



# MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

GANDHI'S MARCH ACROSS INDIA  
Special Report from Delhi—Page 3

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## WHEN A FEW ENTER THE FRAY . . .

THESE is an underlying sickness in our society, the Home Secretary, Mr. Henry Brooke, said last week. It shows itself from one angle in the sharp rise of juvenile crime. He is appointing a standing committee to get to the root of the problem.

Mr. Brooke will chair the committee. He has included Scotland prominently by naming as his vice-chairman Lady Tweedsmuir, a Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Scotland.

An editorial in *The Times* on 20 September, headed 'Search Without End', also referred to a 'general malaise afflicting modern society'.

Scots have already been rising up to deal with one aspect of this malaise—the 'sick' dramas that add to the social malaise and aggravate the crime rate by what they put over from stage and T.V. screen.

They were aroused by the arrogance and confident air with which the Drama Conference of the Edinburgh Festival was taken over by 'sick' and anti-moral dramatists.

When a nude girl was wheeled across the organ gallery before 2,000 delegates and *Tropic of Cancer* publisher John Calder, Drama Conference Organiser, said it was 'all in very good taste and very funny', this added fuel to the feelings of many Scots.

Mr. Michael Barrett, private citizen and member of an Edinburgh printing family, spoke out at a London Assembly for Moral Re-Armament and his speech was fully reported in *The Scotsman*.

### 'Not surrendering'

The Lord Provost, Chairman of the Festival Society, said: 'I do not contemplate surrendering to the irresponsible actions of a few people sick in mind and heart.'

The Marchioness of Graham spoke up at an Edinburgh luncheon for launching Peter Howard's book *Britain and the Beast*. She said that a 'softening-up process' was being carried out. The BBC was 'conditioning and confusing men's minds to accept ideas alien to our whole Christian civilization'.

Mr. Barrett at the same lunch referred to the 'strange

silence' of the Church about these goings-on and challenged the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and other Ministers to speak out. 'Nowadays it seems it is left for the press to do what the pulpit used to do—and thank God for them,' Barrett said.

The press of all parties in England and Scotland reported this luncheon. The *Daily Worker* carried it on its front page.

When a few enter the fray, hundreds follow and millions hear of it. The *Scottish Daily Express* set the pace with a series of feature articles and readers' letters under the heading 'Godlessness and Dirt'.

### Letters flooded in

A staff writer, Charles Graham, wrote on 11 September that letters were 'flooding in' to the office of the paper 'condemning the godlessness and dirt and violent language that have ruined this year's feast of culture'. He attacked the 'mouthing dramatists who cannot express themselves without using the language of the gutter.'

The article concluded: 'What is needed is a mighty blast on the trumpet for a better sense of moral values.' Next day, 12 September, the *Express* ran letters from readers backing this viewpoint.

On 13 September the paper printed a feature by the Rev. John Morrison, Minister of the Church of Scotland, poet and playwright, which began: 'It is time for a change in the direction of the Festival. This means in the men directing it, including Lord Harewood, Kenneth Tynan and John Calder.'

Morrison pointed out that the Drama Conference was run by Kenneth Tynan, an 'ardent admirer' of Lenny Bruce, the 'sick' comedian, indicted in America for being a drug addict. Bruce was refused permission to return to Britain.

The Edinburgh Minister quoted a *Scotsman* report that Mr. John Calder is now planning 'a hundred books for children, to be written with ruthless honesty by major authors and published in umpteen languages simultaneously'.

Morrison also quoted several sample points of view put



over by conference speakers. Among them:

Harold Clurman (U.S.A.)—‘I believe in the value of pornography for those who want pornography shown them.’

Joan Littlewood (Theatre Workshop, Britain)—‘The theatre is the soul and identity of the people. It is the opposite of religion and the Cross.’

On 14 September the *Express* headline was ‘Sack Men with Wrong Ideas’. It reported a resolution passed by 120 citizens, including eight ministers and the Labour M.P.

for Central Edinburgh, which was sent to the Lord Provost and City Council. They urged that ‘Scotland’s moral heritage be given its rightful place.’

These Scots fight not just to get rid of degrading drama but for ‘great drama which will arouse something new in the spirit of man’.

