

'BRITONS—BLEATING SHEEP OR MEN OF GUTS'

PLEDGE TO THE UNEMPLOYED

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MAKING JAPAN WHAT SHE IS MEANT TO BE

## 'Britons—bleating sheep or men of guts'

**I**DLE YARDS and idle hands. Foreign orders placed elsewhere, and foreign firms tempted to pull out. 'It's a bloody mess,' commented a senior reporter.

'If we knew our men would work we could have quoted 25 per cent less and got the contract,' complained the company director. 'Thirty years work and three hours' notice,' was a trade union executive's bitter comment. Negative attitudes of management to labour and of labour to management, mistrust of Whitehall and lack of uniting national purpose. That is Clydeside today.

Contrasted with this is the way national trade union figures, senior management, the privileged and the unemployed have responded wholeheartedly to a new initiative. It has centred in the coming of the musical, *Space is so Startling*, to Scotland. It is expressed in the practical steps taken by men who have seen the play. It is apparent in the cheering, applauding, shouting audiences in Glasgow's King's Theatre.

Theatre critics have appreciated the play's theatrical qualities. 'A surprising and suspenseful plot with a convincing conclusion,' writes the *Daily Record*, while the *Scottish Daily Mail* says the production goes 'with a swing and an unflinching appeal to eye and ear.' The *Scottish Daily Express* says, 'It has heart and trenchant sincerity,' while the *Glasgow Herald* points out that 'the gallery clearly enjoyed the performance a great deal'. The *Scotsman* headlined its review, 'Enthusiasm plus zest'.

### Verve and conviction

The critics have also understood the play's relevance. The *Govan Press* writes, 'The show is a refreshing—and inspiring—change from the moaners and groaners brigade who bandy the argument over Britain's greatness or lack of it, but have no word to say of where her true greatness lies. This play tells us where it lies—in two hours of skill and artistry, and with a verve and conviction which hit the audience through every song and action.'

And the *Glasgow University Guardian* says, 'This witty, right up-to-date show spotlights the Western and

Communist blocs in the race to get a man in space and covers many issues we debate in song and laughter.'

Throughout the week industrial leaders from the area have conferred with Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Wailes, who are members of the cast, and Mr. Howard, the author. 'Management and labour can peck, squabble, bite and become absorbed in themselves—or look to the management of the nation,' Howard told a luncheon group of directors of shipyards and steelworks, stockbrokers and trade union officials, including the Chairman of the Scottish T.U.C. 'Britons,' he said, 'can be like bleating sheep, not knowing where they are herded, or become men of guts who know where they want to take the world.'

Foremost among the men to say 'Yes' to this challenge have been the unemployed. As *The Scotsman* reported, when the play closed in Glasgow, the cast moved to present it on Sunday in the mining town of Auchinleck. Here, almost every man is unemployed, following the flooding and collapse of two newly-built pits.

'This show must go over TV to every home'—this was one of scores of enthusiastic comments from unemployed miners who applauded and cheered the performance of the play. Admission was by show of unemployment card. 'It has a tremendous impact. People find hope. The miners tell me, "This is the idea we need,"' the chief reporter of the local paper commented.

The miners, who earlier in the day had been addressed by Mr. Alex Moffat, President of the Scottish Miners' Union, responded long and loud to Mr. Howard's play and his message which was read by Clydeside worker Duncan Corcoran. 'This must go to Moscow,' said one man. 'If the House of Commons could hear this, there'd be a place for everyone in the nation,' said another. 'It's the best thing for many years.' 'Smashing.' 'It's not a question of politics but of the human heart.' The comments tumbled out as the miners crowded round the cast afterwards. Mr. Keir Hardie McTurk, Treasurer of the Cumnock Town Council, whose father was Keir Hardie's intimate associate, said, 'This idea applies from government to individual. We must do something about it.'

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Southern Ayrshire and District Trades Council, town councillors, Coal Board men and miners, young and old, were in the audience. The Secretary, David Gregory, and George

Young, unemployed miner of Auchinleck, welcomed the cast and introduced the evening. They said they had invited the show following the visit of 164 miners and their wives to a performance in Glasgow.

