



# MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

## COMPETITION

The Prime Minister said recently that Britain 'must find a new role on the international stage.' For the best 250 words on 'What is Britain's new role?' We offer prizes of £3.3.0 and £1.1.0. Entries should reach the Editors by 16 December.

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## WHAT IS THE WEEK THAT WILL BE?

By REGINALD HOLME

CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, the *Daily Mirror* bestowed the aptest accolade—or rather *coup de grace*—on *That Was The Week That Was*. Of the BBC's pet satirical TV programme the paper—no prude itself—said, 'Most of us knew about lavatories before the BBC discovered them and we have one in the house already.'

The show was supposed by this time to be cleaned up. But the *Daily Herald*, whose outlook is anything but Sunday school, felt constrained to comment, 'The show, to be frank, was as smutty as a train window in a Crewe railway siding.'

So off comes *TW3* amid complaints of its amateurishness, juvenile humour and poor taste.

Mr. Hugh Carleton Greene, the BBC Director-General whose brainchild it was, stoutly defended it. 'I enjoyed it,' he said. 'It was very good. It was positive and exhilarating. I have no objection to the language used.'

And Kenneth Adam, Director of the BBC Television, in what he said was a promise but which sounded more like a threat, said *TW3*'s kind of satire would be back, with more programmes like it, after the election.

### What is satire for?

The real point that arises is this. There is a place for satire. But what kind of satire? What is to be satirised? What is satire for?

Satire, says the *Oxford Dictionary*, is 'the employment of sarcasm, irony, ridicule in denouncing, exposing or deriding vice, folly, abuses or evils of any kind.'

The trouble with the BBC's satire is that it generally demolishes virtues as well as vice, good as well as evil. Lord Shawcross, Q.C., former Attorney General in a Labour government, no doubt referred to this when he spoke on 14 November of 'these miserable little men without a constructive idea, who for money tear down and destroy accepted values and ridicule those who seek to serve their country. Listening to some of them you

might think there was nothing noble, nothing worthy in our society.'

The *Daily Mirror*'s political editor pointed out on 16 November that 'a change of attitude is taking place in Britain. And the death of a satire show is a reflection of this.' 'After you've watched *TW3* tonight,' he says, 'ask yourself honestly whether you are contented to sit smugly by your fireside and be a knocker. Or would you rather be a constructive critic with an aim and a purpose?'

The BBC, he believes, is 'afraid it has gone too far . . . that it is in danger of undermining democratic institutions . . . the national mood began to change about two months ago . . . the days of the easy mickey-taking approach are over.'

Certainly there is a place for the kind of satire the *Oxford Dictionary* defines. Pomposity by politicians or prelates needs to be pricked. The morass into which followers of the new morality stumble needs to be exposed. What happens when Dr. Comfort's prescriptions for free sex are swallowed needs to be shown.

And the folly of outworn ways must be made plain. If someone, for instance, before the Battle of Hastings had satirised the Saxons' insistence on fighting, as always, with axes, we might not have lost to the Normans with their new-fangled but efficacious arrows, chain mail and horses. Someone needs to satirise out of existence 'the plank in the head of every Englishman' about which Lenin is reported to have complained, and 'beyond which,' he said, 'no new idea can penetrate.'

Feather bedding and demarcation disputes by labour, expense account and tax fiddling by management, lazy ways and late deliveries that lose export orders, status symbols in or outside our homes, prodigal parents who wonder about their problem progeny—these and plenty of other targets are there for the shooting by any satirist with salty wit that smarts and heals.

The real task is to replace *The Week That Was* with *The Week That Will Be*.

## Conference asks TV's help for housing

THE CHAIRMEN of the Housing Committees of Liverpool, Belfast, Birmingham and Runcorn, and the Deputy Chairman of the Town Planning Committee of Sheffield called for a series of TV programmes on BBC and ITV to arouse the conscience of the nation on the housing problem.

At a conference for housing at Tarporley in Cheshire last weekend, they launched a non-party national campaign to break bottlenecks and build 500,000 houses a year.

Resolutions were passed that the cost of slum clearance should be borne by the national exchequer, that the

government should provide low interest-rate loans for local government housing and check inflation in land values.

