



MRA

INFORMATION SERVICE

DOCKERS SHOW POSTMEN HOW TO SORT
DELINQUENTS DEMONSTRATE - WITH DIFFERENCE
A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE WORLD
'THE OPEN SECRET OF MRA'

VOL. 12 NO. 329

FOUR HAYS MEWS, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER, 1964

DIVIDED CITY SEES 'WALL' BROKEN THROUGH

BERLIN—Germany's severed city with its own blood-stained wall of division, saw a dramatic allegory, Peter Howard's play *Through the Garden Wall*. On 21 September the play had its German premiere at the Arts Academy Theatre during the Berlin Festival weeks.

'Warsaw, Prague and Budapest are ready for this play,' said the Secretary General of the German refugees of Eastern Europe in Berlin after the premiere of the play which was greeted by outstanding personalities of the city with seven curtain calls.

Prince Richard of Hesse, who flew to Berlin directly from the Royal wedding in Athens, gave a gala reception in the Academy of Arts.

The producer, Victor de Kowa of Berlin, President of the German Actors' Union and executive member of the German Trade Union Confederation, announced at a press conference that the play's forthcoming tour would continue till March, 1965, and would cover 80 German cities. The play would also tour Switzerland and Austria. 180 performances in all would be given.

'Artists today should be heralds,' he said. 'Actors must not only speak on stage, they must also have something to say. In a world full of profit-seeking and greed, where other forces are trying to take over theatre, films and broadcasting, artists must realise their responsibility to be lighthouses spreading light and giving direction.'

Eastern languages

Egon Karter, Director of the Komoedie Theatre of Basle, announced that Howard's plays were being translated into East European languages. He said Mr. Krushchev should be shown *Through the Garden Wall* during his forthcoming visit to West Germany.

'Peter Howard gives me hope that there is something new coming in the modern theatre,' Karter said. 'Howard helps people see themselves, he holds up a mirror to our

times but he does it in a human way and with a light touch.'

He announced that Peter Howard's latest drama, *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill*, would be shown in the theatrical season of 1965/66 on the German-speaking stage.

The British producer Henry Cass, at a preview in Caux, stressed that the genius of Howard's plays lay in the fact that 'except maybe for Ibsen's, they are the only ones today that show how to break down the barriers which divide man from man'.

A bishop recommends

CHRIStIANS have got to learn how to present the faith in visual terms today if they are to compete at all in getting their message across,' writes the Bishop of Whitby in the September issue of the *York Diocesan Leaflet*.

He refers to a Church Pavilion display on Man, Machinery and God at the Great Yorkshire Show which caused interest and provoked thought.

The Bishop says he 'would like to recommend to anyone going to London, another venture in visual presentation—the play *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill* at the Westminster Theatre.

'Here is a remarkable attempt to put the gospel truth in contemporary terms, and the result is extraordinarily powerful.

'Not everyone will like the idea of a modern "parable" of the Incarnation, but no one could see the play without being deeply moved, and I hope that everyone who can do so will see it and commend it to their friends.

'It is good to see the London stage, today so widely debased by pandering to the lower tastes, used for the clear presentation of Christian truth.'

Dockers show postmen how to sort problems

POSTAL workers in Brazil are to learn from the dockers how to deal with pilfering, wild-cat strikes and corrupt bosses.

The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, General Menescal Gilar, has announced that *Men of Brazil*, a film made by dockers from Rio de Janeiro, will be shown to post office workers throughout the country.

Men of Brazil is the true story of what happened when the dockers began to clean up corruption and gang warfare in their port.

Referring to Brazil's Revolution of 31 March, the Director-General declared, 'Under the former government this department was a centre of corruption. We need to bring a new mentality. This film is just what we require.'

General Gilar's action stems from the effect, during the last two months, of film showings in the Rio port

area—vital to Brazil's economy.

Portworkers, backed by the Minister of Transport, Marshal Juarez Tavora, put on eighteen screenings of the film for the 4,000 workers in the port.

Last week dockers meeting in the hall of the Rio daily *O Globo* declared war on corruption and division throughout the continent. They urged President Castelo Branco to 'make Moral Re-Armament the priority of our government and nation'.

The dockers reported that after showings of *Men of Brazil* in one hundred slum areas (favelas), there had been remarkable cooperation in slum clearance which will eventually effect 1,300,000 people, one in four of Rio's population.

Euclides da Silva, head of 60,000 favelados, said, 'We are solving our problems in the spirit of MRA.' Seventy favelados backed him on the platform.

Delinquents stage demonstration with a difference

from a correspondent

DELINQUENCY in Boston, U.S.A., is worst in the Roxbury area. Professional agitators from outside are handing out free dope on street corners to prepare for stirring up racial violence.

The leader of a youth club, set up to try and keep the delinquents off the streets, said he was thinking of closing it because it didn't seem to cut any ice. He got the youth off the streets from 8.00 to 10.30 p.m., when he closed. But between 10.30 and midnight they got into trouble with the police.

