

## European revue opens on Merseyside

WHILE CRUCIAL WAGE and work negotiations proceeded on the waterfront of Liverpool, *Anything to Declare?* is being presented nightly with in sight of the giant cranes which load the ships. By day and night the cast have been meeting men of management, union leaders, shop stewards and dockers in their homes, at their work and after the performances.

Last Saturday night people thronged to the British premiere at the Bootle Town Hall. Asking if she could speak at the end, the Mayor of Bootle, Mrs Vera Bray, said that for a long time she had been one of the people who had talked about the problems in the world but done nothing about them. She said that while some people ask for a better standard of living, others have no living standard at all. 'Surely that is not Christ's way,' she said. 'Surely the very basis

of Christianity is to live for other people as for yourself. Let us go home this evening realising that there is a world out there waiting.'

### New spirit

Former Mayor of Bootle, Griffith Williams, added about *Anything to Declare?* : 'I thank God for the day I met this crowd. They are an international team bringing a new unity and creating a new spirit which will break down the barriers of mistrust and hate. In a world of violence and destruction they have the courage to raise their banner of moral values. I commit myself to live the standards this cast represents.'

During the week the cast sang and spoke at schools, youth clubs and the university.

Speaking later this week Williams said, 'You have heard through songs

### Dockers watching a performance in Merseyside dockers' club



The Mayor of Bootle welcomes the European revue at a civic reception in the Council Chamber  
*photos Maillefer*

in many languages and short sketches how by listening to that inner voice, the still small voice of God, we can become different. I know this to be true. I have tried it and it changed my whole life. It helped me tremendously during my year as Mayor of this town. God can still guide us when we are willing to listen.

'There is no such thing as being a member of Moral Re-Armament. It is not an organisation. It is not a point of view. It starts a revolution by starting one in you. It is the way you live—living those four moral standards. I am all for it.'

### Invitation committee

The cast were invited to Merseyside by a committee including Alderman David Lewis, former Lord Mayor of Liverpool; Griffith Williams, former Mayor of Bootle; Alfred Stocks, Deputy Town Clerk of Liverpool; Jim Worthington, member of the national executive of the National Union of Seamen and a cross section of citizens from the professional and industrial life of the area.



# INTERNATIONAL GROUP AT DOCKERS' CLUB

THE BINGO BLOWER came to a halt. The bottles of beer stood for the moment forgotten and the one-armed bandit unused. Dockers at the back of the room craned their necks and called to their friends as the cast of *Anything to Declare?* edged their way between the tables through the blue haze to the front. One shouted: 'Come on Fred, there's a good show in here!'

'If you get them listening in the Edinburgh Park Dockers' Club, you've won the heart of Liverpool,' a docker's daughter had told a member of the cast that morning.

## Joining In

The heart of Liverpool responded with energy and understanding. Even if there were a few puzzled faces during the Swedish and Spanish, the spirit behind the songs was not lost. Many could not resist joining in with the cast to sing the song about the oldest firm of shipbuilders, 'Old Noah . . . that keel you lay may save the day. Launch that ship on time.'

The true story of a British worker dramatized in the ballad of 'Les the Plumber' caught their imaginations and they shouted with recognition at the scene of family conflict. Loud 'shhh's' quieted the audience when Michel Orphelin, variety artist from Paris, said, 'The role of theatre is not just to reflect people's problems, but to help create the sort of society we want to see.' The quartet song, 'Let your heart explore the world around you', stirred many.

At the end, Tom Currie, MC of the Club, spoke. 'I am sure you will all give a big hand for the MRA,' he said. Dockers and their wives greeted the cast like old friends. Some in the revue had been visiting their homes a few days before, and the parents had heard accounts from their children of the school assemblies given by *Anything to Declare?*

The music of accordionist André Holvec from Lorraine was so popular that he was made a life member of the Club. One young shipping clerk commented to Conrad Hunte, 'What you said was the truth. There are so few people who stick their necks out.'



