

MRA INFORMATION SERVICE



YOUTH 'COMMANDOS' STRIKE IN U.S.

'BLANK CHEQUE TO BE SIGNED'

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A HOME FOR EVERY FAMILY IN THE WORLD

HOUSING is 'surely bound to be one of the election's most important issues,' says *The Economist*, London.

Mr. Harold Wilson, Labour Party leader, recently called housing Britain's 'greatest unsolved problem'.

'Industrialised' building methods—house sections made in factories and assembled on building sites—may help to solve it. But they are winning their way far too slowly in this country, experts say. It takes a rock drill to get new ideas into the craggy cranium of some British bulldogs.

To find a solution to the housing hold-up, architects, contractors, town planners, building trade unionists and engineers met together at Caux two weeks ago. They were from Britain, Eire, Northern Ireland, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland.

These professionals set their sights high. Their conference theme was 'A home for every family in the world at reasonable price'.

First they took a clear look at the size of the problem. During the weekend of the conference alone 300,000 children would have been born into the world, as a speaker pointed out.

By 2000 A.D. at present growth rates the world population—3,069 million in 1961—would be 6,267 million—more than double.

Three keys to deadlock

Mr. Harry Moncrieff, Town Planner and Consultant Architect to seven London boroughs, held out three keys to the housing deadlock.

'We are deeply concerned that the needs of families in Europe and across the world are not being met,' he said.

Prosperous Western Europe with its technical resources should provide a good home for every family—and could. Bad housing undermined the family life, health and happiness of millions.

To end it, three things had to be done:

1. Hammer home the facts on housing;
2. Work out the technical solution, adequate programme, new techniques, land and finance;
3. Create the will to get the job done.

'Many professional men like myself would like to stop short of the third thing. We want to solve technical problems without getting involved with the hearts and minds of men—the real battle to get the job done.'

'In Britain the facts are not known, even by the Government itself. For example, it has been working on the basis that we have still half a million slums to replace. But a recent survey by the Town and Country Planning Association published last month puts the figure at not half a million but one million. Even at top policy level we have errors of this magnitude.'

'We scale down what we ought to do to what we think we can comfortably manage. We act as though we were short of resources. What we are short of is imagination and courage and the care for other people's needs that will keep us fighting on when our own needs have been met.'

Reduced land prices

Mr. Gottfried Anliker, building contractor from Lucerne, showed that imagination, courage and care are practical. 'In the last twenty-five years,' he said, 'land prices in our cities in Switzerland have increased 2,000 per cent. To answer this our firm sold land for 450 dwellings at 25 per cent less than we could have got. We sacrificed our profits to change this situation; but there is no point in building low rental houses if speculative owners let them at high rents. So we formed a Housing Investment Trust to safeguard our houses from speculation.'

Mr. Anliker read a letter from the secretary of a workers' Building Society in a Swiss city. This man was the founder of the Communist Party there. He and his Building Society executive had asked Anliker to build houses for them. He said in his letter, 'It is a fact that the houses you build are £8 per month cheaper than those normally built by the Society. We must thank MRA and its practical ideas for this. It is a miracle that after twenty-eight years in the Communist Party I have been convinced by your practical application.'

Visiting the Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne,

Continued over

delegates saw a model of the new town of 10,000 inhabitants near Lucerne which Mr. Anliker has planned with the local authority and for which his firm have provided some of the land.

'With the lack of skilled labour to solve the housing problem we must find new ways,' said Mr. Einar Larsen of Copenhagen, representing one of the widely used Danish systems of industrialised building. In response to a request from their government, his firm had produced a system of factory-made houses employing one third of the manpower required for traditional methods.

Mr. Duncan Leggat, managing director of a large Scottish building firm, said, 'In Britain we have to export to live. Therefore, we cannot afford more manpower on building. Three years ago I came to Caux for the first time. I started to think differently and saw my men differently. We have increased our output per man hour by 25 per cent. The men's earnings, on average, have increased 33½ per cent.'

