

Not quite satisfied that news reports have fully explained the reason why he forsook an editorial chair for a spiritual mission, the Queenstown journalist who recently made headlines on the front page of The Star gives his personal account

This is the story of the editor who changed

I HAVE NOT INFREQUENTLY written front-page news in The Star, but not until a few days ago have I ever been the subject of a front-page story. Your headline, "Editor Quits to Take on Spiritual Work Movement," told of my decision to join a Moral Re-Armament team. I travelled to Caux this week with Mr. R. le Roux, a Karoo farmer, to help plan ideological strategy. A mission will visit West Africa a little later. The news story suggested that I had given up everything for this mission; more appropriately it could have been said that I had gained everything when I fully understood the meaning of Moral Re-Armament and had accepted it as my personal philosophy.

A journalist tends to be more cynical about life, and certainly more cynical about religion, than most people. As an editor of a newspaper for the past ten years, I have had my fair share of office visitors anxious to peddle me literature on doomsday and repentance.

by
Derek Gill

Facing up

WHEN I had the time and the patience, I asked these people how it was that their particular sect and seemingly every other religious organization had failed to face up to, and let alone answer, the surging tide of Communism and materialism. Look about you, I said to these people, look at the hate, the bitterness, the fear and the filth—what are you going to do about that? What have you done about it?

It was a Karoo farmer who first answered my question satisfactorily. "Men must choose to be governed by God, or condemn themselves to be ruled by tyrants," he said.

No third course

EVERYONE, including the men in the Kremlin, would agree that there could be no third course. But the Kremlin were engaged in a global ideological struggle to maintain man's domination.

By the time the Karoo farmer had left me, I realised that I had been fighting ideologically, and unwittingly, for the Communist cause. My pen had been used to divide men politically, socially, racially, culturally—in-
 indeed, in every conceivable way; and men divided are bitter men, easy prey to the forces of evil.

I have written between four and five thousand editorials, and today I shudder to think what proportion of them were deliberately divisive.

Dedicated pen

AT the M.R.A. Assembly, near Johannesburg attended earlier this month by hundreds of delegates from all over Southern Africa I dedicated my pen to the ideological forces moving against Communism, forces armed with absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love.

This pledge of mine does not mean (as a news story implied) that I am never going to earn a living again, or that I have abandoned my family, friends, church, clubs and so on. My pledge means essentially a re-orientation of thinking, and the measuring of everything I do and, more particularly, what I write against the absolute moral standards. Never again will the Nationalist Press denounce my writing as the nation's most prejudiced and vitriolic.

Year of destiny

BECAUSE it is the conviction of people right in the know, (and my own conviction, too) that this year will be the year of destiny in Africa, I am joining a group of South Africans of all races who are going to West

Africa. The reason we are going is because we want to show the people of West Africa the miracle of unity in South Africa.

The Communists describe South Africa as their best propaganda. It certainly has been.

The M.R.A. team should prove to be the best anti-Communist propaganda ever exported by the Union.

Imagine what the West Africans will think when they see the hated White South Africans standing alongside African revolutionaries! Will they not be interested in an ideology which unites the people of a country where the most bitter racialism is proverbial?

Team-mates

THE team going to West Africa will include men who were once dedicated Afrikaner and African Nationalists, today miraculously united through accepting a vastly superior ideology.

What else but a miracle could persuade the co-founder of the militant African National Congress Youth League to find common cause, and purpose with a former Jeugbond leader?

M.R.A. is not in conflict with the church. A short definition of the ideology might be "the application of the truths of the New Testament to modern society." Dutch Reformed, Anglican, Methodist ministers, and ministers of other denominations have found that they can fully accept M.R.A. without offending against tenets and principles

Acceptable to all

IT is as acceptable to the princes of industry and commerce as it is to trade union leaders and the most junior employees. M.R.A. is working today in business houses in Johannesburg, creating completely new—and, incidentally, profitable—relations between management and staff.

M.R.A. is being introduced into the nation's schools, and is offering the only real challenge to another and more sinister ideology in the higher places of learning.

M.R.A. is a new force, girdling the earth, a force that can remake the nation, for it brings an ideological answer to the critical problems of the hour.

The Communist target for 1960 is the continent of Africa. The ideological conflict between M.R.A. and Communism will be fought and is being fought across the veld, in our streets and in our homes. South Africa is going to play a vital role in the final phase of this conflict.

Humbly, and with thousands of others, I offer myself to a force and a struggle which demands everything of me, a force which will create a new South Africa, a new Africa and a new world.