

MRA Information Service

VOLUME 14 No 9 LONDON, 13 NOVEMBER 1965 9d

Howard honoured

EAST ANGLIA THIS WEEK PAID its own tribute to Peter Howard.

'This is our opportunity to honour a great patriot who lived in our midst many years,' said the Mayor of Ipswich, Alderman V Francis, introducing a memorial film showing of *The Voice of the Hurricane* and *A Man to Match the Hour*.

Men from Peter Howard's Suffolk farm were ushers in the cinema and the audience included men from whom Howard bought the first pigs for the farm more than twenty-five years ago.

Hundreds of local farmers and farmhands, members of county families, the Mayors of Colchester, Bury, Eye, Brightlingsea and councillors from towns around came to Ipswich to join the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the local Member of Parliament and the Mayor in paying this county tribute. And with them was Mrs Howard and her family.

'Today we have an opportunity of assisting in Moral Re-Armament,' said Alderman Francis. 'It would be a great thing if everyone could take an interest in this movement which, as this picture shows, is definitely required.'

Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Trustees of the Westminster Theatre, spoke to the twelve hundred people present of the creation of the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre as a permanent memorial. 'These acres of Suffolk were Peter Howard's dearest

continued on page 2

Alderman V Francis, the Mayor of Ipswich, and Mrs Francis; Kenneth Belden; the Rt. Rev A H Morris, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich; Patrick Wolrige Gordon MP (Peter Howard's son-in-law); and Mrs Peter Howard at the Memorial film show.

They are looking at 'The Story of the Westminster Theatre' written by Kenneth Belden, and published this week (Westminster Productions 10s 6d).

photo: East Anglian Daily Times

Front page of the invitation for the Caux conference



Race for tomorrow

International Conference for Moral Re-Armament, Caux, Switzerland

ON 26 DECEMBER A TWO-WEEK conference entitled 'Race for tomorrow' opens at the MRA centre in Caux, Switzerland. A special plane will take delegates there from Britain.

Industrial delegations from European countries as well as hundreds of youth will attend the conference. The invitation states:

'We are racing . . .

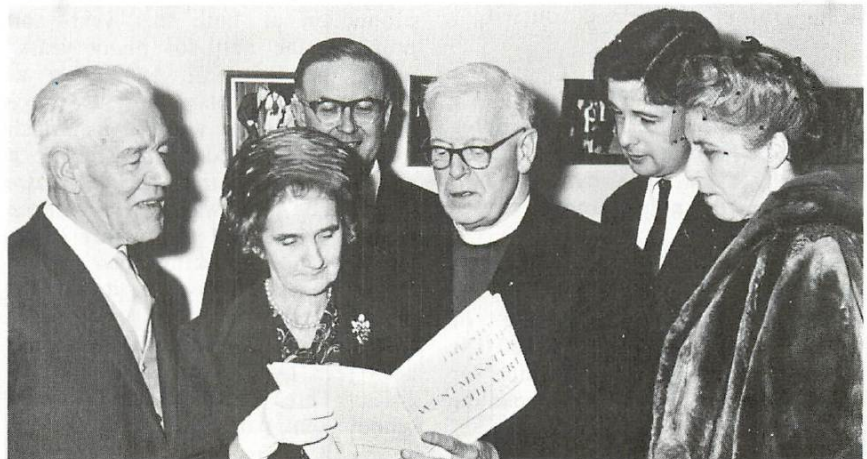
- to build a Europe whose combined genius is geared to meet the needs of the whole world.
- to give every European—of West and East, young and old—a part in modernising man's character to match his technical achievements.
- to answer moral and spiritual pacifism and with the statesmen

of Europe to make Moral Re-Armament the policy of our nations.'

To enlist a force of young Britons to attend this international conference is one of the aims of a weekend 'Speak-Out' to be held in the Westminster Theatre 20-21 November. It will be hosted by Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the West Indies cricket XI and have as its theme 'Let's really go!'

Performances will be given of the film *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill* and of the new musical explosion '65 *Alive*. This musical with 110 voices and talent from Britain will include The Trendsetters, The Autumn States, folk singers and a West Indian steel band, The Boston Braves.

For details write to 'Speak-Out' secretary, 4 Hays Mews, London W1.



Sharpening the nation's conscience

FOUR STATE GOVERNMENTS of the Federal Republic of Germany have sponsored the showings of Peter Howard's play, *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill*.

On behalf of their Governments, Minister President Meyers of North Rhine Westphalia and Minister President Kiesinger of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the Deputy Prime Minister of Bavaria and the Minister of Education of Schleswig-Holstein have invited the leadership of their states to attend showings and have supported the tour financially.

For last week's première in Bremen, Wilhelm Kaisen, veteran Socialist statesman and until recently President of the City State, had personally invited the city. He said, '*Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill* is sharpening the conscience of our nation. That is what we need. Our time cries out for an alternative.'

