

## 'BANNER' HEADLINES

WHEN A NEWSPAPER INVITES 130 people to town as its guests for a week, the city hears about it.

The ninety-year-old *Nashville Banner* welcomed the cast of the musical, *Sing-Out '66*, to the cotton and tobacco growing capital of Tennessee with nine full pages of pictures and six colour pictures across seven to eight columns. Four of these were on the front page. During the week of the musical's visit, the paper carried 102 column-feet of pictures and stories. At the end of the week the publisher of the *Nashville Banner*, James G Stahlman, told the cast that the song 'What colour is God's skin?' 'really gets into you and it got into Nashville. I'm sure it's going to mean an awful lot for better relationships in this community which would not have been possible if you had not come here.'

When the cast thanked him for the lead given by the *Nashville Banner*, Stahlman said: 'No newspaperman deserves any credit for living up to his obligation as a public servant to tell the truth about men and events as he sees it, and as they ought to be portrayed for the enlightenment and direction of his readers.'

'What you have done for Nashville and Tennessee this week is but a drop in the bucket to what you can do for the rest of the country.'

In an editorial on 24 January the *Banner* said: 'They came. They saw. They conquered. The conquest was of Nashville's heart. The enlistment, in individual and community spirit, to Moral Re-Armament . . .

'Wherever they have gone they have awakened the conscience of people, young or older, who care . . .

'And Nashville reciprocated. It came. It saw. It concurred.'

Governor Clement of Tennessee said after the cast sang at an opening

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### Nashville Banner

Nashville's Oldest Newspaper  
Long May Our Land Be Bright With Freedom's Holy Light: Protect Us By Thy Might, Great God Our King  
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## Fayetteville Firm Gets Sewer Pact Tunnel Job Cost \$1.7 Million

# City Awaits Arrival Of 'Sing-Out'

## TWO QUARTERS

### MRA Cast Sings Out In Front Of State Capitol



#### Committee Overrides Rep. Patman But Can't Agree On Next Step

Washington (AP) — The House Banking Committee voted 18 to 14 today to override chairman Wright Patman's and push legislation, setting precedents on Justice Department action against bank mergers.

The committee, after two hours of testimony, weighed the measure Monday after Patman, who had urged the vote, a clear defeat for the House Banking Committee.

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### Scenes At Welcoming Banquet For 'Sing-Out' Cast



Persons at the speaker's table stand during the opening of Monday night's dinner given for members of "Sing-Out '66." They are A. C. Dunkleberger, editor of The Nashville Banner; Congressman Richard Fulton, Tennessee House of Representatives; Mrs. James G. Stahlman, J. Blanton Holt, national director of MRA; James G. Stahlman, president and publisher of The Banner; Claret Moss, vice president and managing editor of The Banner; Richard W. Walker, Olympic gold medalist; Fred Russell, vice president and sports editor of The Banner; Donald C. Burdick, MRA treasurer; and Dr. Herbert Galbraith, president of Belmont College.



James G. Stahlman, president and publisher of The Nashville Banner, greets cast members of "Sing-Out '66" as they arrive on the steps of the State Capitol.



James G. Stahlman, publisher of The Nashville Banner, and members of the cast of "Sing-Out '66" in Nashville, with J. Blanton Holt, director of Moral Re-Armament in the United States and Donald Burdick, treasurer of MRA, upon their arrival here.



Charlene Penness, a Peace Officer from Parma City, Ohio, and members of the cast of "Sing-Out '66" made an account of the group's arrival in The Banner, while her brother, Bill Penness, also a cast member, was the subject of an interest.



by James Baynard-Smith

El Imam El Hadi El Mahdi, spiritual leader of the Sudan (right) at an anniversary victory celebration. Left: the author on the right of the photo with the Marquis of Graham. Sudan photos by courtesy of the Ministry of Information, Sudan

## Report from the Nile

# SUDAN: BRIDGE OR BARRIER?



**THE SAHARA DIVIDES** the Arab north from the African south. The Nile could be the continent's link.

So scarce is the news of the Sudan in the European press that one might assume that all is well. This is hardly the case.

But there is growing light on the scene. Your correspondent recently returned from ten weeks there, and in Kenya and Ethiopia. I was the guest in the Sudan of the Imam El Hadi El Mahdi, spiritual leader and patron of the governing party—a man whose personal integrity and example sets a heartening pattern for the entire nation and inspires respect and devotion from young and old alike. The Imam is the grandson of the Mahdi, the founding father of the Sudanese nation.

Three issues face the Sudanese government: first, the intensifying war in the three southern provinces where the army has been striving to put down a bitter and widespread rebellion for several years.

