MRA Information Service

VOL 14 No 1 LONDON, 18 SEPTEMBER 1965 9d

Hunte for modern Wilberforces

Conrad Hunte, who has been playing for the World Cricket XI, says, 'I want to see a thousand modern Wilberforces who will restore hard work in industry, morality in public and private life, positiveness and alloutness in sport and give Britain a great aim to live for.' And he adds, 'In this gigantic task the immigrants will not be a problem but an asset.'

This challenge of Hunte is also the aim of the tour of Alan Thornhill's play *Mr Wilberforce MP* to eight British cities in the next two months. Press reports and bookings indicate wide interest in the play. It opens on Monday at the Flora Robson Playhouse, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Conrad Hunte, who is vice-captain of the West Indies cricket team, is described in the programme for the World versus England cricket match in these words, 'No one, except perhaps Sir Frank Worrell, has done so much to convey to a wider world the impression of the modern West Indian as a first-class citizen and sportsman.'

In Scarborough last week he was



asked by many people what he would do after the cricket was over. He told them, 'I am going to use my talents as a cricketer and my training in modernising man to answer those who try to use the colour of a man's skin to sow unrest.'

'We have got to end the moral pacifism,' says Hunte, 'and get involved in the struggle to develop a new statesmanship.' As a practical step to further racial harmony he took members of the World XI to Bristol to play against the Multi Racial club. He spoke there on the theme, 'Not colour nor class, but character.'

Mr Wilberforce MP will also contribute to answering racial discrimination in Britain. A practical step for all of us will be to see that every seat is bought during the tour.

Gandhi's way

Rajmohan Gandhi in a broadcast to India from Radio Ceylon, recalled his grandfather's fast to end Hindu-Muslim fighting. Hindus and Muslims handed in their arms to him and the fast was broken by a cup of juice given him by a Muslim. 'But', Rajmohan Gandhi said, 'many have used Gandhi's name very selfishly without any intention of living the way he lived. We need today millions who will live the standards he lived by.'

Cast to Caux

The eighty-strong cast of '65 Alive has decided to accept an invitation to take their musical variety show to a European conference in Caux, Switzerland at Christmas. It has also been invited to Cardiff and Newcastle.

The show, produced at the *Challenge* of the Century conference at Tirley Garth, was given last Sunday for 500 people who filled Sheffield's Memorial Hall. The cast sacrificed holiday plans and money to come there from all parts of the British Isles. 'They have done this because they have decided to stick together until we give a fresh vitality to Britain, Europe and the world,' said conference director, James Hore-Ruthven, introducing the show.

Paris première of 'Garden Wall'

'An ingenious production—one is struck by the intelligence, taste and intensity of Marc Cassot's work—a comedy with a serious subject, full of gaiety and at times moving.' Thus *L'Aurore*, second largest French daily, described the French version of Peter Howard's play, *Through the Garden Wall*.

Last week the curtain went up on the first of Howard's plays to be given in French in Paris by a professional cast. *Figaro* describes the 'compact mass of spectators' and the 'laughter and applause in abundance'.

In the audience was Mrs Peter Howard, Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod and Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Trustees of the Westminster Theatre where the English version of the play ran for 252 performances. 'A brilliant cast and an imaginative production,' reported Mr Belden, and added, 'totally French'. Dame Flora commented, 'The acting was incomparable.'

Combat, Left-wing intellectual daily, carried a three column photo of the play and the Communist paper L'Humanité published fifteen lines giving the facts about the play and its cast.

A delegation of twenty-three travelled from Holland to Paris to attend. They came, they said, 'out of concern for the present disunity in Europe and with a growing conviction that Europe will only be united by a common ideology and global purpose'. German and Swiss parties included those responsible for the forthcoming German language production of Peter Howard's *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill*. Wide interest for the play in France is shown from the delegations that came from the coal mines of the Pas de Calais and the shipyards of St Nazaire.

L'Aurore says that Through the Garden Wall is an important production not only because of the quality of the play, the producer and its cast, but 'also because of the celebrity, one could even say the magic fame, of its author'.

Marc Cassot, asked about what interested him in this work of Peter Howard replied, "the big heartedness, or I would rather say the profound humanity, which breathes through the play from beginning to end."

Catholic voice for Moral Re-Armament

On Tuesday, the fourth and final session of the Second Vatican Council opened in Rome. Its major emphasis will be the relation of the Church to the modern world.

It has opened at a crucial hour when war is raging on two fronts in Asia. Many eyes will be focused on the Pope when he visits the United Nations on 4 October.

An important pamphlet by a Catholic writer, Peter Orglmeister, has just been published stressing the role of Moral Re-Armament in pioneering world-wide ideological action to grapple with the problems of the modern world.

