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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

Germany has traded upon the ingrained British aversion to belief in evil, one of the deepest and most dangerous traits in our composition.

—LORD VANSITTART.

“The words of the Liberal, which are in effect the words of our masonic watch word, namely ‘Liberty, Equality, Fraternity’ will, when we come into our kingdom, be changed into an expression of idealism, namely into ‘The right of liberty, the duty of equality, the ideal of brotherhood.’”

—Protocol 9 of *The Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion*.

“Lend to defend the *Right to be Free*.”

It is possible that the discussion of war-aims at the moment, is somewhat academic. But our esteemed contemporary *Truth* has stated so admirably its views, with which we should wish to associate ourselves, that we reproduce them for the benefit of those who have not read them:—

To defeat Germany and end Nazi aggression.

To bend to that aim every possible national effort.

To ensure that the war effort is not made the pretext for mangling and warping the British economic and social fabric, and that the war is fought for a victory of Britain over Germany and not for a Socialist victory over private enterprise.

To ensure that the complexity of that effort does not permit waste, muddle and corruption to go undetected and unpunished.

To keep behind the Prime Minister a united nation, but with the full support for Mr. Brendan Bracken's avowal that a Yes-Press is of no use to anybody.

To give full aid to Russia, as Russia—a gallant and hard pressed ally—but not to permit help in a common extremity to imply any change of front towards Sovietism as a system.

To further Anglo-American accord, but not to permit that accord to prejudice Britain's post-war rights and necessities, as President Roosevelt's opponents would seem to desire.

Whether peace be long delayed or come sooner than would at the moment seem likely, these aims remain the objects to which we would wish to see the British people

directing themselves....At such a time all other “planning” is pernicious.

“The true meaning of a term is to be found by observing what a man does with it, not what he says about it.”

—*The Logic of Modern Physics*; BRIDGMAN.

“A controversy is normally an exploitation of a set of misunderstandings for warlike purposes.”

—*The Meaning of Meaning*: OGDEN AND RICHARDS.

‘DOUBLE OR QUITS’?

“Lease and Lend.” —LORD BEAVERBROOK.

M. Tsouderos, the Greek Prime Minister, in a broadcast to the people of Greece from London recently, said:—

“After the war each people will have the right to choose that regime which suits its character, its degree of civilisation, and its history. The régime of which the Greek people is worthy and which the King and Government wish to restore from the first day of our return to Athens will be one which will permit of the equal participation of all in a form of public life which shall secure the freedom of the individual against any illegal action on the part of those who are in authority or their agents, but which at the same time shall secure the whole body social against any illegal and selfish action of individuals, and shall impose the subjection of private interest to the interest of the community.

“But our first duty to-day is to concentrate our efforts in order that we, too, may contribute to the most speedy expulsion of the detestable invaders from our country and thus rid ourselves of their tyranny. The triumph of our cause will be the triumph of freedom. There is no other road, and those who clamour after Constitutions while the enemy is still in possession of our land are mere political agitators.”

It is announced that the banking house of Lazard Bros. and Company Limited is now completing the purchase of a large holding in A. W. Bain and Sons Limited, the insurance brokers. *The Times* of October 13 comments:—

“The standing of both parties in their respective spheres is high. Both have an international reputation; both have long-established connections with industry here, on the Continent, and elsewhere. No one at this stage can foresee just what part the machinery of international credit will play in the new order of world industry after the war. But it is already clear that it will have to be an imaginative and creative part if the principles of the Atlantic Charter

are to be given any sort of practical meaning.

"Behind the present association is the idea that there is in fact scope for just such an approach through the development of these complementary elements. It not infrequently happens, of course, that insurance can offer, in the form of an indemnity policy, that specific security without which bankers, as such, may not feel justified in employing the resources of depositors."

Speaking at a luncheon party of the Propaganda Committee of the Federation of Women Zionists on the eve of her departure on a tour of America at the invitation of the Zionist Organisation of America, Mrs I. M. Sieff said she envisaged it as her task to attempt to bring closer together the Jewish communities in countries working for the democratic cause. Referring to the "conspiracy of silence" on the Jewish efforts, mentioned by Professor Brodetsky, she said that the logic of events would break that silence. The first break had already come in Russia; Russian Jewry was still, after all that had happened in the last twenty years, a creative part of world Jewry. Then they heard the broadcast from Palestine Jewry to Russian Jewry. That, too, was a great event because, perhaps for the first time, the Palestine Administration had recognised that the Jews were a united community in Palestine, and not mere Palestinians. She concluded with the reference to the exiled women who had reached the U.S.A. and who, she believed, would form the link between the American Jewish women and the other countries in which Wizo branches had been set up.

