



MRA

INFORMATION SERVICE

NEW RECORD

Seven best songs from 'Give a Dog a Bone' are available on a 7", 45 r.p.m. extended play record, from Westminster Productions Ltd., Westminster Theatre, Palace St., London, S.W.1. Price 11s.; postage 1s. extra.

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THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, Dr. F. D. Coggan, is a man of vision. He believes Christians should be militant and relevant.

He has launched a campaign to 'Feed the Minds' of the world's 500 millions of new literates.

This includes 'audio-visual communication'—films, plays, cartoon strips—as well as literature.

Russia is said to spend £500 million a year for propaganda on literature alone. China spends vast sums for cheap, subsidised literature from Calcutta to Conakry. From earliest days Mao instructed his peasant armies: 'Every large guerrilla unit should have a printing press and mimeograph.'

In the free West some books and plays build beachheads for the 'new morality'.

The paperback, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, sells 3,500,000 copies—and receives a bishop's praise. Publishers' pockets are filled; the people's character impoverished.

Stage, screen and books must feed hungry minds with a way of life that works.

On every continent weapons Moral Re-Armament has created for this task are available and in use. Some are described in this Information Service. They are support weapons to make a relevant revolution in the hearts and minds of men. A revolution, as the Archbishop of York points out, as much needed in Britain as overseas.

A revolution where men and women use their lives that 'Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.'

NEW YEAR—on the attack

CAMPAIGNS IN EIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREAS

As the New Year began, Moral Re-Armament campaigns were under way in eight industrial regions of Britain.

Their aim is increased productivity; home-building and house-building; people to put country before class or party; a force of youth on the warpath to right wrongs, clean up public and private life and equip the nation with character that creates true Commonwealth.

Forty copies of ten MRA films are being used in this offensive in addition to those already circulating. Eight of these films were made in the past year. New projectors have been given for the campaign. Crates of books are to be sold.

Fifty-three Scandinavians flew in on Boxing Day to take part.

The Lord Mayors of Belfast, New-

castle and Sheffield are giving receptions. The Lord Mayor of Leeds is attending a film showing. The Chairman of the Northumberland County Council will be host to the visitors for a day.

Campaigns are taking place in Northern Ireland, South Wales, the Scottish Lowlands, Midlands, Merseyside, Tyneside, Yorkshire and London.

The mines, mills and management of these regions are Britain's bread and butter earners. They are the country's economic backbone.

Hundreds from these regions will be invited to see the present pantomime, *Give a Dog a Bone*, and the play, *Mr. Wilberforce, M.P.*, opening in February, at the Westminster Theatre. The pantomime had 15 'full houses' in its first 18 performances.

Swedish bishops 'reject new morality'

THE *Daily Express* reported on 28 December: 'A Swedish minister, the Rev. Richard Cedergren, yesterday hit out at Dr. John Robinson, the Suffragan Bishop of Woolwich, at a conference in London.'

'He said the bishop, who recently spoke in Sweden, should stay in his diocese "until he has the humility to learn the secret of a living Christian faith and an experience of Christ, which a bishop, according to the New Testament, is meant to have."'

Cedergren said thirteen Swedish bishops had recently issued a statement that 'clearly rejected the new morality and proclaimed Christian sex morals as necessary, both from a Christian point of view and from that of social responsibility.'

'This statement raised an echo round the country,' said the Swedish minister, who was addressing a Moral Re-Armament conference. 'We do not need the new morality. What we need is the cure to it.'

Why write plays?

'THE AIM IS SIMPLE. It is to encourage men to accept the growth of character that is essential if civilization is to survive. . . . It is, for Christians, the use of the stage to uplift the Cross and make its challenge and hope real to a perverse but fascinating generation.'

PETER HOWARD

*From the Preface to his play,
'Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill'*

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

BISHOP OF WHITBY

*Writing in the 'York Diocesan
Leaflet' about 'Mr. Brown
Comes Down the Hill'*

'IN a very remarkable way MRA has brought into use the media of the film and the stage on the highest professional level to a degree beyond the normal possibility of the Church.'

