

Winning the battle for Britain

**'It's our country, Jack!
in Scotland**

GO-AHEAD MANAGEMENT—vigorous, efficient, young and old. Look-ahead shop stewards—public-spirited, hate-free, modern. Men, unsupervised, who take pride in doing a job well. And alongside them sub-standard management, illogical class-war hangovers, men with the philosophy, 'I don't give a damn who runs the works as long as my pay packet goes up each week.'

We have met them all in these last three weeks as we have travelled Scotland with the musical *It's our country, Jack!* We have rejoiced at the craftsmanship and skill. Only this week it was reported that Scottish made mini-computers would be at the heart of the European space programme. We shared the heartache of newspaper headlines containing yet another stoppage or strike.

And to everyone we have met we have given the philosophy of *It's our country, Jack!*—the challenge of absolute moral standards, the norm for public and private life; the chance to participate personally and nationally in the moral re-armament of the whole world.

At a performance of *It's our country, Jack!* in Glasgow's Concert Hall, 1700 people cheered 17-year-old Clydesider Robert Corcoran when he said, 'Scots are scattered across the world in their millions. Most countries have benefited from our scientists and engineers, though they have not always brought an answer to the



'Happy Deathday' opens in London

The Scientist, his wife and daughter in Peter Howard's new play at the Westminster. L to r: Barbara Ewing, June Sylvaine, Clement McCallin Photo: Houston Rogers

countries in which they have found themselves.

'I long for Scotland to stop worrying about what the world is going to do for her and to start to think out what we as a nation are meant to do for the world. If Scotland got this idea, her men and her ships can take it to the four corners of the earth.'

In these past days we have toured the uncompleted decks of the Q4. We have looked at Hunterston, and talked with the engineers who operate this pioneer nuclear power station. We watched the steel being rolled out in Colvilles' modern plant, Ravenscraig, and were addressed by the Chairman, T R Craig. We have been given 'the freedom of the works' by the Managing Director of Rootes, Linwood, and been the guests of the shop steward convenor at Fairfields—the shipyard regarded by millions as the symbol of the daring experiment

to create a new type of Scottish industry.

One evening the Managing Director of Rootes, Linwood, sat in the dress circle at *It's our country, Jack!* A row in front sat shop stewards from all sections, and around him ninety from the firm. The cast were singing: 'A hundred per cent we are asking. A hundred per cent we will give. Whatever you do, do it better, do it as long as you live.'

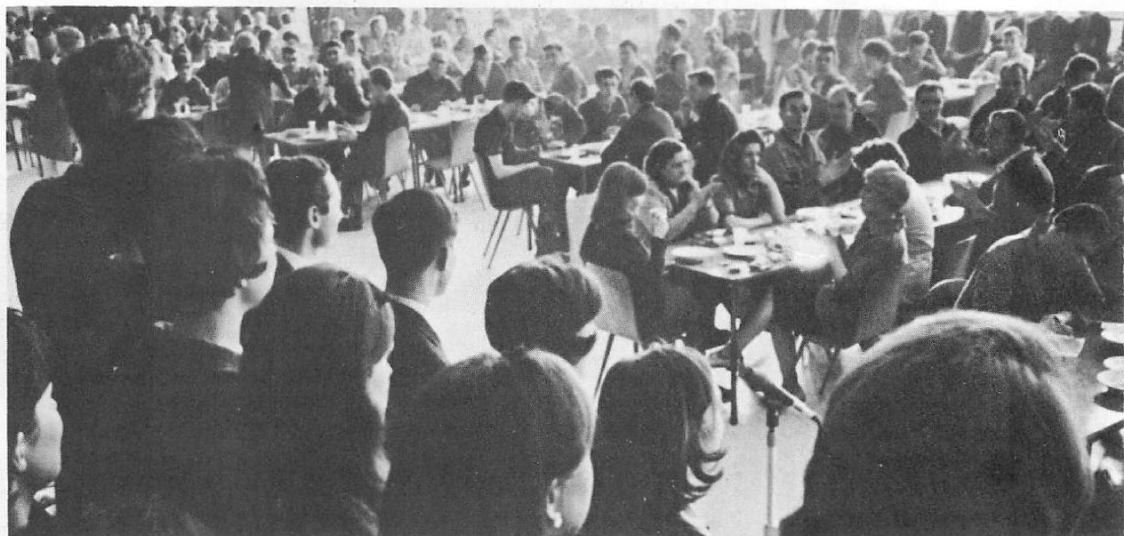
A shop steward turned round and chided the Managing Director: 'Did you write that?' For the next day these officials were to be negotiating whether they could attain a hundred per cent productivity or settle for the ninety-eight which management say is now in operation. The next day, too, we were invited to the factory.

