariat desires the development of group activities on right lines, and will co-operate with those who will undertake action which is accordant. To test the continuing usefulness of groups, a report will in future be expected by the Director of Organisation from each affiliated group at least annually.

*It does not seem to be so clear as we should have thought that this document has nothing to do, except incidentally, with the rate of subscription to The Social Crediter, which remains as it has been since the early days of the late war. Details appear in the title heading overleaf.