Federal Unionists are 'horrified' at the ridiculously small number of London members who show interest in the activities of the movement. They don't even attend lectures. Tut, tut!

A correspondent of *Federal Union News* suggests that the U.S.S.R. should be offered a place in any federal union that may be formed.

"But would not Russia be equally justified in refusing to join a federation unless *laissez-faire* capitalism was forsworn by all its members?"

Therefore, he says, we must introduce common-ownership into the conditions of federation.

We were expecting this suggestion to be made linking up the two best methods of dividing people from things by ultra-centralisation.

The *Edmonton Journal* of September 3 reported that Mr. Donald Dunning, who served as maintenance instructor to Royal Air Force members assigned to Lockheed bombers sent from the United States, said on his return there that he had examined Hess's plane and was amazed to find the tyres bore the stamp of a U.S. manufacturer.

"The fuel tank called for 100 octane, an American designation, and a popular United States brand of aviation oil was specified above the intake valve," said Dunning. "The tyres were new, live rubber, too."

The illegal German radio "Gustav Siegfried No. 1" apparently controlled by friends of Rudolph Hess, was reported by the *Evening Standard* of June 16, 1941, to have

said that Hess had tried to fly to Gibraltar during a trip to Madrid. He telephoned an official at Gibraltar whom he had known in Berlin, but he was told that he would be shot down if he tried the flight.

The French Jewish agricultural expert Marcel Felix Garsin, has been retained by the Vichy Ministry of Agriculture because of his 'exceptional scientific merits.' Others retained are Jacques Rueff, Vice-Governor of the Bank of France, General Darius Paul Bloch and Commander Pierre Brisac.

One of the most rapidly growing departments of the library at Chatham House, the headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is that of the books in support of 'Federal Union.' It is known to the staff as the BLAH SECTION. Ithn't it thignificant, Clarence?

Mr. Herbert Morrison says that to put up the lights in the towns would cause alarm and disquiet.

That might account for the shortage of matches?

Light Refreshment

"Let us lean on our principles; they will end by giving way." "They might run into us," I said.

My standard work on gynaecology shall remain unpublished, for I have considered it incompatible with International Law to cause German mothers to die of laughing.

You can meet many a walking encyclopaedia on the superficial dirt of Nazism; the deeper soil is for that very reason unturned.

Anyone whose views are not . . . "total" must be reactionary. If you do not belong to the Priestley-caste, they would like to class you with the Montague Norman conquest, "and all that."

. . . the days are gone when Molière's Smart People could "know everything without ever having learnt anything."

LORD VANSITTART.

The Puritan Tradition in America

In an article in the *Catholic Herald* of October 6, 1941, Stanley B. James points out that the view that America in the West may act as a corrective to the dangers involved in our alliance with Russia in the East must be accepted with caution. "It may even be," he observes, "that certain points of resemblance between the two makes the combination specially menacing. There is, in the first place, the danger to our national traditions. To regard the United States as a larger Britain is a gross error." He goes on to say that one of the reasons for our strength is that we possess a class members of which are relatively independent of popular clamour and free from suspicion of mercenary motives as regards their public actions, a class

in which the words 'honour' and 'loyalty' still carry weight, and in which traditional culture still survives. Many forces have tended to break up our cultural values and of these not the least have been the transatlantic influences functioning through the cinema and the radio—and it is the worst elements of American life which are the most articulate.

Mr. James then traces the Puritanism which is associated with the origins of American civilisation through various modifications to its modern derivative—Plutocracy. Mr. James continues:—

“‘Every American,’ says Professor Siegfried in *America Comes of Age*, ‘is at heart an evangelist, be he a Wilson, a Bryan, or a Rockefeller. He cannot leave people alone, and he constantly feels the urge to preach. His good faith may be incontestable and his efforts often magnificent, but one is always aware of a certain moral superiority which is the most unsympathetic of Anglo-Saxon traits. His self-satisfaction as a member of God’s elect is almost insufferable, and so is the idea that his duty towards his neighbour is to convert, purify, and raise him to his own moral heights.’ . . . The Plutocrat as a preacher has one advantage, however, which his predecessor lacked. The latter might threaten the fires of Hell but he could not offer mundane inducements to accept his guidance. It should be observed that the type now under discussion has adopted a new technique in the art of dominating the world. The Nazi depends on force, the Communist on subversive propaganda, but the plutocracies have discovered that nations can be controlled by promises and threats couched in monetary terms, or, in blunt English, that they can be bribed. The method indicated plays a considerable part in Western diplomacy. As it happens, we are able to study this technique in actual operation, and thus learn how an affluent U.S.A., professing the most altruistic motives, might exploit the weakness of an exhausted Europe in order to impose on it the civilisation so admirably illustrated in Hollywood films.

