

HIDE OUT

We asked Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Trustees of the Westminster Theatre, to give his views of Alan Thornhill's new play which opens at the Westminster Theatre on 7 March

HIDE OUT is an important play.

The idea for it has been germinating in Alan Thornhill's mind for some time past. A few months ago the compelling thought came to him that the moment to speak through this play had come. He has been working on it steadily, revising and strengthening it even after the start of rehearsals. He put the final touches to Act III with a temperature of 103° from 'flu. It has undoubtedly raised the temperature of the Act as well, and made it even more penetrating than before.

The play deals, through an exciting story, with one of the supreme issues of today's world.

We are faced increasingly with the tension between two totally opposed ideas on how to deal with the modern age. This goes deeper than the conflict between totalitarianism and democracy. It is a choice that runs through every nation of whatever creed or colour, through every industry, university, government.

Violence inevitable?

The issue is this: can the needs of society be met only through coercion and control, or can free men in a free society shape the future, and bring about the needed changes without violence?

In many parts of the world the axiomatic belief in freedom, held in the past, is dying. It can no longer be taken for granted. The will to coercion is growing, even in democratic govern-

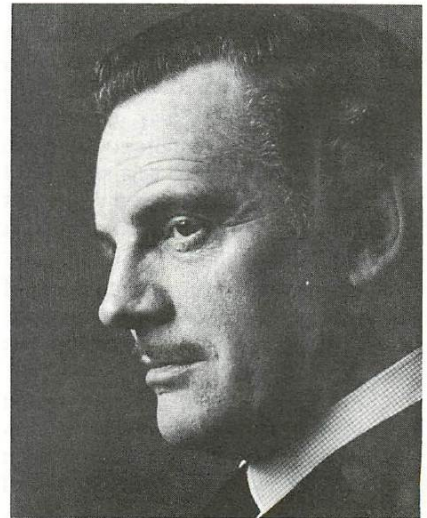
ments, as well as among the scientists, among those who do not know how to answer the demands of students, those who deal in the economies of nations, and those impatient to destroy the present structure.

Yet it is noticeable that the people who most easily and loudly decry freedom are usually the ones who have it. Those who no longer possess it yearn for it more than anything else in the world.

Two burning questions arise out of this central issue: first, why do some men want coercion? (Usually they imagine themselves among those who will be in charge of the coercing, though there are also those who would prefer to be coerced than live through uncertainty.) Secondly, why are the supporters of freedom often so ineffectual and unconvincing?

Today violence is a form of dictatorship. Many are too intolerant of the slowness of the democratic process. They would sooner destroy freedom to attain their ends than delay their ends and sustain freedom.

The trend is aggravated when free men who could bring needed change fail to do so. Entrenched injustice invites violence as the only way to shift it. Freedom is not a buttress of the *status quo*. Freedom is the means by which responsible men can change society. Unless they exercise their freedom to bring change where change is needed, they will be swept away, and the strong man or the strong party



Victor Lucas, who plays the leading role in 'Hide Out' *photo Alan Dudley*

IN THE CAST

THE TALENTED COMPANY assembled for *Hide Out* includes **Victor Lucas**, seen by millions as Sergeant Torrance in the BBC TV *Maigret* series, in the leading role of the Politician; **Richard Warner**, well-known to Westminster audiences, as the Chief; **Mary Jones**, who has played in the West End and on Broadway, as the Politician's wife; **Michael Knowles**, a young actor of considerable experience in stage and television, as their son; **Philip Friend**, who was for seven years under contract in Hollywood, as the Artist; **David Steuart**, who founded the Perth Theatre Company with Marjorie Dence, as the Bishop; and **Geoffrey Colville**, whom many will remember from *Mr Wilberforce, MP*. They are directed by **Henry Cass**.

will step in to control them 'for their own good'.