They have brought thousands to see plays at the Westminster Theatre in London. Shop stewards who have come say that a new spirit is rising in Scottish mines and shipyards as a result.

## Plays on four continents promoting social progress

**O**N four continents plays inspired by the Westminster Theatre are grappling with social evils and giving nations great goals to live for.

In America, rent by race riots, the musical, *Space Is So Startling*, was welcomed by Negro leaders and whites concerned to find a solution. In Boston Mrs. Vivian Carter Mason, who was President of the National Council of Negro Women, saw the play after attending the March on Washington. ‘You have the power to make America turn a corner in her history,’ she said.

The Negro paper, the *New Boston Citizen*, said of the play, ‘It goes home to the conscience and hearts of the audience.’

### America—‘Binding society together’

The cast were welcomed by the international newspaper the *Christian Science Monitor*.

After an 80-minute session in the editorial conference room the *Monitor’s* specialist on civil rights told the cast, ‘You are interested as we are in binding society together instead of letting it fly apart.’

Leaving Boston the play performed to a capacity audience in New York on 23 September. The editor of the magazine *Saturday Review of Literature*, who spent six hours with Krushchev this spring, said afterwards, ‘This is the kind of thing he would understand.’

The play’s first Southern performance was arranged for 26 September in Atlanta, Georgia, ‘Hub of the South’, where another play, *The Crowning Experience*, was credited with helping to end race discrimination. From Georgia, *Space Is So Startling* was invited to perform on 27 September in Huntsville, Alabama, by the Mayor. This city is the home of the giant Redstone Arsenal which developed U.S. ballistic missiles.

Representatives of ten States, including the Mayor of Honolulu have invited the play.

### South Africa—‘A new way’

In South Africa, Peter Howard’s play *The Dictator’s Slippers* opened last week commercially in Johannesburg. The showings are under the patronage of the Mayor. ‘I hope it will go all over our country and the continent,’ he said.

The editor of *The World*, large circulation African newspaper, said the play was the ‘spearhead of a new way of tackling South Africa’s problems . . . the cast consists of men of revolutionary backgrounds . . . men of different colours and backgrounds united in a commitment to shape the world to God’s design. Here is the road to the new Africa.’

### Japan—successful strategy

In Tokyo last June, Japanese students produced a musical, *Beyond Communism to Revolution*. It has been performed in cities and military camps throughout Western Japan with the backing of the military and civic chiefs.

The chairman of the Japanese Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Hayashi, told the cast in Tokyo last week, ‘By your strategy of grappling with the basic issues of the nation you have been highly successful in mobilising people of Right and Left in the fundamental fight to rebuild the country.’

### Europe—‘Decisive influence’

In Europe Italy’s leading impresario, Remigio Paone, brought the Latin American play *El Condor* to his theatre in Milan, following its tour through southern Italy, Sicily, Naples and Venice. He kept it an extra week and told the cast, ‘You have presented a perfect play that is necessary for Italy now.’

The Italian actress and T.V. star, Miss Pina Renzi, told a Swiss audience that a new Italian musical, *The Magic Monument*, now being created at Caux, is ‘the true theatre, the original theatre we know as the “Commedia dell’Arte” which led the way to Goldini and Moliere.’

The director of the Komoedie Theatre in Basle proposes to present one of Howard’s plays in his winter programme. ‘Such plays can decisively influence the future of our age,’ he said.

In London, Howard’s *Through the Garden Wall* passed its 200th performance, making it one of the ‘top ten’ most long-running plays (other than musicals) in the West End. Simultaneous translations of the play in 10 languages have given the Westminster Theatre a unique role in the entertainment of foreign visitors.



# GANDHI'S 'MARCHING ORDERS' MEET BIG RESPONSE

*from our correspondent in New Delhi*

As heavy rains turned the capital into a flood area last week, Mr. Nehru's cabinet shake-up settled down to a simmer. Despite the Chinese emergency, official Delhi appeared to drift. At the very moment of massive Chinese military build-up in the north, former Defence Minister Krishna Menon spoke out publicly for military disarmament.

