



MARCH ACROSS INDIA TO DELHI

'BUNNY' AUSTIN—'SPORTSMEN MUST LEAD'

ADENAUER—'YOUR WEAPONS ARE STRONGEST'

MRA

INFORMATION SERVICE

VOL. 12 NO. 300

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

SATURDAY, 17 AUGUST, 1963

London Assembly tackles Housing, Health, 'New Morality'

MATTERS of importance to everyone are being tackled at the London Assembly for Moral Re-Armament entitled 'Assembly line for National Character.'

Local government housing officials and men in the building industry called on the Government to plan for 400,000 houses a year as a minimum target.

'Housing is a question of national priorities,' said Mr. Norman Prichard, Chairman of the London County Council Housing Committee, addressing a session on the theme, 'Housing Humanity.' 'I regard this sort of work in local government as practical Christianity,' he said. 'I hope one result of this conference will be to rouse the conscience of this nation and that everyone here, whether in local or national government, will make this number one priority.'

'A problem that exists because of the callous indifference of generations can be answered by the call and conviction of this generation in a decade,' said Mr. Alfred Stocks, Assistant Town Clerk in charge of Housing for the Liverpool Corporation. 'We must face the country with the facts,' said Mr. Frank Watson, Chairman of Belfast's Housing and Slum Clearance Committee.

Mr. Harry Moncrieff, past President of the Association of Building Technicians and Consultant Architect for seven London boroughs, told the Assembly, 'We need a new thinking in Westminster on the size of the problem, on land and on finance. We need a new determination to house every family. We need to build 400,000 houses a year. Surely in the twentieth century with all the facilities we have we can do the job and do it fast. Then we can export the men and the materials to meet the human needs of the world.'

'Not Party matter'

A member of the Coventry Labour Party Executive, Mr. Robert Scarth, said, 'As a Socialist I say housing is not just a Party matter. We are not playing for the votes of millions but for homes for the homeless and for those inadequately housed.'

Council housing experts and men from management and labour in the building industry outlined practical

plans that were being made and ought to be made to house the homeless. Mr. Geoffrey Sanders, director of a Bristol building firm, said: 'Houses cost too much in Britain because contracts are not finished on time. It is largely the fault of building employers. Many of them refuse to provide regular employment for their workers. This creates uncertainty and makes men spin out the work as long as possible.'

Mr. Sanders stressed the urgent need for employers to plan ahead and anticipate bad weather which puts men on short time. 'Last winter, for instance, by using polythene casing and space heaters we kept costs down and all our men at work when three thousand building workers in Bristol were on the dole.'

Building costs reduced

'We in our firm have promised regular employment and have planned ahead,' said Mr. Sanders. 'The workers have responded. Contracts are finished on time. Building costs are reduced. We have doubled the amount of work we take on and the size of our labour force.'

National health and the 'new morality' was another of the issues dealt with. Speakers clashed with the views expressed by Dr. Henderson, principal medical officer of the Ministry of Education.

Dr. Henderson had told a meeting of teachers in Cambridge that couples intending to marry who had sex relations before marriage were not immoral.

Dr. Ernest Claxton, Assistant Secretary of the British Medical Association, said that such teaching led in his experience to unwanted children, and girls on a mere promise literally left 'holding the baby'.

It was the reason for a 45 per cent increase in V.D., especially among young people, at a time when the population had gone up only 5 per cent. Schoolgirls in gym tunics were now seen in the clinics. Roughly two out of three babies born to mothers under twenty are conceived outside marriage.

Sex had become an obsession and promiscuity and homosexuality a national problem. Dr. Claxton said this was due to lack of an adequate national purpose.

'If we give our nation a new and clear objective, the danger of ill health and disease will decrease. We shall become fit for the colossal task of building a new civilization,' he said.

He took issue with religious leaders who put forward a 'new morality' whether it was so-called 'South Bank religion', a Quakers' report on sex, Cambridge theologians or the Bishop of Woolwich. The BBC 'irresponsibly and deliberately' put over such views by religious leaders and doctors, he said.