Speakers from the building industry described how industrialised building processes could speed up housing progress. They called for a national apprenticeship scheme to attract young men into the industry.

Attending the conference were members of the municipal housing authorities, architects, town-planners, building employers and building workers. The chairman of the conference was Councillor Owen Doyle of Liverpool.

## Northumberland miners' 'Example to Britain'

GOOD NEWS came last week from the North East. Long term plans to bring more work to the region were announced by the Government. And on 8 November a remarkable story appeared in the *Newcastle Journal*. It described how a thousand miners, by their own efforts, saved their jobs in a pit once threatened with closure.

The story of Linton Colliery, Northumberland, is told by *Journal* reporter, Alan Robson. It is headlined, 'The "Miracle" of Linton is an Example to Britain'.

The article begins: 'There is a pit in Northumberland which is being kept alive by a management and men relationship cleansed of self-destructive class antagonisms, a relationship which makes a reality of the ethical concept of nationalisation and public ownership. . . .

'1,000 men have kept jobs once under real threat of being written off by the accountants as an unjustifiable burden on the industry's economy.

'And by any standards, the saving of a 1,000 miners' jobs is an impressive achievement. How was it done?'

'I asked Mr. Jim Crooks, the 51-year-old miners' union branch secretary, a man with a turbulent working class background as boxer, soldier, sea coal gatherer, and black-listed miner who was for a time barred from employment at the pits.

### Responsibility shared

'He said: "When we realized the serious position, men and management jointly agreed to share responsibility in every possible way for the well-being of the pit and every worker."

'Linton Colliery was in poor shape. . . . The absentee rate was high, and the figures in the pit account books were ominous. Management-union meetings were stormy and settled little. The spirit of the pit was at a low ebb, and Linton Colliery received a "C" classification, which means that it is being watched by the accountants.

'Jim Crooks said: "I believe we are now fighting at Linton about WHAT is right and not WHO is right."

'First act in the rescue operation was the formation of an Absenteeism Committee. Management and men agreed that such a joint body, with shared responsibility, should deal with every case of irregular attendance fairly on its merits.

'Then an Efficiency and Production Committee was set up, and this, said Jim Crooks, "made it possible for management and men to point out each other's faults frankly and tackle together what was wrong."

'One result was a voluntary discipline on matters like the removal of stone from coal below ground, so that more saleable coal was brought to the surface.

'The set-up included a "bitter pill" or two for both sides, but it increased the capacity of management and men to share in the purposes of the operation.

'Once the men saw there was sound and sincere leadership from both sides they responded. Costs were cut, production was increased, absenteeism went down, and workers' earnings improved. . . .

'But there can be no relaxation for the men at Linton.

'Geological conditions are difficult all the time, and continuous initiative will be needed to reduce the tensions of worried men when the going is rough.

'"It is not easy for any of us to fight this battle," says Jim Crooks frankly. "We are all fighting as hard as ever for the men. But I believe more is at stake than that. It is the survival of Britain."

A large photo illustrates *The Journal* article. It shows Mr. Crooks, the miners' secretary, at Linton Colliery. The caption says, 'Once barred from working in the mines, Jim Crooks has played a major role in transforming the pit.'

In a letter to the *Middlesbrough Evening Gazette*, 1 March, 1963, Crooks wrote:

'The practical results we have achieved at my pit since meeting MRA show that I am a better fighter with a clearer outlook than before. . . .

'I have personally put MRA into operation, and it works, and the 1,000 men I represent are still at work today.'

# GANDHI MAKES DIRECT APPEAL TO MASSES

*From our correspondent in India*

**A** SUDDEN HOPE has come on the Indian scene, in contrast to fear of the Chinese to the north, and corruption of epidemic proportions at home undercutting the Five Year Plan. Mr. Nehru told Congress leaders this month that unless corruption was rooted out from every walk of life, all talk of building a democratic socialist society would be meaningless. He recommended setting up an 'anti-corruption machinery' covering all employed in the administration from cabinet ministers downward.

