

# Car workers' leader urges 'new alternative' to strikes

BILL TAYLOR, 57 year old chairman of the Sheet Metal Central Committee at British Leyland's, Longbridge, Birmingham, car works, said this week:

'There is a new alternative to strikes. Till now we found no other way but the strike method to protect our interests as workers. But now we must find a new alternative, because the strike weapon is so costly.

'In my experience, when management and workers apply Moral Re-Armament principles—such as honesty that creates trust—problems can be settled in the factory itself without going through cumbersome "procedure" that leads to frustration and apathy.

'Moral Re-Armament principles create

a spirit of co-operation and confidence.'

(Procedure means that complaints may have to go up through foreman, shop steward, shop supervisor, managing director, works conference of collective management with fulltime union officials present, then to York, the topmost tribunal.)

Taylor, who represents 800 sheet metal workers and has been 21 years at Longbridge—30 years in the union—said this in an interview at Caux, Switzerland, world conference centre for Moral Re-Armament, where some 700 people are attending sessions on industrial and international problems and hearing evidence of solutions to many of them.

He made two recommendations for improving understanding between management and men in the industry. First, to end separate canteens for these two groups. 'Over meals together they could get to know each other and discuss

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**AT THE WORLD ASSEMBLY CAUX, SWITZERLAND:** Senior management and shop stewards from the automobile, docks, building, shipping, mining, engineering, electrical and timber industries make up the platform party. They come from Australia, Brazil, Britain, Denmark, Germany, Holland and Sweden.

There are over 700 delegates from 51 countries taking part in the assembly. Speaking is John Hopper, shop steward from Vauxhall's, Luton





## NIGERIA

### 'Violence now obsolete'

'VIOLENCE is now obsolete,' said Matthew Elebesunu, until recently one of the most senior administration officials in the Nigerian Government Service and now Chairman of a Divisional School Board in the Mid-Western State.

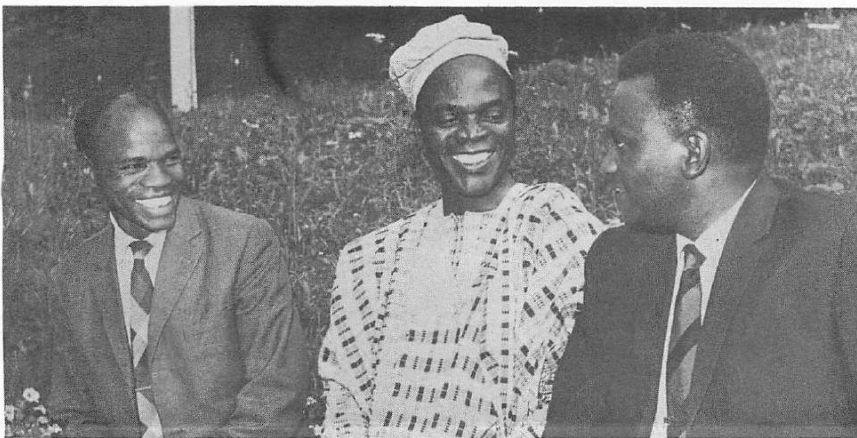
Speaking at the MRA World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland, he said: 'My country was used as an object lesson not only for itself but for the world at large to demonstrate the

consequences of hate, greed, selfishness which was then our stock in trade.'

Elebesunu, known to millions for his acting of the part of the King of Bokondo in the film *Freedom*, said of the future, 'There is now rehabilitation, reconciliation and reconstruction at home. This effort must be built on Moral Re-Armament, otherwise we will only be scratching the surface.'

Isaac Amata, reporting on a brief visit to his country, said it had given him 'real hope.' People were beginning to take responsibility, Amata said. 2,000 policemen had so far been trained in Moral Re-Armament.

Also in the Nigerian delegation now at Caux is Chief Mrs Manuwa, President of the Business and Professional Women's Association.