Hundreds of men in the Linwood canteen shouted their response to the



W Garner, Managing Director of Rootes

Chorus of 'It's our country, Jack!' sing in Rootes canteen. Photos: Strong



programme from the cast. At lunch we sat down with the shop stewards and management. The Managing Director, W Garner, said, 'I would like to congratulate you on the excellence of your show and the enthusiasm you put into it. It was first class.'

Alex MacGuiness, convener of shop stewards at Fairfields shipyard told us this week, 'On behalf of management and men I want to thank you for the work you are doing and have done in this area. What you are trying to get across is basically what we are trying to do in Fairfields.'

The Geddes Report on Shipbuilding calls for a wholly new start between management and men. Performances of *It's our country, Jack!* and receptions afterwards gave the opportunity to men who normally meet only across the table to talk over and resolve issues vital to both labour and management. For example, the Managing Director of a famous shipyard talked after the show with one of his union officials. They discussed management's proposals to introduce a new labour-saving machine. When the union leader expressed the concern of the men about redundancy the executive replied. 'You need have no fears about that. There will be re-training for all.'

In the three weeks we have reached widely into Scottish life—staying in people's homes, meeting Provosts and pressmen, giving programmes in shipyards and schools, reaching large crowds at a football match or in the big city theatres, presenting an hour of the show for workers in the British Motor Corporation, Bathgate, singing in the Students' Union at

Edinburgh University, being interviewed on closed-circuit television in Strathclyde University. The *Strathclyde Telegraph*, the University paper, wrote, 'Here is an attempt to inject people with the Dunkirk spirit before the disasters of a Dunkirk are more than a gathering cloud on a distant horizon.'

To a packed-out performance in Glasgow's Concert Hall came a message of greetings from Scottish MPs from both the Government and Opposition benches.

In Leith, port of Edinburgh, so many trade unionists turned out to meet the cast that many had to be turned away from the Boilermakers' Social Club. In Kirkcaldy, Fife—the fastest growing industrial area in Scotland—in a few hours' visit programmes were given in the leading schools and technical college and the largest factory.

At the performance in Edinburgh's Music Hall students who came expecting to whistle and demonstrate against what they were seeing stayed to agitate that the show be given on television.

In Aberdeen George Whyte, editor of the Aberdeen *Clarion*, Labour Party paper, said, 'MRA creates

honest and incorruptible men.' Referring to the Devlin Report on the British docks, he said, 'We need this spirit to make it work. That is what MRA is giving us.' The Aberdeen *Press & Journal* said the aim of *It's our country, Jack!* was not only to provide top entertainment but also 'an idea of what Britain could do in the world today if she really tries.'

A docker's official, describing the industrial peace in the Glasgow docks, told us, 'Of course a lot of that goes back to the work of MRA over the years.' A Provost of the Lower Reaches of the Clyde told us, 'There were such deep divisions in the shipyards. And in these last four years I have noticed quite a change. I believe it partly stems from these ideas of MRA.' A Boilermakers' official in Aberdeen said that his yard was now providing employment for life and attributed it to the same ideas.

We want to see such examples multiplied. We want to see developed new work that has begun in these last weeks. We want to see Scotland taking these ideas to the world. We leave this week for Northern Ireland, but we respond to the invitations pressing on us to come back.