On to this scene boldly strides the sandalled grandson of the Mahatma on a dramatic 4,000-mile march from India's southern cape to northern capital in a bid to rouse India's millions to a new revolution.

Rajmohan Gandhi, angry with the mess in the administration, the villages and industries, has set out to reach the people directly. Whether the leaders and press support him makes little difference. He is putting his faith in the people who are fed up with the crime and corruption.

On 2 October Gandhi set out from Cape Comorin with seventy men and women in a cavalcade of cars and buses. Whole villages, hearing news of his 'March on Wheels' sometimes submerged the road before the Marchers. Crowds of 100,000 are not uncommon. Thousands packed halls, open fields or wherever there was room to hear Gandhi proclaim the new road he sees for India. He has now reached Delhi.

## **Call for thousand men**

Gandhi's message is much the same for everyone—the intellectuals and the illiterate. He speaks to the crowds of the malaise that is eating out the heart of India. He relates stories of the robbery of air-accident victims and of jewellery smuggled in the dead body of a child. People gasp. Gandhi strongly restates, 'Remember, they are Indians that do this. We are all responsible. We single out no one person or group to blame.'

In every town and city Gandhi has called for a thousand men who will lay aside career and position to fight with him. When he has finished talking the humblest peasants rush forward thrusting their meagre earnings into his hands. Young men ask to march with him. A senior editor took him aside and said, 'I fought with your grandfather for freedom. Count on me to fight with you in the struggle to save that freedom.'

In the last thirty days Gandhi and his men have crossed the backwater paddies of Kerala, the hot arid plains of Andhra, and swollen monsoon rivers of Orissa. He has talked with the intellectuals in Madras, the industrialists and engineers of the iron and steel mills of the North and the workers of the teeming metropolis of Calcutta where all Indian revolutions are hatched.

A U.P.I. cameraman, filming the crowd that flocked around Gandhi as he marched across the Howrah Bridge into Calcutta, exclaimed, 'Gosh, this is becoming a mass movement.'

Gandhi, speaking to the press on arrival in Calcutta, said, 'The people are with us. Make no mistake. My team are the masses of India. I am making a direct appeal to them. They have financed us, fed us and organized mass meetings to hear us. There is a strong desire in the people to morally re-arm India, a desire as strong, if not stronger, than the desire that motivated the freedom struggle thirty years ago.'

## **Politicians unsettled**

Politicians, who have settled by the stern in their long-held seats of power, fear the incorruptibility of this young man and his growing corps of patriots. Gandhi refuses to become involved in politics and they know it. He is out for a national movement above party to build a 'clean, strong, united India'.

'National selfishness is keeping India's millions poor, and is more damaging than British imperialism ever was,' says Gandhi. 'More serious than the Chinese invasion is the invasion of corruption at every level of national life.' Only a moral revolution, he says, sweeping the nation can eradicate this erosion of national character.

Young Gandhi's maternal grandfather Rajagopalachari, India's first Governor General, often referred to as the keenest mind in the nation, said to the Marchers in Madras, 'This struggle to build a new national character is more important than our struggle for freedom was and it will be more difficult.'

## **Financed by the people**

Meals, accommodation and petrol for the Marchers have been given by citizens of the towns they pass through. Their transport, three cars, a bus and a truck, has been lent them. An American in Madras told an Indian that Gandhi was getting his funds from Russia. The amazed Indian said, 'But I thought he was getting his funds from America.' A reporter, picking this conversation up, asked Gandhi which was true. He replied, 'Russia and America have given money to the Indian Government—one billion and five billion dollars respectively—but they have not yet given anything to me. We would be happy with their help, but up till now we have been financed solely by the people of India.'

Gandhi is clear on his aim. He believes it. He is not fooling, and the people believe him. From their growing response and participation the energy will be generated effectively to solve the problems of India and make her the 'most dynamic nation of this century'.

## Two young men speak out

**R**AJMOHAN GANDHI, the Mahatma's grandson, spoke at the university in Benares, India's holy city.

'I say to you', he said, 'in the name of Benares, in the name of the saints of the ages, for God's sake stop this incessant reference to your culture and instead of that produce in Benares a thousand men and women who today live straight.'