The 'new morality,' Dr. Claxton said, was introduced 'subtly, cleverly and plausibly'. 'While appearing to retain traditional virtues it allows for the exceptional case. So anyone becomes an exception. In the name of compassion it condones adultery, fornication and sodomy.'

'Moral Dunkirk'

Dr. Claxton's speech was headlined 'New Morality Danger to Nation's Health' in the *Daily Telegraph* (August 6). A feature article by him in the *Daily Sketch* was titled 'Why we face a moral Dunkirk'. 'The £20,000,000 Bill' was the *Daily Express* headline quoting Dr. Claxton's remark that emotional strains caused by the new moral code contributed to the nation's £20 million bill for tranquillizers.

Another doctor who addressed the Assembly raised what the *Daily Mail* called a 'storm' around the Minister of Education.

Dr. Donald Robertson, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Iraq, urged the Minister of Education and the General Medical Council to take action against Dr. Henderson of the Education Ministry. He said that Dr. Henderson's views on sex relations outside marriage could lead to 'not one adultery but thousands'.

Dr. Paul Campbell of Edmonton, Canada, pointed to a cure for such problems: 'Propaganda is being spread that "what I want" is right,' he said. 'This is at the root of the malaise of our era to destroy the idea that the welfare of the community comes before self interest. It is behind the effort to banish God from the counsels of the nation, home, school and society.'

'Device of deviants'

'Homosexuality flourishes in societies which have lost their aim and purpose. The theory that homosexuals are born and not made is a device of deviants to make perversion acceptable to society. The homosexual personality is a case of arrested development. They have never grown beyond the point of adolescent self-centredness.'

'There is a cure. It takes a passion to cure perversion. That is to take on the revolutionary task of recreating society and establishing new relationships between nations.'

Educators also took up these issues. A headmaster,

Mr. Michael Hallows, of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, echoed the concern of teachers with the Ministry of Education's medical officer. 'He has done immeasurable harm particularly to sixth formers and opened the gate to promiscuity,' said Mr. Hallows. 'Such statements do great disservice to Britain by adding to the impression now current in other countries that this nation is morally unstable.'

Twenty teachers went from the Assembly and took up the matter with the Minister of Education's deputy and with a dozen M.P.'s.

Standards as signposts

Dr. E. Benson Perkins of Birmingham, former President of the Methodist Conference, for ten years Secretary of the World Methodist Council and former Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, told Assembly delegates that promoters of the 'new morality' were promoting national decadence. It was the task of the Christian Church to set up absolute standards as 'signposts in a world that has lost its way'.

Some churchmen separated 'love' from 'morality' and misinterpreted the words used in the original of the New Testament. The meaning of 'love' as used there was the 'creative, redemptive love that speaks from the Cross of Christ'. 'It is as remote from sexual passion as the North and South Poles are from each other,' Dr. Perkins said.

He could understand why such churchmen as Canon Rhymes 'were not too fond of St. Paul', whose Christian teaching stated clearly that 'fornicators, adulterers and homosexuals will not possess the Kingdom of God'.

Psychologist speaks

Dr. Doris Odlum, a founder member of the Council of the World Federation of Mental Health and Vice-President of the National Association of Mental Health, stressed the importance of four-square standards in preserving relationships between individuals on which mental health and social stability depend.

Recent scandals had shown where slipping standards lead to and had provided a shock which could help youth especially and the whole nation to turn in a new direction.

The Assembly has been meeting at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, but also doing its business in interviews in the House of Commons, at Mayoral receptions, in church pulpits and in the streets of London boroughs.

Men from labour and management have reported at special industrial sessions on higher productivity, wages and workmanship resulting from new purposes and standards in industry.

Delegations from France, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany and the United States have come to study how the solutions worked out here and the ways of dealing with national problems can be applied in their countries. Over a thousand people are attending the Assembly which continues until 2 September.

MARCH ACROSS INDIA TO DELHI

from our correspondent recently returned from India

I HAVE FOUGHT alongside your grandfather in the struggle for Independence. I am again ready to quit everything to stand alongside you in your battle for this country.' The editor of an Indian newspaper was talking in Delhi to Rajmohan Gandhi. He was expressing what many others are saying in response to Gandhi's call for a thousand men and women to quit their jobs and enlist with him.