“Speaking of the programme for unifying . . . [the Americas] John E. Kelly, in an article contributed to a recent number of *America*, says: . . . ‘Hemisphere defence means to Latin America more than forts against the landing of panzer columns; it means also the preservation of their Catholic way of life and their Spanish tradition . . . The political and cultural phase of the New Deal campaign has its commercial and economic fellow. The first step in implementing the ‘Good Neighbour’ policy was the appropriation of five hundred million dollars, to be distributed to applicant Latin-American Governments, for defence projects, public works, health and culture developments, etc. . . . This is power politics, the use of money to influence governments to obtain political and military advantages. It is highly reprehensible when practised by totalitarians.’

“The description here given applies, it is obvious, only to a section, though it is to a powerful section, of the North American public. There is another section as high-minded, disinterested and generous as any public in the world. But there remains the possibility, unless we are on our guard, that our fate may be neither to be conquered by the Nazis, nor revolutionised by Moscow, but to be bought in the interests of philistinism and plutocratic materialism. From that point of view, it is possible to regard the materialism of the East and that of the West as complementary to one another, differing only in the fact that they represent different classes, but constituting together a pincer movement between which, spiritually speaking, we may perish.”

PARLIAMENT

Control of News: Prolongation of Parliament OCTOBER 7.

BROADCASTING

PARLIAMENTARY SPEECHES

Mr Horabin (for Mr. Mander) asked the Minister of Information, on what occasions, and to what extent, his department controls or intervenes in the presentation of speeches made in this House, as reported by the British Broadcasting Corporation?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Information (Mr. Thurtle): The B.B.C. broadcasts of Parliamentary proceedings are taken from the agency reports, and the inevitable and severe measure of compression involved is carried out by the news staff of the B.B.C., who receive advice and information from officers in close daily contact with my Ministry. The aim of these reports is to present a fair and objective summary.

Sir Percy Harris: Are we to understand that the Ministry of Information decide whose speeches should be cut down and whose should be reported, or is that left to the discretion of the B.B.C.?

Mr. Thurtle: In practice the Ministry hardly ever intervene with these reports. Our one aim is to give a fair and objective summary, and we have every confidence in the responsible B.B.C. officials who are carrying out this work.

Sir P. Harris: What does my hon. Friend mean by “hardly ever”? Does he suggest that if the Ministry of Information dislike some particular Member, they can expurgate his speeches?

Mr. Thurtle: It is only in abnormal and exceptional circumstances that they interfere at all.

Earl Winterton: Is it not unprecedented for a Government Department to attempt to interfere with the dissemination of news concerning the proceedings of this House? Is there any precedent for it, and do they propose to introduce this novel principle?

Mr. Thurtle: I can only repeat that it is only in very exceptional and abnormal circumstances that there is any interference.

Mr. Shinwell: Can we have some cases of the exceptional circumstances? To whom do they refer, to Members on that side or to Members on this side? Can we have an answer, as it is an important question?

Mr. Thurtle: I suggest to my hon. Friend that if he has any specific report in mind which he considers was unfair, he might put down a Question.

Mr. Shinwell: Does not my hon. Friend realise that it does not lay with me to indicate a specific case? He has himself referred to exceptional circumstances. What are they?

Mr. McGovern: Could not the Members who speak in a Debate set up a committee to indicate what parts of their speeches should be reported?

CONCENTRATION OF INDUSTRY

Mr. De la Bère asked the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the schemes which are being

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Putting Parliament Straight

Mr. Noel Pemberton-Billing, whose recent political history is becoming known gradually as his polls increase (every voter a newspaper reader!), is one of those who know that most of the things people want done *can* be done. They are left undone because enough pressure is not exerted to see that they are done, not because they are inherently difficult or impossible.

Parliament has just repealed an old Act, thus making a still older Act effective and the life of Parliament seven years. Members agreed with one another that a general election in war time would be undesirable. It may be. Says Mr. Pemberton-Billing:—"Although the survival of democracy is our main war aim, every day the governance of this country grows more to resemble the form of rule we are pledged to destroy." He cannot see the difference between a Reichstag appointed by the 'yes-men' of the Nazi machine and a Parliament appointed by the 'yes-men' of the Party machine.

