

Britain exports Trade Unionists to meet Indian appeal

TO MEET AN URGENT APPEAL for help from India four British trade unionists from the docks, fisheries, engineering, and chemical industries flew from London last Saturday. They went with the support of thousands of their friends, workmates and colleagues.

Rajmohan Gandhi in seeking the assistance of British workers, trained in MRA, wrote, 'Despite certain qualities of resourcefulness and initiative in our people, the economy is about to collapse and democracy is very nearly killed. Trust has evaporated in homes, factories and legislatures.'

He said the 'will to death' must be replaced with the 'will to change and surmount our problems.' The British workers will meet the ordinary Indian and his leaders in politics, industry and the trade unions.

The British trade unionists, arriving in Bombay via Italy where they met dockers' leaders, are Jack Carroll, a branch chairman for the Transport and General Workers' Union in the port of Bristol; Ron Howe, deputy convenor of shop stewards in Shell Chemicals near Manchester; David Mackie, chairman of the Aberdeen Fish Market Porters' Committee; and



Sheffield Councillor John Pate, Ron Howe (Shell Chemicals), Bristol docker Jack Carroll and David Mackie, Aberdeen fish porters' leader before leaving for India *photo: Strong*

Councillor John Pate of Sheffield, an AEU shop steward.

All the men in the party are married and one of the most interesting aspects of their trip is the way they and their friends have raised together £2,005 for their airfares, their stay in India and the maintenance of their

wives and families while they are away. £230 is still needed for their maintenance in India.

In factories, co-operatives and trade union branches and many other sectors of national life hundreds of people have contributed. One hundred and thirty people contributed £375 5s 3d

continued next page

Frenchman urges British to keep world role

Michael Koechlin, the French engineer whose grandfather designed the Eiffel Tower and who has worked with MRA in France and North Africa for 15 years, spoke in London the day after the departure of the British trade unionists for India. He said:

A FEW DAYS AGO I saw a television programme between French journalists and English journalists. And I was horrified by the attitude of arrogance and superiority taken up by our journalists in discussing your country. And then the French jour-

nalists, 'Why do you want to get into the Common Market?' And the reply of the British journalist was 'Because the Hotel Crillon makes more money than a little pub.'

If our aims are only economic we will only succeed in arriving at clash. We need another aim if we are going to work together and what I want to plead from the bottom of my heart is that you English do not give up your God-given calling in the world. Not only that you do not give it up, but that we train together in this task.

I was struck again on arriving in England at the wealth and gold there is in English hearts. We must find the way to change Britain so deeply and so rapidly that the whole world will be shaken and flabbergasted. And on that basis my compatriots and I will stand beside you.

MEN FROM GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND UNIVERSITIES EXPECTED AT CAUX CONFERENCE

MEN AND WOMEN from government, industry, universities and other walks of life will meet at an international conference at Caux in Switzerland from 20 December to 8 January.

Last summer 3,500 people from 77 countries attended conferences at Caux.

The invitation to the forthcoming Christmas and New Year assembly

states, 'Fresh perspective will come on Europe's crisis of leadership and her centuries-old divisions as Europeans decide that their common purpose will be a rebuilt world run by God-governed men.' To give effect to this purpose plans will be made for the enlistment of men and resources for the action in India and for the development of the new training centre at

Panchgani, 160 miles from Bombay, which opens in January 1968.

The cast of *Il est permis de se pencher au dehors* will arrive in Caux on 18 December following their action in important areas of Europe: the Jura, scene of serious linguistic divisions in Switzerland; the Lorraine, an area faced with the difficult problems of industrial reconversion and change; Gothenburg, an industrial centre and Sweden's biggest port; and, finally, Rotterdam, a world port and key to much of Europe's industry.

Last Sunday Swedes announced that they were arranging for a 103 seat charter plane to take delegates to the conference, leaving Gothenburg on 28 December.

continued from page 1

towards one man's expenses. A group of people in one city are contributing £3 per week towards the housekeeping expenses of one man's family. A raffle was held in a factory. One man's two sons gave £5 each. A school teacher gave £100. A man about to change his job gave £100 to the fund. And so the money came in from across Britain.

Howe is taking a message of fraternal greetings to the Indian workers from the 3,500 workers of the Shell Chemicals factory. When he read several weeks ago Gandhi's letter seeking British help to his works' committee, Howe said, 'You saw these boys put out their chests and stand taller.'

Carroll, asked what message he was taking to the Indian dockers, said, 'I shall tell them that change in human nature is the only answer to the docks problems. The dockers of the world must think further than themselves and the employers must think further than profits.' Those who control the docks controlled the lifeline of nations. This was particularly true, he stressed in India.

