

# ELECTION 1970

## What should the issues be?

H S Addison writes

THE COMING ELECTION brings with it one great danger and one supreme opportunity.

The danger is that by tacit consent of all the parties the real issues which the country should be facing will be ignored or skipped over lightly. The opportunity is that the ordinary men and women whose votes will decide the election, will compel the politicians to face these issues squarely. They are issues which transcend party politics and cut across party lines.

The election debate can be turned into an honest review of where Britain is going and where she should be going.

What is to be Britain's role in the world?

What kind of society are we going to create?

Are democracy and freedom to survive in this land?

Or are they to succumb to the sustained assaults upon the faith and morals which alone make both possible? Are they to be destroyed by ruthless and determined minorities whose aim is to impose their will at all costs upon a nation which for generations has fought and overthrown tyrants both at home and abroad.

I have recently spent nine months in India and Southeast Asia. Wherever I went I met nothing but goodwill towards this country and a genuine desire that she should find once more her rightful role in world affairs. But I met also a deep concern about where Britain is going. Three questions were constantly put to me. Why are you abdicating your global responsibilities? Why do you seem incapable of solving your economic and industrial problems? Why are you permitting a moral landslide in your country? (The last question referred of course to the permissive legislation which has gone through Parliament during the last six years.)

These questions will sooner or later have to be faced. The world looks to this country to demonstrate a society that works. Will it be the so-called 'civilised society' which is in fact the negation of everything that our Christian civilisation has stood for in the past, and which will land us, whether we like it or not, into anarchy and ultimately into dictatorship? Or will it be a truly Christian society, in which all men will find the freedom which is rooted in obedience to God, enjoy the equality of children of God, and accept the authority of God.

If these can be the themes of the election campaign then it may begin to lead us into a new era of greatness and fulfilment. If they are ignored, then it may not matter a great deal what its outcome will be.

### at a glance

#### NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

VETERAN SOCIALIST Sir Nicholas Garrow, for 14 years Chairman of Northumberland County Council, and leading conservative Sir Robin Chapman, Bart., issued an invitation to see the film *Happy Deathday* at the Curtis Auditorium in the University of Newcastle. At the showing Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Westminster Theatre Trustees, spoke on Moral Re-Armament as the most radical revolution of our time.

#### NEW ZEALAND

ALAN THORNHILL'S play *Bishop's Move* was read at a weekend conference in Auckland. Citizens of Hamilton, north of Auckland, requested a further reading.



#### NIGERIA

CHRISTOPHER ANOZIE, a teacher in a village near Owerri, formerly part of Biafra, writes, 'For three years I, my wife and only son have lived in hunger, fear and in bushes, sealed off from friends and comrades. I understand now the greatness of absolute faith in God and I am in debt to MRA for this precious gift.'

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In the Benue Plateau State, the Information Office has widely used the Hausa version of *Freedom, Yanci*. According to the officer in charge of arranging film showings, it is their best film and very popular.

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In Lagos *The Ladder* has been performed for the second time to an audience largely composed from the police force. The role of the Mother was played by a wellknown Nigerian TV star, Elsie Olusola

# FIVE YEARS OF THE WESTMINSTER THEATRE ARTS CENTRE

*Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Westminster Theatre Trustees, spoke at a weekend conference in the Theatre on Whit Sunday, on what had been accomplished in the past five years:*

FIVE YEARS AGO TODAY, in this theatre, we launched the plan to build the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, in memory of Peter Howard and at a cost of half a million pounds.

Eighteen months later the centre was built, and opened by Rajmohan Gandhi. Six months after that it was paid for, and all the money had been raised—an astonishing achievement by everyone concerned.

Since then more than half a million people from over 100 countries have been to see the plays.

We have mounted 15 productions, one of which ran for a year, while another, *India Arise*, came from Asia. We have made three major films from our plays, and one has been given a three month season at the theatre. During the same period there have been 260 weekend conferences.