But, unlike the Members of Parliament, he has a suggestion to make for reviving the House of Commons. "Let its members," he says, "resign by rota, say three a week." In the resultant procession of bye-elections, comparative calm would replace the mass hysteria of a general election, and M.P.s would be 'hand-picked,' not mass-produced by the party machine. He also makes the sensible suggestion (which may well warm the heart of the anonymous genius who invented the Identity Card) that, since the electoral register is hopelessly out of date, "the National Registration Identity Cards provide a ready-made and fool-proof means of maintaining the universal suffrage."

Little as the Party Machines seem to like Mr. Pemberton-Billing now, they will like him still less for these unauthorised contributions to the Gaiety of the Nation. We sympathise, for it is not at all a well-kept secret that between ourselves and the Party Machine little love is lost.

At the same time, we believe that Mr. Pemberton-Billing misses the point. For a long time past the opponents to prosperity and a state of good order in these islands have been sterilising the Parliamentary System by the Party System; and the Party System (which has advantages so long as the business of the country is conducted more on the lines of a football match than on lines familiar to any well-constructed business organisation) is in turn sterilised by the infinite ritual of intrigue of which the members of Party Caucuses have made a special study.

A third stage needs to be added to this sequence, namely the sterilisation of the sterilisers by the institution of Voters'

Policy Associations. When this has been done, it will be possible to bring back the Member of Parliament to the representation of *policy* and away from the discussion of methods. It is essential and by no means difficult to do this. All that is necessary is that the House of Commons should call for experts from the properly-qualified service departments, engineering organisations, etc., whether economic or administrative. They should be tied down to stating what *results* would ensue from their activities, and how long it would be before it were possible to 'check-up' on the accuracy of their statement of the case. Subsequent discussion in the House of Commons should be solely on results—whether or not they were desirable or undesirable. Before action were taken, someone in the reporting body should be made responsible for achieving the results desired, within a stated period of time, and subject to the removal of the responsible person and prohibition from further public service if the results promised were not forthcoming.

In the absence of this sterilisation of the sterilisers of our political machinery, a Parliament of Perfect Gentlemen will be powerless in the hands of those who wield what powers they have, instead of allowing them, as the British elector does, to lie unused.

T. J.

It Smells, Mr. Wells

It smells, Mr. Wells,
 It smells . . .
 Your plan for man.
 You would replace ruthless, truthless
 Dictators
 By ineffectual, intellectual
 Imitators.
 You would transform nations
 Into experimental stations
 For biologists
 Or ecologists
 Or whatever your sort of snobbery
 Calls your type of jobbery.
 Either a fool
 Or a willing tool
 You lend your pen
 To corrupt men,
 For you must know that "federal control"
 Would bind us body and soul
 To the wheels of finance
 Without a chance
 Of escape.
 That is the shape
 Of things to come
 For the dumb
 Masses that you
 Regard as a Zoo.
 No, Mr. Wells, it smells . . .
 Your plan for man;
 It smells!

—EXCALIBUR.

TEACHING EXPERTS THEIR BUSINESS: showing the Scots how to maintain their spirits.

The Scottish public have asked Parliament to protect them from the widespread sale of a whisky said to be Irish but rumoured to be imported from America and labelled in Ireland.

The Judaeo-Masonic Pattern for Society

In an arresting forecast, published sometime before 1905, of events which have happened since, there is a reference to the "application of masonic principles in the matter of re-educating the peoples," and the following advice is given:—

"In applying our principles let attention be paid to the character of the people in whose country you live and act; a general, identical application of them, until such time as cautiously you will see that not a decade will pass before the people shall have been re-educated to our pattern, cannot have success. But by approaching their application the most stubborn character will change and we shall add a new people to the ranks of those already subdued by us."

Recollection of the foregoing statement is prompted by the issue of *Planning* of September 30 in which it is said:

"It is essential to recognise that civilisation must have a pattern, that its old pattern has disintegrated beyond repair, and that therefore we must quickly devise and agree upon our new pattern. . . ."

"In the making of this new pattern the people of Great Britain are qualified to take the leading part by political maturity, by their tried championship of the cause of civilisation, and by their world-wide contacts and sympathies, but they are almost disqualified by their traditional suspicion of formulating social systems and by their reluctance to recognise the value of comprehensive programmes. . . ."

"... The alternative to disintegrating society is not totalitarian society, but a regrouped society with freedom to form groups and with the dominant idea of working everything out in terms of people rather than of abstractions or of material interests."