'The problem in our country is the same in every country of the world. If we can change Indian dockers they will give a lead to Asia.'

Pate said he would take an answer to the apathy 'which grumbles and grouses about prevailing conditions, but doesn't do a thing about it', and show the importance of straight dealing in civic life.

The men will visit, among other cities, Bombay, Poona, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. They will speak at the opening sessions next month of a

Finland invites Sing-Out force

FINLAND CELEBRATED on 6 December fifty years of independence. On the following day forty leading men and women in a joint declaration expressed their hope to welcome an international Sing-Out force to Finland.

In their message they state, 'The programme makes alive the basic values on which the future of our nation must be built: honesty, unity, faith and a vision for our task in the world.' The signatories include a former Prime Minister, MPs from both Government and Opposition parties, five Bishops, national sportsmen and trade union leaders.

The Finnish edition of a new book *Why Moral Re-Armament* by Professor Lennart Segerstrale has just been published. A south Finland daily writes in its review: 'The book is a serious attempt to create global clarity

world conference at the new MRA centre at Panchgani, 160 miles south of Bombay in the Western Ghats. Pate is taking messages to Indian mayors from the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Alderman Harold Lambert, and the Master Cutler (nominal head of the city's steel industry), Alderman John Peile.

The men who left here last Saturday are the first of many such groups going to India, taking from the mother country of the Commonwealth a new spirit of hope.

about what is right and to give a vision big enough to stir the will to sacrifice and action.'

Peter Howard's film *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill* has been shown a hundred times in recent months, mainly by churches throughout the country, most recently north of the Arctic Circle.

At the new year a training assembly for MRA will be held in Finland.

SPRING ACTION FOR 'UP WITH PEOPLE'

BLANTON BELK, US director of MRA, announced that *Up With People* casts would next spring tour nations in Europe and South America and the South of the United States. There would be a Christmas conference for Moral Re-Armament in Texas, he said.

Belk was speaking at a \$100 a plate fund raising dinner for *Up With People* in Los Angeles on 29 November. The occasion, attended by 850 Hollywood and Californian personalities, was sponsored by director-producer Mervyn LeRoy and Mrs LeRoy and 30 other people in motion pictures and other industries.

An after dinner performance of *Up With People* was introduced by Gregory Peck.

Westminster Theatre
'GIVE A DOG A BONE'
now running till 27 Jan
'ANNIE' re-opens 1 Feb

REVALUATION

by Mary Wilson

THERE ARE LESS than two weeks now before Christmas. The coming of Christ into the world focused the conflict as to whether God or man should have supreme authority. The battle to get rid of God is not a new one. Even Professor Leach falls back on the arguments of the serpent in the first chapter of Genesis.

The first Christians were not persecuted for their religious beliefs, but because they acknowledged an all-powerful God as the final arbiter in the affairs of men, and that authority was to apply to rulers and ruled alike in their public and their private lives.

Governments that want to have the final authority in people's lives inevitably try to abolish belief in God, because men and women whose first loyalty is to Him challenge their full control.

Amid all the seeming complications of race and class and viewpoint, the real struggle is much simpler. It is between those who are for God, and those who are against Him. It is a struggle in which there can be no appeasement, and no bid for popularity. MRA, lived out, means replac-

ing a 'with-it' world by a 'with God' world.

St John tells us that 'among the chief rulers many also believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him lest they should be put out of the synagogue—for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.'

Today the same passage might read, 'Many public figures believed but would not say so, because of the Establishment of either Right or Left, in case they should lose their positions in Parliament, or in the Trade Unions, the Stock Exchange, or the Board of Directors.'

Nicodemus came to see Jesus by night—in his private capacity. But after the Crucifixion he plucked up courage to take a lead in making the burial arrangements. Humanly speaking, it was a bit late, but he did it, and his name has been preserved in history.

Sometimes it is harder to open one's mouth among friends than on a public platform. Sometimes it is the other way round. Both are needed, and this is the time to come into the



open, for all men everywhere.

This is the time to reevaluate what we treasure most, and decide what we really think it is worth. Revolutions come about when the existing order has become intolerable, and revolution always means a transference of power. The transferring of power from man to God, whether personally or nationally, is an upsetting but rejuvenating experience, and one that his country badly needs.

As was said of the first upsetters, 'Those who are turning the world upside down have come here also.'

ARTS CENTRE DINNER

THE LAUNCHING of a campaign to raise £30,000 per year for the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, through regular covenanted gifts, was met with acclamation at the Arts Centre first anniversary dinner.

