

## Britons protest at detention of MRA workers in India

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA was called upon by an assembly of more than 700 people last Sunday in London to investigate the unlawful detention by police of two Indian MRA full-time workers and to restore to them their liberty.

A resolution to this effect was passed unanimously at the MRA conference in London on 25 September by people from all over Britain, and from Africa, South America and Europe. Among the overseas speakers was James Muigai, the brother of President Kenyatta of Kenya.

A. Lawson Wood of Aberdeen told the conference that the two young women MRA workers, both over age, were forcibly detained by order of the Commissioner of the Madras Police on 2 September and are still in unlawful detention, allegedly in their parents' homes.

Efforts by Rajmohan Gandhi to have them released had been frustrated, he said (see article: The Background Facts on page 3).

Wood read a message from Gandhi, cabled to the conference, saying that the world looked to Britain 'as the guardian of the basis of the freedoms of humanity'. In his message Gandhi wrote, 'These two young women are still under unlawful detention. No one may see them or speak to them but the few messages that have reached us from them reveal their magnificent courage and conviction and passionate commitment to fight for all they hold most dear.

'In a world where tyranny still hopes and plans to take over the destinies of mankind, men and women

who love freedom and believe that every man should have the right to sacrifice for his country, need increasingly to stand together.

'I know and love the British people and have no hesitation in calling upon you to support me in my battle to liberate these two for the task God has given them and to take every possible step to induce those responsible in my country to free them.'

### Freedom isn't free

Proposing that the London conference take immediate action in the form of a resolution to the Indian Government, Wood emphasised the urgency of the struggle in India. He said, 'This is a grave matter. We have to decide whether we are going to give content to a popular song in the world today which says 'Freedom isn't free, you've got to pay a price, you've got to sacrifice for your liberty'. These girls have sacrificed. Are we going to stand aside?'

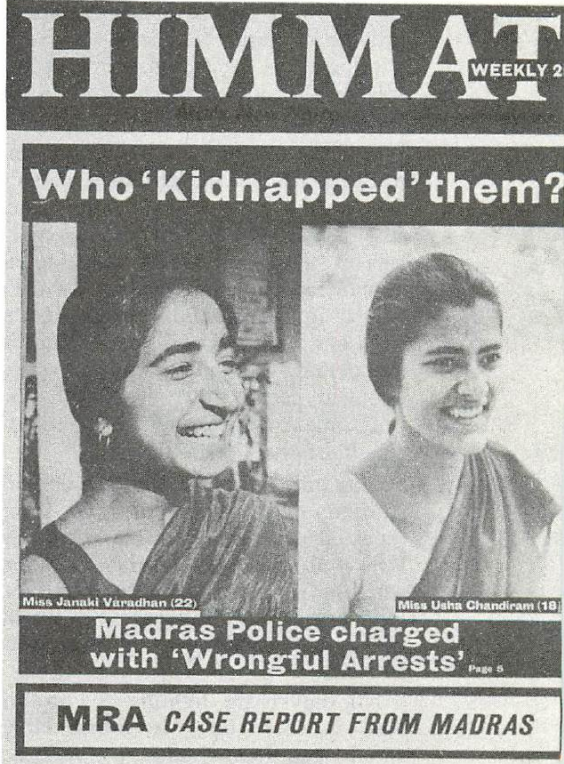
He then proposed the following resolution which was carried with acclaim and released to the press:

**'This assembly in London is deeply interested in the struggle of the people of India for prosperity and a national purpose that will further freedom and peace for the world.**

**'The Assembly therefore takes serious note of the news from India that police and government officials in Madras have kidnapped two full-time Moral Re-Armament workers, Miss Janaki Varadhan and Miss Usha Chandiram, both of age under**

Indian law, and that they are now in unlawful detention, allegedly in their parents' homes.