The alternative to the responsible exercise of freedom is inevitable tyranny. It is the rule of the gun and the concentration camp. Bernard Shaw used to say that assassination is the ultimate censorship. Liquidation is the last-resort of the police state. It is the

'In my element in a fight'

ROBERT TILGE was a founder of the North of France Employers' Federation, which he served as General Secretary during the last 36 years. The Federation includes 6,000 industrial concerns and 700,000 workers. Speaking last week at a reception in his honour at 45 Berkeley Square, London, Tilge said:

MY TASK has never been an easy one. There were major social and economic crises in 1936, 1937 and 1938, and mobilisation for the war in 1939.

At the end of the war came inflation, followed by disputes and riots. Although the situation was so dark, I felt quite at ease. I was in my element in a fight. I took to any conflict as a duck takes to water.

At that crucial time some men of MRA came to the North of France. They invited me to a world conference at Caux in Switzerland.

Those days marked a turning point in my life. I had always been convinced that I was right in my fight against the workers' unions. But I

realised that those conflicts were causing suffering in my country and real hate was developing between management and labour. I saw that I was just as responsible for the troubles as the union men were.

That was a challenge to me. Could I use my fighting spirit to bring unity instead of creating division? I decided I could, but the question was, how?

I organised a meeting in Le Touquet. One thousand, two hundred people were there for three days. They included the President of the French Federation of Employers, a Minister, members of Parliament, many industrialists and trade union leaders.

The first thing I had to do was

Continued from page 1

logical end of change by violence. It often springs from the failure of free men to live what freedom needs.

The only hope of sustaining freedom is to bring about the inner revolution in men which changes society where such change is due, and which gives to every individual the inner authority that comes from his sense of responsibility, his moral values, his belief in God.

These are issues which are faced and explored in *Hide Out*.

The plot

The play is set in a mountain chalet, the hide out in years gone by of a Resistance group in the Second World War. Twenty-five years later, these men and women are gathering for a reunion. One is now an eminent politician who has resigned in protest from the Government, but whose fires are damped down with comfort and compromise. He and his wife are the host and hostess of the evening. There is the young business couple who are making a good thing of life and climbing up the ladder of affluence. There is one of the country's leading artists. There is the Bishop. There is the night clerk at the Grand Hotel. There is the embittered son of the politician. And there is the Chief, the

man who led them in the past and has called them together now. Suddenly they find themselves caught up in a revolution, an attempt to take over their country.

Today, take-overs are in the air. Greece and Czechoslovakia have shown revolutionary take-overs by Right and Left in the past year. We have seen the same thing happening in other countries for varying causes. There are take-overs in universities and colleges, there are take-overs of minds and wills as well as countries.

The hide out is a place. It is also a state of mind. Perhaps everyone is hiding from reality somewhere. We all have our hide outs. They limit, and may destroy, our freedom.

Can men caught in this situation, faced with inescapable decisions, find a change so revolutionary and so swift that it may yet save humanity from the take-over of tyranny and usher in the society we long to see?

As the story unfolds through the bizarre night of revolution in the mountain hide out, some of the answers to these questions begin to take shape, and those who come may see pointers to the road which could lead this and every country in the right direction in the months and years to come, if we have the resolution to set out upon it.

to apologise for my animosity towards the union officers. And, I can tell you, I did not speak those words easily. It resulted in constructive talks between the two sides and personal contacts were made.

Later, an agreement, which still holds good, was concluded in the French Textile Industry, setting out the common aims of the workers and employers. The result of this has been a real improvement in relations between the workers and employers.

Today management is facing ever-growing responsibility. 80 per cent of the nation's resources depend on industry. We have an important part to play in our nations.

Economics are taking a growing part in politics. But as makers of the economy, we seem to be afraid of taking responsibility for building a national policy. We say that politicians should take care of politics and that we are too busy. But over-busyness has never been the hallmark of efficiency.

In fact we hate to cut across popular opinion. So we often go along with decisions we do not agree with simply because we do not have the courage to say 'no'.