The reference to a disintegrating society is interesting in relation to another passage in the pre-1905 forecast, which says:

"The whole force of our principles and methods will lie in the fact that we shall present them and expound them as a splendid contrast to the dead and decomposed old order of things in social life."

And in the same forecast we find:—

"... We have got our hands into the administration of the law, into the conduct of elections, into the press, into liberty of the person, but principally into education and training as being the corner-stones of a free existence." And, "Freedom is the right to do that which the law allows."

There is a great deal in *Planning* for September 30 to suggest that close attention has been paid to Major Douglas's writings and particularly to the series of articles published in this journal under the title *Whose Service Is Perfect Freedom*. There is an obvious awareness of the danger to the Planners of too much rigidity in their plans and an affectation of attention to certain aspects of reality which Major Douglas has discussed. For instance, we are told: "Previous generations have demanded change as a step to a desired new static order, but the widespread acceptance of continuous change throughout society is a modern development carrying with it the transformation of politics by the introduction of a new social dynamic." This passage may be compared with the following from *Whose Service Is*

Perfect Freedom:—

"It is not too much to say that an International organisation having almost unlimited control of money, and in consequence of the Press, can produce almost any 'trend' which may serve its purpose. What it cannot do, however, is to avoid the natural consequences of the policies which it pursues.

"Now, in a static world, the world in which world-Planners think, centralisation is a workable scheme. And it must be remembered that this Plan for world domination is a very old Plan, and was conceived in a world which was so nearly static that the India of say, the Mutiny, was, outside the towns occupied by Europeans, unchanged from that invaded by Alexander the Great.

"In such a world, absentee management does not matter. All industry and agriculture was standardised, and the fundamental idea of government was not 'interference in business,' which is quite modern, it was simply 'sacrifice,' i.e., taxation.

"But the modern world is not static, it is dynamic. The idea that it is possible to govern the intricate actions of large populations from one political centre, is a chimera. You can try, however, and the results of trying to do an impracticable thing are visible everywhere."

An organic society is one in which rudiments grow in accordance with inherent demands and qualities. The Planners recognise this inescapable fact, but are nevertheless determined to do the designing themselves. *Planning* contains this curious assertion: "self-selected groups cannot flourish unless there is some binding cement and organic structure for the society of which they form part." What arrogance is here demonstrated! "But," says Douglas, "Jesus of Nazareth was a carpenter. His ways were more humble. 'Consider the lilies; how [do] they grow?'"

The Washington Correspondent of *The Times* referring to Mr. Justice Brandeis, head of the Supreme Court, who has just died, says that he saw: "how co-operation which technology makes imperative carries with it an inescapable social coercion." Technology is also displacing human labour as a factor in production. The problem which confronts the Planners therefore is how to cope with a dynamic situation in which their methods of sabotage of production are no longer adequate to check or hide the natural consequences of technological advance. The problem is how to introduce an "inescapable social coercion" into the use of leisure, and this resolves itself into a question of how to force people into functional associations. Therefore, *Planning* says, "The obligation of service must be laid on every individual, and although a part can be commuted through taxation, part must be discharged in person in order to enforce the principle of responsibility and to create a society which can grow and adjust itself without constantly becoming distorted."

The 'basic principle' underlying this "New Pattern" (i.e., Jew Pattern), says *Planning*, is the "neighbour principle," the "keynote" of which "is that each person or group has claims which should be respected, but has also responsibilities to other persons or groups."

"... People wield effective power over governments and other institutions in proportion to the quantity and quality of man-hours they invest in these institutions, and

there is no more virtue or vitality in what may be called absentee democracy than in absentee landlordism or absentee ownership of industry. . . . For this purpose it is necessary so to adjust the pattern of society that every citizen spends more time in and becomes more positively identified with those wider groupings. Such an adjustment has, in fact, been compelled by total war, which makes far more people combine with their neighbours as air-raided wardens, fire watchers, social workers and users of meal and rest centres. . . . In time of peace the natural basis for a permanent re-orientation on these lines would be to arrange that people of all ages should spend more time

- (a) learning together;
- (b) doing things together for common service; and
- (c) enjoying things together."

It is hoped thereby to educate people into conforming to the new social pattern. In the pre-1905 forecast we find the following statement: "We have set them on the hobby-horse of an idea about the absorption of individuality by the symbolic unit of *collectivism*. . . . They have never yet and they never will have the sense to reflect that this hobby-horse is a manifest violation of the most important law of nature, which has established from the very creation of the world one unit unlike another and precisely for the purpose of instituting individuality."