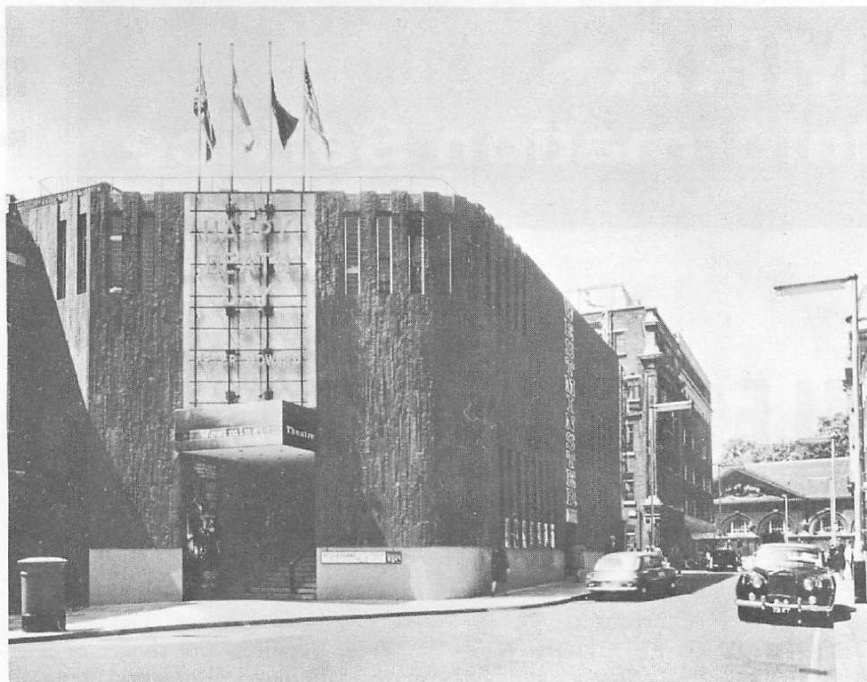
Two major support formations have been launched: the Friends of the Westminster Theatre, active in this and many other countries, and Enterprise 100 (hundreds of women who undertake to raise £100 each to aid production costs.)

We have published a range of books, pictorials and pamphlets. We have started one of the best restaurants in London. We have established a Music Programme which is gaining increasing respect in the music world. We have presented several series of experimental play readings.

A unique project in London theatre, the *Day of London Theatre* for schools and organisations interested in drama, has already brought 17,500 to the theatre, including parties from hundreds of schools and colleges.

The influence of the theatre has been felt to the ends of the earth. We constantly have news of men and women in positions of responsibility around the globe who speak of their debt to what they learned in the Westminster Theatre.

It is important that we understand the



nature of the battle we are in. We have to take up the Cross of continuance. When you are fighting to shift the thinking of a generation, and to turn a tide that is being urged forward by clever men with vast resources, great vested interests and continuous access to the mass media, the battle is not won in a day.

This underlines the importance of Anne Wolrige Gordon's new play *Blindsight* which opens here on 28 May. It is a play on how to tackle the social issues of the day and the way people deliberately blind themselves to evil—in themselves, in those nearest to them, in the world around them—and about how to open their eyes and change them into people who can live in, and deal with, the modern world. It is a very brilliant

play, and I hope everyone who can will come to see it in the opening days.

We have to accept that we are engaged in a life-long battle. When we look back at the first Whitsun, it seems a swift, almost inevitable, development from the small, united band on whom the Spirit fell to the day when Constantine and Rome bowed the knee to Christ. But it was 300 years.

Think what it felt like to live in the middle of that period—removed from the first wonder of the faith, ceaselessly persecuted, and still several generations from victory. Yet the constancy of the men and women who fought the battle from generation to generation then is the reason we are here today, and it encourages us to sustain and heighten the same battle in our own day and age.

## Joyce Heron joins cast of 'BLINDSIGHT'

THE CAST of *Blindsight*, the new play by Anne Wolrige Gordon which opens at the Westminster Theatre on 28 May, includes several who are becoming old friends to regular patrons. Philip Friend and Philip Newman continue their partnership from *The Dictator's Slippers* and *The Ladder* along with Geoffrey Colville and Chris Channer. Mary Jones and Antony Higginson from the cast of *Hide Out* will play important parts in the new production.