**'It urges the Government of India to hold an immediate enquiry into the kidnapping and to restore to the two persons their liberty and their inalienable right to sacrifice all they have for the future greatness of India. In the absence of these steps the world's faith in Indian democracy cannot fail to suffer a grievous blow.'**



**HIMMAT** WEEKLY 2

**Who 'Kidnapped' them?**

Miss Janaki Varadhan (22)

Miss Usha Chandiram (18)

**Madras Police charged with 'Wrongful Arrests'**

**MRA CASE REPORT FROM MADRAS**

Indian magazine 'Himmat', 9 September



# Janaki and Usha

by RAJMOHAN GANDHI, writing in 'Himmat', 23 September

THE MATTER no longer being *sub judice*, I am grateful for the chance to write.

First of all, I want to salute Janaki Varadhan and Usha Chandiram for the firmness of their faith. India is going to hear a lot more about Janaki and Usha. Unusually able and gifted, they have a profound love for India. They cannot be bullied or bribed. My faith in their commitment to truth and Moral Re-Armament is complete.

It is not a simple thing to embark on a fight against the Commissioner of Police and to charge him exactly with that thing which he is bound by law and by duty to prevent others from doing. And that this has been done is not a step in the prosecution of any Government official, in which cause MRA is not interested, but only a step in the defence of liberty. I feel the time has come when somebody should strike and strike hard for and on behalf of liberties invaded by persons of authority and armed with government might.

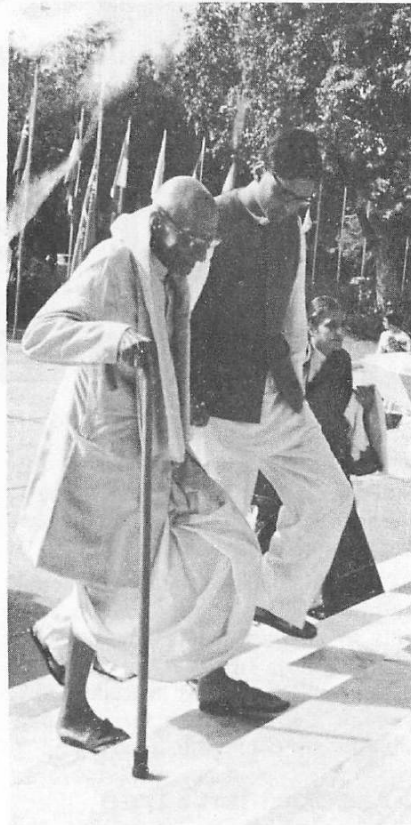
## Political Pressures

One significant feature is the quick way in which the Government stepped into the picture. Normally the State is a party in a criminal proceeding only on the side of the person who is wronged.

In this case, without waiting to investigate who is the wronged person, they rushed to the aid of the Commissioner of Police, which is just making up their minds on the side of bureaucracy and not making up their minds on the side of justice. If the State had waited and investigated and found that the Commissioner was the wronged person, then it would have been time for the State to intervene on behalf of the Commissioner.

This unprecedented step is a demonstration, as it were, of the truth of my repeated complaint, that it is not the Police Commissioner who is doing what he is doing but some hand behind powered by Government machinery and inspired by political pressures.

All that I am fighting for in this case is that the two young ladies should get their chance to speak out their minds without restraint and freely somewhere in public.



Rajmohan Gandhi with his grandfather, C. Rajagopalachari, former Governor-General of India, and his mother, Mrs. Devadas Gandhi, at the opening of the MRA conference in New Delhi in December 1963

## Not Academic Fight

Apart from the controversies in the present case, the learned Judge has covered virgin ground in criminal law by legalising 'detention' of a possible witness for the purpose of examination. I have heard of detention of a person suspected of a crime, but not of detention of a possible witness who could throw light upon the crime. I wonder whether this has been the law of the land so far.

In judging the jurisdiction of the Chief Presidency Magistrate to proceed in the manner he did, the Judge has not passed any verdict on my charge that the police forcibly removed the two young ladies against their will. That the police were guilty of this charge was, I submit, apparent to the public by their reluctance to let the young ladies appear in court.

It was proved by the statement of the Public Relations Officer, on behalf

of the Police Commissioner, who said in court on September 3, the day my protest was placed before the Magistrate: 'They have been remanded in custody under the usual powers of the Commissioner.'