But the *natural* consequences will still have to be contended with. Tom Harrison, the much publicised statistician of what people are thinking, says in *The New Statesman*: "The planner must, of course, be a leader. He must mould and educate needs, iron out illogical resistances. But to do this he must know what is in the public mind." But, says Tom Harrison, "The result of studying much contemporary planning literature is to convince me that many planners have got themselves almost into a private world. . . .

"There are many other social and psychological problems of post-war need, which, if ignored, not only are likely to make ordinary people less happy rather than more, but are likely also to upset and overthrow the planners themselves."

There is the rub. The question is whether education assisted by a "socially-minded and forward-looking structure of law," as *Planning* puts it, can make people content to act contrary to their nature. "Where such issues arise we should not be deterred from extending social controls by that bogus conception of freedom which assumes that every extension of planning automatically means a corresponding diminution of freedom." But it is *not* a bogus conception, the character of the Anglo-Saxon will disqualify him for the Jew Pattern, and there is a widespread knowledge about the true nature of organic society as well as this truly bogus conception of a 'free' society based on 'the right to do that which the law allows,' from which it is not possible to contract out.

"Consider the lilies; how they grow."

J. M.

PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 3)

formulated for rationalisation of industry throughout the country, the Government will take adequate steps to ensure the prevention of middle-class unemployment before universal reconstruction absorbs displacements?

Sir A. Duncan: The policy of concentration has been applied to a number of industries to meet the circumstances created by the war and is not designed to lead to permanent

changes in the industrial structure. The policy is being operated in close co-operation with the Minister of Labour, who is taking the necessary measures to provide for the reabsorption into employment of all types of displaced workers, including middle-class workers.

Mr. De la Bère: Does my right hon. Friend realise that compensation is no solution for these problems?

Sir A. Duncan: Yes, I do.

Mr. De la Bère: Does my right hon. Friend realise further that there is not really sufficient support for the middle classes from hon. Members belonging to all parties in this House?

Mr. Shinwell: If a shopkeeper is thrown out of business through no fault of his own and because of some act on the part of the Government, why should he not be compensated for it?

Sir A. Duncan: This question has no relevance to shopkeepers.

Mr. Shinwell: Has it not relevance to the concentration of industry and the displacement of shopkeepers?

PROLONGATION OF PARLIAMENT BILL

(38 columns)

[There was general agreement in the House on the necessity for the passing of this Bill, which has the effect of extending the period of Parliament by one year; it was read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House on the next sitting day. The reasons for the Measure are an out-of-date election register and the difficulty of preparing a new one, the black-out, the danger of invasion or other enemy action in the middle of controversy, etc. Members were sensible of the fact that parliament was becoming less representative of the electors, and some controversy arose, by reason of the form of the Bill, as to whether it was intended to return to a seven-year parliament or simply to fix no limit to its duration. The Home Secretary, Mr. Herbert Morrison, said that it was intended to return to the Act after another year. In the course of the debate Mr. McGovern (Glasgow, Shettleston) said:]

. . . . I would also make it clear that during this period of Parliament, when Parliamentary seats have become secure, due to the postponement of elections, there has been a notorious falling-off in the attendance of a large number of Members of this House, and that there are many Members who are scarcely, if ever, in the House at all, that they disappear for three, six or nine months on end. . . .

There are cases, in this House, for example, where Parliamentary government has not been allowed to function, and I am amazed. I have heard in recent months a clamour being made in the country, rightly or wrongly, for the unseating of the hon. and gallant Member for Peebles and Southern (Captain Ramsay), due to the fact that he has been detained under Regulation 18B. But there is another Member of Parliament in this House, for one of the Edinburgh Divisions, who for nearly five years has never been in this House. No Conservative or Labour organisation has challenged the right of this individual to hold a seat in this House while he has never been near the House in that time. If there was a real democratic desire in the country, both in the area concerned and in the Conservative and Labour headquarters, there would be a demand for a surrender of that seat. I am quite confident that if con-

duct of that kind was indulged in, say, by myself, there would soon be a clamour for the surrender of the seat, and rightly so. If you are in favour of Parliamentary democracy, there should be actions taking place in the House and the country to show people that you are in favour of democracy.

Mr. McKie (Galloway): May I remind the hon. Member that there are also two Members from Ulster, for Fermanagh and Tyrone (Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Mulvey), who have not taken their seats?