## Pledge to the unemployed

*Mr. Peter Howard, the author and playwright, sent this message to the unemployed miners of Auchinleck, as his play, 'Space is so Startling', was presented there:*

**T**HANK GOD for the courage of the miners, port workers, factory hands and early pioneers of British Labour who, with their wives at their side, fought through persecution and misery to show the world economic and social change can be won without bloodshed. Their example, carried by the great trade unions to the ends of the earth, has enabled more than half the world to remain free today.

Now the next stage of human progress awaits us. The workers of the world must show humanity that the class struggle can be outmoded. Unless the workers lead the way to freedom from bitterness and hatred, atomic war becomes inevitable. For this to be made possible, the injustice and soullessness of unemployment, first in our own and then in every country, must be ended.

*From THE PRESS AND JOURNAL, Aberdeen, 9 February:*

### 'Let character come first' says Patrick

**O**NE of the most damnable features of modern politics was that some sections of the public had been led to believe that only Left Wing politicians cared for the problems of the unemployed, said Mr. Patrick Wolrige-Gordon, East Aberdeenshire Tory M.P., in an address to Oxford University Conservative Association.

'I care very much, and so do my colleagues,' he declared, speaking under the title 'Moral Re-Armament's Challenge to British politics'.

Mr. Wolrige-Gordon said the Government alone could not solve unemployment, though they could help. Management alone could not solve the problem. The trade unions alone could not solve the problem, though they could help. Meanwhile the problem, though capable of solution through a united effort, was denied that solution because there was no united effort.

Ostensibly the horses were all pulling down the same road and they called their carriage NEDDY.

But before they got to the bottom of the drive there was a three-pronged fork—one marked 'votes', another 'profits and comfort' and the third 'wages and easy terms'. Up jumped human nature, the reins broke, and, like Sisyphus, they began all over again.

What a force they could be if those parties did not put personal interest first, but were more interested in doing what was right.

'The emphasis in the political programmes of both parties today is weighted heavily on the material benefits they will obtain for the people.

God has a plan for every man and every nation. His plan will end the false tolerance which allows the rusting away of the finest men He made, through a lack of care and conscience in us all. His plan will end the negative approach of management to labour and labour to management where unemployment, strikes and unequal sweat and gain are used as weapons to divide and destroy each other.

Empty hands will be filled with work, empty larders with food, empty hearts with an idea great enough to satisfy everybody in the world revolution of Moral Re-Armament. To this task we pledge ourselves with you to live and give to the last drop of our blood and the last penny in our pockets.

'We have obtained many benefits—I am not disputing that or their importance. We are a rich country today.

'But what did my pensioners say to me when the recent increases were announced? They said it wasn't enough, the winter had been awful and nobody cared.'

Mr. Wolrige-Gordon said the question to be decided was whether wealth and strength were the main aim of politics, or whether it was believed the character of the people was the source of all wealth and strength, and therefore a main purpose of every politician.

'The answer is very simple. Our main pre-occupation today must become the character of our country. It is not a party matter. It is a challenge for every party.

'I want a Britain which will command the affection, the trust, the allegiance and the gratitude of the whole world in a way that we have never done before.

'It will mean finding and living an answer to arrogance, superiority, little Englandism, disappointed Europeanism, all the things in a human heart which divide man from man, family from family, class from class and nation from nation.

'Such a quality is greater than empire, more compelling than armies, more satisfying than material success. It will mean a new honesty in our dealings, a new purity in our family life, unselfishness where we ourselves are concerned and a heart that is wide enough and warm enough to accept everybody of every race and class and make him feel at home.'

## 'Towards a healthy, creative theatre'

**K**RUSHCHEV recently insisted to Soviet writers and artists that 'art is an ideological battlefield.' He will not tolerate Communists writing or painting if the end result does not serve the Communist world advance. So, Mr. Pasternak cannot accept the Nobel Prize. And a great Russian singer will not perform in Coventry Cathedral, the symbol of Anglo-German reconciliation, but is willing to sing in the Albert Hall.

Whether we like it or not, drama, literature and art are a vehicle of ideas. What a man thinks and what he is must inevitably permeate all he writes and paints. What nations think and what they live for is mirrored in their drama, art and writing. So the products of pen and brush we send abroad paint the picture of our national life for other nations. And they can inspire these nations to greatness.