## Police Admission

It was proved by the honest admission of the Deputy Police Commissioner of Madras, Mr Palaniappan, who was asked in the High Court by Justice Ramamurti, 'When did the girls leave for Bangalore?' 'They were dispatched on the evening of September 2,' Mr Palaniappan replied.

It was proved by the resignation in protest from her post of Honorary Magistrate Mrs Malathi Rangaswami, who was a witness in her own house to the forcible removal of Janaki.

I think I owe a duty to the public concerning what has been said against me by the Commissioner of Police, who says these things have been said against me by the fathers of the two girls. It is rather surprising that the Commissioner should think of kidnapping, abduction, etc., when the fathers themselves in their petitions have said, if I understand English, that the girls came to the camp voluntarily and that the girls were with MRA for two years.

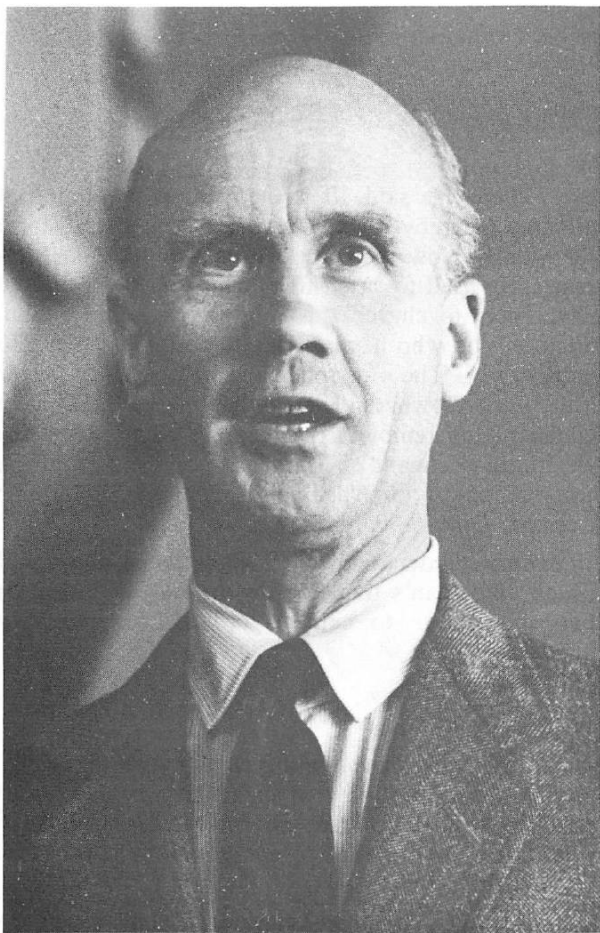
The thousand-and-odd people who watched *India Arise* on September 1, the night before Janaki and Usha were forcibly removed, heard Janaki give her convictions.

What shines through the dust and dirt of the episode is the courage of Janaki and Usha. A senior police official, fully involved in the affair, told me on the day the girls were taken, 'We put a woman official on to Janaki. After trying in vain for over an hour, this woman official told me, "Take care that you do not meet Janaki. She will convert you".'

This same police official also revealed yesterday to a friend, 'One thing I will say. We tried very hard but neither girl budged an inch. They were solidly for MRA.'

It is not necessary to try and prove the existence of the high-level plan to finish off Moral Re-Armament and my own individual influence and status. But I want to quote what a top police official told me on that fateful

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# What next?

*From a speech by A LAWSON WOOD  
at the Caux Conference attended by  
people from 41 nations*

I COUNT IT A GREAT PRIVILEGE to speak at this conference where there are so many men and women who can speedily and directly affect the course and thinking of their nations.

It is not my job to speak of the speed and scope and scale of Moral Re-Armament's advance across the earth, whether it is the advance you have just heard of in Germany or other countries; whether looking westwards it is Latin America with the musical *Dynamite '66* or in North America with its *Sing-Outs* multiplying steadily; whether it is in Asia where across that continent you have Masahide Shibusawa moving in Japan, Korea and his neighbour nations with similar weapons, and Rajmohan Gandhi in India.

My job this morning is to put to you a question that burns and turns in my mind all the time. And that is 'What next?' These weapons are there. What next?