Mr. McGovern: That would be an added reason. . . . I believe that Parliament can occupy a very useful point in the agitation for a new order of society and for a transfer of power, but I have always believed that every great question was settled, not by the pressures inside this House, but by the pressures that came from outside this House. Almost every question has been settled in outside institutions. While I am not a 100 per cent. Parliamentarian, I can see the uses of Parliament and its abuses. During the last 11½ years in this House I have seen independence of thought, mind and activity destroyed by the power machines which operate. . . .

To-day, while there is a combination of all the interests in the country with a view to postponing elections, we have to face the fact that the real demand for the postponement comes from the fact that the Opposition have largely joined forces with the Government, and that, therefore, they have a vested interest in seeing that the postponement of elections takes place. That vested interest is playing a tremendous part in undermining the confidence of people outside in the value of Parliament. I have always believed, and I still believe, that dictators do not destroy Parliamentary institutions. It is those who have shouted loudest about democracy who have betrayed democracy and who have destroyed Parliamentary institutions.

OCTOBER 8.

Oral Answers to Questions (37 columns)

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPH

Mr. Mort asked the Minister of Information whether he has considered the photograph published in a national daily, a copy of which has been sent to him, of four Italian prisoners of war, arm-in-arm with three English girls, headed with the caption, "Girls English—Men Italian war prisoners"; and whether he will take steps to prevent further publications which have an evil effect upon our men serving abroad and give the enemy an opportunity of using it for propaganda?

Mr. Bracken: The Ministry of Information have not, of course, assisted the distribution of this photograph in any way. But I am afraid that to accept the hon. Member's suggestion would be to abandon the present basis of censorship which allows freedom of publication except on grounds of security.

Mr. Mort: Are we to understand that the Minister had no control over the publication of these photographs, and that they were published without his knowledge?

Mr. Bracken: Certainly, they were published without my knowledge. The newspapers do not bring to me every day all the photographs taken in this country.

Mr. Hannah: Ought not the Government to take steps to stop this sort of thing?

Mr. Bracken: No, Sir, the Government ought not to take steps to stop it. The freedom of the Press is as important as the freedom of Parliament, and I think it would be a great mistake for the Government to take steps to interfere with it.

Mr. J. J. Davidson: Have any steps been taken with regard to the distribution of this photograph in Italy?

Mr. Bracken: No, Sir.

Mr. Mander: Is the Minister aware that it was published in the United States, where it led to a good deal of misunderstanding?

Mr. Bracken: I dare say, but the publication of this photograph is a matter of taste, and I am not the corrector of taste in this country.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY—PAPER SUPPLY (BOOKS)

Mr. Edmund Harvey asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Supply whether his attention has been called to the need for fuller supplies of paper for the publication of books; and whether he can arrange to release a larger quantity of paper for this purpose?

Mr. Harold Macmillan: The quantity of paper allocated to book publishing is considerably higher, compared with normal times, than that allowed for a number of other important uses, and I fear I can hold out no hope in present circumstances of being able to increase it. I trust that publishers will be able to agree upon measures for making the most economical use of the paper available.

Mr. Harvey: Does my hon. Friend realise that there have already been serious complaints from leading publishers about the great waste of paper on unnecessary literature and publications which might be stopped?

Mr. Macmillan: I am well aware of the complaints of publishers as to publications, both necessary and otherwise.

Mr. R. C. Morrison: Will my hon. Friend draw the attention of publishers to the fact that Members of Parliament continue to receive many publications which they do not desire to receive?

Mr. Macmillan: A number of books are published that might well be dispensed with.

OCTOBER 9.

Oral Answers to Questions (38 columns)

NATIONAL WAR EFFORT

CHAIN STORES (EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS)

Lieutenant Butcher asked the Minister of Labour whether he is aware that certain chain stores who, at periods when workers were easily obtainable, employed young women and girls for half the week or less, and compelled them to draw unemployment benefit for the remainder of the week despite the large profits made and dividends distributed, are now attracting young persons under age of reservation from trades of national value by the offer of high wages; and what steps he is taking to prevent such transfer of workers?

Mr. Bevin: I was not aware of this, and I should be grateful if my hon. and gallant Friend would send me details.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES' COMMITTEES

Mr. Simmonds asked the Home Secretary whether he

proposes to allow local authorities, which do not authorise an emergency committee for Civil Defence purposes, to continue the undesirable and potentially dangerous practice of operating still through full committees?

Mr. H. Morrison: I do not know of any case in which a scheme-making authority has not appointed an emergency committee. As regards non-scheme making authorities, county councils were asked to consider with them the appointment of emergency committees in appropriate cases: and as far as I am aware this has been done. Perhaps if my hon. Friend has any particular instance in mind he will communicate with me.