The time has come for management to take the initiative and clearly to state its aims.

The problem is not who is responsible for the divisions of Europe. We have to decide together to make industry a uniting factor, first in Europe and then in the whole world. We need to secure the future of our children.

We can give the underdeveloped countries not only a higher standard of living, but we can work with them as partners. We could make industry the basis and the force behind a new, free and happy world.

Review cast invited to London churches

MEMBERS of the cast of *Anything to Declare?* were invited by the Chaplain, Commander Lloyd Letten, CMC USN, to speak and sing at the morning service in the United States Navy Chapel in London on Sunday.

The cast have also spoken at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, at the East London Tabernacle (Baptist) and St Andrew's Church, Bostall Heath (Anglican).

**THE MORAL RE-ARMAMENT
ASSEMBLY CENTRE
AT PANCHGANI**

Mrs Charlotte van Beuningen from Holland opens the second residence building of Asia Plateau

photos Leggat



Strengthening links between Africa and Asia

A CALL to the Indians attending the Moral Re-Armament conference at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, to follow through their theme 'Turning Enemies into Friends' came in a message from Ethiopia.

Ato Mesfin Hailu, personal representative of the Governor General of Eritrea, gave an invitation to a Moral Re-Armament conference in Asmara, Ethiopia, and urged Indians and other Asians trained in MRA to help his country. Quoting the Governor General, he said, 'Our divisions can be answered by MRA. Through this conference, I want to strengthen the relationship between Africa and Asia.'

A message from 60 Ethiopian students read: 'We know Panchgani means great hope not for India alone, but for all people of the third world. Our two continents have so much in

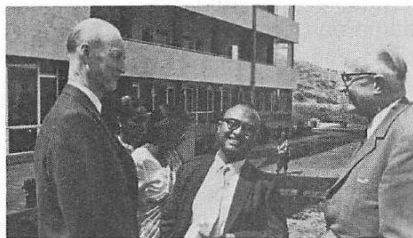
common, in past history, present problems and future hopes. What comes from Panchgani is urgently needed in Africa.'

Representatives of the Tamil and Sinhalese communities from Ceylon gave evidence of how the visit of Rajmohan Gandhi to the island with an international force last November had begun to bridge seemingly irreconcilable points of view. P C Heliyagoda, assistant secretary of the 300,000-strong Sri Lanka Trade Unions, which are affiliated to Mrs Bandaranaike's party in Ceylon, spoke of communal and religious issues in his country. He said, 'MRA can play a very important part in answering these. We need your films to eliminate hatred and bitterness. I look forward to taking them to the villages and ordinary people.'

'I thought it a privilege to hate peo-

ple', said Shrikanta, a leader of the Law Faculty students from Colombo University. 'I hated the Muslims and did not trust the Sinhalese. I believed in separation and thought that in a clannish world you just had to look after yourself. I have seen this is wrong. As a student I have seen that politicians alone cannot solve communal problems. We need to tackle it on a man to man level. I have decided to do this instead of fomenting strikes and ruining people and precious property.'

A former Member of Parliament from Sweden, James Dickson, who was also Chamberlain to the King of Sweden, said, 'I have come a long way but it has been worth it because of what I have seen here. We politicians need MRA. I wish every Swedish M P could come here too.'



James Dickson, former Member of Parliament from Sweden, and M Robert Carmichael, past President of the European Jute Industry (seen on right addressing the opening session of the Assembly), with Hoover Hynniewta, from Assam



In my view

Freedom and authority go hand in hand

by Joy Weeks

'DO YOU CONSIDER it a privilege for your pupils to have you as their teacher or a privilege for you to have the future of the country in your hands?', a friend asked me one day. At the time I was teaching in a secondary school in an industrial area and I was convinced that it was a tremendous privilege for my pupils to have me as their teacher! However this question brought me up short and made me think deeply.