Entitled *The Battle for Modern Man** it strikes a note that will be welcomed by those at the Vatican Council who are seeking for the breakout of the forces of God into a world where violence and materialism seem to be taking over.

Orglmeister writes, 'A feeling of unrest has been abroad in our Church in recent years. More and more people recognize that it is no longer enough to go on doing what we have done in the past. Individuals at first, and the Church as a whole, are looking for new ways to confront the trends of our times and change them.'

The thirty-page pamphlet which carries a foreword by Cardinal Agnelo Rossi, outlines for modern man the battleground, the ideology and the militancy that can lead to 'effective action to turn all humanity Godwards'. Moral Re-Armament, Orglmeister maintains, is 'the one action which embraces men of all religions, races and backgrounds and presents the full challenge of change in the character of man, and which moves from the revolution of character to revolutionize the social economic and international pattern of the world.'

Against secularism

Sir Arnold Lunn, who is described by Father Gordon Albion as the 'GOM of Catholic controversy' writes: 'As a Catholic I have followed with interest the increasing appreciation by Catholics that MRA is making a contribution of great importance to the fight against secularism. In 1957 it was only a small minority of Catholics who had any sympathetic understanding of what MRA was. Many were content to judge the movement by the incidental extravagances from which no religious movement is completely free. And in those days I should have considered nothing less probable than that a Cardinal would one day write a foreword to a book by a Catholic member of MRA and himself pay tribute to the movement. but it was in January of this year that Cardinal Agnelo Rossi, Archbishop of Sao Paulo, wrote a foreword to The Battle for Modern Man by Peter Orglmeister, which concluded with these words, "I salute with sympathy and applaud this task of renewal which Moral Re-Armament has undertaken. to which many Catholics in Brazil and elsewhere have lent valiant support without thereby compromising their lovalty and love for the Church."

'We are facing today in England a brilliant, concerted and in large part successful attempt to take over the mind and culture of this age for a secularism as contemptuous of the Christian code, especially in the matter of sex, as of the Christian creed.

'The Christian resistance to this attack is unco-ordinated, unplanned, and in the main, unsuccessful. It is further enfeebled by the lack of courage which has transformed so many Christians into timid appeasers. Almost every Marxist is dedicated to the task of changing the world. Not one Christian in a thousand makes any attempt to change an atheist, among his friends, into a Christian.

'What I admire about my friends in MRA is that they are dedicated to the attack on secularism and, above all, that they have guts.

'No single Church today can arrest the triumphant march of secularism. We need a *militant* alliance. The kind of ecumenism which stops at a mere exchange of pulpits and courtesies is useless. The Christians in all the Churches who really mean business must get together and plan a *fighting* campaign. And to this alliance my friends in MRA have a very valuable contribution to make.'

* Published by Grosvenor Books, 44 Waxwell Lane, Pinner, Middlesex, 1s 6d. 12 copies, 15s; 50, £3; 100, £5 10s.

RAM films

Thirty-five copies of Voice of the Hurricane and Decision at Midnight are now circulating commercially in Italy. Also The Crowning Experience and Men of Brazil. RAM of Rome, the distributors, have just announced their decision to double the number of these copies.

In Leghorn, the head of the communist women's organisation, UDI, who has been deeply struck by the humanity of Peter Howard's *Through the Garden Wall*, placed thirty posters advertising *Voice of the Hurricane* in key positions all over the town. On her advice, the Town Council allowed these to be displayed free of charge.

Priests have been recommending the films from their pulpits. In Pisa a parish priest announced Voice of the Hurricane at each Mass on Sunday, urging all his parishioners to see it. He read from the pulpit a letter from high authorities in the Church recommending the film. The letter describes Voice of the Hurricane as 'good entertainment which gives a global vision of the commitment which every Christian should expect'.

This is the film which Cardinal Ottaviani recommended to all priests and parishes of the Rome diocese after seeing it in the Oratorio di San Pietro adjoining the Holy Office.

Softness

Father Gordon Albion writes in *The* Universe, 'Arnold Lunn, our Knight of the Sword of the Spirit, with his squire, Garth Lean, launched an effective tilt at the windmill of the New Morality. Now the same pair shy their shafts at *The Cult of Softness*.' Father Albion finds this latest book 'disturbing but challenging'. *The Tablet* comments, 'Well worth reading, pungent and well-documented.'

To New Zealand's Zealandia, 'The Cult of Softness is a fine book which will stimulate all true Anglicans and Catholics to do what they can to stem the flood of Hedonism that threatens to engulf society.'

The Australian Catholic paper The Advocate carries a six-column interview. "They say", said Sir Arnold, "we must all be ecumenical. Well, I partnered an Anglican in public defence of Christianity against the secular encroachment, that's my idea of ecumenism. Team up and fight these chaps who would white-ant the whole lot."



As Germany goes to the polls this week-end, we shall know if those political commentators were right, who predicted a neck-and-neck race between the two major parties, the Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Social Democrats (SPD).