Tom Maguire, Club Chairman, introduces the cast at Liverpool's Edinburgh Park Dockers' Club  
photos Maillefer

A docker presented one of the Swiss girls with the Maoist pin from his lapel. Vijitha Yapa from Ceylon sold 50 copies of a pamphlet stating what has happened in industry as a result of shows like this revue. Tom Maguire, Chairman of the Club Committee, arranged for the cast to visit another dockers' club.

Afterwards, the dockers and their wives and girlfriends passed around the beer trays to collect money for *Anything to Declare?* Tom Currie, to be sure everyone had had a chance to contribute, sent the trays around a second time, saying, 'I would like you to give to the cause of the world.'

ROSEMARY PHELPS  
MARGARET SMITH



Above: Packed hall of dockers, their wives and friends

Below: Dockers passing the tray for collection for the expenses of the cast



# 'FLOOD INDIA WITH CHANGED MEN' SAY RETURNING EUROPEAN WORKERS

THREE EUROPEAN trade unionists recently returned from India with great hope for the country's future, yet deeply aware of the threats of national chaos and breakdown.

Breakdown was near in some ports of India, chaos close in West Bengal and at Durgapur the country's most modern steel industry was operating at 40% capacity because of inter-union war, they said

They had visited the industrial centres of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Poona where they dealt with corruption, thuggery, black-marketeering, smuggling and linguistic difficulties.

Rajmohan Gandhi through his work was giving hope to the Indian workers and their leaders, the industrialists and the politicians. The European workers—John Söderlund, organizer for the Transport Union in Norrköping, Sweden, Councillor John Pate of Sheffield and Jack Carroll,

branch chairman of the Transport and General Workers' Union in the port of Bristol—were reporting on their visit to India, on the invitation of Rajmohan Gandhi, to a meeting in the Westminster Theatre, London.

## Managers needed

Councillor Pate said to help sustain hope in India the West must flood India with changed men and women—people who could build incorruptible leadership and teamwork between union and union, and union and management. Söderlund appealed for men from European management to go to India and do the work that he and his trade union colleagues had been doing in the industry of India. Trust had to be built between the Indian workers and the managers for the workers to accept the introduction of new machinery, and the changes in jobs that would be necessary.



Carroll and Söderlund

Carroll announced that the European workers had undertaken to raise the money to dub the dockers' film *Men of Brazil* into Hindi so that it could be used on the Calcutta waterfront and in other industries in north India. Pate said he was going to make a contribution to this fund from his weekly wage.

In March a further delegation of MRA-trained European trade unionists would go to India, it was announced. Later in the year men from management would be going.

## Steel worker's wife gives supporting action

Mrs John Pate, a delegate to the Sheffield Trades and Labour Council, spoke at the Westminster Theatre last Sunday after her husband and his colleagues had reported on their visit to India (see above). She said:

I ENJOYED John going to India as much as he did. Many people when he left commiserated with me as my husband was leaving me for two months. They need not have bothered. I found it was a most uniting experience.

There were two things that I could do when he left. One was to sit at home feeling sorry for myself and longing for him to come back; or the other was to take on the world fight with him, and this was vital if he was to be free and give fully to India what India needed.

I hadn't time to begin to feel sorry for myself even if I had wanted to. While John was visiting dockers in Calcutta and Bombay, I was in Liverpool talking to dockers' wives about the European review *Anything to Declare?* that is there now.

While he was having lunch with a Roman Catholic Archbishop and

clergy in Agra and talking to them about the dockers' film *Men of Brazil*, I was in Nottingham visiting Roman Catholic priests and nuns, and telling them about that marvellous film *Give A Dog A Bone*.

While John and his friends were in a fishing village near Bombay being garlanded by Co-op officials, I was here in London talking to some of the Co-operative Guild women about the answer that the musical *Annie* at the Westminster Theatre has for Britain right now.

## Big purpose

It was a very uniting experience. I long for all the statesmen of our country and the ordinary folk to have the experience that we have just had. There would be absolutely no need for the House of Commons to be passing bills to make divorce easier if all the couples had the really satisfying and big purpose in their marriage of re-making the world.

If they had this it would give the kind of satisfying unity that makes marriages work and creates sound homes. The best way that we can back

Britain now is to have sound homes and the best weapon that we have to make sound homes and sound marriages is the play *Annie*. Just as Panchgani, the MRA centre, is the beacon of hope for Asia, the Westminster Theatre is the beacon of hope for this country and for the world.