AT CAUX ASSEMBLY: Kenneth Nganga, Kenya businessman; Matthew Elebesunu and Isaac Amata from Nigeria

## ETHIOPIA

### 'We come from different backgrounds but we stand united'

THREE YOUNG ETHIOPIANS of contrasting backgrounds—called 'the three-legged table' by the radio—last week opened a conference for MRA in Asmara, capital of Eritrea province.

They are Lij Mulugeta Asserate, an Amhar Prince and son of the Governor-General of Eritrea; Woldemicael Abraha who comes from a poor family in a town 40 miles away; and Ahmed Surur, son of Sheik Surur, one of the leading Muslims of Eritrea.

Said Abraha in the opening session of the conference: 'We come from widely differing backgrounds—religious, political and family—but we stand here united in following the aims of Moral Re-Armament and of this conference.'

The conference, primarily for teachers and students, was attended in its opening

sessions by five provincial councillors and most of the top officials of the Education Department.

A member of the Provincial Council of Eritrea, H E Dedjazmatch Ghebreyohannes Tesfamariam, speaking to the conference, said 'I first attended a meeting of MRA three years ago. But I learnt more from Woldemicael Abraha, a student living in my house. The generation gap between me and him is such that normally I would not think that I could learn anything from him, but I listened to his ideas.'

Addressing his remarks to the country's leaders, 'the people in authority', he said, 'We have got to leave space for the next generation. What will we leave to our successors? Will it be new wine in old wineskins? If we leave

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Militant African has hope in nation's future

THE FIRST PRESIDENT of the militant African National Congress Youth League, expressed great hope for the future of southern Africa last week. Dr William Nkomo, 55, a medical doctor from Pretoria and a leader of African opinion, said at the Caux Assembly in Switzerland:

'People in the world wonder sometimes whether there is any hope for South Africa. But I can say through contact with the young Afrikaners whom I have seen change that there is great hope for that part of the world.'

He referred to 'the strong moral integrity' of the Afrikaners but warned that they were unfortunately being told by a small group to think that the world ends in South Africa in spite of events elsewhere.

He went on, 'It is by committing ourselves to the greatest revolution of all time that South Africa will in the guidance and thinking of Frank Buchman become the sounding board of the nations.'

Nkomo was a man who used to believe that the Africans' hope lay in a bloodbath where every white man was killed or driven into the sea. Some years ago on meeting white men who had changed Nkomo had said, 'In Moral Re-Armament I saw something greater than nationalism at work. I saw an ideology superior to all other ideologies because it is for everyone everywhere. This is the road which will be best for my people and for South Africa.'

Also at the Assembly from South Africa is Bremer Hofmeyr, cousin of the late Jan Hofmeyr, Deputy Premier of South Africa.

to our successors the destructive way we are living now what will they inherit?

'We are responsible for the wrongdoings of today—the corruption, hatred, bitterness, killing and everything else. If we truly want our nation to go the right way, we need to straighten ourselves.'

Last year Ghebreyohannes went to the MRA conference at Caux in Switzerland. 'When I returned from Caux,' he said, 'my first meeting was with my family. I told them that the life

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# AUSTRALIA IN THE 70's

## How will she work with Asia, Papua-New Guinea and the Aborigines?

Will she be an European outpost in a world of other cultures? Fortress Australia in affluent isolation? Or the story of American-styled success and failure?

These questions were highlighted at an international MRA conference in Canberra last week attended by Australians and delegates from 23 other countries.

Speakers at the Canberra conference included Malaysia's Auditor General, Australia's Defence Minister, Members of the Papua-New Guinea House of Assembly and Aborigine leaders.

Delegates to the conference were received by the Prime Minister of Australia. The Governor General attended a performance of the MRA musical *Anything to Declare?*

There are three issues on the conscience of Australia—the situation in South East Asia, the future of Papua-New Guinea as she heads for independence and the position of the Aborigine minority—issues which if resolved could enable Australia to speak to the United States, Britain and the world.

