

2019—a student's pipedream? by David Belden

IMAGINE A HISTORY LECTURE in a university 50 years from now. The students are watching a television set, taking notes on their pocket computers.

The TV lecturer is talking about the social climate of the 1960s. He mentions the fears which were widespread at that time: fears of nuclear and biological war; fears of the increasing poverty of those developing countries condemned to live under the mush-

room cloud of an exploding population; dread of the inconsequence of life in the leisure-ridden cities of the industrialised countries, particularly rife among the students of that decade; unease as to how irresponsible men would cope with new extensions of Man's power in genetic control, in surgery, or in space.

As the students smile at their grandparents' bogeys, the lecturer goes on: 'You must realise that these were

perfectly realistic fears at that time. It is only subsequent events that have proved them to have been exaggerated.'

If that happens, and if I knew one of the students, I might annoyingly suggest with my septuagenarian wisdom that he write a thesis on such a topic as, 'The growing social consciousness since the mid-20th Century of the need to work for the moral and

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Students from 30 universities gathered at Caux World Assembly, Switzerland

photo Franzon



spiritual maturity of man as an indispensable factor in international socio-economic improvement'. Too long? He might call it, 'moral and spiritual re-armament', for convenience. Not a very original idea, especially since most economists in 2019 are agreeing that without that change in motive in certain men on both sides in the 1970s, the gap between rich and poor nations could not since then have been so startlingly narrowed.

Of course it is a basic tenet of 21st Century sociology that men in conflict or in need can turn to their inner voice to find their part in God's plan for the world. (Since hard-working scientists have still not solved the mystery of that inner voice and greater plan, in spite of their love for jargon, they continue to call it God). And few would disagree that it is through this that new purpose and dignity has been given to society and to individuals.

Back to 1969. A crazy forecast? The theory Moral Re-Armament does seem crazy. The ideas behind, 'Behold, I make all things new', ideas of God existing and reaching men, making them and society new if they choose to obey Him, look more fantastic than the wildest science fiction. But if they are true, obviously they are the most important ideas to study and practise.

In July, 1969, a conference for students and young workers is being held at Caux, Switzerland.

For those who get a good feeling out of discussing at length theories of God, and for those who never men-

tion Him, this conference holds many surprises. It is a great surprise to find that the 'science fiction' theories above are already being practised by thousands of men on all continents who are right now turning the old society into the new.

For example, students from African and Asian countries and others who are passionately interested in the economic problems of the Third World are surprised to meet Robert Carmichael, for 10 years President of the European Jute Industry.

Economists today will tell you that trade is more important than aid to developing countries. Western manufacturers exploit producers of raw materials by controlling prices and forcing them down. There is progress in the sugar and sisal trades in the fixing of minimum prices. But it is in the jute trade, which is Pakistan's largest export, that agreements have gone furthest in securing the grower against the price fluctuations and deprivations caused by local speculators and Western manufacturers.

The initiative and drive behind the creation of the famous jute agreement came, astonishingly, from a Western capitalist. That man, Robert Carmichael, told the conference how he himself found the motive and means to fight through to a method of trade that all interests concerned finally agreed was right, through meeting men of Moral Re-Armament. In fact, the change of motive in Carmichael's life began when honesty and resulting unity in his family convinced him that

God could guide men if they listened to Him.

A barrage of questions on two occasions failed to find holes in Carmichael's sincerity, while the facts of the jute agreement and swift rise in the jute growers' standard of living, when more fully documented, speak for themselves.

The accent of this conference has been on learning about and discussing such practical experience of the application of moral and spiritual re-armament in world problems. The evidence convinces a suspicious student like myself intellectually that Moral Re-Armament works. But the full challenge of Caux hits one when individuals have the courage to decide to put personal ambitions and wants second, and other's needs, absolute moral standards and God's guidance first in their lives, in the same way as Carmichael did about 20 years ago.

Students from as far apart as Stockholm, England, and Asmara, Ethiopia, having decided to do so, many take hope and dare to look forward to that lecture in 2019.

Students from all parts of the world are making their way to the conference at Caux. This week a party left from Britain with representatives from Kent, Oxford, London and Durham Universities, together with sixth formers from schools in different parts of the country. They will join students who are already there, from Universities including Cambridge, Manchester and Queen's College, Belfast.



Fred Ladenius, Rome correspondent for 'L'Osservatore Romano' and Dutch Television, leading a seminar about the Press

Guy Audrain, from France, who cycled 500 miles from Nantes to Caux, with Paul Manton, Belgium; Jean-Paul Donner, Switzerland; David Belden and Stephen Priestley, Britain

photos Franzone

Conrad Hunte speaks in Wolverhampton

CONRAD HUNTE, former Vice Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team, challenged the people of Wolverhampton last Sunday to 'get out of our self-preoccupation and into action to create the sort of country we all want'.

'What we need in Britain,' continued Hunte, 'is not repatriation or recrimination, but re-education of Britons of every race that teaches us how to live as well as how to earn a living. The issue is not colour, but character.'