French industrial delegation to last Sunday's 'East of Suez' Conference at the Westminster Theatre listen to Arts Centre Director, Louis K Fleming, describe the Centre's facilities  
photos Strong

# Moral authority in world affairs

by H S Addison

NOW THAT the present British Government has decided to withdraw Britain's military forces from East of Suez, it is being suggested that moral authority can replace military strength as Britain's contribution to world affairs. Certainly any nation which can effectively re-assert the power of moral principles as a factor in international politics will be filling an urgent need.

The question is, How?

The impression is sometimes conveyed that the mere removal of our military presence will itself enhance our moral authority, as though moral authority would naturally flow in to fill the vacuum.

It is not quite so simple as that.

Individuals win moral authority by paying their way and keeping their promises. To achieve these simple ends they are expected to be ready to make considerable personal sacrifices. If they fail to do so, they may even, under certain circumstances, find themselves in gaol. The Village Blacksmith in the poem which we all read at school could 'look the whole world in the face, for he owed not any man.' Should less be expected of one of the wealthiest countries in the world? There was a time when the Englishman's word was his bond. This is no longer accepted as true.

## Exhilarating

Yet Britain could very quickly be in a position to pay her debts, keep her promises and exercise the moral authority which is her undoubted role today. The Chancellor tells us that we must accept two hard years of sweat and sacrifice. But they can be years as exhilarating and refreshing as any in our history, if we keep our eyes on the role which we are still called on to play.

Never since the war have the British people been so ready to go all out. At this very moment one of the hardest hit areas in the country, and one of the industries most seriously threatened by technological change, are setting an example.

There are pits in the Northumberland coalfield where production is

17% higher than a year ago. New records in output per man shift are being reached. The pits are being operated at a profit. Coal is being mined more cheaply than ever before.

There are good reasons for this. One is the statesmanlike leadership of the Coal Board, which is convincing the miners that they are being cared for, and that there is a future for their industry. Another is the effective use of the most modern mining machinery. But a third, and the most important of all is a new spirit in management and men. It is in this respect that the Northumberland coalfield—whatever its future—is leading the way.

Recently a national newspaper, under the headline 'The pit that simply

## FRENCH TRADE UNIONISTS IN INDIA

FRENCH TRADE UNIONISTS from Nantes are currently working with Rajmohan Gandhi in India for a three-month period. *Presse-Océan* and *Ouest-France*, both published in Rennes in the west of France, headlined the convictions of the French workers on arriving in India: 'I knew that these people were miserable, but not to this extent' and 'Three months is not much, so we'll have to move fast.'

The newspapers reported the meetings the three men from Nantes—Maurice Nosley, Mr Le Goff and Mr Pays—had with the Chief Minister of Goa and other Goan leaders and the union officials of the Bombay dockers.

*Presse-Océan* wrote. 'If this newspaper peradventure reaches them, then our three Nantes citizens will know that numerous Nantes people from all backgrounds are watching their action with enthusiasm.'

could not stay alive', carried an article about a crack pit in another area which, in spite of vast investments of money and machinery, has had to be closed. Almost at the same time, the *Ashington Post* described a much more modest pit in the Northumberland coalfield as 'the pit that never dies'. It records the fact that in the first week of December last, with reduced manpower, it smashed its production target; and it comments that this was 'due in large measure to co-operation between management and men.'

## A flame

Five years ago this pit was due for closure as uneconomic. The change in one man produced what Coal Board officials described as a 'miracle'. Today the spark struck there has become a flame throughout the coalfield. Multiply this spirit in every industry, and Britain will soon achieve solvency again. And in so doing we shall establish a moral authority which the world will be quick to recognise and welcome.

The men of British industry who last Sunday reported at the Westminster Theatre on their recent visit to India foreshadow what can be done. They are ordinary men, working with their hands in the factory and on the docks. Yet in the course of their tour they were listened to hungrily by management and labour, Communist and anti-Communist, statesmen and the man in the street.