Lively discussion

The play came to Bremen after a successful run in Hamburg. 'Moral Re-Armament is the talk of the town.' This is what people from taxi-driver to top businessman are saying. After every performance groups of students, businessmen and labour leaders met for discussions about the play which often went on until two o'clock in the morning. The Commander of the Officers' School of Hamburg came with 226 officer cadets.

The nationally-known actor Kurt Mueller-Graf, who is in the cast, said, 'I have never seen a play arousing such lively discussion. It has a strong impact on us actors too. You cannot play Howard night after night without being profoundly affected yourself.'

Financial support

The Catholic and Protestant Church authorities have supported the action financially as well as by announcements from the pulpits and in church publications.

The *Muenchener Katholische Kirchenzeitung*, official organ of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Munich, with a circulation of 100,000, carried a review by Prelate Dr Michael Hoeck under the headline 'A voice calling in the wilderness'.

He writes, 'Peter Howard's drama has rightly been called a challenging

work. Those who create and proclaim great reforming ideas always face the beholder with a challenge and this compels him to real change and decisions as indeed all relevant theatre should do.

'The Munich première was a confession of faith, a proclamation of the ideal in an age grown hard and deaf

from the roar of war and nationalistic party quarrelling. That was certainly felt by the many young people who flocked to the play in eager crowds and took the opportunity to enter into discussions on the most important things. We Catholics need to enter into a genuine dialogue with this offer of goodwill and convincing idealism.'



Sir Hamilton Kerr Bt MP (right) opens a week's exhibition of paintings in the studio of the home of playwright Alan Thornhill (left). Seventy-two artists contributed paintings which are being sold to raise money for the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre. Twenty pictures were sold on the first day. Sir Hamilton Kerr said that in twenty-five years in parliament he had met and heard many outstanding figures but he regarded Peter Howard as 'one of the great men of this century'. He was delighted that artists had combined in this way to honour him. photo: Strong

'What live theatre should be'

'OBVIOUSLY THE BEST THEATRE production at Bath this year—and probably the best for many years,' wrote the *Bristol Evening Post* as Alan Thornhill's play *Mr Wilberforce* MP began the last week of its British tour. 'It stands aloof in stature, a great example of what the live theatre should be. The whole performance is alive, virile and thoroughly entertaining. The production deserves to play to packed houses as it did last night.'

In the last two months the play has been seen by 33,500 people in seven cities. Three hundred and twenty schools sent parties.

The *Western Daily Press*, Bristol, wrote, 'There is never a dull moment

in this new play about the campaign to abolish slavery. It is first-class history and first-class entertainment.'

Howard honoured (from page 1)

possession,' said Belden. 'Yet he went from the farm to shift the whole earth. He ploughed straight and far. He sowed with generous hand the good grain of his life's work. He did not live till harvest. We his friends must now bring home the harvest load.'

'This memorial is a practical way to share in that harvest. Peter Howard gave everything in the battle for a new world, even life itself. How much will we give to match his sacrifice and build to his memory?'

Whiffs of change

by Ashoke Das Gupta

IN A MURKY CORNER OF Tollygunge, in Ward No 100 of Calcutta Corporation, young and old wade through mud and water to see new-life Moral Re-Armament films.

These films, shown them at regular monthly intervals, point to a new order for a community of refugees from East Pakistan, who have never known but suffering and never walked but through sullage.

Balancing trick

Within a few miles of the fashionable residential area of Ballygunge, a small community of Rishis, the drummer class from Dacca, East Pakistan, live in cholera-ridden marshes in the tiny settlement called Rishipara. Until only the other day their only link with the mainland was a zigzag 500-foot pole bridge of slender bamboo, to cross which was to perform a balancing feat. There was no way to take the sick to hospital or to remove the dead. Recently a newly-wedded girl, returning to her husband's place, slipped off the single bamboo pole into the mire below, because she could not do the balancing trick well enough.

And although democracy has given them votes and they have an elected councillor, the Corporation has not so far given them any roads, nor rescued them from the disease that engulfs them like the stench of rotting filth. The Corporation says it is powerless because the Government has not recognised the area colonised by these

refugees from East Pakistan.

Yet, while this discussion with the Corporation continues, the inhabitants of Rishipara are feeling the first whiffs of a wind of change. Without waiting for the outcome of the debate, the local Councillor, Mr D N Das Gupta, had sense enough to show some personal initiative.

The results have been encouraging. A 500-foot bridge of bamboos and trunks of coconut trees, wide enough for safe and relaxed crossing, has been built. The Corporation helped by providing a fund of 300 rupees and the community provided free labour.

A sense of endeavour also came to a number of young men who used to vent their misguided youth in various anti-social acts. Through meeting Moral Re-Armament they decided to spend this time in a constructive way.

Work for unemployed

Squads of young workers, students, apprentices and unemployed youth were mobilised. They worked voluntarily to desilt the choked surface drains, to spray anti-mosquito oil on the murky, stinking, watery wastes that insulate neighbour from neighbour, and to keep the ponds clear of water hyacinth, which blocks the flow of water and creates a breeding ground for mosquitos.