Two great dangers face India today. There is the fear of China on her border and there is the fear of what will happen when Nehru is no longer in control.

China's intention, ideological and imperialistic, to expand and to take over Asia is steadfast. When she invaded India she may have expected a rising of the Bengal Communists, welcoming her as liberator. She may have been surprised at the speedy and united action against her in Delhi and, like some others, she may have underestimated the penetration of Moral Re-Armament.

She at least succeeded, however, in humiliating the the Indian Army, in upsetting the Indian economy, in greatly raising the prices and general discontent, and in worsening India's relations with Pakistan.

Chinese shadow

China has succeeded, too, in strengthening her ties with India's neighbours. Those back from Burma report that the Chinese shadow virtually blankets the country. Many fear that Ceylon will grant bases to China. Following border and airline agreements, Chou En-lai has said 'China will defend Pakistan throughout the world as Pakistan defended China in Cento and Seato.'

Nehru has been likened by fellow Indians to a great banyan tree under which everything takes shade and nothing takes root. He knows he cannot last for ever and that his hold on the country is already diminished. What will happen next? Will there be disintegration, a dictatorship of Right or Left or will there be someone strong enough to hold the country together by democratic means? A senior Indian Civil Servant, asked this

question recently, replied 'It will be worse, far worse, than the French Revolution.'

Rajmohan Gandhi—Mahatma Gandhi's grandson—and his friends do not think that that need or will happen. They believe in another kind of revolution. They have seen the incalculable change in the political scene in the South Indian State of Kerala, brought about by radical change in men's motives and nature. They have seen the new thinking and programme transcend all ancient divisions of caste, creed and class and enlist together those of the Left and those of the Right. Private feuds have been put right and private ambitions swallowed up so that men of character and talent of all parties and of no party can plan together what needs to be done.

The plans for the next months are on a nation-moving scale. The moment is ripe. India has been shaken and is looking for something new.

Members of the Kerala Parliament, with Gandhi and a host of others, are to advance on Delhi in a 'March on Wheels' (reminiscent of Mahatma Gandhi's decisive Salt March to Deodi). Throughout the length and breadth of India the M.P.'s will put on the play they have written, *The Next Chapter*, which gives the inside story of the Kerala revolution in which they participated.

Upon their arrival in Delhi they will conduct, for a month, an Asian Assembly. This will be addressed by distinguished people not only from India but from Japan, Australia and many parts of the world. Special attention will be paid to building ideological unity between Australia, Japan and India.

A force of passionate, committed, fearless Indian men and women will be forged—girders that will hold together the Indian framework in the days ahead, architects who will plan and build up the new India, the new Asia.

Following the Assembly in Delhi these men and women will take the plays from Japan and the West that will be presented there, throughout the country. The 'March' will continue. Its purpose is to bring about perpetual revolutionary living.

'Bunny' Austin — 'Sportsmen must lead'

THE Davis Cup was won for Britain last time 27 years ago. One of the men who won it was H. W. 'Bunny' Austin. He was on the winning teams from 1933-36.

Austin addressed the London Assembly for National Character. Reporting his talk under the headline 'Sport Should Give "Moral Leadership"' the *Daily Telegraph* wrote: 'The former British Davis Cup tennis player said yesterday that sport is 'in the grip of the "new morality", which is actually the old immorality.' He referred to

doped racehorses, fixed soccer matches and paid amateurs in other sports.

'Who is going to step into the breach of moral leadership, to build the character of our youth and our country? Are our public men doing it? Is the Church doing it? Is the theatre doing it?' he asked. Mr. Austin said that sportsmen should give this moral leadership.

'Why should this country not be the nursery of British sportsmen who will not only win games but give the great idea that will unite and remake the world?'

Adenauer: 'Your weapons are strongest'

IN his Cabinet room in Bonn, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer last week received the cast of the musical *Space Is So Startling*. They had just arrived from Berlin en route to the United States.

The day before, he told the cast, serious conferences over world tensions had been held in the Cabinet room. 'This morning,' he said, 'we have here in this same room an impressive and attractive picture of a great community of nations—a community that has taken as its guiding principle moral re-armament which will cure the ills of the world.'