### Papua-New Guinea: Bloodshed or hope

One session of the conference was chaired by Papua-New Guinea leaders who have invited the MRA force with the musical *Anything to Declare?* to their country.

Speaking of the money needed to finance this venture, Paul Lapun, Member of the Territory's House of Assembly, said it would cost less to fly in this force than it had already cost to fly in police to stop trouble.

At Lapun's invitation, David Hay, till recently Administrator of Papua-

New Guinea, and now Secretary of Australia's Department of External Territories, addressed the conference. Papua-New Guinea, he said, was fortunate in its leaders. 'Leaders are not necessarily people who have come out of schools. Leaders are people who have gifts of character.'

Papua-New Guinea had more than its share of such leaders and that was why he was confident in its future. He wished *Anything to Declare?* well on its visit, and expressed the hope they would succeed in bringing an important message to Papua-New Guinea.

In a statement giving why he and his colleagues had invited the MRA force, Lapun stated, 'There are already many things happening in Papua-New Guinea which create bitterness and hatred in the hearts of our people. This hatred and bitterness may bring bloodshed and destruction to our country after independence.'

~~'Sending armed police forces will create more bitterness in the hearts of the people towards the government and this is already a dangerous thing in our country. We want to avoid this and we believe that through the coming of the MRA force a change of heart can be brought about.'~~

'Things in our country can be run in the right and peaceful way if the leaders of our country are guided by God. We believe MRA can change difficult people in our country and bring about peace among all races.'

On the Welcoming Committee to the MRA force are the Speaker of the House of Assembly, John Guise, and four other MHA's, Archbishop V Copas, MSC, and Bishop G D Hand, local government officials and union presidents.

Gaudi Mirau, President of the Construction General Workers Union on

Bougainville Island and a former MHA, said, 'Papua-New Guinea is like a ship sailing on the sea, heading for independence. It must not be wrecked on the reef of corruption, racial hatred and bloodshed. It must end in the harbour of racial harmony, peace and honesty. God is looking towards me as one of the crew to sail this ship into harbour without bloodshed.'

### Aborigine leader's new way

An Aborigine leader, Jack Davis, liaison officer for Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia, said he had come to realise that others in the world had needs as great as his own people. He had resented the fact that only ten million dollars had been allocated to the 300,000 Aborigines in Australia, while 200 million went to foreign aid. He had considered this unjust until he had heard conference delegates speak about the needs of the masses of Asia.

'My thinking in the past has been to attack governments. I find now there is another way of dealing with situations and getting through to people.'

### Australia in Asia

How Australia, instead of cutting back dairy production, could vastly improve the nutrition of 250 million people in South East Asia, was outlined by Stanley Barnes MBE, for seven years Projects Manager for the Australian Dairy Board in Asia. A start could be made, he said, by supplying half a pint of milk a day to half the families in Indonesia, at a cost to Australia of no more than \$26.5 million a year in overseas aid.

Claiming this would help save the Australian dairy industry as well as saving millions of people from TB and other diseases caused by malnutrition and lack of protein, Barnes said, 'Better than merely giving aid is to integrate our production with the needs of developing countries and at the same time provide them with new industries. All that is needed is the will to do it.'

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I was living before was wrong and that I was going to do things differently. I believe that nothing can be achieved by violence. So when I came back I met with my colleagues and told them that no solution to our problems could be found that way—through living in hate and bitterness.

'If we truly want peace and the lives of our children saved, we must work hard and be ready to sacrifice.'

He urged that further conferences be held for soldiers, officers and administrators. Delegates to the present conference came from the capital, Addis Ababa, and from other towns and provinces.



# REAL ROLE OF WOMEN: 'Making husbands great and nations tick'

MRS P Q VUNDLA from South Africa, a granddaughter of a Transvaal chief, speaking in London, said:

'Women have a part in putting right what is wrong in the world because we are responsible for much of the evil.'

Her speech was made in the Westminster Theatre the weekend before the American Women's Demonstration for Equality.