Mr. Les Dennison, chairman of the Federation of Building Trades Operatives in Coventry, followed. He said, 'Honesty and trust are the forgotten factors, and the most important factors on the job. On a recent contract worth £250,000 we achieved a production increase of 30 per cent.'

'Our site has been chosen as a demonstration of the Critical Path method of planning. Management and men got together and after ten weeks the job is well ahead. Bonus earnings have shown a large increase. Joint consultation is practical—trust and honesty are the keys to getting things done.'

Delegates decided to take action in their respective countries to carry out the aims of the conference. Future plans include a further international housing conference in London in October.

Mr. Moncrieff summed up: 'Two voices speak to every man. One is very selfish, very small. The other urges him to meet the needs of his fellow men. It seeks to lift him out of what he thinks he can manage to what needs to be done. It is actually the voice of God. We have to choose. The decision to meet every need releases the ideas and the power to do what needs to be done.'

'Every step in the progress of humanity has been made by a man who went beyond the known possible. And always it has been done with six men trying to drag him back—three who were sure he was wrong, and three who were afraid he might be right!'

'The demonstrations in housing are there. People can go and talk to these men and see for themselves.'

'Now the job is to multiply the demonstrations.'

Youth 'Commandos' strike in America

ANYONE looking for channels in which the energies of youth can flow, generating new currents of light and power for the world, needed to look no further than the stage of the Westminster Theatre last Sunday morning.

Pouring on to it in multi-coloured costumes of Wales, Scotland, Ireland and nine European countries came a torrent of youth.

Teenagers, students and young workers—93 of them—had flown the Atlantic that night from a conference of 2,500 American youth at Mackinac, followed by action in 'commando' style units in seven regions of the U.S. and across Canada.

They made use of two musicals, four plays and ten films produced during the conference plus a national weekly paper they have started.

Plays and films showed from experience how to end family breakdown, race conflict and give purposeless generations an idea to which they can give their lives.

They reported what some leaders of America told them. 'You are a living demonstration of what America is seeking,' said Academy Award winner Sidney Poitier. 'What do you want me to say to the Russian Minister of Agriculture who is visiting me?' asked a Canadian provincial Minister of Agriculture. 'I hope you don't regard me as too old to join you in what you are doing,' said Mayor Wagner of New York City.

During their tour of America and Canada the youth appeared widely on television, had interviews with the

Canadian Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, and broke 300 years' precedent by being invited to stay in American Indian homes. They brought with them from the Indians of New Mexico the message: 'Please tell Europe we are not a lot of painted savages as Hollywood portrays but a proud people with a great past and an even greater future.'

One group went into the poverty-crushed Appalachian region of West Virginia and Kentucky.

Every day they were front page news. A bitter and suspicious population thawed out and streamed to open air film shows.

One was given in a car park at night. The policeman in charge of keeping order got fed up with a street light that was casting a shadow on the screen. He took out his pistol and shot out the light.

Another offending light drove a minister literally 'up the pole'. He climbed it and covered the lamp with his coat.

The young men and women, who are now going to all parts of Britain as well as to France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Scandinavia and Switzerland, outlined plans to reach their countries, culminating in assemblies at Christmas and next summer. 'We are determined,' said Rolls Royce apprentice Rob Pattison, 'to end class war and forge the links between management and labour, between country and country, that will enable us to speak with a united voice to Russia and China.'

A BLANK CHEQUE—WAITING TO BE SIGNED

by SUSAN VIBERT

Miss Vibert, who is twenty, comes from Jersey where her father is a Senator. This article won first prize in an essay contest at the Conference for Tomorrow's America.

WHAT epitaph will our sons and daughters engrave on the shrine of this, the twentieth century; a century swayed and guided, rocked and steadied to the tunes of queens and flappers, dictators and poets, generals and peace-mongers, discovery and devastation, inventions and wars and ideas and ideas and again ideas?

