

The Answer To All The "Isms"

Moral Rearmament's Tenth Birthday

VETERAN LEADER'S BROADCAST FROM HOLLYWOOD BOWL

TO-MORROW is the 10th Anniversary of the launching of the programme of Moral Re-Armament and also the 70th birthday of the founder of this world-wide movement, Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman. The occasion is being celebrated at a great gathering in the famous Hollywood Bowl at Los Angeles, California, where statesmen from many lands have been invited to deliver addresses to-day. The invitation went out from a group of 51 leading Senators and Representatives in the American Congress, including Senator Barkley, Democrat leader of the Senate, and Senator Bridges and Congressman Mundt, leaders of Congressional committees that dealt with different aspects of the Marshall Plan.

In their invitation they state: "In our view the developing world situation puts an overriding priority on skill in ideological warfare. Economic aid is essential for world recovery, but without the force of a superior idea, economic aid or military force of themselves hold no solution."

THE following world broadcast was made by Dr. Buchman for the occasion:

"Everywhere men long for peace and prepare for war. They long to rebuild and prepare to destroy. They plan for new prosperity and expect fresh disasters.

"What is the missing factor in the planning and the statesmanship of the world to-day?"

"It is our lack of an ideology for democracy. We say, we are democrats, we need no ideology.

"So we try to meet the united plan and passion of alien ideologies with talk and with lip-service to high ideals and with a last resort to force. And we hope to live as we have always lived—selfishly, comfortably and undisturbed.

"We have all lived too long in an atmosphere of imagining that security, prosperity, comfort and culture are natural to man.

"We forgot the eternal struggle between Evil and Good, victory in which brings the blessings of security and prosperity. But defeat in this struggle and even ignorance of it, brings poverty, hunger, slavery and death.

IT takes more than diplomacy to exercise evil. It takes more than lip-service to fight for God. Statesmen talk about the answer. They talk of union. But disunity increases. They talk of moral values. But immoral policies prevail. They use these words which the hard logic of events has proved true. But it remains words. These men do not face the cost in their own lives and the life of their nations of giving an answer.

"An extreme of evil must be met with an extreme of good. A fanatical following of evil by a passionate pursuit of good.

"Only a passion can cure a passion. And only a superior world-arching ideology can cure a world divided by warring ideologies.

"We Americans have been lulled into a false security by believing that all the 'isms' are across the sea.

"Isms' grow from unsolved problems in the life of men and nations. One man's hate kindles a million hates. One man's suspicion explodes a million suspicions. It spreads like a prairie fire. Or it creeps like a flame underground to burst out unexpectedly in a hundred places. Is America free from hates, fears, suspicions, greed? Why is our record of broken homes so high? How about industrial strife? Are we victims of the greatest 'ism' of all—materialism? Is materialism the mother of all the 'isms'? Is materialism becoming our national ideology?"

"WE stretch out generous hands to help Europe and Asia economically. But materialism frustrates our best intentions. Prices rise, money is worth less. Troubles in industry cut down the supply of goods. At the moment when our strength is most needed abroad, we may find ourselves in our greatest crisis.

"The other 'isms' are banking on that. They wait their time. They know that money, food and clothes alone will not save Europe; that material things may make nations just strong enough to become tools in their ideological conquest of the world. Ten years ago Moral Re-Armament was born. What have we learnt in these ten years? We have learnt that democracy without an ideology can win a war but cannot build a peace; that ideological preparedness is the task of the whole nation, and is the one sure basis of national strength, moral, military and economic.

"TO-DAY M.R.A. offers the democracies and the whole world the superior armament of an ideology, without which armies are out-fought and statesmen are out-thought.

"M.R.A. has grown in ten years to the stature of a world answer to any 'ism'—even materialism. In the words of a British coalminer, 'Moral Re-Armament is the answer to every 'ism' ever invented.' It is for everyone, everywhere. It has restored for millions the simple sanctities of home and honour, and given hope for a new world. It has built the world organism that can make a reality of this hope.

"Let me cite a few proven facts of the past 12 months. 150 leading Germans came to the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Caux, Switzerland. General Clay in Berlin and Lord Pakenham in London made their visit possible. These Germans found the answer to nihilism and to an ideologically broken nation. An Allied official, Military Governor of Cologne, said: 'M.R.A. is the ideal solution for Germany.' A leading German Socialist, a former Minister-President, said: 'If Europe is to be saved, it must be saved in the spirit of Moral Re-Armament.'

"The first democratic handbook by Germans giving the answering ideology was produced by these men. It is going out far and wide even behind the Iron Curtain. Sweden gave 100 tons of paper because she saw her security lay in a new spirit in Germany.

"FRENCH industry—battlefield of the ideologies—has found a uniting force. An employer, heading an organisation of employers of 600,000 workers, fought Labour. The head of all the Socialist women of France mistrusted Management. These two saw the new battle-line—for or against democracy's inspired ideology. They met. They changed. They apologised, and are working together. Thousands rally to them. They speak not of revolution, not of reaction, but of renaissance—the rebirth of a nation, the rebirth of a continent.

"Italy—focus of an anxious world. 200 Italians including 26 members of the Italian Parliament from five different parties came to the M.R.A. Conference last summer. The Christian Democrat and the Socialist learned to work together. A Socialist said: 'It is a miracle. Our parties can get together in the same way as we have.'