'People come to Benares and take a dip in the Ganges River. Well, I want India to take a dip, not in the Ganges, but in some solution that will clean up India. I want India to be bathed in honesty and purity. I want an end to this hypocrisy, humbug and sham. We need now to give a cure.'

'Because millions have talked piously about religion and lived dirty, selfish lives, millions of others have turned away from religion. They attack God, they attack faith, they attack morality and without having an answer themselves. Often they are as hypocritical as the hypocrites they condemn.'

'I want the people of India to understand true morality and practise it in very simple, practical ways.'

### Doctor tells of new health laws

'THIS IS a prophetic book,' says Dr. E. Claxton in his introduction to *Arthritis, Medicine and the Spiritual Laws\** by Dr. Loring T. Swaim, M.D., one of the world's leading rheumatologists.

Dr. Claxton says that Dr. Swaim's principles applied to normal life 'would prevent the onset of a vast amount of illness and suffering as well as raising the level of efficiency of the community'.

This book is full of down-to-earth case histories showing that doctors and other professional men can 'play their part in curing and rehabilitating a world *in extremis*'.

\*Blandford Press. 12s. 6d.

**J**OHAN SAYRE, the Olympic champion oarsman, spoke in his home town in America.

'There is a moral breakdown in the land. That is why we are calling for a moral revolution,' he said. 'Think of the scandal with Robert Baker (former Senate employee being investigated for corruption) in Washington and very few politicians having courage to say "We'll get to the bottom of this mess and put it straight."' Think of the sex scandals in Harvard and other university campuses with practically no public outcry.

### Astronauts jeopardized

'Consider the one hundred million dollars wasted on Project Mercury (the U.S. man-on-the-moon project), because of mechanical defects due to faulty workmanship. We met some of the astronauts. They are concerned because nearly every one of their space shots was jeopardized in one way or another by these failures.'

'I love America enough to believe she's got to shift. Some accuse Moral Re-Armament of being pacifist, which is nonsense. But I am afraid America is becoming a pacifist nation because she refuses to resist the onslaught by evil men on God, patriotism, chastity and honesty.'

### 'Match technology'

'We are determined to create a society that in terms of character matches the phenomenal technological advances of our nation. We are determined this land shall usher in a second American Revolution where every man has enough food, work and shelter and God reigns supreme in government, industry, schools and homes.'

Sayre was addressing Rotarians in Seattle, Washington, shortly before leaving for India.

This week he flew with *Space Is So Startling* to New Delhi. Since its première last November in Tokyo, the musical has circled the globe.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Lucknow, India** — Dame Flora MacLeod, chief of the Clan MacLeod, joined the March to Delhi. Preceded by her personal piper and a gaily-decorated elephant, she and Gandhi led a procession through Lucknow.

**Johannesburg, South Africa** — The first 1,520 copies of *Frank Buchman's Secret*, by Peter Howard, went directly to every minister of the Dutch Reformed Church. It was published by Stellenbosch University publishers in Afrikaans.

**Montreal, Canada** — The Latin American play, *El Condor*, started a ten-day run on 12 November in the Comedie Canadienne, foremost legitimate theatre of French Canada.

**Vancouver, Canada**—*Space Is So Startling* ended its coast-to-coast tour of North America with showings in Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Tehran, Iran**—The Lord Mayor sponsored the Persian-dubbed film of *The Crowning Experience*.

**Ulm, Germany**—The Nordic play, *The Wind Is Shifting*, was given in three towns near Ulm, in the constituency of Chancellor Erhard.

### Assemblies for National Character

**R**EGIONAL 'Assemblies for National Character' for South Wales, Yorkshire and Scotland will be held in Cardiff on 30 November and 1 December, and in Sheffield and Glasgow on 7 and 8 December.

They will be concerned with housing, unemployment, coal mining, shipbuilding, education and the future of Britain.

In Cardiff the sessions will be in the city's Temple of Peace; in Sheffield in the City Hall; and in Glasgow in the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland.

At the Cardiff and Sheffield Assemblies the Pontypridd Male Voice Choir from the South Wales mining valleys will sing.