A Boston girl, Peggy Schaub, 17, returned in August from the youth conference for 'Tomorrow's America' on Mackinac Island. She had written a play, 'Who Was That Man?', but was short of young delinquents for some of the parts. She roped in some of the youth club. One of them found it natural to play the part of a car-stealer.

Members of the club packed the hall to see their friends in the play. It was even livelier than usual because

five of the young actors had turned up drunk.

Director Kathe Green, daughter of Johnny Green of *West Side Story* fame, announced that no more drunks would be allowed on the stage.

At the next show only one actor was drunk. He pleaded to be allowed to take part because his parents were watching and would beat him if they knew what had happened. The boy was sent to fill himself up with coffee and returned to carry his part in the production.

The cast are now taking their play to the Cardinal Cushing High School. The boy who was drunk has made a pact with authoress Peggy Schaub that if she gives up smoking, he'll give up drinking. When last heard of, neither had had a puff or a swig.

Peggy's high school have bought 500 copies of Peter Howard's book of speeches, *Design for Dedication*, and made it required reading for November. She and her friends now aim to take the play, and sell the book, throughout Boston.

'At war' with Beaverbrook

REVIEWING Peter Howard's new book *Beaverbrook: A study of Max the unknown* (published last week by Hutchinson), Colin Frame wrote in *The Evening News*:

'Mr. Howard, one of Moral Re-Armament's best-known leaders and writers, makes no secret of the fact that for years he was "at war with Lord Beaverbrook", trying to win his unconditional surrender to a Christ-like life.

'It is idle to speculate now what might have happened if Mr. Howard had won.

'But the devil with two sticks that lurked in the Press lord, he says, was circulation; and propaganda for the empire rather than for the Kingdom of God.

'He preferred, although haunted by his religious upbringing, "the black ink of Fleet Street to the red blood of Calvary".'

Philip Day in *The Sunday Times* said, 'Careful of cliché, his book is a fitting tribute to the man who, he says, taught him so much about the "craft of ink".'

Robert Pitman in the *Sunday Express* commented, 'A strikingly original and forceful biographical study'.

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE WORLD

by MARY H. LESTER

WHEN my daughter was deciding on her future career, she said, 'Oh Mummy, I wish I could be like you!'

Feeling rather flattered, I asked her what she meant. 'Well,' she said, 'you got married, and you don't need any brains for that.'

How often we hear similar statements. Mention schools, universities, careers, training, or any such subject and someone will say, 'Well, it doesn't really matter for a girl, does it? She'll probably get married anyway.'

Is this really true—this idea that in marriage brains don't count and training is wasted? On your wedding day are you actually taking the first step towards an intellectual dead-end—a mere housewife with no further need to think for the world beyond the home?

Go to work?

Does this mean that we must go out to work and put most of our creative energies into a job? Or change our focus of interest artificially, to activities outside the home?

I believe there is another way, which uses all our brains, creative energy and interest. Our responsibility for the future is closely connected with the responsibilities, work and even the so-called ties we have been given. Those very responsibilities open up new fields of effectiveness, if only we realise it.

My family consists of two sons, one at a university studying medicine, the other at a public school, and a teenage daughter of seventeen. My husband is a doctor. My father is a minister. By reason of my family alone, I am immediately connected with the world beyond the home through Schools, University, Medicine and the Church. This is nothing unusual. It is typical of all of us who are wives and mothers.

Daily contacts

Think of the things that fill our papers every morning. Questions of education—the New Morality, teenagers, the colour problem and the Arts. They are all touched on in our daily contacts—school, church, neighbours, our culture and our interests.

Take teenagers and education. Some of today's customs are due to the laziness and lack of thought of my generation. Teenage parties, for instance, when parents go away and shelve all responsibility—what a doorway it opens to the wrong kind of party.

In a school discussion recently all the parents were against this kind of thing and obviously, therefore, were being subjected to these fashions by the few who, incidentally, did not take part in this parents' meeting. Here is a way in which we can help to shape education as a

whole—by cooperating with teachers who care, attending school functions and contributing in discussions.

I was interested to hear the headmaster of my son's school say that we owe it to our children to give them the discipline they need in this permissive age. He condemned the two extremes of following the cult of freedom on the one hand, allowing them to please themselves, and then on the other hand, when they get into trouble as the result, calling them the scum of the earth.

School and home

He said that a Christian school, in an age of shifting values, can give basic standards which never change. That is where we parents come in too, by giving these basic absolute standards in our homes.

There are some who are out to build a new society based on easier standards. There are a far greater number who hope things will solve themselves if they continue living decent lives. But unless people keep and fight for absolute standards we all inevitably slip to the lower level of living.

Do we in the Church combat the New Morality thinking that confuses the issues of right and wrong and cuts God down to its own size? We need to change with the times, certainly, but the real change needed is in each individual, to be part of a revolution that will bring God into His rightful place.

I mentioned earlier the colour problem. A simple story illustrates how this is touched through an ordinary family. My son has been with his friends to the plays at the Westminster Theatre. Several have been from overseas, and one was an able research student, a strict Moslem.

