

TO ALL VOTERS



BRITAIN 2000

Westminster Theatre
29 September 3.30 pm

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

MEN AND WOMEN active in British local government, drawn from different parties, last week released a statement addressed to candidates and electors in the run-up to the forthcoming General Election.

They were members of a 40-strong delegation who have visited civic colleagues in Holland, France, Germany and Switzerland on their way to attend special session of the Moral Re-Armament World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland, on 'The responsibility of Europe in the World'.

George Richards, a Conservative councillor from Norwich, presented the statement, which reads:

As elected representatives from different parties in local government who are in close touch with the grass roots of our country, we call on our candidates and electors in the forthcoming election to:

1. Stand firmly for honesty and moral standards in public and private life.
2. Face the country's present problems fairly and squarely, and present the electorate with positive and practical solutions, rather than short-term electoral promises.
3. Formulate policies which aim to heal the growing rift between Left and Right, and end the class war.
4. Take measures which support the power and decisions of Parliament and of our democratic system.
5. Create a spirit which will help rise above the selfish inward-looking materialism, which is making Britain small and self-centred.
6. Work with the other European countries in creating a God-inspired unity which closes the gap between the rich and the poor countries and makes the needs of the world a priority.

Mr Richards ended, 'We want to try and lift the issues in the forthcoming General Election from what has been a very boring battle of personalities, with which people in Britain are fed up.'



HOUSEWIVES' DECLARATION

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| WE ARE GRATEFUL | that most of us in Britain have enough to eat and to keep us warm and to those whose work makes this possible. |
| WE WILL TACKLE | today's difficulties as a challenge and not depress others with our grumbling. |
| WE WILL CARE | about the standard of living and true happiness of families across the world. Have we the right to get richer every year when so many are hungry? |
| WE ACCEPT | that food will cost more everywhere. We are ready to spend less on luxuries. We will shop from need and not from greed or for hoarding and will re-think how much is enough for us. |
| WE WILL REFUSE | to let the hurts and bitterness or entrenched attitudes of the past shape our future. We will accept honestly our own share of the blame for our present troubles. |
| WE WILL MAKE | new friends, including people of different backgrounds and races. We will put right disagreements with old friends and neighbours starting from our side. |
| WE WILL THINK | for ourselves about what is right and be ready to stand firm and speak out for it. |
| WE WILL TAKE ON | the building of a different world for our children and grandchildren. We know this cannot begin without a change of basic human motives which needs the power of God. It will mean the moral re-armament of our country to free it from greed, hate and fear. We will start with change in ourselves and in our homes. |

'Housewives' Declaration' - article on page 2

Housewives' Declaration

Erica Evans (left) and Kristin Evans, both from Worcester, with the Declaration



'HOUSEWIVES EVERYWHERE have a direct effect on inflation because we are the main spenders,' writes Erica Evans, one of the initiators of a 'Housewives' Declaration' who has just returned from Caux.

'Looked at this past week from the other side of the Channel, the British housewife does not make a good showing. As one of their number, I felt increasingly ashamed of my self-centredness as I met women from Vietnam and India, Africa and the West Indies and other countries where their fears are far

greater than ours and so are their sufferings from the inflation in the West. It is clear that the selfishness of women is easy to use to split nations and to divide country from country, but housewives from more than 15 countries asked for copies of this Declaration.'

Mrs Evans reports that women from all over Britain have had a hand in producing the Declaration. 'It has grown out of our own decisions and convictions. We want to have a part in building a just society; we are sick of the constant appeals to our self-interest. We want to

invite everyone to help us carry it out.' She adds, 'There is no copyright!'

In some constituencies groups of women of all parties are sending it to every parliamentary candidate 'because on these things we are united and we want to unite the country'. Other groups are sending it to their councillors. Some have plans for their local newspapers and for women's organisations; for supermarkets and 'for hundreds of kitchen walls'.

Last week the last President of the EEC, Jean Rey, received a copy. 'This is fantastic,' he said. 'I want to consult my committee to see how this can be used with the women of Europe.' Then he added, 'We always say that things with you are not decided by Parliament, they are decided by the British housewife!'

'So that is his challenge to us,' says Mrs Evans.

Copies of the 'Housewives' Declaration' are available from Mrs K Evans, c/o 54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ. 2p each plus 3½p postage, 25 copies 37p plus 12½p postage, 50 copies 50p plus 25p postage, 100 copies £1.00 plus 25p postage.

'INEVITABLE?' exclaimed my friend. 'But of course it's inevitable! No one doubts it any more. It's in all the newspapers and on TV. We all know now that there must be a titanic struggle for power on a class war basis in Britain this winter. No one can foresee the details of how it will develop, but it will be one of the most bitter struggles of all time, and everybody will have to be involved in it. You should be fighting with us on our side of the class war, but you have sold out your birthright to a lot of capitalists. You are really a traitor to your class, and you should be ashamed!'