K D Belden, chairman of the Westminster Memorial Trust, reported that the £501,000 for building and equipping the Centre had been raised. The prime need now was to provide the Centre with an annual income of £30,000 through 1,000 covenants.

The guest of honour and principal speaker was Sir John Reiss, BEM, Chairman of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd.

The distinguished guests included Frederick Philips, President of Philips Electrical; Colonel R Crawshaw, MP; J Hiley, MP; Julian Ridsdale, MP; P Wolrige Gordon, MP; Mr and Mrs H W 'Bunny' Austin; and personalities of theatre and industry.

*Some people who nod
But do not keep His word,
Would try to divorce us from Our God.
But we will not let them.
We will hold Him faster
And proclaim Him
Throughout the land.*

*We will proclaim Him . . .
And lift our hating brothers
Out of their hate of self
And the sisters, so vocal
In their bitterness.*

*And if they hate us more for this,
We shall go on,
'Til the cloth of gold,
Which is His canopy for our world,
Is spun by every hand,
To house, to feed, to clothe,
To enter into His beauty
With our own eyes,
And the new habit,
Of His sight.*

*I would not have you lose yourself
For me . . .
That is not worthy.
But for Him in me,
Who arches the world
And who gives us our daily bread.*

*I would not have you lose yourself
For my hunger. See,
I am fed.
But for the empty-stomached,
Empty handed of all the lands
Where wheat is not planted.*

*Lose yourself in planting the wheat.
This is our wealth
And our love.*

MURIEL BURRELL SMITH

Britain—a test case

THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP with the United States has come to an end. The Russians in London regard Britain as being past the peak of her influence in the world. France and the Eurocrats in Brussels question Britain's economic viability.

In the last few years Britain has been faced with situations combining an intensity that few other nations have experienced. Retreat from empire, race, rebellion against God and reconstruction have tumbled in on the British Isles.

Not special pleading

This is not special pleading for Britain. Rather is it an appeal to the British people to maintain perspective and realise what this country is experiencing today, others may experience in the future. Britain is a test case.

The retreat from empire, which began in 1947 and is still continuing 20 years later, has been on a scale and with a complexity which no other European power has experienced. Since 1947 the 53 nations which have gained independence, 30 were formerly British dominions, territories, colonies or possessions.

This and the rapid change of Britain into a multi-racial society provides her

with an opportunity that no other nation has. She has unique links with Asia and Africa built over centuries and is now in a position of having no axe to grind.

Vulgar ballyhoo

The anti-God rebellion sweeping Britain, has left nothing challenging or demanding in the place of the old faith and outlook. With her theatrical television and newspaper expertise Britain has carried the rebellion to mankind. But equally she could export to the world in the words of Lord Reith at the Edinburgh Arts Festival this year, the art that 'could withstand the vulgar ballyhoo of mass materialism'. If this battle is won in Britain it will have great effect in the world. Rajmohan Gandhi said, in opening the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, 'As an Indian and an Asian I feel profoundly grateful for this Centre. Through the films and plays it will create, the Centre will, I know, woo, challenge, inspire and defy millions in my part of the world, as in every other part, towards a way of life that will solve our problems.'

The reconstruction of British industry, its modernisation and reorganisation has taken place in the midst of these major changes. It is a recon-

struction which has affected the basic industries of the country—fuel, steel, docks, transport, manufacturing and chemicals. The difficulties that this is currently producing emphasises the urgency of morally rearming men's motives—planners, managers and workers.

Last year's Reith lecturer, Professor J K Galbraith, formerly an advisor to President John Kennedy, said 'It could be that you (the British) are still leading the world. In scientific developments, you have never been more fertile and productive . . . You have the resources to be more productive, both economically and culturally than you have ever been before.'

Win battles

But far more important, if Britain can win her battles she will demonstrate that only a morally rearmed society can meet the situations that face nations today. Equally she will export men who can pass on valid experience to other nations. This is the significance of the British trade unionists going to India last Saturday at the request of Indians who face the possible extinction of their democracy (see page 1). It is in this perspective that Britain's problems should be viewed.

BRIAN LIGHTOWLER

Give your friends a Christmas gift that lasts all the year

For 50/- each we will send the MRA Information Service as a Christmas gift from you to your friends every week by mail. Your friends will be told of your gift with the Christmas card (below) which is a reproduction of the mosaic at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre.

Please fill out the form (right). Cheques payable MRA Information Service.

Please send the MRA Information Service to

Mr., Mrs., Miss

Address

Gift from

Address