That is the significance of America's evaluation of Peter Howard's play, *Music at Midnight*. Critic after critic sees in it 'a new approach to world problems for the Communist and non-Communist world alike'. 'This play may provoke a regenerate spark of life in a Christian democracy. It is the beginning of something new in the theatre.' This is the assessment of the critic

in the *Stanford Daily*, the Stanford University paper in San Francisco. The San Francisco *Chronicle* says the idea of the play 'is a lofty and noble one which can be adopted by anyone'. Other papers say: 'good theatre', 'fine acting', 'cleverly contrived'.

The Mayor of San Francisco, Mr. George Christopher, proclaimed 4-9 February 'Music at Midnight Week', following a resolution passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urging him to do so. The resolution states: 'The coming of *Music at Midnight* to San Francisco gives our community a chance to support the trend towards a healthy, creative theatre in America.'

The committee sponsoring the play under the Mayor's chairmanship includes the President of the Board of Education, the publisher and owners of two newspapers, leaders of the Democratic and Republican Parties in the state, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and the President of the Labour Council. The Mayor had personally written to members of the committee inviting them to join him in this initiative.

A one-minute film of General Eisenhower at the Palm Springs première of the play was broadcast on San Francisco's television news.

## Italian Communists see way to a just society

**T**HE COMMUNIST PARTY of Italy has just celebrated its 42nd anniversary. Poster after poster appeared on walls in towns and villages all over the country. Party meetings were held, passionate speeches were made.

But in the agricultural centre of Taverna di Matera the day was celebrated in the Communist Party headquarters with the showing of the MRA film *Men of Brazil*. 'That film,' the Party secretary told his members at the end, 'shows us the right way to do things. It shows the alternative to violence and the right way to fight for a just society.'

This area around Reggio di Calabria is where St. Paul first set foot in Italy. Yet now it has become known across the country for the struggle of class and party, for the hatred and mistrust the Southerner feels for his more moneyed Northern brethren.

Today the Latin American task-force with their play, *El Condor*, are bringing their dynamic message of change and unity to this southern region. With them, leaders of the church and arch-enemies of the church have been paving the way for what the *Gazzetta del Sud* calls 'the beginning of a vast transformation of society'.

A rash of posters signed by the secretary of a leftist union appeared recently on walls all over Reggio. They called on the Mayor to solve the problems of the city 'exactly as a solution is brought in *El Condor*'.

In one 24-hour period four performances of the play were jammed out, with hundreds paying to stand and hundreds more unable to get in. The morning per-

formance was so full that the police asked a great crowd outside the theatre to come back in the afternoon. The afternoon was even fuller.

On the opening night of the play leaders of the Communist Party were in the audience with the Prefect of Calabria and civic and provincial officials. Just across from the Communists sat the President of the Landowners' Association. With him were owners of the orange plantations which surround Reggio. One land-owning couple in the audience had been prisoners in their own house a few weeks before, with rioting workers outside screaming for their death.

At the Nenni-Socialist headquarters one of the Party's leaders told the Latin Americans, 'We want to build a new socialism based on morality. We do not want the confusion of present-day democracy nor the tyranny of totalitarianism, but a new factor and a new way.'

An honoured guest of the Prefect's wife, of the Nenni Socialist headquarters and of the Union of Communist Women, was Mrs. Irene Laure from Marseilles.

The President of the Communist Women asked to meet with Mrs. Laure and others, so that they could plan to reach the 40,000 olive pickers and the 7,000 jasmine gatherers in the province with MRA films and plays.

'Your idea is so powerful it will certainly cover the globe,' declared the Mayor of Reggio at a civic reception. The sound and hard-working people of Calabria, he said, would make their province a 'launching point of MRA to the whole of Italy and the world.'

## Making Japan what she is meant to be

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**N**EARER TO VLADIVOSTOK than to Tokyo, and in sight of Russian-held territory, lies Hokkaido, the northern island of Japan. Wood, coal and revolutionaries are the main exports. One-third of Japan's defence forces are stationed there. And the Government has for years kept a cabinet-stature man as Governor. The heads of Japan's biggest unions and of the revolutionary Zengakuren are all Hokkaido men. Four months ago Communism was the one ideological force among the island's youth, crisis and redundancy the apparent fate for the island's coalminers. Then *Space is so Startling* was invited to Sapporo, the capital, and seen by thousands. Today, the men who four months ago listened, discussed and doubted are the initiators of a new offensive.