'Sold out my birthright to a lot of capitalists? And a traitor to my class?' I repeated the charges in horror and amazement to myself many times during the next hours. Did she really feel those were apt descriptions of me simply because I had decided to work with people of all classes who felt that class war need not be an inevitable fight to the death in Britain, but that there was a just and right alternative?

The accusations cut deep, for I had known my friend all my life, and she was very close to me. We had both experienced the extreme poverty that faced many people in the nineteen thirties. In common with numerous others of our background, we had grown up with a love/hate relationship towards Britain. We had loved the singing grass, wild flowers, and trees of its countryside. We had hated intensely its toleration of the real suffering, misery, and degradation that were endured by so many of our class. It seemed to us that we were British merely by an accident of birth, and that

Is intensified class war inevitable in Britain this winter?

by Betty Gray

it was not really our country at all, but operated solely in the interests of 'the other class'.

Many of us reacted by deciding that the day would come when we would make the country ours, and ours alone. Some, like myself, who decided to study and practise the ideas of Karl Marx as the only solution radical enough to bring about a totally new social system, fully accepted that Britain might have to be brought to its knees first, in order to achieve it.

A bigger dimension

My friend was unable to understand that I could have decided to shed my total commitment to class war in Britain, and not be 'a traitor to my class'. Yet, in fact, I am even more passionately concerned in bringing about a just society for everyone throughout the entire world, now that I am committed to what's right, and not who's right. I left the ideas of Marxism some years ago because I realised that they were too small for today. Only an idea that can meet every human need in every human heart across the earth is big enough for the age we

live in.

I began to realise that we needed an idea which could build reconciliation where there was hate, which could enable people and nations to trust of another's motives, and which could offer a challenging meaning and purpose to life for everyone. Moral Re-Armament's concepts that the world can only be changed fundamentally by changing people, and that God can show us what to do in any situation if we listen to Him and obey, are that idea.

Several times last winter, however, I found myself privately despairing that Britain could expect anything other than a fight to the finish in the class war. The very real lack of communication between the two halves of the nation was so apparent. And I, who had turned my back on class war, sometimes found myself reacting bitterly to the lack of understanding of people from other backgrounds towards those from my own! I began to doubt whether there was any real hope of uniting the different 'camps'.

One thing I have learned these last few years is that if you seek from God

● *The Annual Report and Accounts of the Oxford Group/Moral Re-Armament for 1973 has just been published and can be obtained from John Rainbow 12 Palace St London SW1E 5JF. It starts:*

In the year 1973 danger to civilisation reached new dimensions. In the West we enjoy the fruits of an affluent industrial society. Yet this society, which seemed so secure, has been shown to be more vulnerable than any previous one. And the threat to it has already affected the daily life of every citizen.

As a result ways of thought as well as habits of life have been challenged. It has become clear that real power lies in unexpected places. Confrontation, with the aim of causing capitulation, has not worked, but has made powerful minorities more aware of their power. Men are painfully realising that some fresh approach, some new dimension of thought, is a condition of actual survival.

The Oxford Group, in its programme of Moral Re-Armament, has from the first steadfastly held that the answer lies in God-controlled personalities, whose first allegiance is to God, not to party, class or personal interest. It has set out to clean up men's lives, to liquidate hate

what to do about a situation, He has a very inconvenient way of emphasising that real change must start with yourself. This is how He spoke to me when I went to Him about my despair:

'You complain about the lack of understanding of people on the Right towards people on the Left. You demand that they should understand the past, and how you all suffered. But do you ever make any move to understand *them*, and what makes *them* tick? Then how can you possibly help them to change? There is at present a major lack of communication between the "two halves" of Britain. Decide to be a bridge of understanding. Then all things will be possible.'

Prisoners or pioneers

'You have tried to help Britain to become a united nation with divisions in your heart. Anything that I have asked you to do to help people of your own class to face that human nature must change, you have done gladly and willingly. You have seldom done it with the same care and compassion for people of other classes. Instead you have approached them with demand and insistence that they should change, deep in your heart. I want you to lay down your life for them to know Me as a real guiding, healing, freeing and renewing force in their lives, Who will use their love of country to help them change.'

'Face the destructiveness of bitterness. It is a killer. It destroys the person who holds it, and often other people who have no part in its cause. You and others of your background so justified hatred and bitterness that you condemned your

and the causes of hate, in the belief that these ancient evils have no place in the modern world.

Just dig that!

