

MRA

INFORMATION SERVICE



CIVIC WEEKEND

2-4 JULY

WESTMINSTER THEATRE, LONDON

VOL. 13 NO. 348

FOUR HAYS MEWS, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

SATURDAY, 19 JUNE, 1965

AMERICAN INDIANS HOST WORLD CONFERENCE

FROM NATIONAL CAPITALS

LONDON

THE PRIME MINISTER of Sierra Leone, Dr. Albert Margai, and his delegation to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference saw the play *Mr. Wilberforce, M.P.* The party of 25 included the Speaker, five Parliamentary Secretaries, four Paramount Chiefs and the High Commissioner in London.

WELLINGTON

PRIME MINISTER HOLYOAKE and 34 of New Zealand's 80 M.P.s saw a dinner-hour presentation of Peter Howard's play *The Ladder*, at the invitation of the Speaker, Sir Ronald Algie, in Parliament House. Among them were Deputy Prime Minister Marshall and Opposition members. Mr. Holyoake talked with the cast long afterwards and was last to leave.

Many M.P.s said they wished to have the play in their constituencies.

WASHINGTON

SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY recently received a delegation of Harlem and Manhattan youth trained in MRA. They told him their aim was to make New York a pattern city for America. They had taken steps to end delinquency in New York schools, met the New York Commissioners and Youth Board and broadcast five times.

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY American Indians—the original Americans—are hosts this summer to 10,000 youth at a conference which opened on 15 June at Mackinac Island, Michigan. The conference is called a 'Demonstration for Modernizing America'.

From rainbow-coloured cliffs of Arizona's Apache Trail to the cold northern Dakotas and Canada's forests and Rocky Mountains, these American Indians stepped once more on to the stage of history. They did this because, as one of their Governors expressed it: 'As the first Americans we must create a new society which needs the best of every race, class and nation to make it work.'

Their aim is to show America a way of life with which she can win Peking and Moscow, and the non-committed nations, and lead them to a world neither red nor dead, but rebuilt.

Massed on a platform on the lake shore of Mackinac Island, where their warrior ancestors met to reconcile warring tribes, they greeted ten special planes with youth from North and South America.

The American Indians welcomed their guests with displays of horsemanship and archery. Their ceremonies and pageantry ended in a buffalo barbecue and the performance of an Indian stage play, all part of the Indian tradition.

Heading the Caribbean contingent was Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the world champion West Indies cricket team. After the victorious Test series with Australia, Hunte was voted the most valuable player on the team and chosen to play for a World XI against England in September.

'There are sticks of dynamite all over the Caribbean,' said Hunte. 'The extent of China's influence is far greater than most Americans realise.'

The American action in the Dominican Republic was 'made necessary by the inaction of the Organization of American States and has for the time being prevented another Cuba in the Caribbean', Hunte said.

'We have got to deal with the complacency and division in the Hemisphere leading to strong-man policies of Right or Left and preventing us from taking the necessary action in these situations ourselves. Caribbean leaders attach the highest importance to this conference.'

Climax of opening

The first American showing of the London-made feature film, *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill*, was the climax of the opening day of the conference.

Special planes will fly picked youth to Mackinac from Europe, Africa and Japan.

LABOUR BACKING

MASSACHUSETTS organized labour is backing the Mackinac Demonstration. A letter addressed to AFL-CIO unions states: 'The Massachusetts State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, urges our affiliated organizations to give all the support they can (to the Demonstration) by sending their young members as delegates, their experienced leadership as counsellors or by making a financial contribution towards scholarships for the youth of Massachusetts.' The letter was signed by the President, Salvatore Camelio, and Secretary-Treasurer, James P. Loughlin.

ESCALATION OF ANSWER

NINETEEN student body presidents say in a message published this month in the *Washington Post* and 450 American newspapers, most of them free of charge: 'We are among the student leaders of 143 universities who have invited Moral Re-Armament programmes to our campuses in the last three months. We see in it the great purpose needed for our generation.' The message appeared in a full page entitled 'Escalation of the Answer'.

POLICE REQUEST

POLICE IN ZAMBIA have requested showings of Moral Re-Armament films. They are taking place in the Western Province where one of the world's largest copper mines is situated. The series began this month in police stations and camps round Ndola, administrative centre of the region.

TAX VERDICT UPHELD

THE DANISH FOUNDATION of Moral Re-Armament, which is free from tax on gifts, last week was granted by the National Court in Copenhagen the further privilege of tax-deductible covenants.

This privilege is given certain

associations with purposes recognized to be 'humanitarian, scientific, of public utility and purely religious'.

The National Court upheld last year's ruling of Copenhagen City Court ordering the Ministry of Finance to continue this privilege for Moral Re-Armament and to pay the costs of the case.

TEST TROPHY

CONRAD HUNTE, West Indies' opening batsman, was last month awarded a trophy as outstanding player in the Test Series against Australia. Making the presentation Sir Errol dos Santos, President of Queen's Park Cricket Club of Trinidad, said Hunte had 'not only contributed greatly on the field. He has given his heart and soul to Moral Re-Armament. He tells me it is through MRA that he has done so well. Let us hope he continues to do equally well both in cricket and for our country.'