Among the newcomers to the Westminster is Joyce Heron known by tens of thousands as the mother in *Spring and Port Wine* at the New Theatre and then at the St Martins. She last worked

under Henry Cass' direction in *Murder without Crime* at the Comedy in 1941. Carolyn Courage makes her debut on the London stage as the beautiful blind girl around whom the action develops.

### Blindsight

a new play by  
Anne Wolrige Gordon

Opens 28 May  
Westminster Theatre

# INCORRUPTIBLE MEN ARE TOP PRIORITY

## Malaysian leaders speak at premiere of 'Anything to Declare?'



Left: Tunku Abdul Rahman, Prime Minister of Malaysia, arriving with his family at the Malaysian premiere of the international musical 'Anything to Declare?'

WHILE WAR SPREADS in the Indochina peninsular, in the Malay peninsular, scene of racial riots last year, Malays, Chinese and Indians have combined to bring an MRA international force to their country.

In a message of welcome the Malaysian Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman said, 'MRA is bringing unity where there is division, freedom where there is fear, trust where there is antagonism, healing where there is hatred.'

The Tunku was the chief guest along with five of his cabinet at the Malaysian premiere of *Anything to Declare?* in the Kuala Lumpur Town Hall last week.

Speaking before the show Tuan Syed Nasir Bin Ismail, MP, said that the need to create responsible, incorruptible and dedicated men and women must take top priority.

'What we need is a moral revolution within ourselves which ultimately could bring about the desired and lasting changes in our society. The choice before every Malaysian is either we sacrifice our selfishness for this beloved nation of ours or we sacrifice our nation for our own selfishness.'

Others in the audience included five Cabinet Ministers, the wife of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chamberlain to the King, the President of the Federal Court of Malaysia and the wife of the first elected King.

The Ambassadors of Germany, Japan and Thailand, the High Commissioner of India and the Chargés d'Affaires of

Sweden and Switzerland were also present. During the interval the Prime Minister met members of the international force.

Rajmohan Gandhi, Chief Editor of the Asian newsweekly *Himmat*, speaking at the end of the show said that what the world needed was a truly revolutionary society where families were united and where the rich served the poor, where businessmen paid taxes and were absolutely honest and where races lived in partnership.

'The world needs to see one nation governed by men governed by God and we do believe Malaysia can be that nation.'

Tun Tan Siew Sin, Minister with Special Functions, made known that he would undertake to raise a minimum of 10,000 Malaysian dollars for the expenses of the MRA force. Radio and TV recorded the event.

Leading personalities from Selangor State in which Kuala Lumpur is situated, including the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, the Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, and the Mayor were in the audience for the performance the following evening.

Earlier, senior pupils from 32 schools packed out a matinee showing.

The performances were preceded by a wide press, TV and radio coverage of the Tunku's message of evaluation and welcome to the MRA international force (see last week's edition) and interviews with Rajmohan Gandhi and others. Malaysian television reaches Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.



# WHO ARE THE ENEMIES OF A NATION?

by Mammo Wodneh

*Ato Mammo Wodneh is an official in charge of the Editing Department of Government Publications in the Governorate-General of Eritrea, Ethiopia. By training a journalist, this article of his was recently published in Amharic in the paper 'Ethiopia', Addis Ababa, May 1970.*

THE TECHNIQUE of avoiding responsibility by blaming others for our own faults has become common nowadays. The son blames his mother; the wife blames her husband; the husband blames his master; the master blames his office, and continues up to the Government. But the fact is that every one of us reflects the Government, as the Government reflects the character of each one of us. This means that if I am self-disciplined and able to administer myself properly; or if I am loyal to my family and honest towards those who depend upon me, I am able to change my surroundings, no matter how confused they may be.

The prosperity of a country does not depend on its mineral resources and industrial development, or on the extension of its land and on the number of its population.