Hunte was addressing a multi-racial audience of 400 in St Paul's Church Hall at a showing of the film *The Crowning Experience*, sponsored by the West Midlands Caribbean Association.

At this Wolverhampton meeting there was an atmosphere—not tense or hate-filled—but electric with an expectancy for the future.

'We need also a redefinition of Britain's role in today's world,' he said. 'As our aims grow smaller, our



Lance Dunkley (left) with Conrad Hunte in Wolverhampton

photo Hartnell

divisions grow bigger. Where are the Churchills of the spirit in every village and town who will restore harmony where there is hatred, forge partnership where there is partisanship and give purpose where there is permissiveness?'

Wolverhampton had long been famous for its football, said Hunte. Now it was known for the voice of dissent. 'I believe in future Wolverhampton could become known for the

far-sightedness of its citizens of every colour who master-minded the social and moral engineering of a multi-racial society that works.'

Lance Dunkley, Chairman of the West Midlands Caribbean Association, introducing Hunte said, 'Conrad Hunte was born a West Indian, but now he has become an international man. He has carried on this work with great strength in over 33 cities in Britain over the last 12 months.'

National Civic night at 'High Diplomacy'

NINETY-FIVE mayors and chairmen of district councils overcame one of London's worst traffic jams to be present at special receptions last week.

They had been attending the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and, on the invitation of Alderman Sir Nicholas Garrow and Lady Garrow and a distinguished committee of civic leaders, they later drove to supper parties in two historic London homes—45 Berkeley Square, home of Clive of India and now a centre for MRA, and 12a Charles Street. In the evening they attended *High Diplomacy* at the Westminster Theatre. They came with their wives and in some cases their families.

A further 150 mayors and chairmen of district councils have accepted to attend similar functions on 17 and 24 July.



Mayors arrive at Westminster Theatre

photo Strong

Indonesians on European mission see 'Men of Brazil'

'WE need Moral Re-Armament in Indonesia,' said Darius Marpaung, Chairman of the Indonesian Labour Economic Mission currently visiting Europe.

The delegation is on a private mission to urge European industry to make use of the improved conditions in Indonesia and invest in the country. This would alleviate the hardship of

the four million already unemployed.

The delegation comprises five trade union leaders representing Socialist, Muslim and Christian Trade Union Congresses with a total membership of nine million.

Marpaung was speaking at the MRA home in Holland introducing the MRA film *Men of Brazil*. 'We have just launched our Repelita, the first five-year development plan since Independence. It will only work if the people operating it apply the principles of MRA.

'We pay lip service to the Pantjasila, the five pillars of our State philosophy, faith in God, patriotism, humanity, democracy and social justice. MRA can help make it into a day to day practice that means something to every citizen personally.'



Mr and Mrs Austin (left) with Sir Cyril and Lady Black

photo Hartnell

Wimbledon MP launches Austin book

SIR CYRIL BLACK, MP for Wimbledon, accompanied by Lady Black, introduced Mr and Mrs H W 'Bunny' Austin to a crowded reception in Wimbledon last week to launch their new book *A Mixed Double*.

Speaking of it, Sir Cyril said, 'This is a remarkable book which should be re-read over and over again. I have been most interested, helped, encouraged and inspired by reading it.'

Sir Cyril continued, 'This is the story

of two people who have stood for principles—not because they were convenient or popular—but because they were right. There are too few people today who are prepared to do this without counting the cost to themselves. And anyone in the public view who has tried to stand for principles understands the difficulties. It is a very moving story of two whose integrity is undoubted. I wish we had more people who would stand for the things they know to be right.'

Students see behind the scenes at Westminster Theatre

'HOUSE lights out. Stage lights on!'

This brisk command of actor-producer-teacher Len Maley opens the two-hour introduction to stage production in the London Theatre. Last week over 800 fifth and sixth formers and university and college students have been taken through this course behind the scenes in the Westminster Theatre.

It has introduced them to the world of theatre and costume design, stage management, lighting and sound effects, and the whole delicate interplay of director, designer and actor, which make the London Theatre still the most exciting and fascinating in the world.

International appeal

Since this course, 'A Day of London Theatre', was started two years ago, 12,000 students have attended from 350 schools and a score of colleges. Last week 35 came from the speech and drama department of an American University. The professor in charge said, 'It has been the most worthwhile part of our visit to Britain.'

A party of 183 school leavers from every part of France came during their four-week stay in Britain to learn the language and get to know more about the country. One of their teachers, a Vietnamese, commented, 'How refreshing to come to a theatre with such a positive and interesting approach.'

'A Day of London Theatre' has become an educational activity for secondary schools of all kinds. Each Wednesday in June and July, 200 to 350 students have taken part.

Many schools now make it a feature of their curriculum, sending a party once or twice a year.

For further details about this course please contact: *The Educational Programme Director, Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, London SW1. 01-834 3608.*