The presentation was broadcast throughout the Caribbean. Hunte has been chosen to play for a World XI against England in September.

HURRICANE IN WINDHOEK

'VOICE OF THE HURRICANE' started its run in Windhoek, capital of South-West Africa, this month. A preview of the film was attended by the Administrator. The *Suidwes Afrikaner* wrote 'the film gives hope to everyone'. The case of South-West Africa and its administration is now before the Hague International Court.

CAMELIAS FOR MISS SMITH

IT WAS orchids and camelias for Muriel Smith at the Municipal Theatre in Sao Paulo. These exotic flowers of Brazil were presented to the Negro mezzo-soprano at the end of a benefit concert dedicated to the memory of Peter Howard and sponsored by the wife of the State Governor.

Miss Smith received six curtain calls and a standing ovation from the audience of 1,400. 'If it were up to the audience she would be here another hour,' commented the stage manager. The box office reported record sales.

'IN PUBLIC INTEREST'

THE USUAL municipal tax was not imposed for a performance of *The Ladder* in Porrentruy, heart of the French-speaking Jura mountain region. Announcing this the Mayor's representative said the play was 'in the public interest. Moral standards in public life are what we need most.' The performance was sponsored by civic and church authorities.

Monsignor Schaller, editor of the Catholic daily *Le Pays* of Porrentruy, wrote: 'Moral Re-Armament is rooted in the most authentic apostolic spirit . . . challenging every Christian to a total sincerity when facing the demands of his religion.'

FILM UNIT TRAVELS

A VAN with 13 MRA films and projection equipment is on the road in Britain. Youth from seven countries have taken part. They have been in North Wales, Northumberland, Yorkshire and recently have been operating in Devon and Cheshire.

They have shown films to over 2,000 youth. Many of these have come to see plays at the Westminster Theatre. One group of 'pop' singers returned to Yorkshire saying they had found a purpose for their lives. They are now writing two songs a week with new themes.

The film unit have visited police forces who were interested in countering some effects of TV on the youth, and welcomed the positive ideas the film showed.

Money for the van was raised by two retired women doctors in Hove. Cash to buy a second film van is now being raised in East Anglia.

Modern Purposes in Painting and Art

THE ROYAL ACADEMY exhibition of paintings, which will be viewed during these summer months in London by thousands of tourists, came in for strong criticism. 'Banal and second-rate,' said *The Times*. 'A sad flop' wrote Roger Berthoud in the *Evening Standard*.

Jane Austin in *Time and Tide* asked 'Who are the Hanging Committee and why are they not also hanging beside their choice?'

Juliet Brittain, urging that the Royal Academy Council be 'sacked', commented in the same magazine: 'Never have I known such an infiltration of diseased minds, crude vulgarity, slovenly sex for the sake of sex, pessimism, nihilism and sacrilege'.

In the following article VICTOR SMITH, Norwegian painter who has exhibited in Oslo, Bergen and Germany, discusses the purposes of art in the modern age. Mr. Smith in 1956 won a national competition for designing stained glass windows for Stavanger Cathedral. His works have been purchased by the Norwegian State Gallery.

NEVER BEFORE have so many people been interested in art. Every big city in the world is building an art centre and people are flocking in thousands to art exhibitions.

It is as if millions who, in earlier times, would have had their questions answered by the Church are today turning to art in the hope of finding something to fill a vacuum in their lives. Yet at the very time when many have faith in art, the artists have lost their faith and many artists ask themselves if such a thing as art exists.

In action painting today a canvas is no longer an area to decorate, it is an area to act in. The goal is not to make a picture, it is to make an action; to give the artist and others the feeling he is alive. 'The true function of art,' says the French painter Dubuffet, 'is to cry and jump like a madman.'

Point zero reached

The trend is not to believe in anything that can be called beauty, not to believe in standards or rules. It is to tear down conventions and to confront man with the idea that life has no meaning. We have tried to reach point zero, where everything is torn apart, in the hope that from this point something new may arise. In this situation we must either find real values or go into a corner and hang ourselves.

European culture has grown out of Christian thought. Until the 15th century our history can be likened to a child who grows up in obedience and respect for the views of his parents. At the age of 15 he begins to think for himself and to question his parents' beliefs and ways. He decides to find out for himself and a time of protest, reaction and division may follow. Later he may find

that his search for truth has taken him a complete circle—from protesting against the old values to accepting them in a new way.

I believe Europe has reached this age. We have lived through 400 years of turning away from God. We could now have the first really grown-up generation.

Before an empty canvas most artists feel fear. Many will react to that fear by trying to reproduce the kind of painting that was accepted 100 years ago. It will be a traditional work. Others will try to paint what they think people expect today. It will be a traditional modern work.

Not in market

There are two ways of creating art; one of which has become the conventional way, that of expressing oneself and one's own highly interesting personality. I believe, however, that great art comes by resolving the things within oneself and then giving expression to a truth that is beyond oneself and is valid for everyone. That kind of art may have been produced in our time, but it is not the art that cries loudest in the market places.