The final third of the century remains a blank cheque, waiting to be signed in blood and sweat, yet worth a dime or a dollar, a buck or a billion, depending on the hand that grips the pen. Many grapple for that pen; hands black, red, white and yellow, hands lined with hate, scarred with violence, soft and flabby from indulgent living or gnarled and tensed with fear.

The laws of history and nature rule that the last third of the twentieth century will be one of warring ideas, a struggle for survival, and of power, machines and scientific wonders such as never before controlled by man. It will take a clean, sure and bold hand to grip the pen that signs that cheque and a new type of man to guide it.

'Phoney pleasures'

The old type of man with his square-eyed, 'normal service will be resumed as soon as possible' stare, self-absorption, petty aims and phoney pleasures will be as out of date as a bow and arrow at the Battle of Waterloo.

In the world of today, ideologies of hate and violence vie for power. China, a nation gripped by such an ideology, will soon increase in numbers till her people make up one third of the world's population. Captive machines are apt to turn on, and enslave, their masters. Millions go to bed starving every night while wheat rots in the barns of the rich.

To be saved from anarchy or destruction the next 30 years will demand a man who will stand up for what he believes to be right in the face of threat or temptation. Desperately needed is a man who has the answer to hate and prejudice in his life and who burns in his heart to give this answer to other men and nations.

Each man like Atlas

To cure the urgent problems of poverty, corruption, injustice and war, the whole of mankind will need to concentrate its energies not on pursuing selfish lusts and desires but on answering these problems, with the added humility and courage to hear and obey divine solutions. Although each man, like Atlas, will be forced to take responsibility for the world on his shoulders, he will also need the help of new specialists with new motives and new ideas.

Much of the responsibility for the future of this century will fall upon the scientist. He will have to learn to exploit

the growing sources of nuclear power and the sharpening brains of computers for the benefit of all mankind; to feed, clothe, house and give work to a rapidly increasing world population. The medical doctor must be equipped not only with the cure for, but also the prevention against, the mentally disturbed patients that will fill over half of his wards.

Scientists will introduce the world to the wonder of the age of automation, to the remote-controlled assembly line, to the nine-hour week and the press-button kitchen.

Use of leisure

It will be the task of educators to teach men how to use all this leisure, to free them from the frustration of wasted empty hours. With the leaders of tomorrow in their hands they should become a powerful voice in their nations, educating men, in the words of one far-sighted student, in 'how to live as well as make a living,' and how to answer the problems of their age. They will need to produce young citizens with a clear understanding of right and wrong and the freedom of heart and purpose of mind to choose the right. Their students must be neither too proud to learn nor too lazy to question.

One man, a farmer, already thinking as men should in the final third of this century, believes that it is his job to grow what his world and nation is in need of and not what is most expedient for him. Farming at the heart of California's orange country, he recently uprooted his orchards and planted carrots in their place, for carrots, he discovered, were what the U.S.A. was in short supply of. The result was a profit for himself and his country.

Artists' aim

Artists through the centuries have been either a curse or a renaissance to their age. The paintings, music, plays, films, TV, sculpture, books and dancing of the 1970's and onwards must inspire individuals and nations to the greatest heights that God means them to reach, and must entertain with a wit and joy that knows no bounds between races, classes, colours, creeds, sexes and ages.

Aldous Huxley bred leaders for his 'Brave New World' from test tube A. In the brave new world of the next 30 years, world leaders will have to be men who, in the words of Frank Buchman, 'think of the next generation, not the next election.' They will need to understand the motives of their advisers and let nothing influence their judgment but what is right.

An Asian statesman's failure to read the character of one of his colleagues cost him both his nation's freedom and his own position. Future statesmen will be leading increasingly intelligent and educated people who

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Kenya's call

SEVENTY students from twenty-five leading secondary schools of Kenya and Uganda have issued a 'Call to our Nations' which was reported in the *East African Standard*. The students, including nine school captains, sports champions and Duke of Edinburgh Award winners, were taking part in a Conference on Preparation for Leadership of Tomorrow's Africa at Narosurra, Kenya.