Describing 'the heavy burden' of the politicians in bringing cohesion to the world, he said to the MRA force, 'I believe the weapons you use and the convictions you spread are the strongest.'

'Proclaimed freedom'

'You come directly from Berlin,' he said, 'and there you will have seen the real value of human freedom—the greatest treasure for all the nations of the world. I am convinced, and the reports which I have had confirm it, you have proclaimed the glad message of freedom to the people of Berlin who live in something very close to a prison. For this I thank you with all my heart.'

Thanking them for what they had given in Germany, the Chancellor said, 'It is good that you go to the United States so that they see that we all, all the nations cherish freedom as the highest treasure for which every sacrifice must be made.'

The seventeen-nation cast were presented to the Chancellor by Prince Richard of Hesse, a great grandson of Queen Victoria.

Before leaving Bonn, the cast were also thanked by the Secretary of State for Defence, Herr Volkmar Hopf, 'for giving to our Bundeswehr through your ideas and personal contact so much that these soldiers will never forget.'

The German Ministry of Defence undertook the programme that re-

sulted in eighteen thousand officers and men of the Bundeswehr seeing *Space Is So Startling* in army camps across Germany.

'I believe that even more important than weapons,' said Secretary Hopf, 'is what the new German Army can contribute to help men move to sanity, and on the basis of these ideas overcome the world's problems.'

'Space troupe alights to set planet to rights' ran one headline as the cast flew into Boston, capital of the New England State of Massachusetts. 'The Test Ban Treaty is helping to move the world into a new era. Your play will show the people of America how to live in what we hope will be a period of peace and understanding,' said Deputy Mayor Scagnoli at the press conference on their arrival. He added, 'What you are doing is the brightest ray of hope in a world that seems darkened with troubles.'

The Deputy Mayor requested that Boston should be the launching pad of the play's national tour. Other invitations have come from the Mayors of Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco and Allentown.

One of the cast, a refugee from East Germany, presented the Deputy Mayor with a message from six borough Mayors of West Berlin. They said, 'Your play has given us real hope of a future without walls.'

Westminster Theatre—The evening simultaneous translation schedule for performances of *Through the Garden Wall* is as follows:

Monday—Italian
Tuesday—German
Wednesday—French
Thursday—Spanish
Friday—German
Saturday—French

By previous arrangement with the management translations can be arranged for groups any night in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Norwegian and Japanese. Telephone the Box Office, VIC 0283. On 23 August a translation in Arabic will be inaugurated.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New York—The *New York World Telegram* reported Miss Charlotte Daneel of Pretoria, daughter of a nationally known Dutch Reformed Minister and Springbok rugby player, as saying at the London Assembly, 'Apartheid is wholly sincere, utterly perilous and long out of date. Africa can become a continent of character for the modern world. Everything depends on whether we in South Africa accept the new challenge of a new century.'

London—*Time and Tide* carried an interview with Peter Howard entitled 'The Man Behind MRA.'

Switzerland—One hundred and fifteen newspapers, with a total circulation of one million, are publishing a 'Patriotic Quiz' addressed to the Swiss people. Thirty seven papers are printing the page without charge as editorial matter.

Gorgonzola, Italy—Top of *Corriere della Sera's* theatre page was a picture of 2,000 people watching *Men of Brazil* in the square of Gorgonzola. The paper said this showing inaugurated a series throughout Milan Province, one of the world's largest industrial complexes.

Quilon, South India—T.V. Divakaran, Chairman of the Municipal Council and a leader of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, introduced a run of *Freedom* and *Men of Brazil* in Malayan versions.

Kampala, Uganda—The Ministry of Community Development rented four copies of *Freedom* for use by its officers as part of the national campaign for 'Freedom from Hunger.'

Hiroshima—As the Communist 'World Assembly for Peace' broke up leaving confusion, the Moral Re-Armament force with the play *Beyond Communism to Revolution* entered the city at the joint invitation of the Mayor, the Commander of the Defence Force and the President of Toyo automobile industry.