IT IS always encouraging when readers, renewing their subscriptions, write to us about what they value in *New World News*. Among the letters reaching us this week was one from a lady in Athens whose family has been closely involved in the latest developments in Cyprus. She writes, '*New World News* always restores my faith in this world when things look blackest.'

A subscriber in Montreal writes, '*New World News* is inspiring and hope-building in these times when there is little hopeful news in the daily papers.'

Regular readers will be aware of our appeal for help so that we can maintain the present price of *New World News* despite the rising costs of printing, paper and postage. I wonder if any reader found a more unusual way of supporting us than the one who wrote in, 'I made £8 plus in the evenings hoeing turnips at 11p per 100 yards and am pleased to enclose a contribution to the expenses of *New World News*.' **The Editors**

own children, through things they were not even part of, to live in a divided country, bent on its own self-destruction. That is selling out your own native land, and you need to feel a much deeper sense of repentance about it than you have ever done.

'Your people are at the crossroads. Could you decide together that you are not going to be prisoners of the past, but free pioneers of the sort of future that begins when men acknowledge that their wisdom is not enough, and they need to seek Mine? You could, as a people, be revolutionary enough to break the chains of history and begin a totally new course for your nation. You could decide to let accumulated bitterness go, and try to understand and care for one another, so that class war is not inevitable, and class unity for what is right for you all becomes a real alternative. Then Britain will be free to look beyond its own shores with new eyes, and live to care more realistically for other nations.'

I feel confident that my friend, if she really weighs the truths of these things, will come to understand and respond to them. She could find, as I have, that in accepting them fully, every vestige of class division in her heart would go. She could then be free to learn, with a growing army of fighters, something of God's love for Britain and its people of all classes, all colours, all beliefs. The prospect of a country destroyed by hate, bitterness and revenge could recede into the past, and be replaced by that of a United Kingdom, militant for what's right, both here at home, and throughout the world.

Give it a go

COLUMNIST Harry M Miller referred recently in Australia's national daily *The Australian* to a statement by British trade unionists (*New World News* Vol 22 No 11). He wrote:

The other day I heard a radio commentator interviewing a trade union official who was trying to express an uncharacteristic attitude of moderation and conciliation. He thought it was time for everyone to come to their senses and start practising a bit of self-denial for the common good.

I will allow that the commentator probably felt that he had to play the role of the devil's advocate, but the bluntness of his response stunned me: he said it sounded to him like no more than an emotional appeal.

Of course it was an emotional appeal! Are we so far gone that our emotions are restricted to the pursuit of the common bad?

Here is another emotional appeal, and I think it is as valid in the present circumstances as any sterile prognostication handed down by the carefully insulated analysts. It is a statement issued earlier this year by a group of British trade unionists in an endeavour to put Britain on a new road, but it applies equally to Australia.

In part it says: 'Most people have a deep-seated desire to move forward from confrontation to conciliation. To do this we must restore trust. In an atmosphere of trust, problems are solved because they're tackled on a basis of "what is right," not "who is right".'

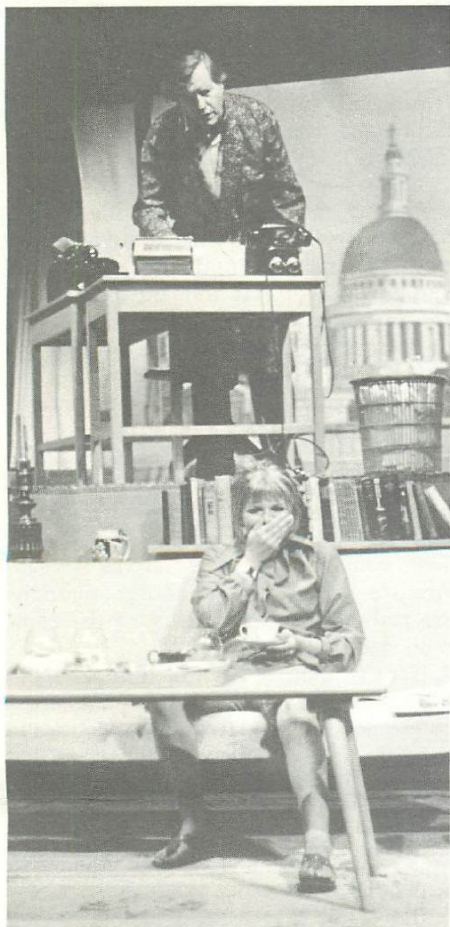
'We are fed up with men on all sides who are trying to offer solutions while adopting inflexible attitudes or being motivated by deep-seated bitterness. We are convinced that bitterness in anyone will never get to the heart of the need.'