'Bitter memory'

One day he showed us a photograph he had taken of a table after some university students' committee. It was littered with empty beer bottles and glasses and unemptied ash trays. That was all. But what did it signify of this country's way of life? What bitter memory lay behind it? He later went to the Westminster Theatre and met other students whose values had changed. This can make all the difference to the impressions he takes back to his own country.

There is no end to the scope open to a busy housewife who cares enough to see her place in the world. In these days of opportunity and freedom many still say, with some truth, that a woman's place is in the home. But if we are to seize our opportunity to reshape society as God intends it to be, then we must rethink our responsibilities entirely. We shall then find the truth that wherever we are our place is in the world.

'The Open Secret of MRA'

Review by the REV. DR. E. BENSON PERKINS, past Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council

IN *The Open Secret of MRA* (Blandford, 6s.) the Rev. Julian Thornton-Duesbery, Master of St. Peter's College, Oxford, maintains that Moral Re-Armament are 'commando forces of the Church, pioneering where the larger body cannot always go'. The book is a scholarly answer to criticisms made by Mr. Tom Driberg, M.P., over the last thirty years, and was written because the author believes that Mr. Driberg is 'consciously or unconsciously driving a wedge between two parts of the same army'.

Analysis

Mr. Thornton-Duesbery has provided an example of polemical writing which is all the more impressive because controversy is not his normal line. His ten short chapters with an equal number of informative appendices are a devastating analysis of the false charges which have often been the basis of attacks on MRA.

For example, Mr. Driberg makes much of charges by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions that MRA is anti-trade union, based on alleged quotations from MRA publications. Mr. Thornton-Duesbery puts the originals and the quotations side by side, showing that by omissions and editing they are made to present the exact opposite of the truth. It is significant that the British Trades Union Congress has never endorsed the ICFTU charges.

Values

Such an example does but scant justice to the full case as set out in this small but closely-packed volume. Mr. Thornton-Duesbery makes it clear that the 'open secret' of MRA consists of the positive and spiritual values of life when governed by the absolute claims of Christ under the guidance and power of God. It is for Mr. Driberg as a professed member of the Church of England to correct his erroneous ideas—of Love, for

instance, in its New Testament meaning, and of the Kingdom of God. This also is part of the challenge of this book. Will he accept the challenge?

* * *

The *Belfast Newsletter* reviewing Mr. Thornton-Duesbery's book on 12 September said: 'Mr. Tom Driberg has conducted a campaign against the Oxford Group and Moral Re-Armament ever since the day 36 years ago when he achieved his first triumph in Fleet Street by attacking them. MRA has never replied in kind nor does it now.'

'The Master of St. Peter's College writes this examination of Mr. Driberg's "critical examination" of MRA with consistent charity, but relentless scholarship. Leaving unsaid much that could be said, he dissects Mr. Driberg's illogicalities, exposes his "assumptions parading as fact" and reveals his prejudice by contrast rather than description.'

'All Mr. Driberg's recurring criticisms are objectively faced. Mr. Thornton-Duesbery does not think that MRA has never made mistakes but he sees it as a "commando force of the Church pioneering where the larger body cannot always go."

Principles

'He describes its principles, how it works, who finances it and what its aims are, and, thinking of his own Church's treatment of Wesley, adds: "I would not have it said in future centuries that the Church of England of our generation repented of its ancestors' injustice to a Christian prophet of 200 years ago, but failed to recognize men of God arising in its midst in our own day."'

In the *Western Mail* Weekend Magazine, 19 September, David Prosser wrote: 'Mr. Thornton-Duesbery has the facts. He uses them fairly. His task of demolition succeeds.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

West Indies—Three million West Indians have seen commercial showings of MRA films, Conrad Hunte, the West Indies cricketer, told a Conference on Mackinac Island.

Huacho, Peru—The first Peruvian showing of the film, *El Condor*, made by radical students of San Marcos, Lima, took place at the university here on the invitation of the Revolutionary University Movement.

West Virginia, USA—Bluefield State College made *Design for Dedication*, Peter Howard's American speeches, compulsory reading for freshmen. The President turned over the first assembly of the school year to MRA.

Kenya—Fifteen thousand in the Kikuyu area saw MRA films presented by students trained at the recent Conference for the Preparation of Leadership for Tomorrow's Africa. Other students showed films in schools and market places of Kericho, an important tea-growing area.

'Freedom' fires Zambia youth

FIVE hundred young men of the Zambia Youth Service, inaugurated recently by Prime Minister Kaunda, gave a rousing reception to the all-African film *Freedom*. The aim of this Service is to train unemployed youth, many of whom took part in the independence struggle, in trades of value to Zambia (as Northern Rhodesia will become on attaining independence next month).

The showing took place at a newly-constructed camp hacked from the bush near Kitwe. The camp commandant urged that more such films be shown.

Mobile police who returned recently from dealing with the Lumpa disturbances saw *Freedom* at their camp. Prisoners involved in the disturbances were also at one performance. This concluded a series of showings seen by five thousand police and their families.