

**WILL  
YOU  
TACKLE  
WHAT NEEDS  
TO BE  
DONE ?**

**BY J. BLANTON BELK, JR.**

OPENING ADDRESS,  
"ACTION NOW" DEMONSTRATION  
ESTES PARK, COLORADO, JUNE 5, 1966



J. BLANTON BELK Jr.  
U.S. Director of  
Moral Re-Armament

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**Y**ou have come from all over America. I salute you and your delegations for the way you have sacrificed and raised your money to come here to Estes Park.

I, like you, have the highest hopes for what is going to come from this "Action Now Demonstration" in the Rockies of Colorado. I think I have come the farthest to be here. Ten days ago I started out for Estes Park with my wife and Mr. Birdsall. Lenin used to say the shortest route to Washington was through Peking and Calcutta. I can tell you honestly, the shortest route to Estes Park is through Bonn, Bombay, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Hawaii.

You and I have hope for Estes Park, but I tell you seriously, the world's eyes and hopes are on young America and what you will explode from this Demonstration for a generation around the globe. In Asia, Europe, Africa and South America, they have glimpsed your Sing-Outs, and they know in nine short months what young Americans, through Moral Re-Armament, have inspired and set in motion in the youth of the world.

The Sing-Out story is already a legend in its time. We thank God for the military, economic, scientific, technological, monetary might of America. But in the midst of this young America has exploded, through a living demonstration, an idea from the heart of the land that can yet bind up the world's wounds and set nations free. In this secular age a dynamic new faith has burst forth

from young America and gone out to the world.

Here is a generation that will not be blackmailed by the secular, satanic, sensory view of some parts of our society who say that human nature cannot change, that man is the highest authority, that right and wrong are old-fashioned, that God is dead, that nothing new can happen that has not already happened.

But neither is this a generation that takes for granted anything because somebody says so. It is a scientific age and you are a scientific, experimenting generation. You will try, and decide for yourselves.

That is what Sing-Out is—a generation experimenting and exploding with an idea that has been valid for them and they believe for their generation. It is not an idea they are demonstrating in America and abroad to Americanize people or control people, but to revolutionize and release all people from their small aims and purposes that have divided and held humanity back.

“Up, Up With People” is their theme song.

**A** generation is ready to march with this idea. Peter Howard saw this clearly. In one of his last plays, “Through the Garden Wall,” it was the young people who, because the wall never existed in their minds, walked through it constantly. It is a generation with no barriers, no divisions of color, class, nationality, religion, background, who are bursting to build something new. For a better description, they are a true ‘internationale.’

Time is not on your side in this revolution. Only the speed, pace, guts, dynamism, militancy and all-outness that is latent in your generation, if mobilized to a white-hot pitch can alter the world picture in time.

You must not waste one more hour of your life on earth in feverish activity, or just activity. That is not the way, nor relevant, to the world scene. Protesting, hating, bitterness, phony patriots who say you have to criticize your country to be a patriot—will never carry the world forward.

The idea that captures your generation will capture the world.

All of us know that half the population of the world is under 25. Take Mexico. Half their population is under 18. Brazil the same. Japan; half the population under 20. Africa. In most of the new cabinets the average age is under 30. Half the population of Russia is under 26. And those under 12 years of age in China out-number our total population in America.

At a moment when many people say that communism and capitalism are growing more and more like each other, the youth in Russia are saying, "Give us something to believe in." Mao Tse-tung is saying, "What we lack is a revolutionary morality for our youth."

Nations in Africa as well as Asia are looking to see if we have something new to offer from America. I just heard from Rajmohan Gandhi that the intellectuals from all over India for the first time have turned away from Russia and are taking a fresh look at America.

There is an interlude at the moment when something new could emerge everywhere in the world.

Take Europe. Old alliances are crumbling, such as NATO. Old enemies like Germany have suddenly become our best friends and old allies like France we find ourselves divided from.