DR. E. BENSON PERKINS
*former Secretary of the World
Methodist Council*

Fund for orphans

Up to Christmas over 1,000 children from orphanages, schools and Homes have been to see *Give a Dog a Bone* at the Westminster Theatre as part of their Christmas treat. The Friends of the Westminster Theatre started a fund to buy their tickets.

A further 600 children want to see the pantomime after Christmas. Money is still needed for their tickets. £1 will pay for two children. Donations should be sent to The Secretary, Friends of the Westminster Theatre, 12 Palace Street, London, S.W.1.

Ringo the dog in pantomime

'TIME AND TIDE,' 17 December, reviewed Peter Howard's pantomime *Give a Dog a Bone* at the Westminster Theatre. Part of the review follows:

'Ringo, the much-publicised Beatle, has not only had his tonsils out, but has given his name to a lovable, lively and loving pantomime character—Ringo, the dog.

'*Give a Dog a Bone* is as up to date as you like, but based on the wonderful traditions of pantomime. There is a gay, principal boy, who, like Dick Whittington, is going to seek his fortune. There are Pa and Ma Merry (Terence Conoley and Phyllis Konstam), who are a match for any Dame. And there is Ringo,

who has more character and gives more pleasure than the Whittington cat and as much as Nana in Peter Pan.

'Such sweet and happy songs kaleidoscope on to each other, so that we are glad of the chance to hear them repeated. . . . George Fraser composed the music which deserves a wider audience than the theatre.

'Henry Cass and Bridget Espinosa have made a professional and a delightful production. While Dorothy Phillips' costumes are a mixture of pantomime and real life.

'I hope all who go and see *Give a Dog a Bone* have children in the audience, who respond as they did in this performance.'

How to reach 'TV-soaked' children

A London teacher, Miss Joyce Kneale, writes:

I BROUGHT twenty-two of the toughest London children from the school where I teach to see *Give a Dog a Bone* one evening. I was not quite sure what was going to happen and am glad the people in front of them survived, because they employed all the techniques of appreciation they had learned over the years—every type of whistle that you can imagine. At the end they said to me, 'Miss, we'll be talking about this all the week. You're never going to hear the end of this.'

I said to the number one problem in the school, 'Did you like King Rat?' He replied 'I didn't.' I said 'Why not?' 'Because he stirred up fights everywhere.' (That, I may say, from somebody who does precisely that every day.) So I said, 'I will remind you of that.' But he said, 'When are the next lot coming and can I come with them?'

When I got back to the school the mothers were all waiting and the children rushed to them. I have never seen such enthusiasm. One mother had taken her child to a psychologist three times. Her little

boy told her, 'The three magic words are "Please", "Thank you" and "Sorry".' (These were words for breaking free from the Rat King's spell. He could turn people into animals if he could get them to say 'I couldn't care less'.) I think that particular mother's problems will be at an end.

I am thrilled with what this play does for these children because they are television-soaked and I have often thought it was too late. They live with their fists up and their faith and spirit of adventure starved.

Holiday present

But Peter Howard knows how to reach the modern child. This pantomime is living water to them and I wish every parent would give their children a trip to see it as a Christmas holiday present.

Mr. Harold Wilson will never achieve his economic aims unless the children get a reason big enough to tackle problems and to live outside themselves and serve their country. Peter Howard does it for us in this pantomime—let's use it.

'MR. WILBERFORCE, M.P.'

by ALAN THORNHILL

Mr. Thornhill writes on the background of his new play which opens at the Westminster Theatre in February.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, M.P., was a small man with a colossal passion—and compassion. He was born in the city of Hull. His family were merchants and his home lay close to the wharves. So every day he could see the sailing ships of Britain setting forth and returning with the cargoes that were the life-blood of the country. But like most other people, he gave little thought to where the ships went and what their trade entailed.

