

# Industry's answer to anarchy and breakdown

Conference in London, 9-10 May

BETWEEN 200 AND 300 trade unionists, managers and employers from Europe and North America will be meeting in London to plan 'Industry's Answer to Anarchy and Breakdown'—the theme of a conference over the weekend 9-10 May.

The invitation committee made up of sixteen men from six nations state, 'Men from the *boardroom*, management and shop-floor in the car, shipping, manufacturing and service industries will be meeting together to plan the needed changes in men and attitudes.

'When men matter industry works.'

The invitation committee for the conference is as follows: Gottfried Anliker, Director, Anlikers Construction Co., Switzerland; William Arnold, General Council, National Boilermakers Society, Belfast; Jack Carroll, Dockers Branch Chairman 1968-69 Transport and General Workers Union, Bristol; John S Craig, Director—Financial Research, British Steel Corporation; Les Dennison, Chairman, Building Trade Operatives, Coventry; Hubert Eggemann, Miner, Ruhr, Germany; Torsten Henriksson, Chairman and Technical Director, Mining Transportation Co., Kiruna, Sweden; John M Houlder, Chairman, Houlder Brothers

and Co. Ltd., London; John Mackenzie, Branch Secretary, Boilermakers Society, Port Glasgow; Alfred Nielsen, Chairman, European Wood Industry's Committee for Relations with Developing Nations, Denmark; Roland Seyfarth, Employer, Gernsbach, Germany; John Söderlund, Trade Union Organiser, Sweden; Maxime Souffez, General Secretary, Transport Federation Super-*visors Union*, France; John F Vickers, Chairman, Benjamin R Vickers & Sons Ltd., Leeds; Andrew Webster, President, Webster and Sons Ltd., Building Materials, Montreal; Jim Worthington, National Union of Seamen, National Maritime Board, London.

## at a glance

### CYPRUS



ARMED POLICEMEN and barbed wire are much in evidence along the roads of Cyprus today. UN escorts are needed for Greek or Turkish Cypriots to pass through the other's sector of the Island.

In this setting last week a Greek Minister and leaders of the Turkish community saw the MRA film *Happy Deathday* on separate occasions. Among the Turkish group were a commander of the Turkish contingent in Cyprus, advocates, journalists, information men and businessmen. They are now planning for further showings on the Island.

### TURKEY



A TURKISH STUDENT and her parents invited thirty friends to see the MRA films *Man to Match the Hour* and *A Nation is Marching* in their Izmir home last week.

A year ago Cigdem Bilginer was one of the militant leftists occupying the administration buildings at Ankara University. Her hopes of creating a new society were dashed when the solidarity of the occupation turned to division and disillusionment.

At Caux, Switzerland, she found in MRA that the way people accepted responsibility and cared for one another represented in practice the sort of society she and the other socialist students had hoped to create through their occupation.

People stayed after the films discussing the ideas expressed.

### AUSTRALIA

AS PART of a seminar on Human Biology, 42 science teachers saw the film *Happy Deathday* at the University of Western Australia. The showing was arranged by the Professor of Anatomy, David Allbrook.

Many of the science teachers asked that the film be shown in their schools, and that the parents be given the chance to see the film as well.

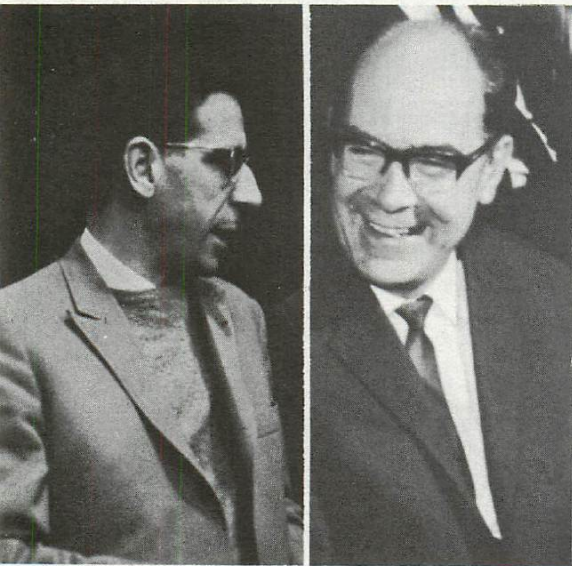
In the last three weeks 1,000 pupils and parents from five senior secondary schools in Western Australia have seen *Happy Deathday*. They come from both State and Catholic schools.

