

Erhard welcomes 'Sing-Out'

FEDERAL GERMAN CHANCELLOR Dr Ludwig Erhard officially welcomed to Germany the 150 young Americans of the cast of *Sing-Out '66* immediately after their arrival from Washington by special plane. The forty-minute reception took place on the garden terrace of the German Chancellery, the Palais Schaumburg, in brilliant sunshine.

Chancellor Erhard was accompanied by Mrs Erhard and the Foreign Minister, Dr Gerhard Schroeder; the Minister of the Interior, Dr Paul Lübbecke; the Head of the Chancellery, Minister Ludger Westrich; the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the German Parliament, Dr Otto Schmidt; the Chairman of the Security Council, Minister Dr Heinrich Krone; the Pakistan Minister of Commerce and Defence and the Pakistan Ambassador to Bonn.

After the cast had sung several of their numbers, notably 'Freedom isn't free, you've got to pay a price,' the Chancellor, speaking with considerable feeling, told them, 'I warmly welcome you here to German soil. Our whole nation is very closely linked with America in the same ideal which is the will to maintain and defend a society of freedom and democracy, even if this demands, as you sing, a price to be paid. No sacrifice is too big for this aim.'

'Wings to our action'

'You will take from here the picture of a nation that wants to fight with you to build a new world, a better world, a free world, a peaceful world, which includes all races and all religions on all continents. The aim which you are proclaiming represents also the ideals to which I am committed, the ideals on which the new Germany has been built. To know that we are fighting in one spirit, and to know that we are lost if we do not fight together, shall give wings to



Chancellor Erhard receives a Western hat from J Blanton Belk, MRA Director in US

our action. As you go through Germany you will strengthen even more the strong ties and good relations between our two countries.'

J Blanton Belk, US Director of MRA, thanked Chancellor Erhard for his invitation for *Sing-Out '66* to come to Germany. He told him, 'Young America stands firmly behind you in your fight to spread freedom to the entire world.'

The cast was asked to remain in the garden to broadcast live for national radio. While they were singing 'Freedom isn't free', the Chancellor re-appeared at an open upstairs window to listen throughout the song and waved again farewell to the cast.

Immediately following the reception *Sing-Out '66* was entertained for lunch at the Parliament as the guests of Dr Eugen Gerstenmaier, President of the Parliament. Speaking on his

behalf, Vice-President Dr Thomas Dehler told the cast, 'No nation knows the value of freedom better than we Germans, because we lost it. We did not know that there had to be paid a price for freedom and caused great suffering to our nation and the whole world.'

'We are now faced with the task of building again a nation of freedom. That is why it is a very important gesture that you are coming to us at this time. It is more than one hundred years ago that the best of the Germans went across the ocean to the Free World because here they could not find freedom. And it is a very important gesture that you are now coming back to us and, as your American forces did, to bring freedom and to stand for freedom. My best wishes and the best wishes of the German Parliament go with you in your work.'



GARTH LEAN

BEAT THE NIHILISTS'

The Prime Minister said at the Scottish Trade Union Congress that our greatest national need was to end bloody-mindedness. He warned unions and employers that a basic change of attitude was necessary if Britain was not 'to mull about in the backwater of the world's economy'.

But who are the promoters of bloody-mindedness in Britain to-day? Is it the unions? Is it management? Is it the press? To an extent it is all of us. But the real promoters of bloody-mindedness are a new Establishment of nihilists.

Nihilism could annihilate the productivity the Prime Minister calls for in his great crusade on which he says the future of Britain depends. And in the 'sixties television and theatre are the pulpits. This week we report speeches by Garth Lean, author, and Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Westminster Theatre Trustees.

STRIKING at nihilism in some of British theatre and television, author Garth Lean asked last week at a lunch in London, 'How can we expect the nation to become purposeful if we subsidise the preaching of meaninglessness?