'Soaring expenditure, multiplication of Ministers and rising taxes may be the result of national aimlessness,' wrote one commentator. 'Things are indeed in a scandalous state . . . our thinking needs as much refurbishing as our doing,' wrote Frank Moraes, editor of *Indian Express*.

## 'Clear vision needed'

'A new and clear vision needs to be placed before the country,' said K. Santhanam, former Minister of Railways, writing in the *Madras Mail*. 'It must include moral and material re-armament on a significant scale . . . until this is done, other steps will be largely meaningless and futile.'

Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, lay sick in Delhi, recovering from typhoid, but his call for 'a clean, strong, united India' still resounded across the sub-continent. His challenge to Indians to join him on 2 October in a 'march across the nation' as the first action in a revolution of national character, drew an immediate response in the press and in requests for marching orders.

'This March will help to restore feeling and patriotism to the country,' wrote *Saptahik Hindustan*, the largest Hindi weekly, in its Independence Day edition.

## Fight for character

'The time has come for enough Indians to make this fight for the national character their first priority,' stated an article in the *Deccan Chronicle*.

*Indian Express* on 16 September reported: 'This year's Gandhi Jayanti (the Mahatma's birthday anniversary) will see the start of a novel campaign. From Trivandrum on that day 150 men and women, representing all linguistic groups in India and 15 other nations, will start a march-on-wheels. They will travel in buses, and covering about 200 miles a day, reach Delhi in time for the World Assembly of Moral Re-Armament, which starts here on 24 November.'

Among those expected to join the March, states *Indian Express*, are Mr. Conrad Hunte, the West Indies cricketer, the Colwell Brothers of Hollywood, who are 'at present learning to sing in Indian languages,' and Mr. Peter Howard from Britain.

At the core of the 'Marchers' will be a group of Kerala M.P.'s who have already demonstrated a bold new

spirit in their own State. They will take with them their drama *The New Chapter* and present it on the route. A mobile film van will also accompany the March. Three buses have been loaned free to carry the party.

The March will pass through eight states and 29 cities on its 3,000 mile journey. Starting from Cape Comorin, the southern tip of India, its route runs through Trivandrum and Madras up the east coast to Calcutta, then north-west via Benares, Lucknow and Agra to the capital. A quarter of a million people are expected to mass in Trivandrum to launch the March on its way.

## State leaders backing

'The organisers', reports *Indian Express*, 'are receiving ample public support. Residents of the various towns where the marchers will halt have offered to be hosts to the volunteers.' In Orissa State, the former Chief Minister has taken on the arrangements for the March. In Andhra State, a Member of the Central Parliament has made himself responsible for the preparations.

*Indian Express* continues, 'Gandhi is on the look out for a thousand revolutionaries who will give up everything to fight for the aim of Moral Re-Armament and plan how to change the character of the nation.'

'They will be offered nothing in return except the satisfaction of a revolutionary task and a chance for the highest patriotism.'

Young men, and men who marched with Gandhi's grandfather, have responded to the call. Wives of Cabinet Ministers and of M.P.'s, and schoolgirls, are preparing bedding and feeding for the marchers. From a student leader in Agra came this letter: 'Our country is in terrible need of such a campaign. I request you Mr. Gandhi, to enlist me in the moral re-armament of India.'

'With the Mahatma's Salt March (to defy British taxes), it was a struggle only for independence,' said a newspaper editor. 'Now it is a struggle for survival.'

## Aims of the March

In a statement from Kerala House in New Delhi, Gandhi and five Kerala M.P.'s set forth their aims. A force of Indians, they declare, are pledged under God to change the character of the nation and to create a new social order where man 'no longer cheats, insults, worships, corrupts or exploits his fellow man.'

'To create this new order,' they state, 'must become the united aim of our nation.'

'This fight for a strong, clean, united India will need more dedication and sacrifice than the struggle for freedom required.'

'India, not China, must become the dynamic, revolutionary nation of this century.'



## Cardinal Cushing sponsors musical

**C**ARDINAL Hails New MRA 'Play' was the headline last Sunday in the *New York Journal American*, which has a circulation of 760,000 copies. The paper described Cardinal Cushing's sponsorship in Boston of the musical *Space Is So Startling*.