Second, the restless frustration of some sections of the university youth and organised labour, following the banning of the Communist Party and

the unseating of their eleven members of Parliament.

And thirdly, the economic crisis underlining the need of a will to work in the nation.

Against this background of crisis Moral Re-Armament was invited to get to work. The Marquis of Graham and I arrived there in October.

The Sudan is a test case for the continent. Can her African and Arab citizens show the world how to live together? Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma, later joined the MRA force in the Sudan. He told the Cabinet and people their country could be a bridge in Africa instead of a barrier. Both the leading English and Arabic papers devoted entire editorials to his convictions, headlined 'Example for Africa'. After his television broadcast, the Minister of Information arranged for the film about the action taken by Gandhi in India, *A Nation is Marching*, to be televised.

In December, a Sudanese youth delegation representing north and south, Arab and African, was selected to attend the 'Aim for Africa' demonstration at Kenyatta College, Nairobi. Nine hundred and fifty from fourteen

African nations undertook a two-week course of training in leadership for their countries and continent. The Sudanese, on their return, were received with eager attention, as half their fares had been paid by the Government and half from individual sacrifice.

They had left for Kenya in a mood of cautious curiosity but returned with a united spirit and plan of action. They told their leaders that they had decided to think big, live straight and work together to bring unity in the Sudan. President El Azhari received them before and after their trip and said, 'I wish you every success as you form a firm base here in the Sudan.'

The Speaker of Parliament has called for them three times in the past two weeks. He ordered his office to print and distribute their report to their sponsors among the Supreme Council and Cabinet.

Television time has since been offered to the youth. The Minister of Education wants to introduce MRA into the school curriculum and is awaiting an MRA handbook, *Which Way Africa?*

The Minister of Communications



### 'Banner' continued

dinner, 'The inspiration and fervour that goes out from this place tonight is as important to the country and the cause of freedom as flashes from the gun emplacements in Vietnam.'

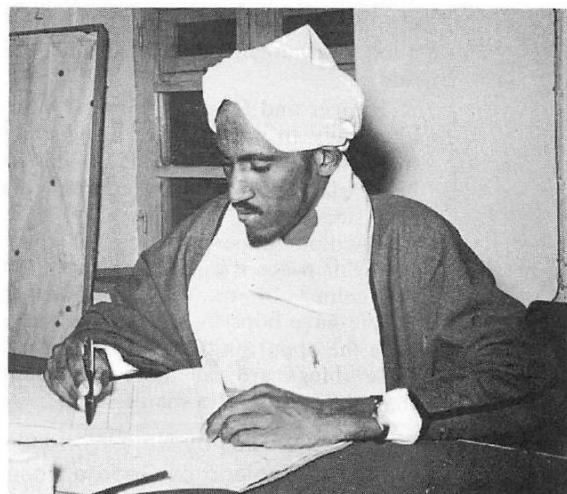
Congressman Fullman, who flew from Washington for the dinner, said he would publish an account of it in the *Congressional Record*. The whole editorial staff of the *Nashville Banner* were present.

Cheering audiences saw the show at Fisk University, one of the top Negro universities in the US, Vanderbilt and Tennessee State. World record-holder for long jump, Ralph Boston, and Olympic Gold Medallist Wyome Tiyas, who won the women's hundred metres at Tokyo, hosted a performance of *Sing-Out '66* at Tennessee State University. Dr Davis, President of this university which has produced some of America's best athletes, said, 'This is the greatest event in the history of the university.'

to a Ministerial Commission to visit the south and prepare the ground for elections there in April. This is a dangerous task. He is taking with him the MRA film *Freedom* to help create the moral climate and stability necessary for elections. This was done throughout Kenya before the elections following independence.

The leaders of the Sudan are beginning to see MRA not as a good idea in a few minds, but as an immediate national necessity for solving race division, economic crisis and for giving purpose to an aimless younger generation.

Ahmed El Mahdi, Minister of the Interior



suggested that the Sudan should host the next MRA assembly in Africa. The 3,000-seat National Theatre in Omdurman, he said, would be the best stage for the 120-voice musical pageant *Harambee Africa*, written and produced at the Kenya demonstration. A committee is now preparing for the coming of the musical in August and September.

### Bold attempt

The Minister of the Interior, Ahmed El Mahdi, was host in his home to Rajmohan Gandhi and arranged his programme and speaking engagements. As Minister responsible for Government policy in the south he decided recently to grant an unconditional amnesty to a group of rebels who had laid down their arms. This was a bold attempt to create the confidence among those still fighting that they could expect to be well and fairly treated if they surrendered. This experiment in trust may prove to be effective. On a wider level, the coming tour of *Harambee Africa* is seen by these leaders as a means towards creating the climate which must precede any durable political solution.