John Mackenzie, a Boilermakers'

Audience in Greenock Town Hall



New press techniques —What about new-type journalists?

by Reginald Holme

NEWSPAPERS of the future may drop out of a slot in the TV set. Revolutionary techniques of newspaper production are already with us. Type is set at high speed by computer. Whole papers are being sent hundreds of miles by electronic scanning machines which save time-wasting transport by train and plane.

The *Economist Intelligence Unit* in a massive report last month to the proprietors of Britain's national press in London recommends new methods and outlook in newspaper management and unions. The Joint Board of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association under Lord Devlin's chairmanship meets again next week to discuss it.

What about the journalist? He provides what the EIU report calls 'the lifeblood of the industry'. Are there revolutionary concepts of his role and range of responsibility in today's scientific age?

Britain's daily and Sunday press has an influence beyond our shores, more than many realise. A Cyprus High Court judge told me the leadership of his country get our papers early each day and tend to imitate what they

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branch secretary at Lithgows, urging the cast to return said, 'You have had a great impact on the Lower Reaches of the Clyde. This show gives us the spirit we need to win the battle for Britain. We need co-operation between men and management working as a team. As Harold Wilson said, the battle will be won on the shop floor. We are looking forward to having the cast back.'

'We are also working to get them back,' said John Craig, Secretary and Special Director of Colvilles, the steel makers. 'There is no doubt that the cast opened the eyes of men and management to the fact that industry has a greater purpose than earning wages or making profits. Britain as a nation must live to create a God-controlled world. Then the needs of the ordinary man for food, work and hope can be met. That is the fight I have committed my life to.'

Michael Henderson

read in them. British papers set a pattern for Indian papers and are carefully studied by editors from Calcutta to Bombay.

Newspapers reflect the quality of life of the men who design and write them. The National Council for the Training of Journalists aims to raise the quality and responsibility of the journalists of the future. 'The journalist', says the Council, 'should be well-informed, fully efficient and maturely responsible'.

This suggests that an editor, reporter or sub-editor has a responsibility through what he writes or publishes for the state of the world.

More than a spectator

Prominent scientists and science writers in a BBC-TV broadcast on 5 January indicated why no one, reader or writer, can with easy conscience remain merely a spectator or analyst of today's world. Through knowledge of the genetic code, said Lord Ritchie Calder, 'we are going to tamper with the nature of man. This raises all kinds of questions philosophically more profound than those caused by nuclear energy'.

Professor Dennis Gabor said, 'It is not the quantity (of our scientific discoveries)—it's the quality of life which ought to be improved, and we are very far from that.'

Some journalists are pioneers of the new type of newspaperman who is not content only to report problems, as he must, but sets himself to find, report and create answers.

Al Kuettner was bureau manager of a world news agency in the Southern States of America. When he came in contact with MRA he learnt to live with discipline and that God could flash a thought into his brain as clearly as he could send instructions and news to subordinates and agency subscribers in distant cities.

One day in a university city of his state a race riot threatened to erupt. Two Negro students were trying to take their place in college, as the law said they could. Some white students promised trouble if they did. The university president was 'out' to all callers, especially pressmen.

Kuettner followed a thought to see him and tell him how similar disputes had been settled by MRA principles. He added in effect, 'You are meant to stand for the law without fear or favour.' The president got over his fears of personal reputation and safety, issued a statement that any student causing trouble would be expelled. Threats ceased and integration took place.

In international as in racial or industrial affairs, journalists through their professional work and contacts can be bridge-builders. At the height of an earlier Greek-Turkish crisis over Cyprus, Ahmed Emin Yalman, founder and editor of the great Turkish Liberal paper *Vatan* and a protagonist of MRA, went to Athens and wrote articles in the Greek press. He said that Greeks and Turks were meant to be brothers but were busily sawing off the branch on which they both sat.

The Times in an editorial on 8 March, 1960, wrote: 'Probably no Turk has achieved more respect among all communities during the recent years in Cyprus than Mr Yalman.'

