

Dockers' leader gives call to his industry

'It's our country, Jack!' points way to solution

A LEADING MEMBER of the National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' Union—on strike in the Port of London at the time of going to press—said last Saturday that *It's our country, Jack!* had the power and spirit to bring a solution to the divisions in his industry.

Tom Ham (above) Stevedores' Sectional Committee member and two years ago National President of the union, was speaking to 1,300 people who filled the Poplar Civic Theatre for a performance of the musical. He said the musical was so relevant for the Port of London that he was urging more people from both sides of the docking industry to attend future performances. Civic and dockers' leaders have requested that the musical makes a return visit to East London soon.

That night Sydney Edwards wrote in the *Evening Standard*, 'When it comes to the West End in November it will be the most topical show in town.'

Next day, Sunday, Ham's views on the musical were supported by members of both the Transport and General Workers' Union and his own NASD. With Ham they spoke at a public meeting in the East Ham Town

Hall, birthplace of MRA in 1938. Councillor Charles Dimes of Tower Hamlets said the performances of *It's our country, Jack!* were 'one of the most overwhelming experiences we have witnessed in Poplar.'

The cast was welcomed to East London by members of both the 'blue' and the 'white' unions.

Fifty-four of them were later invited to lunch in the Queen's Room of the Baltic Exchange by a director of the Exchange, C A Clifford Clark, and

members of the Exchange, Frank Ledwith and Anthony Stephens. Conrad Hunte and others from the cast spoke to the shipowners, brokers, bankers and others present. The Baltic Exchange is the central market where international cargoes are arranged with shipowners and air-carriers. Stephens showed them the underwriting room of Lloyd's.

They also toured the docks as guests of the Port of London Authority and stayed with families in East London.



C A Clifford Clark, a director of the Baltic Exchange, speaks in the Queen's Room at a lunch for City businessmen to meet the cast of 'It's our country, Jack!' Photos: Strong

IN THE PUBLIC DIALOGUE on Sex and Morals the British Council of Churches could now proclaim a truth largely forgotten in Britain.

The truth is that men and nations need great goals to which to gear their creative forces. Then they will see sex and morals in the right perspective and act responsibly.

In our secular society there is little point in discussing what standards to live by unless we are first clear on what we are living for.

The Times said in an editorial 11 February 1963: 'History shows that societies rise and fall, flourish and decay, by what they believe in and by what their way of life stands for.'

The British Council of Churches, who this week regretted the ambiguity of their working party's report on Sex and Morality, should now set before the nation clear Christian goals.

One eminent church leader, however, whom I asked at a press conference what plan the Church of England had for bringing the Christian ideology to the Communist world, replied that the Church of England had no plan to do so, as they could not reach the Communist world. They were just maintaining a holding action.

Wars, however, whether military or ideological, are not won by holding actions. Nor do such attitudes interest or attract youth.

Peter Howard, who led the world work of MRA till his death last year, set his mind upon winning for Christ's revolution the men of the Red Square in Moscow, the militants who march at the Gate of Heavenly Peace in Peking, and the men who control events in Washington, Paris and London.

When he spoke to the militant left-wing students of Waseda University in Japan, this is what captured them. Here was a man committed to greater goals than theirs.

I have seen young British and Norwegians grappling with seasoned Ruhr Communist miners and turning them into fiery Christian revolutionaries living and proclaiming their new ideology in many lands and affecting thought in the Soviet Union.

These young men, to carry out such tasks, lived disciplined lives and were in mastery of themselves in matters of sex. Their energies were consumed in large creative purposes.

The Forgotten Truth

REGINALD HOLME

If leading churchmen were themselves led by such a vision and set it before this nation's youth, they would give a far different keynote in their pamphlets on sex and morality.

The founder of Christianity Himself set great goals before men. He proclaimed the following titanic task: 'Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done on earth as in heaven.' All His energies were spent on this. We are not aware that He was a frustrated personality. Nor was Francis of Assisi and a host of other followers of Christ up to today.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus set out the standards of conduct and morality needed to bring about the Kingdom of God, or what we might call today 'a new society and new world'. MRA for the modern age has distilled from the Sermon on the Mount four absolute standards—Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness and Love. They are not legal rules but compass points by which to check motives and actions. MRA has proclaimed them fearlessly and frequently and found that men of every clime and colour understand them.

One Ruhr Communist who had stood up to Hitler's worst said that, 'no idea as revolutionary as these four standards has come out of the Kremlin.'