It is easy to wipe off General De Gaulle by saying that he is an obstructionist. It is childish to suppose that a man of De Gaulle's experience, wisdom and patriotism would not have some reason for what he is doing. He deeply believes that national traits and national pride are stronger than any ideologies that may come and go. He thinks his nationalism can win and woo the countries in the East such as Rumania and Poland, and unite with Russia. Right or wrong, De Gaulle loves his country dearly and believes in her destiny.

Former Chancellor Adenauer who, I suppose, knows De Gaulle as well as any man, said to me recently that General De Gaulle is not anti- this country though sometimes he has been handled the wrong way. What he is looking for is something

brand new coming out of America. So far he has not seen it, but if young Americans could demonstrate this idea of Moral Re-Armament to De Gaulle, it could be a new bridge between America and France.

The important thing is that we Americans do not close our hearts and minds to France but probe for a way to build this new bridge. Maybe it will come from the youth. The French are concerned about their youth. Last year they spent \$30 million in an effort to find an adequate program for them.

Then you have the Russian Foreign Minister, Gromyko, misusing his visit with the Pope to call for a summit conference in Europe without America. He proposes a return to the Rapacki Plan, which would mean the neutralization of Europe with Germany as a nuclear-free zone. It all adds up to a strong bid to have America withdraw her troops from Europe.

Unfortunately, we have certain men in America who echo the convictions of these men. But Dr. Adenauer also said to me, "Europe may become America's Achilles' heel unless you find a world commitment for the youth of America."

And today American youth are explosively seizing that world commitment and the youth of the world are responding. At a time when the war in South Vietnam is being used to divide the world from America, one hundred and fifty young Americans—Negro, white and Indian—in "Sing-Out '66" have been in both Asia and Europe giving such an image of a new America that everywhere people say, "If this is America, we are all for it."

**I**t is already happening in India where the youth have produced their demonstration called "India Arise!" which the popular newspaper *Indian Express* calls "the greatest Indian musical ever produced."

Japan's Sing-Out, "Let's Go, '66," has already visited Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea and the Japanese youth are capturing their generation in

Asia. Youth from Korea are now performing with them and creating their own Sing-Out. And when I was in Japan the other day the cast of "Let's Go, '66" gave the first of five shows in the military hospitals of Tokyo for American soldiers wounded in Vietnam. One of the veterans said, "This is the first time any Asians have come to thank us for our stand to preserve freedom in Vietnam."

In a three-week tour "Harambee Africa!" with its cast of 150 from nine African countries traveled nearly 2,000 miles through East Africa, performed 18 times in nine towns and cities and reached millions by TV, radio and the press.

In nine months, as part of Moral Re-Armament's action program in America, "Sing-Out '66" has been seen by 1.6 million people; played on 312 college and high school campuses; traveled 35,000 miles; and grown from one cast of 130 to 42 casts with 5,000 participating in America and at least one cast on every continent. They have been received by fifteen Governors. During one week former Presidents Eisenhower in Gettysburg and Truman in Missouri received this force.

At the Air Force Academy the play won a 41-minute standing ovation, at West Point it was 32 minutes, at Annapolis 40 minutes plus a 'hats-in-the-air' ovation. Twenty-five military bases have cheered, stomped and roared their approval of the convictions of these youth. One hundred, sixty-one Congressmen sponsored their showing in Constitution Hall in Washington before "Sing-Out '66" went to Germany.

In Europe, when have you ever had a government inviting young Americans, expenses included, to come and do something for their nation? This is what Chancellor Erhard has done with 150 young Americans to cover Germany from one end to the other with "Sing-Out '66."

The German press can tell you the story better than I:

"Here is another younger America prepared to pay an even higher price for freedom. Another impression is of the tremendous vitality of a great nation." —*Die Welt* (Washington correspondent)

"America has sent over the Atlantic a new voice answering the false picture of a weak, arrogant, protesting American youth. It calls with an enthusiastic eagerness for a new revolution of the heart."

—*Bild am Sonntag*

"Young America Thrills: The final bonds that separate Germany from America and the world were broken last night, even in the hearts of older Germans."

—*Duesseldorf Nachrichten*

"The Will for Freedom Packed in a Hit Show."