'The fact is that a nihilist country cannot be governed by democratic method. If nothing matters, why should I work at all, if I can chisel? Why should company directors be efficient if they can make enough money without being efficient? The whole of the Government's appeal for recovery, in which we all wish them well, is based on the moral appeal. If the country believes in nothing, there will be nothing to which to appeal.

'Historically nihilism generally leads to anarchy and to the situation where ordinary people allow a dictator to step in. It was the spread of nihilism among the German intellectuals which prepared the way for Hitler. And today many people abroad regard London as the capital of nihilism, as Rome is the capital of Catholicism or Moscow of Communism.'

Partially succeeding

How far has nihilism spread in Britain? Lean said at the lunch sponsored by the Women of the Hour, an association of business and professional women, that 'a brilliant, concerted and partially successful attempt is being made to take over the mind and culture of the country.

'Sir Arnold Lunn and I (they are co-authors of the *Cult of Softness* and *The New Morality*) do not contend that this take-over bid is necessarily the result of concerted planning. It may merely be the consequence of the

instinctive co-operation of like-minded people. Which it is, is in our view a matter of academic interest. The point is that this attempt is largely succeeding because there is no planned or concerted defence by the non-nihilists, Christian or non-Christian, who know that a society falls to pieces when its moral foundations are undermined.'

Lean quoted *Sunday Express* writer Robert Pitman who, in his series about the 'Hatemakers', wrote, 'In the Britain of the 'sixties they have dominated the citadels of opinion—TV, bookshops, theatres, fashionable magazines, even the universities.'

Cultural snobbery

Quintin Hogg, QC, MP had said, 'Our country is being destroyed before our eyes by a conspiracy of intellectuals without faith, delinquents without honour, muckrakers without charity or compassion, young men who are incapable of dreaming dreams, and old men who have never known what it is to see visions.'

Lord Shawcross, Attorney General in the first Attlee Government, had said, 'Listening to these miserable little men without a constructive idea, who for money tear down and destroy accepted values and ridicule those who seek to serve their country, you might think there was nothing worthy in our society.'

Lean also instanced the report of the Church and Nation Committee of the Church of Scotland. It had said, 'A type of arrogant metropolitan mind increasingly acts as the moulder of ideas, standards and aspirations of the rest of Britain.'

One of the least attractive features

of 'the nihilist take-over bidders is their cultural snobbery,' said Lean. He referred to the resignation in April of Ronald Duncan from the English Stage Company, which he had founded. Said Duncan: 'The company has formed a new Establishment more narrow-minded and bigoted than any has ever been before. It is ignoring the work of established writers who do not fit into the fashion for commitment.' And the Royal Court's commitment, said Lean, was 'to nihilism and to the doctrine that no one is cultured who believes in positive standards of faith and morality. This is the theatre whose grant has just been upped from £40,000 to £85,000 a year by the Arts Council.'

Lean said the spirit of nihilism had such a hold on the intellectual life of Britain that 'political leaders seem to fear that they will be laughed at if they express any deep idealism, any great goal for our country, any faith in God.'

Speak out

This fear was not true. Citing the rapid development of the Sing-Out movement throughout the world, Lean said that 'young people are tiring of easy options and are looking for something great and satisfying for which to live—and when they find it, they go for it with tremendous enthusiasm.'

He urged everyone to speak out for their beliefs even if the nihilists 'call you "the lunatic fringe" or "philistine" or say you are trying to censor them. That is the crunch-point. Will you go on at that point or will you turn back? The future of your country may depend on what you do.'

PLAN FOR BRITAIN

KENNETH BELDEN, Chairman of the Trustees of the Westminster Theatre, said last week that the supreme issue facing everyone in this country 'is how to get the will to work and the will to win pulsing in Britain. Our duty as citizens,' he said, 'is to do what governments cannot do.'

Great aims for Britain must be given through theatre, television and radio. A country where 'the majority couldn't care less, is on the way out, economically, politically, morally.' The future lay with the people who care enough to live what their country needs.