## **Caux the pioneer**

Caux has always been concerned about the future. Ever since Frank Buchman first strode through this hall and asked the question which is now historic, 'Where are the Germans?', Caux has become the pioneer of philosophy and new thinking for the nations. Frank Buchman and Peter Howard following him and the Swiss who created Caux have always been concerned with this above all, and have wrestled and fought that we tackle together the issue, 'which way humanity?' And that's the point I would like to

make as we go out to our countries, great and small.

Frank Buchman lived passionately a truth that still is ours today, that God is the architect of this advance across the earth. He can sow in any heart here today—male or female, old or young, black, brown, white or yellow—he can sow in that heart the thought that can change the direction of a nation and fashion the future of history.

I read in the Bible that God is not limited as to whether He saves by many or by few. That is an interesting and important thought.

## **Strategy at work**

I think of Britain of which you have heard a good deal this weekend. In Bristol Jack Carroll is a docker who until recently was militantly leading disruption in the port. He came to see one of our plays. He changed and began to put things right in the port.

Do you know what happened next? The employers came to us and said, 'This man is different, he is so transformed, he is changed.' They searched for words and then they asked the question, 'What should we do?' Next week when *It's Our Country, Jack!* goes to Bristol the employers are standing side by side with Jack Carroll. (See report on page 4).

The manager of the port of Bristol recently went on television and said that the spirit of the port had been transformed.

Now this was Buchman's other secret. He constantly stressed our need for strategy. I can vividly remember the vigour with which he did this with me.

He did it sometimes more robustly than some of us like. One morning he said to me, 'If you don't get a strategy, you'll damn your nation.' And there are some of us sitting here today who will do exactly that if we don't get that strategy. He said to us, 'Don't leave here until you have the strategy that will save your nation.'

## Let's go beyond patriotism

The world is heading into economic crisis. You have heard how we plan to meet it. Britain is only the first of many nations which are headed towards an economic blizzard. Our job in Britain is not to go down before that crisis but to pioneer an answer which is valid for all nations at this time.

Our job is to do the thinking which is going to take these nations—some of them the strongest and wealthiest in the world yet possibly the most vulnerable to crisis—to take them out of their preoccupation with themselves, with their own nationalism, even with their own patriotism, to what they are called upon to do for the world.

I know how gravely and urgently many eyes are fixed on Vietnam. There are battles for freedom that must be fought there. I think at the same time of Rajmohan Gandhi in India and what he is doing in a powerful bid at this time with forces such as you have heard from here, to turn a nation of five hundred million to the place where they bring an answer to all of Asia. That may be the real key to the future of Asia.

Are we going together to do the new thinking that will take us into a new age for all of humanity, where we answer the divisions between black and white, old and young, wealth and poverty, whether in people or in nations, and turn the whole world Godwards?

Frank Buchman had one very simple conviction. It was that Moral Re-Armament was for everyone

everywhere. He said, 'It is the greatest revolution of all time whereby the Cross of Christ will transform the world.' Now these are words that have far outreach. He used to say a thing that some of you who have been to church this morning will understand. Some of you who haven't may understand it less. He used to say, 'The outstretched arms of Christ are for everyone everywhere.' He was thinking of the Chinese coolie in the remotest rice paddies as much as the wealthiest occupant of Manhattan or the men in the seats of power of Washington, Moscow, Peking or London, Bern or Paris, Africa or Asia.

Moscow understood it all right when they paid Frank Buchman's thinking the tribute of saying 'it has the power to capture radical, revolutionary minds'.

## Missing factor

I would like to leave with you a few words of his. It was his inspiration that created Caux and could point to how each of us do for our nations today what Caux has done for so many nations in the past. He said this:

'Communists and non-Communists have one fundamental weakness in common. They are not creating a new type of man. Consequently both lack the one essential for creating a new world. But there is a superior ideology which is giving men new motives, new character. It works! It is a new thinking forged by living absolute standards—absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. With this ideology nations will begin to think. They will solve all their problems. Families will be united, youth will find a purpose more dynamic and compelling than lawlessness.