The Council of Churches has a great opportunity to undertake an intelligent offensive to win the Communist world. A Secretary of the Council's own Joint International Department, the Rev Paul Oestreicher, wrote in *The Times* on 15 October: 'Communist parties throughout the world are now vying with each other to understand Christians and be understood by them.' He says that answers to questions about man's nature and needs 'call for a type of commitment to humanity that is no more comfortable to the Churches than to the

(Communist) party establishments.' He concludes that 'if both sides could agree to implement their faith together, the world's hungry might begin to be fed.'

Young people understand and welcome such tasks as these. They want to end industrial and race conflict as well. They want to build a bridge over the East-West chasms. Challenged to do so, they are ready to accept a necessary and voluntary discipline.

Neue Revue, a German weekly pictorial, last week said of the youth in the MRA musical *Sing-Out Deutschland*: 'They have voluntarily accepted a strict discipline. They think of themselves as fighters who constantly and sacrificially pursue their aim. Between 14 and 28 years of age, they do not flirt, they do not smoke, they do not drink alcohol. They get up at six o'clock in the morning, and sometimes they get to bed only at midnight.' Another national magazine carried headlines about 'clean, purposeful youth' who 'make us conscious of God again.'

Paul of Tarsus wrote in a letter to the Corinthians about a race 'for which every competitor goes into serious training'. 'I run the race with determination,' he told them. 'I master my body and bring it under control.' In his age he had a strategy to reach the heart of the Roman Empire and capture it for his Lord.

Three main testing grounds face men of Christian conviction in this decade and the next.

First: in the dialogue that is growing up between the Christian and the Communist world, will God be relegated to a cipher or will the Holy Spirit be truly interpreted as the most revolutionary force in the affairs of men?

Second: will Christianity cause men to live in a sufficiently disciplined, united and unselfish way to ensure that freedom and the open society survive the 20th century?

Third: will Christianity generate men who live and think creatively enough to ensure that every mouth in the world is fed?

The aim of fashioning a world according to God's design is big enough to make moral discipline worthwhile, simple enough to give meaning and purpose to every life.

Opening the new Westminster Theatre Arts Centre



by KENNETH BELDEN, MA
Chairman of the Westminster Memorial Trust

SHRI RAJMOHAN GANDHI is flying from India to open the new Westminster Theatre Arts Centre on Saturday, 26 November, at 2.30 pm.

The Architects, John and Sylvia Reid, and the contractors, Bovis Ltd, are working round the clock to finish building on time. The theatre is already redecorated. The new building is an ant-hill of activity, as builders and contractors of every kind race to complete and adorn it.

The Architects' view

Our Architects, at present leading a delegation on industrial design to the Soviet Union, write: 'The design and construction of the new Arts Centre could hardly have presented a greater challenge. It called for a wealth of complex services and posed many planning problems. The physical difficulties of working on a restricted site, whilst at the same time making major structural alterations to an old building, were both interesting and exasperating.

'Many new techniques have been developed, especially for this building,' they continued. 'Materials and finishes have been chosen for their suitability and for ease of maintenance. A high standard of amenity has been set and the dressing rooms are probably among the best equipped in existence. The building had been conceived as a complete entity and even carpets and crockery have been designed as part of this whole . . . We hope that the new Centre will live up to the expectation of all who have given it such able support. We consider it a great privilege to have been able to take part in this exciting venture.'

Needed—£1,000 a day

The Building Fund target was set at £550,000 to build, equip and provide for the Centre.

So far the Fund has realised £290,000. Guarantees beyond this have enabled the work to go forward.

There is much to be done. We need £1,000 a day from now until New Year to cover the progress payments on the building.

Men and women in nearly 50 countries have moved us by their generosity and initiative in raising money.

Last week a cheque for £1,000 came from the head of the Industrial Confederation of a neighbouring country. By the same post came £321 from Hong Kong.

The International Fair in Kensington Town Hall on 18 October realised £7,000. The antique sale organised by the Chairman of the Friends of the Westminster Theatre, Dr Dyce and Mrs Dyce, was a notable feature.

Why the Centre?

The Westminster looks ahead to the next fifty years. It believes the function of the Arts is to equip men to meet the age we are moving into at such break-neck speed. It will take more than a dreary pessimism to carry us through the next decades. It will take a theatre and a culture of humanity and hope, of faith and militant moral values. Mankind's technological mastery must now be matched by the modernisation of man.

What will happen at the Arts Centre?