Mrs Vundla, trained nurse, housewife and mother of ten children from 17 years to 34, is a member of the Women's League, an African organisation striving to counter the high divorce rate and build a new home life. Her husband, Philip Vundla, who died last December, was an internationally known leader of the African people of South Africa and Chairman of the Advisory Board representing 600,000 Africans in the townships of Johannesburg.

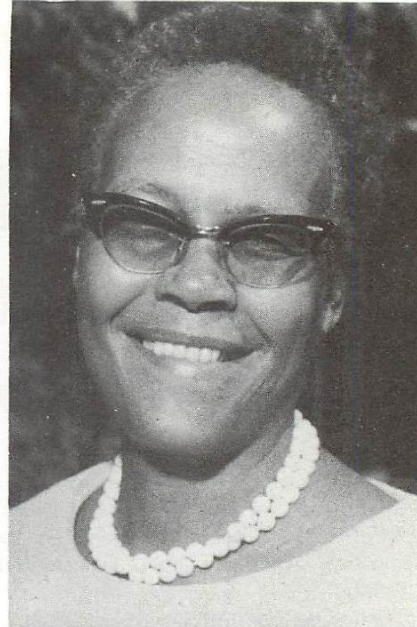
She said: 'My husband fought for his

people without bitterness, and our home was used for all races. We saw that each and everyone who came there left with something new in their hearts.'

She plans to write the life story of her husband—from his humble home background, his early political activities and frustrations, through his leadership in the African Mineworkers Union and his organising of massive strikes and demonstrations, to his involvement in the worldwide struggle of Moral Re-Armament.

'Since coming to Europe,' she told a meeting in the Westminster Theatre, London, 'I have been thinking that we women are the same the world over, and that we have a part in putting right what is wrong because we are responsible for much of the evil in the world today.'

'We wives have to learn how to make our husbands great. If you keep a man small at home, then he is small every-



Mrs P Q Vundla

where else. If we can move women from making their homes their little kingdoms, then we will for sure make our nations tick. If you keep your husband to yourself, you will have failed him.

'Sometimes we parents are Christians who do not practise Christianity and the children are not interested. We women have to live such a pattern of life that the youth will say, "This is what we are looking for".'

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problems and ways to settle them, as people do in Caux.' This would help, he felt, to end class distinctions which were a hangover from the past.

Secondly, agreements should be made on a 12-month basis with management guaranteeing wages and salaries and workers guaranteeing no wildcat strikes. 'Men on the shop floor are looking forward to the time when they know they can get some kind of security of wages. At present in the car industry they cannot budget for their households from one week to another.'

## Vauxhall's

Also present from the British car industry are William Renz, Assistant Plant Manager at Vauxhall's, of Luton, and John Hopper, a Vauxhall shop steward and shop committee member. Hopper said: 'If we had the team spirit we see here, we would not have the problems we do in the car industry.'

Bert Allen, for 12 years Birmingham District President of the Amalgamated Engineering and Foundry Workers Union, 25 years convener of shop stewards in Reynolds Tubes, confirmed Taylor's point that 'procedure' was too

clumsy and might take three months to get a verdict, which even then might not be accepted.

'People go on strike because within a fortnight they can have a verdict by walking out in this way. They get management to talk to them any day, any time, so that they will come back into the factory.'

Since he had first applied MRA after seeing the play *The Forgotten Factor* 25 years ago, disputes had been settled that seemed impossible.

'We know our manager is willing to listen to us and discuss disputes. Our basis is not who is right but what is right. Consequently, we have not had many strikes in our place. They are outdated and also meaningless, because as soon as you have settled one strike there is a certain group of people who are looking for another one. If we look at "what is right" for factory and nation, we find the answer to many problems creating anarchy in industry today.'

George Taylor, member of the shop committee at Reynolds Tubes and brother of Bill Taylor, joined Allen in stating that they had the best management-labour co-operation system in any major factory.

Pamphlet on Industry

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