—*Bonner Rundschau*

"The 'Sing-Out' wave now is also capturing Germany . . . Many enthusiastic observers feel that 'Freedom Isn't Free' with its contagious rhythm and inner enthusiasm could well become the theme song of the Western world."

—*Welt am Sonntag*

"Chancellor Erhard's invitation to 'Sing-Out '66' to come to Germany is his positive alternative to the much-discussed exchange of speakers between East and West Germany."

—*Radio Hilversum, Holland*

"In a technically and musically perfect show, which everyone wants to join, they sing about the value of freedom and its price, they appeal for sacrifice, the readiness to get involved and call for a militant morality for the rights of humanity and for a better world."

—"Panorama" (German TV)

This is the evaluation of the leading newspapers and TV of Germany you have been listening to.

What has come bursting forth? Over 2,000 German youth are now participating in German Sing-Outs. These are not enthusiastic copies of an American show. The Americans would have none of that. They said, "You must not copy us. We created our demonstration to tackle America's problems. You must produce your own weapon to hit your nation's need." And last week they sweated night and day to help the Germans create it.

Already "Sing-Out Germany" has had its premiere performance featuring seven original songs written and produced in 48 hours. One student from Neuss, speaking with a panel of six students



at the end of the show said, "I was thrilled with the music of 'Sing-Out '66,' but since coming here I realized that there is more to it than the music. When I saw the discipline and quality of life in the Americans, I realized I would have to put my own life in order. Our aim is to take the spirit of 'Sing-Out' to all of Germany. If the youth of Germany get the spirit of 'Sing-Out' it will go to the whole country."

A German war veteran also spoke from the stage: "Nothing can stop young Germans like these. They demonstrate the complete answer to Germany's past. They will portray the new Germany whose aim is to build a world free of class war, race hatred, where all men can live in freedom."

Here is the assessment of the Ruhr's largest newspaper. It reads: "New German 'Sing-Out' Begins in Castrop-Rauxel. With 150 Americans, a force of 350 is created. These youth of 'Sing-Out' aim to live Moral Re-Armament. Not as a religion or a party, nor piously, but as a will and battle for freedom. If democracy has a right to existence and a place in this world, it must have a new spirit, be filled with a fresh inner fire and be carried with a clear aim. To achieve this must be the reason the German government has invited 'Sing-Out' to Germany." (*Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*.)

**W**hile in Germany the cast had the privilege of doing a number of shows for the American military. And may I say at this point how grateful we are to the American military for all their hospitality and the superprofessional way they looked after our force when on the Army bases in Germany. The response of the military was to give the decoration of the "Order of the Lion," the highest award of the 24th Infantry Division, to Moral Re-Armament "for demonstrating that young Americans can sing out with professionalism their response to the challenge of our times."

In presenting the award, the Division Commander, Major General Edwin Rowny said to his troops. "Just as you and I have a job, these young

Americans in 'Sing-Out '66' have got a job shoulder to shoulder with us, and they are doing it."

The last recipient of this award was Stanley Resor, Secretary of the U. S. Army.

Last week in Bonn, Germany, former Chancellor Adenauer received "Sing-Out '66." He counselled them: "Europe today needs America, but also America needs Europe . . . You are fighting for freedom.

"Humanity is facing very hard years, and you can only face what is ahead if you yourself are convinced of the value of the principles for which you stand. You stand for the principles of Moral Re-Armament and I wish with all my heart that in all nations, in private and public life, these principles will again be made regnant.

"I do want to say, stay faithful to these principles and wherever you go, as effectively as you can, make them a reality in every nation. That is the most important thing to do."

The German experience is already echoing across Europe. Chancellor Klaus of Austria has invited "Sing-Out '66" to Vienna and Eisenstadt, under the sponsorship of the Federal Council of Youth Organizations. Eisenstadt is the bridge city where youth from Hungary and Yugoslavia can come across to see the show.