That kind of art does not come from experimenting with form alone. We need to experiment. To stop experimenting is to die. It is natural for artists to move out of the traditional way of doing things, to go beyond tradition and to give new form to things. Truth cannot be conserved. It has to be a living reality in people and it must be on the offensive. But great art will not come from experimenting alone.

Fire and faith

Knowledge and revolutionary fire are needed to tear down effectively. It takes the addition of faith to build up and create. In the true sense of the word, I believe all creative work is religious. Not religious in the uncommitted, soft way we use the word but, in response to the challenge of the age, to give the world the faith it cannot live without.

We can experience the rebirth of Europe's faith. Birth is not without pain. Some people must be willing and some artists must be willing to build the bridge to God again. No artist can create anything outside his own experience. It will have to be part of himself and his living before it can be expressed as a creation of art. This is the secret that has given me great hope.

Creativeness comes out of an experience in a man's life, so strong an experience that it has to be shared with his fellow men. An artist is the kind of person who, with such an experience in his life, cannot hold back from creative activity. He will give his experience form in art. The form will not be a problem. It will grow round the experience and be part of it, as naturally as a shell grows round a nut.

HOUSEWIFE'S QUIZ

BY STELLA BELDEN

IF YOU HAVE taken on the modernization of man for the sake of the whole world, in what way is your home different? Here are a few practical questions:

1. Are your saucepans big enough to cook for more than yourself and one guest?
2. When your family say 'home' do they mean:
 - a. A place where we can shut out the world?
 - b. A place where we learn to care for the whole world, with some practical examples to try it out on?
3. Children: If the home is a home for the whole world, where everyone truly matters, how does this affect the children?
 - a. Do they have special behaviour for guests, or is it just normal living to think for other people?
 - b. Is the family menu limited to those likes and dislikes expressed forcibly from time to time, or does everyone think how food can express care for others, and is each ready to be flexible in his or her habits?
 - c. Is there more than one person with whom the children feel

really happy to go to bed, and do they feel that to allow the parents to go out or away in the service of the family's common aims is a contribution they can make?

4. War and Peace—if you go for peace at any price you are storing up war. Do you care selflessly enough to battle early with those you love for what you and they know is right? With these kind of battles your home will be a workshop of peace—an experimental station where people can learn that peace is not just an idea, but people becoming different.
5. Do we enjoy living to modernize man? Do we expect our children to enjoy it? If we are tackling real life in a real way, if our homes are workshops of the modernization of man in industry, education, science, theatre, the Commonwealth, through those who live in them and visit them (as homes are where Moral Re-Armament is practised) our children will be interested. They will be equipped, and will have the vitality, courage, resilience, discipline, and passion to modernize man.

Bubbles pricked

THIS BOOK is not tilting at wind-mills', said a review of *The Cult of Softness in The Church of England Newspaper* of 11 June. The book is by Sir Arnold Lunn and Garth Lean (Blandford, 166 pp. 6s.).

'It is good that bubbles should be loudly pricked, and here there are many. The nonsense of the avant garde in art and literature; the topsy turvy view of crime and punishment, the strange concept of education, all come under judgement . . .

'But even better than its bubble-

pricking is this book's revelation of the pathetic picture of much in modern church life—South Bank—and all that. Sometimes exposures are salutary.

We have reached the stage when secular journalists mock the Church's image on television, not because of an outmoded puritanism, but because of a flabby weakness to state a positive line . . .

'This book is a bold attempt to save the Church from betraying society in our age.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn—One hundred thousand copies of *Tomorrow Will be Too Late*, a book of speeches by Peter Howard, will be sent to students in Germany.

Essen—On 25 and 26 September, a European demonstration on 'The tasks of industry in the present age' will be held in the Ruhr.

Germany—Peter Howard's play, *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill*, will be performed in German, Austrian, Swiss and Dutch cities from September 1965 to March 1966.

Brussels—A Jesuit priest, Father E. Janssen, in *De Periscoop*, monthly magazine for Art and Culture, reviews *The Open Secret of MRA*, by J. P. Thornton-Duesbery. It is 'serene of tone, positive in content and teaches us to really appreciate Moral Re-Armament', he says.

Tunja, Colombia—In this ancient city, MRA films were shown ten times in four days. The trades council organized one performance. The Archbishop came to three.

Annapolis, U.S.A.—Olympic oarsman Rusty Wailes addressed midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy on MRA and 'The Secret of Christian Revolution'.

Blaubeuren, Germany—Zeiss Optics and Telefunken Radio were among major German firms to send official delegations to an MRA conference in South Germany.

Kuala Lumpur—A committee of Malays, Chinese and Indians are sponsoring showings of MRA films in Malaysia.

Poona—Indian students are giving performances of Peter Howard's play *We Are Tomorrow* to raise money to send a delegation to the Mackinac conference. They began last week here.

Tokyo—Continuing their tour of Japanese universities, the student cast of *Tomorrow Will be Too Late* gave their play in three Tokyo universities.