A varied and far-reaching programme is being planned from the moment the Centre opens, under its Canadian Director, Louis Fleming.

Theatre. Henry Cass, who directs the plays at the Westminster, is filming Peter Howard's Christmas pantomime, *Give a Dog a Bone*. He will then prepare the pantomime for the Christmas season. It will be the first produc-

tion when the theatre re-opens, running from 8 December to 4 February. Its scintillating cast will make it better than ever this year.

We then plan to present the play Peter Howard was writing when he died, *Happy Death Day*, perhaps his greatest play, a profound and poignant commentary on modern life.

Alan Thornhill has just completed a new historical drama, and a number of other plays are in preparation for future production at the theatre.

Music. Dr William Reed is the Musical Director of the Arts Centre. He has a programme of concerts of a new kind, given by some of the finest artistes of the country, beginning in January and continuing until June. He also plans lunch-time concerts, and a music society to pursue matters of musical interest more informally. He is himself a distinguished composer and is on the lookout for the best new talent available, as well as for established artistes.

Films. The Film Director will be Eric Parfit, an Englishman who has made his mark in the United States. He has made films in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. He has many exciting developments in mind for the Westminster, in film-making and programmes. He counts among his friends many of the best-known artistes and technicians of Hollywood and London, and plans to include them in training programmes to create the film producers, writers and designers of the future.

Education. R J K Rundell, MA, MC, is in charge of the educational programme of the Centre. This will include training courses for British, Commonwealth and other overseas students; visits from schools, both to the plays and to study the technical side of the theatre; and the development of lecture programmes.

Peter Howard Memorial Lectures

The annual Peter Howard Memorial Lectures will be authoritative lectures on the application of Moral Re-Armament to national and world issues. There will probably be four each year, by men of seasoned experience. It is hoped to begin them early in 1967 and to publish each series as a book.

Opening Celebrations

The Trustees hope that everyone who has shared in creating the Centre will take part in the events of the opening week. Details are set out in a separate column.

On Saturday afternoon, 26 November, Shri Rajmohan Gandhi will unveil the memorial stone to Peter Howard, designed by William Gardner and carved by Kevin Cribb, and will declare the building open. A plaque commemorating the gift of the Welsh slate, with which the building is clad, will be unveiled. The invited guests will then move into the theatre, and the Arts Centre will be dedicated by the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt Rev Roderic N Coote, DD.

Rajmohan Gandhi will address the assembly, followed by speakers from Britain and other countries.

In the evening the Trustees are giving a dinner to 150 guests in the new restaurant. The Guest of Honour will be H H Prince Richard of Hesse, who was a personal friend of Peter Howard for more than 20 years, and a life-long friend of Dr Frank Buchman.

On Sunday morning there will be an Assembly of Thanksgiving in the theatre, to which everyone is welcome.

A new restaurant in Westminster

The new restaurant, under the direction of Miss Leone Exton, will be open to the public as well as to theatre-goers. At lunch-time it will be

Give a Dog a Bone

Peter Howard's Christmas Pantomime opens on Thursday, 8 December at the Westminster and continues till 4 February, 1967.

particularly welcomed in the Victoria area. It is hoped that many will find its high standards and reasonable prices a strong attraction at lunch-time as well as in the evening.

Souvenir Programme

A souvenir programme is being printed for the ceremonies and events of the opening week designed by Miss Elsie Knebel. It will contain up to 100 pages of advertising, and we hope that firms, up and down the country, which want to support the Arts Centre will take a page. A single page costs £50. The size is 11in x 8½in, printed on art paper. It will be widely circulated during the opening week in Britain and abroad, and will continue to be available at the Centre.

For space in the programme please apply as soon as possible to Terence Blair, Advertising Manager, Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, SW1.

Target for the Opening

Can we enlist enough support to clear the money that must still be raised—by the opening day?

Gifts, covenants and pledges should be sent to the Hon Treasurer, P N Morshhead, MA, FCA, Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, SW1. Cheques should be made payable to Westminster Memorial Trust.

To re-make men and nations

In the new foyer the Architects have designed a special feature—a mosaic wall which bears these words:

'Miracles of science have been the wonder of the age. But they have not brought peace and happiness to the nations. A miracle of the Spirit is what we need. There must come a spiritual dynamic which will change human nature and re-make men and nations. If this miracle is to come into the world some nation must give a lead. Some nation must find God's Will as her destiny and God-guided men as her representatives at home and abroad. Some nation must produce a new leadership, free from the bondage of fear, rising above ambition and flexible to the direction of God's Holy Spirit. Will it be your nation?'