The inefficiency of every one of us in our respective field of work and our attachment to material interests brings about moral decadence. The key of success or decadence is therefore based on the aptitude of every one of us to carry out our duty properly.

I myself once entertained the belief that after office hours or after performing my duty, I was free to spend my leisure time as I pleased and to do what I wanted. I was also convinced that I could drink, indulge myself in any form of pleasure without restriction. I was of the opinion that no one could control me as long as I indulged myself in pleasures which did not harm anyone. With this belief I embarked on great adventures, thus satisfying the desires of my age.

But later I found out that the more I drank the less efficient I became and my intellectual capacity became lower and weaker. With the money which I stole and cheated from my family I amused myself, but God by his secret power revealed my sins as the monthly income of my family became less and less. When I saw all this it appeared clear to me that I had to control myself to avoid destroying myself. Besides, I

realized that nothing could restrain me from stealing Government funds when I had stolen from my family income in order to satisfy my selfishness. Can cheating and dishonest behaviour enable the individual to have a free conscience?

This examination of my behaviour, finally, enabled me to redress my fault. Therefore I decided to give up the indulgence of drinking and cheating my family. This decision brought me the freedom of conscience, and my family surrounded me with their affection. I began to understand better the meaning of being a responsible citizen.

The saying that society needs quality more than quantity is true. If I continue to deceive myself, and to behave dishonestly in my private life, surely I can never be able to serve in the Government, and to be fit as a family head. I cannot be called upon to hold a high Government post, when I continue to lead an adventurous life, to deprive my family of essential matters and to indulge myself in drinking.

Often we criticise other people's ability, giving suggestions of what the Government should do, without taking consideration of our shortcomings and inefficiencies.

Nowadays there are many problems in the world. The unquenchable desire of the youth, the ever-growing number of

criminals, the ambitions and limitless selfishness of the few, have given the world many problems. A similar problem exists also in our country, but it is not the problem itself that worries us so much as the indifference of each one of us to contribute to its solution.

The enemies of a country are not foreign invasion or poverty and ignorance alone. The moral decadence of the citizens, the limitless selfishness of some citizens, and the irresponsibility of some people too are enemies of the nation.

## Solution

We need new clothing, new houses, new allowances, new work. But the country also requires from us a new spirit of work, and a new spirit of change. The solution to the problem is not mutual criticism. 'What do I care' is not a remedy to the prevailing confusion.

National problems cannot be solved by hatred, fear, despair or by pretexts. Nor can they be solved by advice from the West or the East. Besides, national defects and misunderstandings among the citizens cannot be smoothed out by the use of force. National prosperity and progress depend upon the efficiency of each citizen, upon the equality of each national and upon the change of the mistaken belief of each citizen.

## 'I am satisfied with my boss...'

I AM COMPLETELY satisfied with my boss. I have met several people in the last months who are far from satisfied with their's. Three years ago, I decided to put aside my own plans for my life, and my own ideas of how I would do things and the sort of person I would be. I chose to do for evermore what God wants in order to build His kind of world.

The hours in God's employment are long; roughly 24 hours a day. Holidays and days off are rare, yet life is one long adventure and never stales. However early I tune in for the day's directions, my boss is always on the job before me. He expects absolute obedience, and refuses to argue a point. There is no demarcation in this work. Everyone is expected to use head, hands, heart and every ounce of imagination he has. God hates the second best in His workers or in their work.

Although I get no salary my every need is answered. My boss is interested in every aspect of my life: where I live, where I go, what I do, wear, say and think. He wants and gives me the best. He is the sort of employer who is never too busy to hear grievances, problems or settle disputes. He has a sense of humour and a gift of gaiety. He expects me to be ready to pack my bags at a moment's notice to go where I am needed.

Permanent employment is assured. No one is ever rejected, retrenched or retired. If a worker chooses to leave, his place remains vacant for his return. God is the universal boss. There is no favouritism. He says, 'We've a mighty job on our hands, come and join us.' And I can assure you not only the highest management/worker relationship, but a job that satisfies above all others.

JEAN MCALL