Men whose outlook had changed after coming to the plays and conferences at the Westminster had taken initiative to end restrictive practices, solve disputes and raise production in shipyards, coal mines and factories.

Belden was addressing a luncheon of seventy in Leeds, chaired by J R Vickers, oil manufacturer, to launch a Yorkshire fund for the new Westminster Theatre Arts Centre. The fund is sponsored by a committee of sixty Yorkshire personalities headed by Members of Parliament and the Lord Mayors of Leeds, Sheffield and Bradford. Its aim is to raise £25,000 for the Arts Centre building fund.

Magnetise men

Belden said that men must be 'magnetised with great aims if we are to achieve our goals as a nation and give the leadership the world expects of us. It cannot be done by legislation, exhortation, threats, promise, bribes or cajolement. It can only be done by ourselves, the British people'.

Governments make decisions, but millions of people who resist their aims could slow down and frustrate the best laid plans. Government, and industry, could only function if millions are prepared to go along with them and put their best into it.

Today the nation was being subjected to a widespread 'propaganda for a view of life entirely opposed to the national need. At a time when people needed inspiration to give their best to the national effort, they were being given a callous, selfish, get-what-you-want philosophy.

'We should remember that the listening and viewing audiences are

the industrial workers and industrial management of Britain. They are our technicians, our teachers, our civil servants, ourselves.' The effects of this outlook on millions of people could be seen in our production figures and our export totals.

'We are faced as a nation' he said, 'with immense dangers and limitless opportunities. Of what use to people like ourselves is a theatre which says that life has no meaning, that God is a myth, faith is hypocrisy, morality a delusion, love of country disreputable, and that man himself is an animal—degradation his lot and death his destination?'

No brow-beating

He supported Lord Willis' recent statement to the Royal Society of Arts in London: 'No nation can live indefinitely on an artistic diet of despair or feed forever on pessimism. We are creating a climate in which it is impossible to speak of love, or hope, or kindness, or compassion, or progress, without apologising first.'

Censorship was not the answer. Men must be free to express reality as they honestly saw it. But a new standard of judgement was needed. 'We must refuse to be brow-beaten by loud-voiced cynics who want to destroy the faith and virtues on which our country has been built,' Mr Belden declared.

The Westminster was 'running a revolution to reverse the wrong trends of the age and accelerate the right ones.'

Thousands of workers and management had seen plays and attended weekend conferences at the theatre. There had been 200 such conferences with participants varying from 300 to 1,000 in number, during the last five years.

Thousands of young men and women of Britain, and the Commonwealth and overseas youth studying in Britain—many future leaders of their countries—had seen these plays. This would be done on a much larger scale when the Arts Centre came into operation. 'We aim to give them the faith, standards and ideas on which the freedom and prosperity of their countries can be built,' he said.

Mr Belden announced that a building fund of £550,000 was being raised



KENNETH BELDEN

for the new Centre. 'The way the money has been coming in has been a romance,' he said. 'It is all being raised by voluntary giving.'

The first gift came from a woman in a small town near London who sold her shop in order to retire from business. She gave the bulk of the proceeds—£10,000.

A Yorkshire mill girl who retired after forty years sent £40 of her £50 retirement gift.

A Manchester teacher and his wife gave £1,000 from their savings. An ex-Serviceman wrote: 'My wife and I have just come into a little family money. We thought of putting it by for the education of our son. But we believe it will do more for his future and for our country if it goes towards the new Centre in memory of Peter Howard.' They enclosed £500.

Best of Britain

Other countries had been helping. The Netherlands had sent £15,000 in cash already. From Sweden are coming gifts of kitchen equipment worth £5,000. The Sudan is giving leather and New Zealand has offered timber.