My teenage classes had absolute freedom to do exactly as they liked. They became skilled at aiming pieces of inky blotting paper at my back. More often than not the noise in the room became so great that I had to resort to banging my desk with all the force at my command in order to shock, at least some of them, into silence.

I was at the end of my tether, but if this situation was to change, it was obvious that I would have to set the ball rolling. I needed to find the freedom from my own deep superiority and selfishness—so I apologised to my class. A stunned silence ensued and then questions followed. I told them that I had decided to take responsibility for our country and the world. They were the future and therefore I wanted to work with them to build the sort of world we all wanted to see.

Thereafter a new comradeship was established in which my lessons were better prepared and better learnt. We began to relate the way we ran our classroom affairs to the way we wanted to see national and international affairs run.

My authority was now no longer my superior education or social position but the authority and self-discipline

which stemmed from my decision to listen to God every morning before school.

I told this to a Harijan friend in India who had just started a school for the children in his colony. He told me that these children behaved perfectly when he was there, but that chaos reigned when he left the job to others. He saw this, not as a school problem, but as a national disease. It meant that dictatorship was becoming inevitable. However, he wanted to see a future where ordinary people were responsible and had their own self-discipline so that free democracy could continue.

Freedom and authority go hand in hand. Authority without freedom becomes a sterile dictatorship and freedom without authority results in slavery to the demands of one's own will. The world needs people who are free from self-concern and free to use their abilities to the full. These people will know how to engage the wills of others in the tremendous tasks that face humanity today.

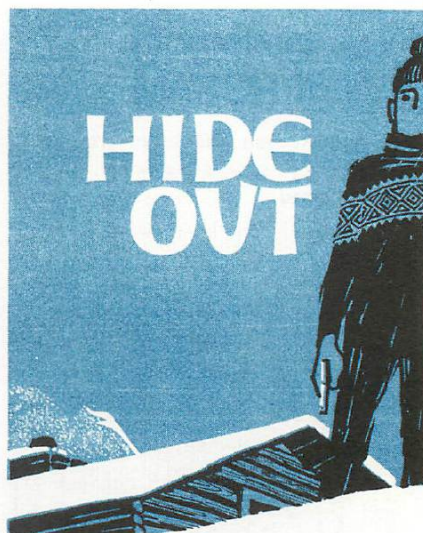
RICHARD HARMAN

Garth Lean, author of 'The New Morality' and other books, writes on Richard Harman, who died last week.

DURING his twenty-six years as Chairman of Blandford Press, Richard Harman built up first a series of successful trade journals and then, on that foundation, a Christian publishing house in the widest sense. Its imprint, which appeared on books as varied as Edward Wilson's Antarctic Diaries, and the standard work on Type Faces, the *Very First Bible Stories*, and many horticultural volumes, became known for distinctive design, constructive content and reasonable price. He leaves behind a gifted team, headed by his long-time colleague, Ernest Barnes, to continue his work.

The inspiration for Harman's wider publishing came with his sharpened Christian faith after meeting the Oxford Group, and his firm, in due course, published Peter Howard's plays, some of his books, as well as Dr Buchman's *Remaking the World*.

His achievement was the way he



Opens 7 March
AT THE WESTMINSTER THEATRE

applied Christian measuring-rods to all his business activities. Profit, which he knew to be essential, was not allowed to compromise principle. No concession was made to the sensational or the salacious—elements which many now think essential to successful publishing.

He was not intimidated by current intellectual or moral fashions, nor, on occasions, by the open threats of those opposed to the Christianity and lively patriotism in which he believed. Everything published built up rather than tore down.

Dick was a good friend to me, whether he was trying to improve my writing or my golf. Always kind and humorous, he had an independent mind and a wide vision, plus an urgent sense of the danger into which materialism was plunging our nation. He often told me that he considered the effect of Moral Re-Armament in post-war Britain was gravely underestimated by most publicists, and that at several crucial points it had played a major part in saving his loved country from disaster.