### Searching for a new way

In the same hall where revolutionary Zengakuren youth planned to demonstrate against the MRA task force last November, one of their number now introduced the play, *Over the Garden Wall*, given by an all-Japanese cast. He said, 'Moral Re-Armament should be the foundation of any social and economic system. Without it, humanity will degrade itself into dictatorship.' Referring to the earlier visit, an extreme left-wing student leader declared, 'Contact with that force shook my philosophy. I am sincerely searching for a new way for the student movement.' According to the students, ever since that time Moral Re-Armament has been the main topic of classroom and dormitory discussion. The captain of the university Rugby team declared, 'I will fight with this idea to make Japan what she is meant to be.'

The Governor of Hokkaido, Mr. Machimura, told the MRA force as he welcomed them at the university auditorium, 'For the sake of the nation's future I am deeply indebted to you for what you are doing.'

On the eve of the announcement of more than 1,000 men being laid off, the Sunagawa coalmine received the MRA men. The manager, the chairman of the miners' union and the area Chairman of the Socialist Party were joint hosts. Over supper at the Management Club, labour and management, who both say they are convinced that world revolution through Moral Re-Armament is the only way out, talked honestly of the problems they face. Later, at a special meeting for the miners and their wives, the chairwoman said, 'We want to learn the secret of changing hearts which we badly need here now.'

The *Hokkai Times*, in response to its bold appeal in a full page entitled 'Peace and Happiness for all Working Men', received 800 letters from every corner of the island. This page was hailed by Mr. Yanagihara, Chairman of the Ashibetsu Coalminers' Union and an outstanding labour leader of the nation, when he received the play, *Over the Garden Wall*, in his mine. He said, 'This message exactly fits what we in labour are striving for—a world without conflict and poverty. We will stand with you.'

**Sao Paulo, Brazil**—*The Crowning Experience* received the highest percentage rating out of nine new international films in a popular poll in the newspaper, *Folha*, here. It has already been seen by 35,000 people in five days. General Macedo Soares, the President of Mercedes Benz and a former Minister of Transport, announced at the film's première, 'I and a powerful national committee are taking this ideology to Brazil and the world and invite you to join us.' Miss Muriel Smith, the singing star of the film, arrived in the city from Rio de Janeiro, where she had been featured ten times in front page stories in the press. She has already appeared in three peak-time television programmes here.

**Nairobi, Kenya**—As news came of walk-outs and accusations at the Afro-Asian conference on the Kenya-Tanganyika border, the Swahili *Freedom* film was giving its message of unity to mass audiences in the African stadium here. 'The film portrays,' writes the Swahili weekly *Baraza*, 'how people can live together in peace without hate between the races.' Mr. James Muigai, brother of Mr. Jomo Kenyatta, arranged the showings together with nationalist leaders Nahashon Ngare and Dedan Mugo. Mr. Ngare has twice had fifteen-minute interviews on the radio.

**Kolding, Denmark**—The Socialist mayors of Kolding and Fredericia have joined with the Presidents of the Employers' Federations in their towns in welcoming the Nordic MRA force and their plays, *The Wind is Shifting* and *The Ladder*. The biggest paper in Kolding, *Folkebladet*, gives half a page to a description of this offensive beginning with the words 'They are ablaze—no doubt about it'. Speaking for the 60 youth who are taking part in this action in Scandinavia, Sven Robach, a 16-year-old student, said, 'We Nordic youth must take on the responsibility for what is happening in the world and give a new way of living and thinking to Washington and Moscow, Peking and Berlin.'

**Alwaye, South India**—At a conference last week-end, Mr. K. M. Cherian, editor of *Malayala Manorama*, the largest newspaper in South India, told members of the Kerala Parliament, 'Not only in India but all across the world we are on the verge of the moral and material break-up of civilisation. If we mean business, as I do, it will mean putting into this fight all we have.' The conference was held to prepare for the nation-wide launching of the Kerala M.P.s' play, *The New Chapter*, under the patronage of the Chief Minister of the state, Mr. R. Sankar.