'Our Security—Ludwig Erhard' has been the slogan of the reigning Christian Democrats. For the past six weeks a photo of the chubby Chancellor, the father of the German 'economic miracle' of the post-war years, has looked down benignly from the election posters.

Not to be out-done in this appeal to the longing for security in a nation which has seen so many upheavals in the last fifty years, the posters of the SPD stated enigmatically, if obviously, 'Safe is Safe—SPD.'

Then, as if both parties had second thoughts and decided that the average citizen is, after all, concerned about more than the Welfare State and the safety of his own skin, both came out with other posters, proclaiming respectively: 'SPD—the Key to Everything' and 'Germany's Future is at Stake—CDU.'

The CDU were relying on the gratitude of a nation which has been brought, under the government of Adenauer and Erhard, from the ruins of 1945 to the position of third industrial power in the world in 1965.

They were unwilling to believe that the man-in-the-street would turn his back on the party which created the statesmanlike post-war foreign policy of European unity, Nato membership and alliance with America and Britain.

Throughout the election campaign, the SPD avoided hinting at major changes in policy, foreign or domestic. This went so far that at one meeting with 500 trade unionists, Willi Brandt, Mayor of Berlin and 'Shadow Chancellor', was asked by a workman: 'What am I to say when my mates want to know the difference between the CDU and SPD programmes ?'

Brandt himself 'played it cool'. One newspaper described him as playing a shepherd's pipe rather than blowing a trumpet. Sweet reasonableness has been his *leitmotiv*.

Germany still pulsates with pros-

perity. The D-mark is among the hardest currencies. For every one of the few unemployed there are eight jobs vacant. There are 1,125,000 for-eigners working in the Federal Republic. Since 1958 the cost of living has risen only 15%.

Yet there are warning voices. Britain's present economic plight comes in for frequent mention, as a sign that Germany should be alert to the danger of a spiral of rising costs and rising prices. One heard many generous references to Britain's difficulties, and it was a heartening reminder of the miracle of post-war reconciliation to be told: 'We are glad to be able to help keep the pound steady.

No blame

Whichever party wins, the problems are round the corner. They could turn out to be remarkably like Britain's problems. They will not be solved by blaming the other party.

The truth is, that both CDU and SPD face the same challenge as was faced—and, regrettably, not accepted —by our own Conservative and Labour leadership last Autumn before the election : to give the nation a sense of national purpose.

There are men in Germany who see this, and who disagreed with an electioneering policy which harped on the theme of 'security' and 'you've never had it so good'. Dr. Otto Schmidt, 63-year-old finance expert and Chairman of the powerful Finance Committee in Parliament told a CDU election meeting near Stuttgart: 'It is wrong to appeal just to the materialism in people. Germany, like every other nation, needs a creative purpose in the service of humanity. Behind all our economic problems is the moral problem-how to create a spirit of unselfishness and giving in the community."

The last sentence produced a burst of applause. He went on to outline a 'revolution of a change of heart that begins with each of us.'

Dr. Schmidt was at Caux in Switzerland in 1947, one of the first German statesmen to attend the Moral Re-Armament assemblies there after the war. With a group of men who had been in the Resistance to Hitler, he wrote there a handbook called 'Everything Must be Different—Everything Can be Different'. It went to a million German homes and helped lay the foundation for spiritual and economic recovery.

'The ideas of Caux', he told me, 'have been with us since then. They point us to the road we must take now.'

His words were echoed by a group of miners I met in the Ruhr. They have no room for the hates of the past. Europe, they are convinced, has a uniting destiny : to give the idea of Moral Re-Armament to East and West, to Russia, China and America.

Youth feels the same. I spoke with a delegation of twenty back from a Moral Re-Armament Youth Assembly in France. Whatever the politicians do or do not do, these young men and women are determined to end stoneage thinking in the space-age.

They want a Germany responsible for humanity, feared by none and respected by all. They see Europe moving as one, not with the frail unity of pacts and treaties, but with a common purpose to end division, want and hunger in the world. And Britain, they said, is urgently needed at the heart of the new Europe.

Common path

It is the voice of a new Germany. It is the voice which unites go-ahead youth with the elder statesman, Adenauer. Eighty-nine, still erect, still alert, he put in many a sixteen-hour day in the election campaign. Opinion polls rated him once more the most respected politician.

Some of his campaign speeches put more than one cat among the pigeons. When the dust of controversy settled, the stature of the man emerged as great as ever. At the height of the battle for votes, Germany's shrewdest politician remained the dedicated statesman with aims beyond election victory or defeat—a free society which can one day speak across Iron Curtains and challenge the Communists to tread with the West the common path of a revolutionary change of motive.