'We greatly appreciate and are proud of the strides our new governments have made since independence towards solving some of our urgent social and economic problems,' they stated. 'However, we believe some seeds which have caused the downfall of other nations are taking root here.

'Our aim is to uproot these evil seeds in ourselves. We call upon our people and our leaders to do the same. We have seen corruption, bribery, drink and prostitution spoiling our young nations.

'We therefore demand that our political leaders, civil servants and teachers set and live high standards of personal self-discipline as an example to the youth. The strength of our nation lies in the character of our people.

'We, the youth, are on the march. With the help of government and people we will not surrender in our struggle to eliminate selfishness, hatred, tribalism, corruption and racial discrimination.'

'Beyond apartheid or violence'

BLACK and white South Africans spoke last week in Lagos City College, Nigeria's pioneer nationalist institution, before 2,600 cheering students.

'In the age we live in, both the policy of apartheid and the policy of violence are out of date,' Andrew Peppetta, African nationalist teacher from Cape Province, told the students. 'They don't tackle the root problem which can only be answered by change in the character and motives of men.'

Speaking after him, Nico Ferreira, formerly head of the white nationalist youth league of Pretoria Univer-

sity said, 'My country has divided the world on the basis of colour. Our generation must unite the world on the basis of character.'

'Africans are not meant to be bought or exploited by either East or West. Africa is meant to show East and West how to live. This is the task we must take on together.'

When Isaac Amata of Nigeria asked the audience, 'Who will do this for Africa?'—as one man they roared, 'We will!' This meeting was typical of the response in colleges and youth organizations throughout Lagos following a Conference for Tomorrow's Nigeria.

'Freedom' in Copperbelt

BENEATH a starry spring sky, hundreds of police officers and their families crowded round an open-air screen in Luanshya, Northern Rhodesia, to see the all-African film *Freedom*.

From the first drumbeat the audience lived into the story of the film, following its politicians' moves with vociferous enthusiasm and its subversive agent with marked comprehension of his strategy. Afterwards,

in the light of the District Commander's car spotlight, they crowded round to buy books.

This was the seventh showing of *Freedom* for the police on the Copperbelt to which some two thousand policemen and their families have come. A further eight showings were taking place as violence again threatened with the Lumpa Sect, and the country approached its independence next month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Westminster—The thousandth performance of the series of plays which began in the Westminster Theatre three years ago, took place there on 9 September.

Vico Equense, Italy—Young men from all parts of the country gathered in this town near Mount Vesuvius at a Conference for Tomorrow's Italy.

Narosurra, Kenya—Students at the conference here wrote and produced a play *What is the Answer?* which they intend to show in their schools.

London—Blandford Press publish on 15 September *The Open Secret of MRA*, 'An examination of Mr. Driberg's "critical examination" of Moral Re-Armament,' by the Rev. J. P. Thornton-Duesbery, Master of St. Peter's College, Oxford. Copies can be ordered from booksellers or from 4 Hays Mews, W.1. Paperback 6s. plus postage 9d.

A Blank Cheque—Continued

will respond not to dictatorship but to a leadership that inspires and satisfies every heart with purpose. A true leader will feel responsible for every aspect of life, material, spiritual and moral, of his people. Prime Minister Jomo Kenyatta won the hearts of Kenyans by challenging them to hard work and honesty.

Behind every great man is a woman, and the civilization of the last third of the twentieth century must be built on the unselfish love and purity of a new type of woman who is neither strait-laced nor a strumpet, but who with Muriel Smith, the very great Negro actress and opera star, can sing, 'The world walked into my heart. . . There's always room for one more.'

The blank cheque of the last third of the twentieth century, filled out and signed by such men and women, will be worth freedom, peace and justice to their descendants and will earn them the epitaph: 'Their lives matched the hour.'