On June 16th, "Sing-Out" goes to Madrid, Spain, on the official invitation of the Minister of Information and Tourism. He has opened to it the largest opera house in Madrid. The Spanish Government says candidly: "We are interested in the youth of Spain now making contact with the youth of the world. We want 'Sing-Out' here because we believe this demonstration represents the very best of the youth of America and the youth of the world and we want this to be their link." And, by the way, the first Spanish edition of PACE magazine comes off the press June 15th.

Mr. McNamara has wisely said the youth of the whole country should do some form of national service. But 'Sing-Out' has been demonstrating this national service all this past year in every sector of national life. And you have shown that youth

on their own will choose to serve, if the purpose and aim is big enough. Mr. McNamara also spoke of the need for new ways of building bridges to nations that have cut themselves off. This, too, must be done and you have demonstrated how it can be done in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The other night when I was in Bombay and meeting the youth in "India Arise!" the first thing they said at the end of the show was, "We have been waiting to meet you so we could ask you, 'How do you multiply?' " Because they have the passion to multiply themselves fast enough to be in time.

**M**oral Re-Armament was not given to the world to be a palliative; or to provide a modern catacomb for a few, while mankind goes on a jungle march of self-destruction. Moral Re-Armament is an idea that was given man to be in time: to salvage man from himself and enable him to undertake his creative mission here on earth.

There is urgency in Moral Re-Armament. The job must be done now, with the speed of revolution, with all the skills and facilities of science and technology. Many will have to turn from personal careers to national commitment. And many who would like to carry MRA as their good work will have to turn to carrying world revolution, and to mobilizing their nations as vehicles for such revolution.

There are those who through jealousy and pride would try to control through criticism and censure. Would that they would find the bigness to learn humbly and to help in this gigantic task. There are those arrogant for position, place and power who would use the sacrifice and creativeness of others, especially the youth, for their own ends.

There are those who say that God is dead, but I say they are dead. Dead in their own self-glorification, self-justification and self-appeasement. For those who would take on the task to tackle what needs to be done, God is very much alive, because we cannot do what needs to be done without the aid and wisdom of Almighty God.

I think our next great wave forward in the world is going to be in education, a radically new type of education. Gallup says of education: it is fifty years behind the times. It is no longer exciting. It is not creating history. It cultivates spectatorism and non-involvement. But the youth in "Sing-Out" have been learning history, while they have been used to make history. Seventy-three students have taken correspondence studies with the two travelling "Sing-Outs" this winter. Some of the youth in the high schools on the road with "Sing-Out" were not students to begin with. One of them told me: "I was an 'F' student. Now I am a 'B' student because a purpose has come into my life." He has found a new red-hot reason for learning.

**T**hen there is Mackinac College launching out. It is not going to be what you think of as a college. It is going to be the most exciting, creative, new kind of academic training America has ever seen. It will be dynamic and it will propel you into action now. There will be a different element in this college. Adenauer said of it, "Thank God someone is going to train young Americans in foreign affairs." Some of you in the college may have a semester or two in the college and then the next semester you may be in a language school in Europe preparing for your chosen career. Or you may be on the road with your professors in Latin America or Africa putting into action the knowledge of the lecture halls.

What will be tapped is the creative potential of this generation. High grades will not be the only test of entrance or continuance in this college, but also the ability to grapple with the facts of life and to lead men and to lead nations.

The college will generate a new breed of leaders: men who have the ability to inspire people to new motivations and train people to world aims. It will be like a War College for man's creative mission here on earth. It will combine theory and practice to produce men who have the guts and experience

to carry out what needs to be done in nations today.

Recently I had a letter from the publisher of a large newspaper chain who wrote: "Many thanks for sending me a copy of your PACE magazine. It is excellently done with a very modern touch, both as to subject matter and execution. The reason I can state this so authoritatively is because my 16-year-old son thought it was 'better than LIFE.' You are, of course, on the right track in appealing to the youth of today in their own language and on subjects which are of great interest to them . . . P.S. . . . Can you please send me another copy because my son took mine."

A corporate executive said to me the other day: "The two magazines bidding for the youth today are Playboy and PACE."

Will you advance PACE magazine to the point of a competitive national magazine, to become "your voice—a voice that is heard?"