In Britain Claud Morris, seasoned Fleet Street man, now publisher of the *South Wales Voice*, who was joint leader of the consortium that bid for *The Times*, told a London audience that the mass media in Britain are 'full of people who earn their livings and keep their positions by sacrificing standards they know in their hearts to be true.' A visit to an MRA conference in Caux, he said, decided him to apply absolute honesty as his yardstick of new-type journalism. He refused from then on to 'propagate lies to get cheap circulation or suppress news that might damage my commercial interests'. Rival papers put pressures on him. But new advertisers and print orders replaced old and the paper kept its independence.

Peter Howard, as a political columnist and editorial writer for the Beaverbrook Newspapers, took up Frank Buchman's challenge to journalists to be 'inspirers of statesmen and heralds of a new world'.

In the 25 years that remained to



The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow talks with members of the cast of 'It's our country, Jack!' after a performance. Photo: Strong

We are our brothers' keepers

says Archbishop of Glasgow

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him his pen was far more fertile and effective than ever before. His books sold some four million copies and like his 16 plays—ten of them performed at the Westminster Theatre—went into many languages. Statesmen echoed them in speeches. Students found they gave clues to life's riddles. Italian Communist leaders and Soviet diplomats admired his plays because, they said, the writer was a man committed with pen and person to reshaping the course of nations.

Assis Chateaubriand, a far-seeing newspaper proprietor, head of the largest press and TV empire in North and South America, invited Howard to 'launch a civic offensive for Moral Re-Armament from Amazonas State to Rio Grande do Sul'. On this visit he met the Presidents and Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

His last play, *Happy Deathday*, which he was completing when he died in Peru, is one of his most penetrating. In it he anticipated and aimed to answer the questions that perplex some of the world's top scientists and affect the future of everyone on this planet. This he felt was the task of every journalist and writer.

THE MOST REV J D SCANLAN, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow, spent ninety minutes last week with the cast of *It's our country, Jack!* in the Hall of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland. He spoke after hearing a special song sung for him by the chorus.

'May I say how deeply moved I have been to listen to your wonderful and quite surprising song. I feel at times, naturally, the burden of office, that I am extremely inadequate for all the calls that are made upon me.

'No one person in authority and no bishop can possibly entertain the illusion that he himself is able to do anything worthwhile. He depends upon a great many collaborators and on that invisible army of well-wishers, of men and women who are on the side of what is right, of men and women who realise that in these days those on the side of right, no matter what internal divisions may separate them, are united in maintaining the principle of the moral order.

'We are anxious indeed to cooperate with all men of goodwill, all men with pride in things that matter, all men who are patriots in the true sense of the word, who put the well-being of the country before their own well-being, who are prepared to sink

differences in order to ensure that their fellow citizens will be given circumstances in which human dignity is not insulted and in which they may develop the talents God has entrusted to them.

'When I had the great experience to be present at *It's our country, Jack!* I was struck first of all by the remarkable enthusiasm of everyone who took part in it. That was a real tonic in these days when so many people, particularly the youth, are cynical, browned off and think it doesn't matter at all.

Fired with enthusiasm

'It matters a great deal to have a body of men and women fired with enthusiasm and with the desire to do all they can to show that they are their brothers' keepers, have concern for erring brothers and for those who have not been able to meet the challenge of life.

'I do appreciate all that you are doing. It has been for me a tremendous experience and a wonderful stimulus to have this contact with you.

'I can assure you that you are very much in my prayers. If ever you are tempted to be a little downcast or dejected, remember there is somebody in Glasgow who has you in his prayers and whose greatest desire is that you should continue to expand your good work. I hope you have the same effect on everyone with whom you come into contact as you have had upon me.

'God bless you and God reward you in all you are doing.'

WESTMINSTER THEATRE ARTS CENTRE, SUNDAY, 19 MARCH

The Revolutionary Role of the Press in the Next Ten Years

You are invited to hear speakers from the publishing, editorial and printing sides of the industry. Special announcements are available from
The Editor, MRA Information Service