The Boston *Sunday Advertiser* reported, 'Several hundred students from Catholic high schools in greater Boston yesterday jammed three special performances of Peter Howard's *Space Is So Startling* as the show wound up two-and-a-half weeks at the John Hancock Hall.

'Cardinal Cushing, who arranged the performances, called the music "delightful". The lively musical numbers, dances and choreography of the 17-nation cast were rewarded by repeated applause and cheers from the teenagers.

'Olympic Gold Medallist John Sayre opened the show by reading a cable from the author, who said, "I wholeheartedly support His Eminence Cardinal Cushing's inspired initiative. The youth of Boston and America can match the challenge of this amazing century for all races. You will be more than conquerors as you undertake the greatest Christian revolution of all time whereby every hungry mouth is fed, every needy family is housed and every yearning heart in the world is satisfied."'

The Boston *Record American* and other papers also reported the Cardinal's reception of the international cast of 79 at his residence last week. He told them, 'You people would make a great impression on the youth of America.'

## More reviews of 'Britain and the Beast'

**B**RITAIN AND THE BEAST' continues to arouse press comment widely in Britain. The *Sheffield Telegraph* devoted half a page on 19 September to views on this 'controversial book'. The Master Cutler, the Catholic Bishop, a Labour member of the City Council, the Archdeacon of Sheffield are among a number who voiced their reactions pro and con.

One Sheffield critic champions *Honest to God* and *Towards a Quaker View of Sex* against Howard. A feature writer tries to explain away the schoolgirls with the yellow golliwogs or the link between security risks and homosexuality. The book clearly leaves no one indifferent.

The Chairman of the Sheffield Methodist District said: 'This book is like a whip with many lashes. It will make you uncomfortable. It may even make you angry. But you MUST read it.

'For the author's intent is not needlessly to wound or hurt, but that every stinging blow—even if it

falls on you—shall make possible the recovery of Britain's lost moral health.

'The passionate, constructive purpose which shines through this brilliant diagnosis . . . is that Britain may wear again the crown of leadership in the things by which men live.'

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dinn, Roman Catholic Bishop, said 'the predicament of our civilisation is depicted in a lively style with the experienced writer's talent for the memorable, alliterative phrase.'

*The Church of England Newspaper* commented in its review: 'Some people will not like the writer's inclusion of patriotism as a virtue on a par with faith and chastity. But, for the writer, patriotism is only a name for purity on a national scale.'

*The Hampshire Telegraph*: 'Howard turns a searchlight on the moral sickness of the age. . . . In these days when so many who should lead merely wobble . . . it is refreshing to read a writer whose vocabulary does not include the overworked word "compromise."'

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**London**—Sydney Edwards, the widely read music critic, announced in the *Evening Standard* that Muriel Smith, the American mezzo soprano and star of *The Crowning Experience* will give two concerts in the Westminster Theatre. They are at 3.0 p.m. on Sunday, 29 September and 6 October.

**New York**—Approximately 650,000 viewers saw *The Crowning Experience* film broadcast by station WPIX. Within 48 hours the station received over 400 letters of enthusiastic response.

**Cape Cod, U.S.A.**—*Space is So Startling* was shown twice at Otis Air Base, which is used by President Kennedy for flights to Washington from the summer White House in Hyannisport.

**Boston, U.S.A.**—Governor and Mrs. Endicott Peabody of Massachusetts received the cast of *Space So Is Startling* in the State Capitol. The State House of Representatives received them in the House Chamber. 300 State legislators from across America and their wives came to the musical as guests of the Massachusetts Senate President. This was part of the programme of the National Conference of legislative leaders.

**Switzerland**—*El Condor* was performed in Montreux and Lausanne on Lake Geneva, in the growing industrial centre of Sion in the Rhone Valley and in Delemont in the Jura, where 30,000 demonstrated recently for a separate Canton.

**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**—Every paper of Diarios Associados, South America's biggest newspaper chain, carried a front-page feature article on MRA in Kenya and the statesmanship of Prime Minister Kenyatta. It challenged Brazilians to a similar patriotism.

**London**—*Feeding the Hungry Mind*, an address to teachers by Mary Wilson, author of the series, *God's Hand in History*, is available from 4 Hays Mews, London, W.1. Price 6d., postage extra.