Packed on shelves

In fact, British ships were carrying each year some 50,000 African men, women and children, chained to one another by ankle and wrist, packed like books on shelves three feet high, wracked with disease, broken in body and spirit, to be sold in the New World for about £30 a head. People said that without the slave trade, with its million-pound profit per annum, grass would grow in the streets of London and Liverpool, and so the matter was closed.

As a student at Cambridge, Wilberforce made friends with William Pitt, the precocious, brilliant son of England's First Minister, the Earl of Chatham. By the age of 21 both Pitt and Wilberforce were Members of Parliament themselves. At 24, Pitt was himself Prime Minister, and Wilberforce, his closest associate, was Member for the County of York. There was no height of position and power that Wilberforce could not reach.

'Fire into Parliament'

At this point he made the decision that revolutionized his life and transfigured the life of the world. He caught the fire of militant Christianity that men like the Wesleys were spreading through the land, and he determined to carry that fire into Parliament and public life.

Pitt urged caution—'I don't object

to a faith,' he said. 'I think I have one myself, though I have never had time to discover quite what it is. But for God's sake be careful how you mix faith with politics.' All the same, Pitt was sufficiently impressed to encourage Wilberforce to take up the dangerous and humanly hopeless cause of Abolition.

Of all that followed, the years of political struggle, the tears, the sweat and the laughter, the bold, brilliant manoeuvres to win public support, the twists and turns of a ruthless opposition, the agonising decisions that had to be made, the fight for the very soul of Pitt, at an hour of supreme national emergency, with Napoleon, like Hitler at the Battle of Britain, thundering at our shores—this is the story dramatized in my new play, to be produced

next February at the Westminster—*Mr. Wilberforce, M.P.*

It is a story for Britain today when once again the nation fights for her life, when stories of scandal and corruption still fill the air, and when men in public life, like Pitt and Wilberforce of old, have to decide what comes first—political necessity (so-called) or moral principle, personal friendships or national rebirth, career or conviction, compromise or the Cross of Christ.

The story ends in victory—not for a man or even for a cause, but for the people of Britain, who, as they have done more than once at moments of crisis, decided to do what was right, regardless of cost, and so helped to bring in one of the greatest ages of expansion and reform in our whole history.

From the Westminster to the world

PLAYS from the Westminster Theatre have in the last three years gone round the world.

Beginning with *The Hurricane* and *The Ladder*, which opened at the Westminster in October, 1961, they have been staged by Japanese, Italian, German, Swiss and American casts, and three of the plays have been filmed.

The film version of *The Hurricane*, starring Muriel Smith, was running last month commercially in South Africa, the West Indies, Finland.

Music at Midnight, with Nora Swinburne and Walter Fitzgerald, toured the United States and Canada, and was also filmed.

The musical fantasy, *Space is so Startling*, circled the globe twice, with performances in India, Japan, the United States and Canada. It was filmed last summer.

The Italian cast of *Through the Garden Wall*, backed by the Italian Government, went to 75 cities of

Italy, Switzerland and Malta.

The German version of the same play, directed by Victor de Kowa, is touring 100 cities of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and will go to seven Dutch cities next March.

Through the Garden Wall was also presented by a Japanese cast with sets designed by the Kabuki Theatre.

The Diplomats and *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill*, which played last year at the Westminster, are wanted by European producers and are being translated into East as well as West European languages.

Give a Dog a Bone, Peter Howard's pantomime running now at the Westminster, opened last week with an American cast in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In Britain 440,000 have seen these productions in the last three years, and the Westminster's simultaneous translation system has enabled thousands of foreign visitors to follow the plays in their own language.

On the attack—on five continents

ENUGU—The Premier of Eastern Nigeria, the Hon. Dr. M. I. Okpara, received 200 delegates attending a Conference for Tomorrow's Africa, in the Premier's Lodge on 21 December. He stressed the importance of what they were doing for 'Nigerian unity which is part and parcel of the greater issue of African unity and world peace'.