'This is the new statesmanship, a life commitment adequate to change the thinking, living and daring of the whole world; for everyone, everywhere this is the future. This is normal living.'

# A Nation Free to Decide

A talk to Clergy and Ministers

by

Roland Wilson, Secretary of Moral Re-Armament in Great Britain

Obtainable from MRA, 4 Hays Mews, London W1, 1s each; 12 copies 10s; 50 copies £2; 100 copies £3 10s post free



James Muigai, brother of President Kenyatta of Kenya and Liaison Officer for the Kenya Coffee Co-operatives, talks with three Uruguayan dockers' leaders at the London MRA conference.

Photo: Strong

## Kenyan says Britain needed in Africa

JAMES MUIGAI, brother of President Kenyatta of Kenya, said last weekend that Kenya, with her long association with Britain, regarded this country as a 'father and mother to show us the right way to go.' He was speaking at an MRA conference in London last weekend.

Britain could still assist countries like Kenya where she had had responsibilities. 'Britain can help remedy wrongs in her own and in African national life in order to be able to remake the world,' he said.

Muigai said he was grateful that British people had helped produce an African MRA film, *Freedom*, which his brother Jomo Kenyatta had launched in Swahili.

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day, September 2. 'There is a lot of talk in town about you and the women in MRA. Many Congressmen have come and asked us to take action. If you can persuade Janaki and Usha to leave MRA and go to Bangalore, all this talk will cease.'

There is a word called *blackmail* and the quotation I have just given is a basic illustration of it.

The high-powered plan to discredit MRA has magnificently boomeranged, and I leave it to others to judge as to who today stands in disrepute.

I want to thank with all my heart and salute my brilliant and resolute lawyer, R M Seshadri, for the speed and passion with which he has fought.

We have witnessed a wanton and cynical use of physical force, on behalf of powerful circles, to destroy the freedom of movement and of occupation of two of India's decent and uncommonly patriotic young women. It is nothing short of Fascism and Communism. To throw out this Fascist-Communist hold on Indian life is now the solemn and deliberate resolve of a number of us.



## THE BACKGROUND FACTS

THE TWO YOUNG WOMEN, Miss Janaki Varadhan and Miss Usha Chandiram, were detained on 2 September by authority of the Commissioner of the Madras Police.

Two hours later Rajmohan Gandhi accused the Police Commissioner of illegal conduct in forcibly detaining the young women. Gandhi filed a petition before the Acting Chief Presidency Magistrate, J H Osman Ali Khan, that the Police Commissioner's action was 'highhanded, illegal and without any legal or factual justification'. He urged the Court to call upon the Police Commissioner to release the young women.

Miss Varadhan was forcibly seized by the police while visiting on appointment the home of Mrs Malathi Rangaswami. Mrs Rangaswami, in protest against this action of the police in her home, has since resigned her position as Honorary Magistrate of Madras.

The Police Commissioner alleged that the women were not freely working with MRA and wished to return to their parents. He could produce no evidence to sustain this view other than complaints against Gandhi from the fathers of the women. However the fathers of the girls themselves admitted that the girls came to an MRA camp voluntarily and that they were with MRA for two years. Gandhi in his petition to the Acting Chief Presidency Magistrate said that Miss Chandiram had put in writing that she was joining MRA as a full-time worker of her own free will and had said,

'If ever it becomes necessary, I request you please to act legally on my behalf and to make sure that other people do not forcibly prevent me from working with MRA.'

Gandhi petitioned that the court summon the young women for the purpose of open inquiry and for effecting complete justice. He submitted that if the girls appear in court it would be the easiest thing for the court to arrive at the truth.

The Magistrate directed on 6 September that the young women and their fathers should appear in court on 15 September for the matter to be clarified.

On 9 September the Public Prosecutor of the Madras State petitioned the High Court to quash the ruling of the Chief Presidency Magistrate that the young women appear in court on 15 September.

Gandhi protested at this move and said it was 'calculated to obstruct the course of justice and designed to subvert the ends thereof. The State of Madras was not party to the proceedings before the learned Magistrate and it cannot have any manner of interest in the proceedings unless it be for reasons unstated but which can be guessed.'