Sydney Cook

New freedom train heads west

'I travelled the Kennedy. Ike and Truman trains,' said a railway porter, 'but watching you people makes me realise what America could be.' He was referring to the fifteen-car special train that is taking 300 youth from sixty American campuses westwards from Mackinac Island. This new type of Freedom Train carries the cast of the new musical explosion, Sing-Out '65, creation of the 7,000 youth who this summer attended the MRA Demonstration at Mackinac. 'This Sing-Out Special combines all the dazzle of a first-class Broadway production with the fast-moving pace of a political whistle-stop campaign and the enthusiasm of youth,' says Blanton Belk, US Director of Moral Re-Armament.

On 19 September Sing-Out '65, will be given in the Hollywood Bowl. It is being presented on the invitation of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Representing seventy-six Southern California communities, this Board has invited *Sing-Out* '65, to help the city after the riots. They are making the Bowl available free of charge, urging School Boards to use school buses to transport students there and notifying all county employees.

From the Hollywood Bowl performance the cast fly to Asia at the invitation of the Japanese and Korean Prime Ministers.

The Hollywood Citizen News writes, 'If Los Angeles residents could become imbued with that Mackinac Island spirit the tenseness of community affairs would leave.'

At West Chicago, Kansas City,

Lawrence, Topeka, Emporia, Dodge City-all across the Mid-West the train made whistle-stops for the cast to sing from the platforms the hit songs from the show and speak of what their generation intended to take on. At a moment's notice hundreds streamed out of stores and automobiles from the streets to station platforms to hear the cast. They were welcomed by mayors and recorded by Press, TV and radio. A thunderous welcome by State, City and Indian leaders awaited the cast as they stopped off at Santa Fé, New Mexico. In the evening 3,000 packed the auditorium in the heart of Indian country to see Sing-Out '65. Speaking on behalf of the Governor of New Mexico State, Senator José Ortiz Epino said, 'This day will be a highlight in the history of the State.'

FIFTY AUSTRALIAN WOMEN attending the Country Women's Association Convention in Dublin, saw the film *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill* while in London.

HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS packed Brisbane University's largest lecture theatre to see Peter Howard's play *The Ladder*.

'FREEDOM' has been given in Luanshya police camp. This is the ninth showing in the series of MRA films requested by the Zambia police.

REPRINTS of *Time and Tide's* supplement on MRA are available from 4 Hays Mews at these special rates: Single copies: 1s, 11 copies: 10s, 20 copies: 17s 6d, 50 copies: £2, 100 copies: £3 15s, 500 copies: £15.

'VOICE OF THE HURRICANE' had its Swiss première in the 1,000 seat Scala cinema in Zurich last week. The author of the script, Alan Thornhill, and the film's director, George Fraser, spoke at a dinner before the showing.

THE 'YORKSHIRE POST' announcing the tour of Mr Wilberforce, MPwrites, 'The Westminster has always been a theatre of unusual interest. It has become known in recent years for setting a new trend in drama, towards a theatre of humanity and hope and positive ideas.'

Mahdi appeals for MRA

The spiritual leader of the Sudan, the Imam El Mahdi, spent an evening last week at 45 Berkeley Square, the London headquarters of Moral Re-Armament. He was accompanied by members of his family and senior advisers.

The Mahdi family control the Government Party in Parliament and the Imam's brother is the Minister of the Interior.

After dinner the party saw the film about Peter Howard, A Man to Match the Hour.

The Imam, whose many millions of followers form a bridge of faith across eight African and Middle East nations,

Weekly

Moral Re-Armament is exploding on every continent. News of its advance floods into our office daily. A fortnightly information service can no longer do justice to it.

This week we welcome our readers in sixty-seven countries to the first issue of the MRA Information Service as a weekly.

The price of the fortnightly Information Service has remained at 20s a year since 1952. With increased printing and postal charges we can no extended an urgent invitation to bring a task force of MRA to the Sudan as soon as possible.

'The conception of moral re-armament has existed for centuries,' he said. 'Our holy scriptures are full of references to it and what it seeks to do for the world—as are Christian teachings. When you come to us we shall appoint our three most learned *ulemas* to scan the Koran and gather every relevant passage. You must do the same from the Christian scriptures. Then together we shall form a practical handbook to give purpose to all men and help God to repair his world. We cannot afford to delay this work.'

longer hold this price. The annual subscription will be 50s a year (airmail 15s extra). Current subscriptions will expire earlier now that it is weekly. We will notify subscribers when they should renew.

We welcome your ideas how this service can be used to shape our nations' thinking aright and hope that you will enlist many new subscribers.

MICHAEL HENDERSON Editor

ERIC THOMAS Business Manager

Published weekly by New World News, 4 Hays Mews, London, W.1 Annual subscription 50s. Airmail 15s. extra Printed in England by George Rose (Printers) Ltd. Thornton Heath, Surrey