"Is that one of the secrets of the Italian elections?"

"Britain—production is returning. But what is her greatest problem to-day? After seeing the Moral Re-Armament programme in the coalfields of Britain a mine manager said: 'Moral Re-Armament fills the emptiness and gives the dynamic we need.' Lord Nuffield, the genius of Britain's automobile industry, sent this message to the M.R.A. programme at the time of the British Industries Fair: 'We must be prepared to face man-made problems which beset us by bringing into our personal, family and industrial lives in full measure the principles of truth, integrity, unselfishness and compassionate understanding of the other man's problems.'

"WHAT is the common factor in all this good news? It is union—the almost forgotten solution to all our problems to-day.

"Division is the mark of our age. Division in the heart. Division in the home. Division in industry. Division in the nation. Division between nations. Union is our instant need. Division is the work of human pride, hate, lust, fear, greed. Division is the trade mark of materialism. Union is the grace of rebirth. We have lost the art of uniting because we have forgotten the secret of change and rebirth. Moral Re-Armament is the good road of an ideology inspired by God upon which all can unite.

"Catholic, Jew and Protestant, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Confucianist—all find they can travel along this good road together. It lifts them above their differences to the level of a superior ideology.

"I called on a great leader in his time of deep sorrow. He gave me these words of Fulton Sheen, 'What the world needs to-day is not to plead for religious unity so much as to plead for the unity of religious people.' Those are the words of a great Catholic leader.

"THE Jew has his pristine contribution in the words of the great prophet-leader Isaiah, 'Nations shall run into thee because of the Lord thy God,' and 'Great shall be the peace of thy children.' And in the words of the Psalmist, 'Great peace have they which love Thy law; and nothing shall offend them.'

"And what does Islam say? The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Sir Zafrullah Khan, sent me this word, 'Among my friends of M.R.A. I have been delighted to observe the constant striving after discovering God's plan and purpose and putting their lives in accord with it. I am convinced that it is only through sincere and sustained effort in that direction that mankind can win through to its true redemption.'

Is that the medium of approach for the Palestine problem?

"It is so easy to have these great truths lost in prejudice. 'Behold how these brethren fight one another' says the world. But it should be 'Behold how these brothers love one another.'

"The Bishop of Tammerfors in Finland came to see that great ideological play 'The Forgotten Factor' in his own land and language. He was afraid a play might not be the right medium. He came. He wept. He said, 'This must go to everyone.' After the first act he telephoned a well-known industrialist who came straight to the theatre. As a result the cast was asked to show the play for a whole month.

"What a joy must have possessed this Bishop who leeryly and almost against his will decided to come, and found the thing he most longed for for his nation—an over-arching ideology.

"AND what does India say? The Minister of Labour in Bombay Provincial Government, took this word back to the leaders of his country and to the millions of India's workers, 'Here is the force that can change selfishness and greed and all that is wrecking the spirit and soul of people.'

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ANNIVERSARY OF MORAL REARMAMENT

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Until I met Moral Re-Armament I had not felt confident that there was an idea which could be applied universally as an adequate answer.

"Labour here in California says the same. They see this great principle of changing and uniting on the level of an answering ideology. It led a group of labour leaders to go to management and offer their services free for the filming of our play 'The Good Road'. I didn't ask them to do it. They saw a tremendous part they could play and they took the initiative. Isn't this the dignity of labour?"

"Think of strikes to-day. 75,000 men—100,000 men. No one thinks much about strikes. True, the President says that they may have national repercussions. Economists give us grave warnings. But do we see that strikes can be the entrance for one of the 'isms'? Is it materialism in the thinking and living of both management and labour—and of you and me?"

"Think of America destroying herself with the very thing she condemns in others. And how about France? Italy? The Po Valley? Do they understand the language of an answer to strikes?"

"And what does the employer say? The representative of one of the greatest aircraft manufacturers in California told us, 'Until I saw your work, I thought the answer to materialism was dead with St. Francis.'

"Now make no mistake. I do not say that this message will be wholly popular. It stirs the conscience. That is uncomfortable. It will always be open to misinterpretation by those who wish to escape it. But it comes as illumination to those who are ready.

"Let me tell how it came to me. Just 40 years ago I was divided. Just as nations to-day are divided. Materialism was winning its battle in my heart. I went to Europe to try to escape. But my battle came with me. One day in England, God showed me the cost of my pride and my materialism. I admitted it. That is the first step. Get honest.

"I said, 'Betty'—first to God, then to those I wronged. That is the second step. I learned to listen to God. I accepted His commission to bring an answer to men and nations. That is the third step.

"God is calling men everywhere to be the instruments of union. It comes not by conferences, not by laws, not by resolutions and pious hopes, but by change. Change is the heart of the superior ideology.

"AS individuals change, a new climate comes to the nation's life. As leaders change, policies become inspired and the nation's life-blood flows again. As statesmen change, the fear of war and chaos will lift. The most difficult will respond to the firm, united but humble voice of re-born democracy.

"Why should there be catastrophe again when, with God, renaissance is inevitable?"

"This is the new pattern of freedom for all nations. Shall it be a new Dark Age for Europe and the world? Or shall it be a world-wide Renaissance of the moral and spiritual forces everywhere, bursting into life and bringing at the last moment a miracle to mankind? Which shall it be? The decision lies in your hands."