'Many people in the present crisis have manoeuvred themselves, and others, into situations where nobody wants to lose face. Possibly, if they stopped scoring points off each other and started to think of how they could help one another extricate us all, they might all get off the hook. And the nation would be drawn back from the brink.'

There is not much evidence that Britain has yet begun to apply itself constructively to that appeal, but there's no reason why Australia shouldn't give it a go.

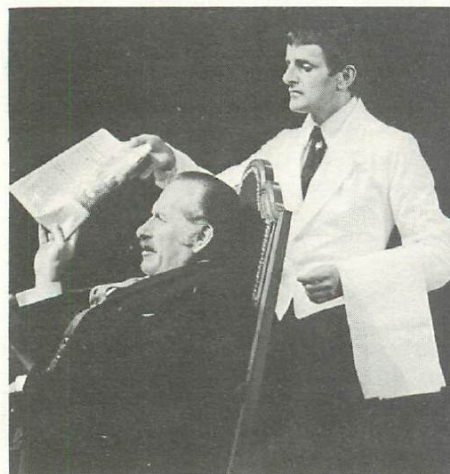
For the benefit of all those unemotional experts pontificating about our problems from on high, it just happens to sum up what a great many Australians feel.

CAUX at a glance



A scene (above) from 'The Fire' (Das Feuer) a new play by Hugh Steadman Williams staged at Caux by a German cast including Kurt Müller-Graf (as Max Ralston, a writer) and Petra Fahrnländer (as his actress wife).

A scene (below) from 'The Devil To Pay', Alan Thornhill's new play staged at Caux. Mark Christon (right) as Lucifer hands 'The Times' to Philip Newman whose role as Archie the Arch represents Lethargy.



Preparation for Government

From a speech at Caux by Anton Skulberg MP, former Norwegian Minister of Education

TWO YEARS AGO I came to Caux together with my wife, one of our sons and our daughter. The main reason why we came was that I was terribly worried about our son who accompanied us. He is our second son. He has a brilliant brother four years older than him and a very ambitious father. This is a very difficult situation in itself.

I was very concerned about this son being successful. I was worried that he did not do too well at school and I started to give him advice. Of course, in order to be successful he had to apply my methods and he should work just as much as I had done. It started with encouragement, developed into nagging, then became pushing. And when I was frightened enough, I started to control him. Of course, he tried to avoid this and in order to do so he started to lie. He was easily found out and this caused mistrust between us. This mistrust deve-

loped into a real fear on my part and when you are frightened you do not use your head, and you do not use your heart, you just act without control.

Then one morning lying in bed I realised that I was the one responsible for all these troubles and that I had to apologise to him for nagging, pushing and controlling him. This was a hard job. You do not feel sure that young people will listen to you. So I decided to write him a letter. This was difficult as well. I felt that God had to give me every single word. So I finally thought, 'Well, I must write it in French' because my knowledge of French is so limited that God literally would have to give me every single word!

As soon as I realised that my fear was the reason for the trouble we got reconciled. All went well. When I stopped nagging, pushing and controlling him, my son took responsibility of course, and he started to do much better at school because he now knew that he was the responsible one. If you want responsible people, you have got to give them responsibility.

I think that I have been doing better as a politician due to what God showed me here in Caux. This was a very important preparation for me in order to take on responsibility as the Minister of Education in my country, two or three months later. As a matter of fact, I would not have been able to do so if God had not relieved me of my fear and created thereby the new situation in my family.

'Mr Europe' speaks to British

JEAN REY, President of the European Movement and former President of the Commission of the EEC, underlined the need to build a 'community' of peoples rather than a common 'market'.

He was addressing 520 delegates from 32 countries at the close of the special session on 'The responsibility of Europe in the World'.

'We have too long referred to the institutions in Brussels as a common "market",' he said, 'it is high time we stressed the fact that we are trying above all to make it a "community" of the peoples of Europe.'

Addressing especially the British present, he continued, 'No doubt we failed to present a sufficiently convincing picture of the community. We stressed too much the common agricultural policy, which does not much interest the

British and failed to put enough emphasis on the policy for regional development which was one of your main preoccupations. We must bring to the fore the ideas expressed for the first time in such a masterly fashion by Winston Churchill, in his speech Zurich in 1946.'

He concluded, 'The community is not a shop you walk out of if you don't like the prices. At the start, it sought to demonstrate the reconciliation between the peoples of Europe that is now an accomplished fact. Today her new and her historic task is to encourage the full participation of the people of our continent in the peace and development of the whole world.'

●ARENA, the bulletin of the Association for Religious Education, devotes half a page to *Creating the New Society*, the study course on *The Black and White Book*. The course can be hired for £1 for four weeks or bought for £12.50 (plus £1.25 VAT).