They commanded attention because they brought concrete evidence from their own experience of a power capable of averting strikes, wage disputes and restrictive practices, a power which was effective in their homes as well as on the shop floor. They showed too that they cared not only for the workers of their own country, but for everyone everywhere. They demonstrated that whatever governments decide, nothing can prevent a morally re-armed Britain from exerting a moral authority which the world will welcome. They pointed the way ahead. What they are doing today the nation can do tomorrow.



# A VISIT TO ONE OF INDIA'S HALF MILLION VILLAGES

by James R Coulter

INDIA HAS some 550,000 villages. To visit one of these villages is to meet independent minds that distinguish clearly between right and wrong.

We arrived in Ambegar, in a valley of the Western Ghats, during the afternoon. We found the wife of the farmer we had come to see, alone, standing outside their temporary home. It was set alongside their crop of grain and consisted of a lean-to made up of six sheets of galvanised

sheep for the Mahatma'. (Richard Casey was Foreign Minister of Australia, 1951-60.) I asked him about the children, all so bright-eyed, but not an ounce of spare flesh among them: Did they get enough food? The man had served in the army and the police and his style was blunt. 'We are all half fed. The children don't get any of the milk from the cows and the buffaloes because we need to sell the milk for money.'

He looked me straight in the eye

war I am thinking about, it is what we could do as friends,' he told me.

He and his two brothers are a good example of what can be done when people do get together. Just a week before they had come to meet Rajmohan Gandhi. There had been a family feud revolving on a quarrel between two of the brothers. Nothing was said about it, but the three brothers decided they would like to try the experiment of 'listening to God'.

## Ramrod figure

They asked for pencils and paper, wrote down the thoughts that came to them and then very simply read them out. The second brother, a ramrod straight figure with a turban, simply apologised to his elder brother for what had happened between them years before. When the latter asked him if he really meant what he said, the younger replied, 'God put the thought in my heart to apologise. You know I mean it.' The elder brother understood and slowly nodded. Later he said, 'Today there certainly has been God's magic in my brother.' The reconciliation resulted in the brothers bringing 140 from their village to get training in MRA.

## Crooked politician

They understand the battle between good and evil. When a crooked politician tried to warn them off applying these ideas one of them said: 'Such people tried to kill the Mahatma but they only destroyed his body and not his idea; earlier they tried to get rid of Christ but they only killed His body and not His Spirit.'

Now these 140 people, more than half of whom had walked the six miles over the hills in noon-day heat, are planning to have fortnightly meetings in their village, to find out how to practise absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. They have a plan to reach the 22 villages of their valley. Already one of the men who was responsible for distributing the Government building materials for earthquake relief and had been selling it on the black market has publicly apologised for his 'cheating'.

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Rajmohan Gandhi goes to the villages for a meeting with farmers.

*photo Channer*

iron and next to it a windbreak for their two bullocks made of bushes roughly thatched together.

## Earthquake

The earthquake that had shattered villages in this part of Maharashtra some months before had rendered their simple earth hut in the village unsafe. The promised Government earthquake aid in housing had not yet reached the village.

The wife took us past the village school and when we reached the 'store' with its six-foot frontage on the track that ran through the village past the well, we were taken in hand by a brother of the farmer we had come to see.

He introduced me as coming from Australia, from 'where Richard Casey sent a shawl of the wool of their

and said: 'You have 12 million people but you don't want us. The Chinese know that you are rich. Do you think they are going to leave you alone? They will take you when the time comes if you don't have friends.'

He was interested in the changes that were coming in Australian immigration policies, but even more interested to hear that the Minister of External Affairs had sent a special message to the Moral Re-Armament Centre at Panchgani across the hill from Ambegar and that the Minister had deep convictions about the role India and Australia could play in Asia.

'Tell him and all Australians we must work together. Why, if we got into a fight side by side we could lose 200 million and we would still have 300 million left. But it is more than



# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING 'ANNIE'

From a review of *Annie* in *The Tablet*

'THOSE WHO SAW the original production last July say that it is now better than before.

'To people who blamed the bosses or the system for everything, Annie Jaeger brought the message that you can change the world only by changing yourself. She met political and trade union leaders and helped them to see that there was a connection between the peace of the world and the peace of their own homes. Without the latter they could not hope for the former. When she died in 1944, five hundred families wrote to her son to tell him what she had done for them.