Kenneth Belden concluded with a tribute to Peter Howard, many of whose plays were performed at the Westminster Theatre. 'He stood for the best of Britain to leaders and ordinary men of many lands. We want the Westminster to give Britain the best she needs today and give the best of Britain to the world.'

Gifts for the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre should be sent c/o The Editor, MRA Information Service, 4 Hays Mews, London W1. Cheques should be made out to the Westminster Memorial Trust.



PRESIDENT JOMO KENYATTA of Kenya sits with his Minister of Education Mbiu Koinange, watching 'Harambee Africa' at his home in Gatundu. (Right) D T Arap Moi, Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security, and his wife see rehearsals before the musical's tour of East Africa. Kenyatta urged the young Africans in the cast to take the spirit of harambee (pull together) to all nations. (Photo: Kenya Information Services)



Earlier in March he had told KANU delegates: 'We need to be sure of ourselves and to stand firm in our convictions if our independence is to survive. Too many people or countries try to woo us one way or another. We must be careful lest our independence is undermined through neo-colonialism and Communism. There is need for us to build a stable and honest government. I will not allow corruption, tribalism and victimization.'

Australian Foreign Minister backs Indian effort

AUSTRALIA'S Minister of External Affairs, Rt Hon Paul Hasluck, expressed his own and the Government's backing for the Indian tour of the musical *Sing-Out Australia* and said that Australia and India working together could 'change the shape of Asia.'

The cast of the musical, who flew this week to Bombay, could do what the Australian Government could not do with wheat shipments alone, said Mr Hasluck. They could bring understanding between peoples through a 'meeting of hearts and minds.' He

wished them 'triumphant progress.'

It was essential for the stability of Asia that action taken by the Indian Government should succeed, the Minister said. He was speaking after seeing a performance of the musical in Perth before the cast flew to India.

Japan, India and Australia, Mr Hasluck declared, were 'three bases on which the tripod of progress for the future of Asia could rest.'

'Technical assistance, government conferences and negotiations are all necessary but are not by themselves

enough. Human warmth and understanding are necessary. If there's anything you can do that governments cannot do, it is in that field.'

'I would not expect *Sing-Out Australia* to send a shipload of wheat to India. That is the Government's job and we have done it.'

'You have got it right. It is people that matter. Yours is a venture by people to meet people. It is because I value that above all other activities that I wish you success.'

Action by 161 US Congressmen

SEVEN THOUSAND Washingtonians saw *Sing-Out '66* last week before it left for Germany on the invitation of Chancellor Erhard.

Under the sponsorship of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 161 Senators and Congressmen and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the cast gave two performances in the Constitution Hall.

The Secretary of the Army, Stanley R Resor, and the US Army Chief of Staff, General Harold K Johnson, were among the Senators, Ambassadors, White House staff members who saw the performances.

Congressman Mrs Frances Bolton, senior Republican in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said after the first performance, 'Many Congressmen came up to me today on

the Floor of the House and told me that seeing the show last night was one of the greatest experiences they had ever had.'

President and Mrs Johnson met American Indians in the cast last week and later the entire cast were received in the White House by the Presidential Aide with the National Security Council, Donald Ropa.

David Lawrence wrote in his nationally syndicated column in the *Washington Evening Star*, 'It is certainly a refreshing experience to find the youth of the country joining in such an enterprise. Moral Re-Armament could also bring about a significant turn in the thinking of college youth in America.'

At the US Naval Academy at Annapolis last Saturday 4,500 mid-

shipmen and distinguished guests, including the President of the American Stock Exchange, stood for forty-one minutes to applaud the musical.

Sing-Out '66 has also played to the US Air Force Academy, the Army Academy at West Point and the Merchant Marine Academy.

Eisenhower

General Dwight D Eisenhower received a second cast of *Sing-Out '66* this week in Gettysburg. He said, 'You are making again patriotism a respectable and proud word in this country. I can't tell you how much I appreciate what you are doing and that you would give me the opportunity to listen to you.'