FRANK BUCHMAN

This is the aim of the Arts Centre, an aim which has rallied support around the globe, and which sets our course for the creative and exciting years that lie ahead.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR OPENING WEEK

Saturday, 26 November 2.30 pm

Opening of the Arts Centre
by Shri Rajmohan Gandhi

Dedication

by the Bishop of Colchester
Rt Rev Roderic N Coote, DD

7.0 pm

Inaugural Dinner

Guest of Honour

HH Prince Richard of Hesse

8.45 pm

Evening in the theatre

It's our country, Jack!

*These occasions are necessarily
by invitation*

Sunday, 27 November 11.0 am

Assembly of Thanksgiving in the Theatre. Shri Rajmohan Gandhi and others will address the assembly.

4.0 pm

At Home

given at the Arts Centre by the Chairman of the Trustees and Mrs Belden, and the Director of the Centre and Mrs Fleming, by invitation, followed by a performance at 5.15 pm of *It's our country, Jack!*

Tuesday, 29 November, 8.15 pm

Performance of *It's our country, Jack!* Please phone the Box Office (VIC 0283) for Opening Week guest tickets. In recognition of all that so many have done to create the Arts Centre, the Trustees wish those who come to these events to be their guests.

Wednesday, 30 November and

Thursday, 1 December, 7.0 pm

Films from Westminster Theatre plays in the new Arts Centre Cinema.

Wednesday: *The Forgotten Factor* by Alan Thornhill. The film of the first play put on at the Westminster by the Trust in 1946.

Thursday: *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill* by Peter Howard.

Snacks will be available before and after in the new Lambeth snack bar.

**Saturday, 3 December,
2.30 pm and 5.30 pm**

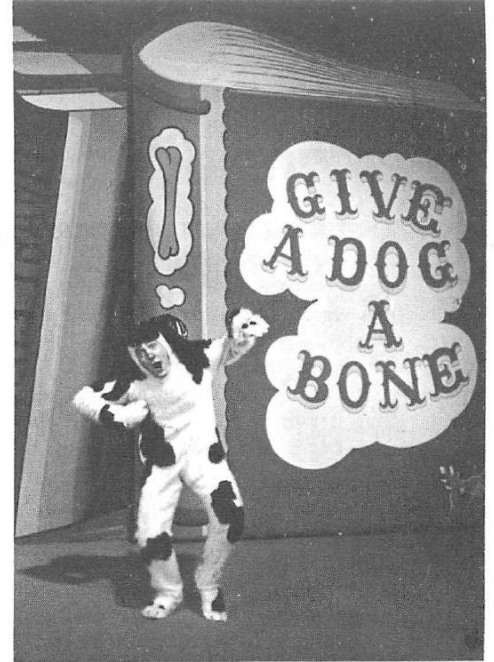
Performances of *It's our country, Jack!*



Thirteen-year-old Robert Davies from Merioneth, Wales, as Mickey Merry, with Daphne Foreman. Behind them, Pa Merry played by Len Maley

Ronnie Stevens as Ringo, in the first scene of the film

Photographed during the filming by FRANK OTLEY



A film for the children of the world

THE FILMING in colour of Peter Howard's pantomime *Give a Dog a Bone* began last week in St John's Wood Studios, London. It is being directed by Henry Cass and the Lighting-Cameraman is S D 'Bunny' Onions.

It is being filmed immediately before its Christmas stage presentation to fulfil urgent requests for it from around the world.

Roland Wilson, Secretary of MRA in Britain, said earlier this year in initiating the enterprise that the pantomime had been produced in America,

Asia, Africa and Australasia as well as Europe. 'The children in many schools have asked to make it their own and show it to their communities. Journalists and diplomats from Russia and China came to see it. They said they had not realised that London could produce such a show,' he said.

'For this enterprise £35,000 is immediately needed. Other countries will generously help but the film may also be intended as our gift to the Commonwealth and the world. It could be the symbol of our renewed decision to give the best of Britain to the

hearts of men, women and children everywhere.'

The shooting is expected to take a further two weeks. The film is scheduled for completion early in 1967.

A *Give a Dog a Bone* fund has been initiated by teachers in Britain. So far £10,000 have been contributed. Six school children in Switzerland have raised £200 by organising their own shop where they sold gifts.

