

# Bicentennial pledge is 'inspiration to all Americans', says Governor

PRESIDENT FORD has personally thanked for his copy. It was sent to all State Governors by Mrs George Romney, and all State Superintendents of Education at the urging of the US Commissioner of Education, T H Bell. It has been made the official state pledge of Ohio, been adopted by many state and city Bicentennial commissions and committees, and reproduced in newspapers across the country. It has been read into the Congressional Record.

It is a Bicentennial Pledge — the product of the thinking of a group of citizens 'who feel deeply the need to draw the nation again to the source of its strength'.

Two of them, Dorothy and Sara Ensor, are sisters living in Frederick, Maryland. Their local paper *The Post*, devoted six columns to their initiative in creating an historic document.

This document, reproduced this week in *New World News* (see inside), features statements by some of the men and women who built the United States and places alongside them a pledge by citizens of today.

*The Post* concludes, 'Will the Ensor sisters be able to promote their pledge, and spread their thoughts throughout the United States? Stranger things have happened. Certainly Frederick County has proved a fertile ground for spawning national documents, with Francis Scott Key, author of *The Star-spangled Banner*, and William Tyler Page, author of *The American's Creed*, both natives of the area. Perhaps years from now, schoolchildren will also be committing the Bicentennial Pledge to memory.'

Their own Maryland Bicentennial Committee printed the initial 5,000 copies and their State Bicentennial Commission endorsed the Pledge and sent it to 58 organisations across the country. And a Maryland Congressman, Goodloe Byron, read the Pledge into the Congressional Record of the House of Representatives of Oregon.

Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon, asking that the Pledge be printed in the Congressional Record of the Senate, stated, 'America's Bicentennial is a time for rejoicing and introspection, not only in a corporate, national sense, but in our position as individual Americans. For our Bicentennial Year to have genuine meaning, it must be the occasion for considerable personal thought as to what this country means and where it is going.'

'Sara Ensor has given the Bicentennial just such thought. She has examined the philosophical and spiritual underpinnings of the American Republic, and, in the Bicentennial Pledge she has authored, calls upon each American to recognise and reaffirm the

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Bicentennial  
pledge

SEE INSIDE

# NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

## Towards a saner society

by Kiran Gandhi



C P Singh (in checked shirt) in his village

THE AUTOMOBILE FOUNDRY melting shop of the Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company (TELCO) at Jamshedpur was for many years the focus of a severe struggle for control between two rival groups of workers. The month was rare which saw no strikes or showdowns. The production of trucks was suffering because of short supply of castings.

V N Prasad was the official workers' representative on the Union for the melting shop, but his group was in a minority. C P Singh belonged to the more militant group.

In 1974 these two men joined hands and became instrumental in so completely transforming the situation in their shop that for the last two years the foundry, which is one of the biggest in India, has been completing its yearly production targets months ahead.

This remarkable change started with the visit to Jamshedpur of the MRA musical revue *Song of Asia* in December, 1973, at the joint invitation of the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) and of TELCO. Prasad and Singh were attracted by the new approach to settling disputes depicted through true stories.

The following month they went to Panchgani to take part in an MRA conference.

This was the starting point of a chapter of peace in the turbulent industrial relations of the shop. When Prasad was promoted as supervisor, Singh took his place as the official union representative for the workers of the melting shop.

The change that came about in TELCO's

SANER SOCIETY contd p4





## Bicentennial Pledge

**I**nspired by the Founding Fathers, we also pledge "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" to the end that all men everywhere find the dignity of responsibility and the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

### They said:

### We pledge:

#### FREEDOM

Liberty can no more exist without virtue than the body can live and move without a soul.

—John Adams

To so live that America finds true freedom — not freedom to do as we wish, but freedom to do "the right as God gives us to see the right."

#### CORRUPTION

Virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government.

— George Washington.

To answer corruption in the nation, starting with absolute honesty in all our own dealings.

#### ECONOMY

I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt the greatest of dangers to be feared.

— Thomas Jefferson

To buy on the basis of need and not of greed, and to refuse to make selfish demands of our workers, employers or government.

#### HUNGER

We have been the recipients of the choicest boun-

To set a pattern for unselfish living that can break

ties of heaven. We have grown in wealth and numbers as no other nation has grown. But we have forgotten God.

— Abraham Lincoln

the bootnecks of war, greed and graft which rob the hungry in a world of plenty.

### FAMILY

I have always thought it of very great importance that children should, in the early part of life, be unaccustomed to such examples as would tend to corrupt the purity of their words and actions.

— Abigail Adams

To uphold the sanctity of marriage, and to base family life on honesty, undemanding care and goals beyond self-fulfillment and material success.

### VIOLENCE

No man can make me stoop so low as to hate him.

— Booker T. Washington

To cure the hate that spawns violence by our caring and compassion.

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me.

— Emma Lazarus on Statue of Liberty

To open our homes and hearts to those of all races, faiths and social conditions. To restore broken relationships by putting right past wrongs.

### GOVERNMENT

I have had so many ... instances when I have been controlled by some other power than my own will, that I cannot doubt that this power comes from above.

— Abraham Lincoln

To listen to God each day, seeking the inspired plan for our life and work, and accepting change in our basic motives where needed.

Men must choose to be governed by God, or they condemn themselves to be ruled by tyrants.

— William Penn

To build a world free from blame and indifference, hate and fear, and governed by men and women who are governed by God.

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Preacher and tennis star meet: John Wesley (Gordon Gostelow) talks with Stan Smith after a performance of 'Ridel Ridel' Photo: Channer

## Wondrously born

A WEEKEND of Moral Re-Armament films took place last month in Glendale, California. It was advertised with newspaper and radio spot announcements.