"TRUTH"

Mr. Wedgwood asked the Home Secretary whether he has considered the views expressed by the paper *Truth*, which are those of the British Union of Fascists, and contain sneers at America and Russia; and, in view of the danger to the national war effort, will he take appropriate steps to deal with this publication, either directly, or through the Paper Control Board?

Mr. H. Morrison: If this or any other paper infringes the provisions of the Defence Regulations, it becomes my duty to consider taking appropriate action, but it is the desire of the House and of the Government that there shall be the minimum of interference with the liberty of the Press, and as my right hon. Friend will recognise, the strong objection which he or I may feel to certain articles is not in itself a ground for action under those Regulations.

Mr. Wedgwood: While this paper may be moderate in its comments at present, what will be the action of such a Quisling paper if the Germans ever come here? Will not they have a supply of paper and machinery for acting as the organ of the new Government? Will the right hon. Gentleman take that point of view into account in regard to the publication of this wretched rag?

Mr. Morrison: If the Germans did achieve that very high degree of success, I should imagine that they would take their own steps.

Mr. Shinwell: My right hon. Friend's answer is very satisfactory and we appreciate his desire to accord freedom to the Press, but does that not also apply to the *Daily Worker*?

Mr. Wedgwood: I will bring the matter up on the Adjournment, with extracts from the paper.

COMMUNIST PARTY

Mr. Silverman asked the Home Secretary, in view of his decision that the Communist Party of Great Britain is not loyal to this country, what steps he intends to take to dissolve that organisation and/or to prosecute its members?

Mr. H. Morrison: In a free country where the laws are so framed as to allow the utmost liberty for expressions of opinion and to prevent any undue interference with political propaganda it is a mistake to infer that if the law is not set in motion there is no disloyalty. The fact that no action has been taken against this Party is not a testimony to their loyalty: it is a testimony to the liberality of our laws and the desire of the Government to make the minimum use—even in time of war—of repressive measures. So long as security considerations permit I am anxious to avoid taking such steps for the suppression of the Communist Party or the prosecution of its members as my hon. Friend appears to suggest.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Information about Social Credit activities in different regions may be had by writing to the following addresses:

- BELFAST D.S.C. Group: Hon. Sec., 17 Cregagh Road, Belfast.
 BIRMINGHAM (Midland D.S.C. Association): Hon. Sec., 20 Sunnybank Road, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield.
 BLACKBURN S.C. Association: 168 Shear Brow, Blackburn.
 BRADFORD United Democrats: R. J. Northin, 11 Centre Street, Bradford.
 DERBY: C. Bosworth, 25 Allestree Road, Crewton, Derby.
 LIVERPOOL S.C. Association: Hon. Sec., 49 Prince Alfred Road, Liverpool, 15. Wavertree 435.
 LONDON Liaison Group: Mrs. Palmer, 35 Birchwood Avenue, Sidcup, Kent. Footscray 3059.
 MIDLAND D.S.C. Group: see Birmingham.
 NEWCASTLE and Gateshead S.C. Association: Hon. Sec., 108 Wordsworth Street, Gateshead.
 PORTSMOUTH D.S.C. Group: 115 Essex Road, Milton, or 50 Ripley Grove, Copnor.
 SOUTHAMPTON D.S.C. Group: Hon. Sec., 19 Coniston Road, Redbridge, Southampton.

BOOKS TO READ

By C. H. Douglas:—

Economic Democracy	(<i>edition exhausted</i>)
Social Credit	3/6
The Monopoly of Credit	3/6
Credit Power and Democracy	(<i>edition exhausted</i>)
Warning Democracy	(<i>edition exhausted</i>)
The Use of Money	6d.
"This 'American' Business"	3d. each
	12 for 2/-

ALSO

The Bankers of London by Percy Arnold	4/6
Lower Rates (pamphlet)	3d.
Hitler's Policy is a Jewish Policy by Borge Jensen and P. R. Masson	6d.
Southampton Chamber of Commerce Report	6d.
Is Britain Betrayed? by John Mitchell	2d. each
	12 for 1/6
How Alberta is Fighting Finance	2d. each
	12 for 1/6

(All the above postage extra).

Leaflets

Bomb the German People	100 for 1/9
The Attack on Local Government by John Mitchell	9d. doz. 50 for 2/6
	(The above are post free).
Taxation is Robbery	100 for 3/- 50 for 1/9

(Postage extra).

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