Just before "Sing-Out '66" went to Europe, they performed for 1200 leaders of the banking and commercial world gathered in New York City at a dinner sponsored by the Board of Directors of Technicolor, Schick and Eversharp. Mr. Patrick J. Frawley, Chairman of the Board of Eversharp Corporation, said on that occasion:

"These young people have made a tremendous effort to show us what young America really is. All these young people have done their part. It is about time we did ours.

"I would like to give you my analysis of Moral Re-Armament after talking with all our directors. What is the idea of Moral Re-Armament? It can best be described as an expeditionary force from all faiths and races and engaged in a race with time to modernize the character and purpose of man. It is love of home, homeland and humanity. It is absolute moral standards as a compass in personal and national life. It is the firm conviction that enough God-loving men and women can be found who, by example and dedication, will provide leadership whose aim is to right what is wrong in the world. It is not a religion, nor a substitute for

religion, nor a sect. It is a non-profit, charitable work financed by people from all walks of life.”

Will industry pick up this challenge? Will they play their part?

Mackinac College will need eight million dollars to get it off the ground, and supply the needed scholarship funds for launching the first three years.

Moral Re-Armament needs five million for its current 1966-67 budget.

PACE magazine needs immediately a million dollars to capitalize its operation and expansion as it becomes a monthly.

We need an International Fund for Moral Re-Armament to facilitate the swiftest expansion in every continent abroad. Will industry give of their blocked funds abroad to expedite such an advance?

America has the money and the means to do now what needs to be done. And you youth may be the key to getting it. You may not have brought that much money with you to Estes Park, but I will tell you frankly that if you decide to sacrifice and pay the price without remuneration to secure freedom for your generation and those to follow, you can ask industry and government to help you—and keep on asking them until the job is done and they give you the finances.

You are offering to President Johnson, to Vice President Humphrey, to Dean Rusk, a committed, trained force of young Americans that can carry forward with realism, urgency and creative speed these great aims for America and the world. Here are young men and women prepared to see the job through. We are not going to pull back or pull out, at home or abroad.

Today I ask you: Will you be the rock for the nation on which all the tides of little men with little or no aims will break? Will you be that rock? Your generation could be the steel girder that would hold the world together.

You will have a million new ideas and fresh concepts as you pick up this task and commit yourselves to it.

Three men have meant a great deal to me as I have committed my life to this battle.

My father introduced me to Moral Re-Armament and taught me that faith must be militant, fighting and all-out or it is not a faith. I remember riding along with my father as a small boy and passing a long freight train with a beautiful red caboosie at the end. My father turned to me and said, "What would you like to be, the engine or the caboosie?" I answered immediately, "The caboosie." My father corrected me very sternly, saying, "As you go through life, son, you must never be a caboosie that is pulled, but an engine that pulls its weight and moves others forward." I have never forgotten that.

**Y**esterday, June 4th, Frank Buchman of Pennsylvania, the initiator of Moral Re-Armament, would have been 88 had he lived. He died in Freudenstadt, Germany, in 1961. I was in Freudenstadt in the Black Forest of Germany ten days ago with "Sing-Out '66." One hundred and fifty young Americans stood on Frank Buchman Weg while their spokesman, John Ruffin of Williamsburg, said, "We want to make it clear that we intend to carry Moral Re-Armament through to its final conclusion. We are going to explode Moral Re-Armament to the entire world where it belongs."

I had the great privilege of moving with Frank Buchman the last years of his life. He taught me to stop bluffing. Be just what I was, dead honest, and then let God use me every day for His purposes.

Peter Howard many of you knew. He was the best friend from overseas America ever had. He was the world leader of Moral Re-Armament until he died in Lima, Peru in February, 1965. He was, in the words of Cardinal Cushing, "a Cedar of Lebanon in the midst of a lot of underbrush."

Having engaged in this battle, Peter Howard taught me that no matter what comes, you must never, never, never retreat.

So I say to this most hopeful generation springing up in America: Take on this task. Take it on blade straight, all-out, honest, and become an engine that can pull the whole of humanity into a new age where every nation can find its true destiny.

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