'A great woman, and Margaret Burton plays her with warmth and vigour. Her son, who helped her in her work, is played by Andrew Shearer, a likeable youngster who is well known from the TV series *Crossroads*. The best voice in the cast belongs to Roslyn Dunbar, an Australian newcomer who plays the girl-friend of the revolutionary Joe Saunders (Gerard Hely). The music is pleasant enough, the best numbers being *Knock, knock* and *A basinful of revolution*.'

## Rice crop saved

IN CEYLON a 40 acre rice crop was saved at the MRA Mi-Oya Training Centre and Farm through timely pump irrigation when surrounding paddy crops were killed by severe drought.

The Government Agent in charge of Puttalam District, Vimal Amarasekara, speaking at the harvest celebrations, said, 'I attribute this result to the principles of Moral Re-Armament applied at this farm.' He praised the hard work and courageous action of the farm warden and trainees.

The Government Agent and agricultural, irrigation and colonisation officers joined 100 volunteer school children in reaping the paddy.

# 'Did not know the meaning of fear'

Tribute to John McGovern

'WORLDWIDE TRIBUTES to John McGovern' was how the *Glasgow Herald* headlined its report announcing the death of John McGovern for 29 years Labour Member of Parliament for Shettleston.

Conducting the funeral service last Saturday at Daldowie Crematorium, Glasgow, Lord Taylor, President of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and for forty years a political colleague of McGovern's, said, 'John McGovern lived a purposeful life. He was a man of great courage and just did not know the meaning of fear. He came to the point where he realised that the changes in society he had fought for all his life would never be fully realised unless they were founded on a change in the human heart.' Quoting Mr McGovern's own words from his autobiography\*, Lord

Taylor said, 'An immoral man can never build a moral world. The new world begins in our hearts and if we want to see where to begin then we need only look in the mirror.'

## MP's at service

Among those at the service were Glasgow MPs, Sir Myer Galpern, Hugh Brown and Neil Carmichael; Thomas Duncan, Glasgow City Treasurer; John S Craig, Group Director Finance, Scottish and North West Group, British Steel Corporation; and the Marquis of Graham.

John McGovern, the Clydeside MP who led the hunger marchers in the thirties, died on 14 February at the age of 80 in Glasgow.

\* *'Neither Fear Nor Favour'* Blandford Press 16s.

## NIGERIAN STATE POLICE CHIEF'S ACTION

IN NIGERIA'S Central West State the Chief Superintendent of Police, N Onojo, and the Agricultural Officer, C B Sykes, have arranged a series of performances of MRA films.

The Chief Police Superintendent, in introducing the film *Voice of the Hurricane* at one performance, said, 'It shows how in using hatred to destroy those you hate, it ricochets and you destroy those you love. From tonight you can begin to be different.'

The Military Governor of the State, Lt Colonel D L Bambigoye, invited guests to see the film of the pantomime *Give A Dog A Bone* in his

house. He asked for more films of MRA to be shown in the State. Performances of the films were later given to military and police units at his request.

After performances of *Voice of the Hurricane* and *Harambee Africa*, in the Government Technical Training School, the Principal, G B Ladipo, addressed the students. He said, 'The full message of the devastation of hatred can be understood. The film is the product of modern-day technical know-how and clearly behind it, is the message it seeks to bring. It brings us an opportunity to start a new life.'

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Is there a connection between this peaceful Indian village, where it is so quiet you can hear the wind rustling the wheat, and the shattered towns of Vietnam? India, as indeed other Asian nations, faces the possibility of guerrilla warfare on her soil as mounting frustration with conditions can be turned to violence.

Rajmohan Gandhi wrote in *Himmat* on 17 February:

'If we Indians understand these realities and produce on our soil this superior revolution (of MRA), we will have the chance to play our part in the task to which few today give a thought—the healing and rebuilding of a shattered Vietnam.'

Indian villagers, who freely speak their minds and want to find the mind of God, could yet show the sophisticated and the statesmen how to make peace and live together.