Robert Young of Glendale, welcoming audiences, said, 'MRA is the best Bicentennial gift we can give America and the world. Our founding fathers had the revolutionary ideas based upon sound character and personal sacrifice.

'Out of their unity so wondrously born of diversity, they set in motion a prosperous social and political system. Then materialism took over; so responsibility and freedom are shrinking at home and abroad.

'With shame we recall our treatment of the native American Indians and other minorities, but we can change.'

Introducing a showing of *Cross Road*, the film built round the life of Frank Buchman, Edward Gouling of Birmingham, England, said, 'This is the story of one ordinary American who did extraordinary things because of the total commitment of his life. We are often tempted to despair that the ordinary man can do anything effective to create a just, unselfish and free society. Buchman, because of his faith in God, his vision of a new world order, and his strong belief in people, gave hope to thousands and set them on a new road.'

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values which inhere in our society and our system.'

Many State Governors have referred the Pledge to their State Bicentennial Commissions for action. Governor Dan Walker of Illinois said the Pledge 'captured the true meaning of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution'. Governor James Rhodes of Ohio saw it as 'an inspiration to all Americans'. Governor Jerry Apodaca of New Mexico commented, 'Unless there is a return to this dedication, our freedoms will quietly slip away from us and few will ever realise what is happening.'

### SANER SOCIETY contd from p1

melting shop was noted with surprise by senior managers and workers of other industries in Jamshedpur. Many expressed the need for holding a conference in Jamshedpur. In April 1975 a conference 'Towards a saner society' took place.

Among those joining Singh and Prasad in planning and conducting the sessions were the director of a local company, the town administrator and its education officer, young engineers and trade unionists. 110 people participated in the four-day gathering.

Both the superintendent and the union representative of one of TELCO's production departments took part in the conference and decided to end their abuse and hate of one another. They caused quite a stir in their department by apologising to some of their colleagues for their earlier rudeness and misbehaviour. They worked jointly to stop the prevalent cheating in the booking of attendance and production figures in their department.

A small-scale industrialist decided to stop giving bribes for securing job orders. Today he says that, by some miracle, from the day he took that decision he has been getting more job orders than he can cope with. Even the bank officials go out of their way to help him.

The key to these changes has lain in the obedience of people who have listened to and obeyed the promptings of their 'inner voice'.

## Indian challenge

CHIEF ANDREW DELISLE of the Indians of Quebec Association, and Chief Ron Kirby of the Caughnawaga reserve welcomed five Chiefs and Councillors from the Treaty 7 area of Southern Alberta to the Mohawk reservation of Caughnawaga earlier this month.

Chief David Crowchild, elder of the Sarcee people, Chief Gordon Crowchild, Chief of the Sarcee, Chief Bill McLean, Chief of the Bearspaw Band of the Stoney people, Acting Chief John Chief Moon of the Bloods, and Councillor Nelson Small Legs Senior, Councillor of the Piegans, had brought their friends, the 35 men and women from 12 Asian and Pacific nations who make up the cast of *Song of Asia* to inaugurate their Quebec tour with a performance on the Caughnawaga reserve.

*Song of Asia* is in North America at the invitation of the Chiefs and representatives of Treaty 7.

Chief Delisle spoke of how the Mohawk people, a river people, had lost their shoreline on the St Lawrence River when the St Lawrence Seaway had been built. He spoke of the tradition of his people who were 'voyageurs', who piloted the fur traders' canoes to the West, and who are now known the world over for their skill on the high steel

One of those who applied this principle in a potentially dangerous situation is M H Ali, a worker in TELCO and the Sarpanch (headman) of his village.

Soon after the conference there were communal disturbances in Jamshedpur in which three people were killed. Trying to see how he could prevent violence in his village Ali had the thought to approach the leading members of the Hindu community in the village and have a heart-to-heart talk with them. His direct approach helped to remove any suspicion or mistrust between the Muslims and Hindus. The two communities formed joint teams to patrol the village. There were no incidents.

C P Singh, the TELCO union man, was determined to apply the ideas in his village. He saw where he could begin: the bridge linking the village to the main road was so narrow that even cycling across it was difficult. At a Panchayat meeting (village assembly), Singh proposed the formation of a committee to be responsible for the construction of a larger, better bridge. The committee was able to collect Rs 8,530 through the voluntary contributions of the villagers. The bridge was completed in ten months.

Singh and his friends are planning next to construct a pitch road to the village. A small dispensary now functions and two villagers have offered land on which a bigger dispensary can be built. Whenever disputes arise in the village, Singh's counsel is sought.

at construction sites. 'Our people have always responded to a challenge,' he said.

Chief Ron Kirby, Chief of Caughnawaga, spoke of his vision for his people, and their frustration at the attitudes of white society. 'In my lectures,' he said, 'I try to bring out to society that we Indian people are not just welfare bums or drunkards. The Indian people played a great part in putting Canada where it is today. We are still ready to play our part in this country. We have a lot to learn from you. We have a valuable culture to give society.'

Chief Bill McLean said, 'I feel that the work of Moral Re-Armament is something that will help in the nation. I think it is the thing that can put right what is wrong in the past. When we went to the parliament buildings and spoke to the big fellows in the parliament buildings, it really changed the feeling and this is what we have been wanting to do. What we are looking for is a change in our society, a change in human nature that will change community and the nation.'

'There have been many conflicts between the Indian people and the government and this is the time we need to change, our Indian people and the government, and if we change both, we can give an answer to our people here and give an answer to the world.'