NAIROBI—Under the headline 'Character vital—Minister' the *East African Standard* of 23 December reported the speech of the Kenya Minister of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Kiano, at the Moral Re-Armament Conference for Tomorrow's Africa. The Minister appealed to the 180 senior students from 51 secondary schools of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to maintain 'a vigilant conscience'. Men guided by their consciences were the only free men.

NEW DELHI—Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, inaugurated a World Congress for Tomorrow's Leaders in the New Convocation Hall at Delhi University on 25 December, with a call to

students from 16 cities and 50 colleges to take on the moral re-armament of India.

CAUX—Six officers of the Congolese Army sent by General Mobutu, a group of students who recently escaped from East Germany, and the Swiss Olympic Gold medallist, Joseph Stalder, with 20 of his gymnast team, took part in a conference of young Europeans, entitled 'Heading for the Year 2000', which opened on 27 December.

ALBUQUERQUE—Peter Howard was the principal speaker at a conference organized and led by Indian youth of the South-west U.S.A. Other conferences for Moral Re-Armament were held over the New Year in West Virginia, Washington State and in Miami, Florida.

Canadians held an assembly in Alma, Quebec.

BALLARAT—A Youth Conference to build the Australasia and Asia of Tomorrow opened on 29 December with students from Australia, New Zealand, Papua and other Asian countries.

Norway's 'Churchill'

Just twenty years ago Mr. Carl Hambro, former President of the League of Nations, who died on 15 December, invited Dr. Buchman to Norway. Mr. Knut Dale wrote in 'The Times,' 18 December:

As a Norwegian I would like to add to your tribute to Mr. C. J. Hambro by recalling one of his greatest services to our country.

During the war it was his voice with King Haakon's over the BBC that fed the hope and faith of all Norwegians that we not only would win the war but build a united Europe. In doing so Mr. Hambro built in large part upon the conviction and courage which had grown up in the country since 1934 when, as President of the Norwegian Parliament, he invited Dr. Frank Buchman and the Oxford Group to meet

the leadership of Norway.

The significance of the national awakening that followed was underlined by Bishop Fjellbu of Trondheim in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, in April, 1945, when he said: 'I wish to state publicly that the foundations of united resistance of Norwegian churchmen to Nazism were laid by the Oxford Group's work.'

I would like to pay this tribute to Mr. Hambro as a man who in the dark hours of the war had for us Norwegians the stature of a Churchill.

BOOKS

Britain and the Beast

'PLENTY of hot pepper in this book by journalist Peter Howard to sting the eyes of Britain's free-thinkers, from Huxley to Lord Russell to sex-soft clergy. . . .

'Members of the Commonwealth must welcome this book. No one could read it and remain unchallenged.'

Morning Post, Lagos, Nigeria

'PROBABLY the most disturbing book since William Booth wrote *Darkest England*. . . .

'No minister or social worker, no politician or municipal worker, no educator or youth leader can afford to leave this book unread.'

Rev. Dr. C. Irving Benson,
Herald, Melbourne

Design for Dedication

THE CHAPLAIN to the U.S. Senate, Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, wrote editorials on Peter Howard's *Design for Dedication* on consecutive Sundays in the *Washington Star*. He said of Cardinal Cushing's foreword: 'It is indeed high praise when Cardinal Cushing of Boston says of this Protestant, "He has made some of the finest addresses in modern times."' "

The Rev. A. G. Barkey Wolf, reviewing *Design for Dedication* in the Amsterdam weekly, *Elseviersweekblad*, wrote: 'Peter Howard may be counted among the prophets of humanity from Amos to these days, who combat the spirit of the age with the sword of the Spirit.'

The Endless Adventure

UGANDA Broadcasting Service called Roger Hicks' *The Endless Adventure* (Blandford, 7s. 6d.) 'the sort of book a university student would read with pleasure and profit'. Francis of Assisi, Joan of Arc, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Peter Howard are among those featured in this anthology about, and for, Christian revolutionaries. Father Corbishley writes the foreword.

Available from booksellers or from The Oxford Group, 4 Hays Mews, W.1.