Justice K S Ramamurti of the High Court nevertheless quashed the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate summoning the young women and their fathers to appear in court.

The women are still in detention, allegedly in their parents' homes.



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## Erhard hears 'Sing-Out Deutschland'

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CHANCELLOR LUDWIG ERHARD asked the cast of the MRA show *Sing-Out Deutschland* to give a fifteen-minute presentation at Cologne Airport as he left this week for talks with President Lyndon B Johnson in Washington. Present were all the members of the German Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps and the national TV.

Joern Neupert, a student of mathematics from Hamburg, speaking for

the cast, thanked the Chancellor for bringing the Americans of *Sing-Out '66* earlier this year to Germany. He asked the Chancellor to convey their gratitude to President Johnson and the American people. He told the Chancellor of the twenty *Sing-Outs* all over Germany.

After the cast had sung 'Freedom Isn't Free', 'Don't Look Back', the song of the German 'Michel', and

'Germany, my Homeland', the Chancellor said, 'This send-off you have prepared for me has given me great joy.'

'I am grateful that the invitation to the Americans of *Sing-Out '66* has produced a new creation which is typically German in its spirit, expressing the aims of Germany and loyalty to our German homeland. I thank you all.'

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## US Congressmen meet MRA leaders

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THIRTEEN MEMBERS of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the United States House of Representatives met this week in Washington with MRA leaders from the US, Germany, India, Japan and Peru. They heard reports of MRA's world advance.

Commenting afterwards Mrs Frances P Bolton, senior member of the committee, said, 'The job of Congress is to clarify for the people of America what Moral Re-Armament is.'

Performing in Washington at the same time to packed audiences was

the MRA musical *Up With People*. Lieut General Creighton Abrams, Vice-Chief of Staff of the Army, said, 'This show is delicately and sensitively done. I watched every face in the cast through the show and MRA shows all over them all the time.'

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## More unity now in Bristol docks

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BRISTOL—where last year a million pounds was lost in a docks stoppage and where this month dockers set a new record for timber unloading (*Lloyd's List & Shipping Gazette*, 20 September)—last week welcomed *It's Our Country, Jack!*

The General Manager of the Port of Bristol Authority, port employers, the Regional Secretary for the South West of England for the Transport and General Workers' Union, the divisional organiser of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, national and regional leaders of dockers, and men

from the aircraft industry were in the packed première audience in the Bristol University Union Theatre.

'I was ready to wreck my port,' said docker Jack Carroll, speaking after the performance. 'I was part of the strike that cost the city a million pounds. After meeting MRA I put things right with trade union officials and employers. Since then dockers, union officials and employers have been working closer together.' The militant docker described to the audience how a new spirit was capturing not only his port, but his family too. His

daughter was in the cast and his nephew in the orchestra.

'I am determined now not only to bring the spirit of MRA to my port, but every port in the country,' he said. He introduced Antonio Falcao of Recife, Brazil, docker and for 18 years a member of the Communist Party.

The cast includes graduates from Bristol University and Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team. Earlier they were received by the Lord Mayor of Bristol and the Chief Education Officer in the City Hall.

THE RIGHT REVEREND Oliver Tomkins, DD, Bishop of Bristol, this week told the cast of *It's Our Country, Jack!*, 'Go roaring ahead absolutely believing in what you are doing, and God bless you.'

'I am glad to think that you are coming with a message to those who work in industry, that by putting the whole community above sectional interests we can become a community that deserves to be called great.'

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## Bishop of Bristol says, 'Go roaring ahead'

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The cast would be able to build on two traditions in Bristol life, he said, 'the depth, sincerity and strength of our Christian cooperation and the reality of the Christian social conscience.'

He spoke of the way Wesley had transformed industrial life in the city and of the fight against the slave trade which was the forerunner of today's Christian industrial mission. 'God bless

your attempts to build on the foundation which Christian men and women have laid before you. Thank you for coming to enter into this heritage.'

'Let purity, unselfishness, love and honesty be practised,' he said, 'not for results, but for their own sakes. Go roaring ahead, absolutely believing in what you are doing, and God will take care of the rest. There are no limits to what He can do.'