The only southerner in the Cabinet is Buth Diu. He told us how the direction of his life and leadership changed after visiting the Moral Re-Armament training conferences at Caux and Mackinac seven years ago. He had left the Sudan as a bitter, divisive politician, implacably set against the Arab Muslim north. He had returned as a man intent on changing the clashing attitudes of both the Arab north and African south. He wanted the Sudan to be a bridge instead of barrier in Africa.

Early every morning of our stay, he would await us in his garden to plan steps towards the uniting of the Sudan and other matters of national significance. One morning he confided that he was concerned about Question Hour in Parliament. His own department was expecting a grilling that day. After a moment of reflection he jotted down some ideas: 'Be clear and honest in your parliamentary answers, not as a pious drone but as a passionate commitment. And then put them into practice at once on returning to the office.' Perhaps an object lesson for every parliamentary front bench!

Buth Diu has just been appointed

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## *'I shall have to order your execution'*

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'GIVE UP GAMBLING OR I will have to order your execution.' This was the choice put before Cypriot freedom fighter Spyros Stephou by General Grivas, commander of the Cypriot guerilla forces before independence. The general was passionate in his concern for the discipline of his men.

Stephou continued gambling—and got away with it. He is now visiting London. He is a customs and excise officer in the port of Famagusta.

During the four years when Stephou fought for the EOKA he exploded two hundred bombs in the Famagusta area. He was in charge of a group of five freedom fighters, and his wife helped them to carry the bombs.



Greek Cypriot Spyros Stephou

Stephou maintained a passion for gambling until his visit to the European centre for Moral Re-Armament at Caux in 1960. There he decided to give up anything in his life which impeded him from taking up another fight for freedom, the revolution of MRA. Since then, working with his

wife and three brothers, he has been showing the films of MRA to a hundred villages and towns. It has been a carefully worked out plan continuing twice a week for three years.

Famagusta, which is an old walled city and the home of five thousand Turks, was again last autumn in an explosive state. Greek and Turkish communities trained guns on each other from behind stockades. Yet today the situation is normal and calm. According to Stephou the spirit of MRA is at work there too. General Thimmaya, the Indian soldier statesman who died there while commanding the UN forces in Cyprus, said that Famagusta was now an example to the whole island and that the situation should be multiplied many times.

Stephou is in England now to 'fight for something better for this country with as much zeal as I once fought against you.' He wants the 120,000 Cypriots in London to see the plays at the Westminster Theatre. He believes in spite of those sad years of violence when so many brave men, British and Cypriot, died, that this country can still play a part in the affairs of the island and export to Cyprus the ideas of Moral Re-Armament.

*Joanna Rodd*

## FAMINE AND FOREIGN POLICY

WITH GROWING SPEED, Australia is becoming Asia-oriented. Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia spur Australians to look beyond their continent.

The Rt Hon Paul Hasluck, Australia's Minister of External Affairs, this week appealed to Australasians to get involved in the affairs of Asia. He attacked the fomenters of racial division in the post-war world. 'The situation is a human not a racial one,' he said.

'Hunger and famine are much more important to the human being than the colour of his skin. If a human being starves, the dark-coloured person starves just as miserably as a white-coloured person. Whether there is war or peace is more important than the colour of one's skin. Whether people have hope in life, whether they have the opportunity to live in dignity, these things are far more important than the colour of a man's skin.'

Australia at this moment exports seven million tons of wheat to the world. Apart from Canada and the United States she is the only wheat exporting nation in the world. Both Russia and China and many non-Communist countries depend on the breadbaskets of North America and Australia.

Hasluck, who was addressing the MRA conference in Canberra, said that foreign affairs concerned people. 'It is not something divorced from ordinary life. I value the sort of thing you are doing at this conference. You are part of a movement that is aiming to make a difference to the way people look at things.' In countering Communism, mere anti-Communism was no good. 'We have to be pro something else,' he said. 'We must have faith in our own set of liberties and we have to show that they work in our own communities.'

The cast of the new Australasian musical *Sing-Out Canberra '66* sang to him, 'Freedom isn't free, you have to pay a price . . .' and other songs from the show.

Hasluck said, 'I have a growing feeling that if we could have this sort of thing every Monday morning for the whole Cabinet, the country might be better governed. It does something to have one's spirits lightened in this way.'

### *Berlin*

'MR BROWN Comes Down the Hill', the play by Peter Howard, was shown last week in West Berlin under the sponsorship of the Socialist President of the Berlin Parliament, Otto Bach.

The news of the play's tour through a hundred cities of Europe was broadcast to people on both sides of the Wall over Radio Free Berlin.