This has not only benefited the community but has opened new ways to gainful employment. Some of the unemployed have already been enrolled as Corporation unskilled labour

(though temporarily). They work from six in the morning to 12 noon, and earn 85 rupees a month (£6 10s).

Where starvation stalked their disease-ridden households the poorer section of the population are now getting a weekly ration of cornmeal and wheat by the courtesy of the Catholic Relief Society, USA. A minimum of hygienic living has been ensured and there was no case of cholera this year.

Rishipara serves as an example of what individual initiative, and not mere dependence on authority, can achieve. But there is a limit to the extent such initiative can go, and at one point or another the authority must take over. Although the wind of change is blowing over Rishipara, a lot has still to be done. Roads, for one thing, are vitally needed. A comprehensive project has to be undertaken to raise the level of the entire area in order to rescue it from year-round waterlogging. The service privies must be improved and steps must be taken to augment the community's supply of drinking water.

Government action

All this is for the Corporation to do, but it cannot unless the Government moves to regularise the colony right away. Fortunately for the refugees, Miss Ava Maity, Refugee and Relief Minister, has promised action within six months, perhaps caught in the wind of change that has started blowing.



The slender bridge that linked Rishipara with the outside world



Youth at work clearing the marshes

photos: Mukherjee

24 buses came from riot town

AN UPRISING OF PATRIOTISM and a search for purpose is gripping America. It is a nation's reply to the vocal pacifist demonstrations decrying US involvement in Vietnam. In Southern California it is being led by the young Americans of *Sing-Out '65*, MRA's musical just returned from the Far East.

Twenty-six thousand people have participated in 'sing-outs' in the Los Angeles area this month. Ten thousand, including 1,500 from riot-ravaged Watts, crowded into the Los Angeles Sports Arena to see *Sing-Out '65* in what the *Herald Examiner* called 'the first West Coast mass demonstration in support of the nation's stand for freedom in Asia.' The Watts students, impatient to get to the show, arrived in twenty-four busloads packed to nearly double capacity.

Sing-Out '65 is on tour of the campuses and high schools of the United States. Their programme began in Southern California at the invitation of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors and a citizen's committee including Mr and Mrs Dick Van Dyke and Mrs Nat King Cole.

Faster than violence

At a performance in the Jesuit University of Loyola, Olympic gold medallist 'Rusty' Wailes said, 'We believe an explosion of Moral Re-Armament in our generation could cure what is wrong far faster than a revolution of violence.'

Jim Freeman, student body president, told the cast, 'The response of this ordinarily apathetic campus to your show amazes me. I am thrilled with it.'

A call came from Mayor Milton Graham and other leading citizens of Phoenix, Arizona, asking that 'demonstrations' be staged in their city. Sam Goddard, Governor of Arizona, welcoming the cast in Phoenix, America's fastest growing city, said, 'This great show expresses exactly what we feel America stands for.'

Sing-Out '65 has been shown in football stadiums and high schools to tens of thousands of schoolchildren. The Phoenix Superintendent of Schools commented, 'An excellent

programme of ideas came through in clear, distinct terms which young people can understand. *Sing-Out '65* proves we have a fine group of young people in this country if they can be mobilised properly.'

Five thousand people gathered in the grandstand of the Arizona State Fair to see the musical. Some of America's top entertainers had performed there in recent years, but none had drawn a greater or more enthusiastic crowd, said the State Fair General Manager. 'One of the

most outstanding programmes we have had.'

Sing-Out '65 was presented to the second largest Indian High School of the US. Bill Pensoneau, an Indian member of the cast, speaking with his sister, said, 'We travelled the US in an effort to help our people but we found as long as we felt hatred we could not plan for the future. At the Mackinac Demonstration for Modernising America we found an answer to our bitterness and a revolutionary direction for our lives.'



Hundreds of Los Angeles youth, including many from the Watts district, welcomed 'Sing-Out '65' on its return from Asia

photo: Wennberg

Military honours

A SOLDIER AND PATRIOT WAS laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery this week.

Ray Foote Purdy, a Second Lieutenant of Artillery in World War I and Chairman of the Board of Directors of MRA in the USA who died 30 October, was buried with military honours.

Against a background of glowing autumn foliage an honour guard of six white-gloved soldiers bore him to the grave site in a cup of the hills beside the famous Arlington Amphitheatre and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Two hundred who had come

to pay their last respects stood in silence as a squad of riflemen fired three quick volleys, and the stately notes of 'Taps' sounded bell-like through the trees.

Among those who attended the service held in Fort Myer Chapel were Admiral Harold R Stark, former Chief of Naval Operations and Mrs Stark; Supreme Court Justice John Harlan; David Lawrence, Editor of *US News and World Report*; Gould Lincoln, senior political columnist of the *Washington Evening Star* and leaders of politics and industry who had flown from Canada, Florida and California.