Those who wish to make a donation may send it to the Treasurer, MRA *Give a Dog a Bone* fund, 4 Hays Mews, London W1.



Lord Swill (Bryan Coleman) confronts the Rat King (Richard Warner)



Celebration dance in the Ballroom of Swill Hall

'More difficult than the Freedom Struggle'

A FURTHER SERIES of performances of *India Arise* will shortly be given in New Delhi, it was announced this week. The Theatre Manager commented, 'No show has run in Delhi for more than four nights with success. Yours has so much momentum that it continues to mount.' It is said that *India Arise* is the talk of every cocktail party in Delhi.

Two members of the Cabinet have been among the audiences who have jammed the theatre. One said, 'Now I know what Moral Re-Armament is and it's cleared all my doubts. I'd like all my colleagues to see it.' Another Cabinet member, after seeing *India Arise*, consulted with eight members of the cast in his office about how to carry forward the political, social and economic change needed in India. He told them, 'Your task is much more difficult than the one we faced. The freedom struggle was easily understood but it is difficult to dramatise the social, economic and political change needed. You are doing it. It is a challenge worth taking.'

Senior secretaries and joint secretaries of most of the ministries attended performances as have Air Force and senior Navy and Army officers. Some diplomats came to the show three times. One of the many African Ambassadors who attended made a personal contribution to the cast to 'carry the morals of the show to every home in India'.

At a time when newspaper headlines are full of the news of student agitations, *India Arise* has been invited to several Delhi University colleges. Two hundred people including students, Members of Parliament and businessmen have been meeting twice

a week to plan further action.

The cast, augmented by some Delhi students, travelled this week at twenty-four hours' notice to the capital of the State of Rajasthan at the invitation of the Maharani of Jaipur, MP. They will return to New Delhi for their extended season.

Students in other cities across the country are carrying forward various MRA actions, initiated by earlier performances of *India Arise*. At Panchgani, Bombay and Poona youth are using their vacation to start building a permanent assembly centre. In Madras and Hyderabad MRA shows are in production.



Catholic Bishop's directive on MRA

Thousand join Puerto Rican Sing-out

YOUTH IN THE CARIBBEAN island of Puerto Rico have responded to the patriotic message given by an American cast of *Up With People* which has been performing in San Juan, the capital. Many of the songs were sung in Spanish. The musical is on the island for two weeks.

Puerto Rico (population: 2,500,000) is a self-governing commonwealth voluntarily associated with the USA.

One thousand Puerto Rican youth, after seeing performances of the show, met to learn the songs and to rehearse for their own production.

At one matinee performance the entire theatre where the musical was to be shown was filled ninety minutes in advance and students from the university were still pouring in like floods of rushing water. One student said, 'Since I entered university five years ago we have let a minority group lead us. They hauled us the wrong way, towards the negative, but this is the spirit we need in Puerto Rico.'

THE MOST REVEREND Thomas L. Noa, Bishop of Marquette, Michigan, USA, in this week's *Our Sunday Visitor*, official organ of the Diocese of Marquette, revised his earlier directive, issued in 1958, concerning Catholic involvement with Moral Re-Armament.

He wrote a letter which appeared as the lead item in the 'What our readers think' column, headed, 'Moral Re-Armament':

'The answer you gave in your "If you ask us" column of 18 September, 1966, to a question about Moral Re-Armament, is, in my opinion, correct and to the point.

'In view of the decrees and declarations of the Ecumenical Council about our relations with Christians and non-Christians, I feel we should emphasize the need of supporting a movement which stands for Christian and moral principles, as does Moral Re-Armament. We think this is necessary especially in the field of education.

'The writer of this letter, as Bishop of Marquette, would today issue a directive about Catholic involvement with Moral Re-Armament revised from the directive which was issued in 1958.'

The column Bishop Noa referred to in his letter read as follows:

'**Question:** Your paper carried an article about the programme *Up With People* and praised it. It is produced by Moral Re-Armament. Isn't Moral Re-Armament disapproved by the Catholic Church? signed, J J, Trenton, New Jersey.

'**Answer:** Certainly there is no disapproval of the patriotic activities of Moral Re-Armament. Moral Re-Armament also promotes Christian standards of morality and Catholics are in agreement with MRA in the need for re-affirmation of Christian moral principles.'

On 1 October, Bishop Noa attended the inauguration ceremonies of Mackinac College where he gave the invocation. He then remained overnight expressly to see the Moral Re-Armament Sing-Out, *Up With People*.