### SWITZERLAND

THE MAYOR OF GENEVA described the play *The Ladder* as 'A mirror into which everybody has to look without breaking the glass.' He was introducing the sixty-fifth performance by a French-Swiss cast, to an audience which crowded the civic centre.

The Catholic and Protestant churches jointly organized the occasion.

The audience included the head of the International School in Geneva and a group of French people from the Lyons region.



Guido Scognamiglio and Otto Cadegg

# Swiss trade union leader supports foreign workers

*Foreign workers now comprise almost one sixth of Switzerland's population of six million. They make an undoubted economic contribution. But the rapid increase in population naturally strained the Swiss housing capacity and social services, and the difference in customs and living habits has caused irritation. But recently a new development took place.*

SWISS and ITALIAN trade union leaders last week took a step towards resolving the divisions between Italian

workers in Switzerland and the Swiss. A committee of ten Swiss and ten Italians sponsored the screening of the Italian version of the film *Men of Brazil* for an audience of Italian and Swiss workers. An organizer of the Italians in the Swiss Metal Workers Union, Guido Scognamiglio and a Swiss trade union secretary, Otto Cadegg, together addressed the audience.

Scognamiglio declared, 'A man with hate, jealousy, superiority or fear in his heart will never be able to solve the problems of a multi-national society. I have been fighting for ten years in the union for unity between Swiss and foreign workers. Thanks to MRA I have become a revolutionary trade unionist.'

'Our problem is not the foreign worker,' Otto Cadegg stated, 'The real trouble is that we have become strangers to ourselves, to each other and to the world. Today we urgently need a revolution of change in millions of hearts.'

## In my view

# Look again at money, morals and medicine

From a medical correspondent

NEWSPAPERS LAST WEEK gave prominence to the safety or otherwise of the 'pill' and to the possibility of sterilisation on the National Health Service. A mother gives her child contraceptive pills to show how safe they are, although I have met doctors who will not let their wives take them. Nobody likes to be the fatality in the statistics. The question is still asked what the effects will be after 30 years, just as it may take 30 years smoking before lung cancer becomes likely. (That is, if women stay on the pill long enough. Half of them give it up after five years).

We are beginning to reckon up the cost of smoking rather late in the day as a major cause of mortality and disability. Should we not reckon up the cost of permissiveness?

The obvious cost is to your pocket. To pay for the pill for a woman's reproductive life, for sterilisation when reproduction is no longer wanted, and for the disposal of those no longer capable of it (euthanasia), and for sex education for tots, teenagers and elders, all this is going to cost money—yours and mine. So would the maintenance of students' mistresses and illegitimate children. Yet the National Health Service is short of funds as it is for hospital beds, staff and much else.

The other item of payment concerns

character. Do we want a younger generation whose only criterion of right and wrong is whether hard drugs are being taken or not? Will a self-indulgent country be an exporting, creative, peace-loving one or a centre of increasing anarchy and violence?

One longs to see pictures on the front pages (of the press) of people who have such a big purpose and satisfying life that they do not need pills to put them to sleep, wake them up or enable them to lust with impunity. People for whom God comes first, who use their time and energies for remaking the world.

The main point at issue is whether man is an animal or a son of God. Whether a Government servant, a man in a white coat or a dictator will decide who shall breed, die, or be caged and fed. Freedom is not eroticism. It is men and women being responsible for society and making the necessary personal steps to ensure its advance, instead of giving in to decay.

### Correction

*The editors of 'Let's Go' wish to correct Peter Riddell's address to read: 16 Kinlet Road, London, SE18 (not SW18 as published in 'MRA Information Service' number 31). 'Let's Go' is also on sale at 4 Hays Mews, London W1X 7RS. Price 1s. 6d. (postage extra). 20 copies 24s.*

## 'Grant the bonus'

PUTTING PEOPLE before profits as a concept has captured the attention of certain Indian businessmen, according to *The Indian Worker*, the journal of the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

*The Indian Worker* said one Delhi director applied this concept and solved the causes of a strike in his West Bengal factory. Putting people before profits is the theme of a sketch in the MRA revue *Anything to Declare?*

The sketch is the story of a French industrialist who signed an agreement increasing the pay of 600,000 French textile workers and fought to put the interests of the Indian and Pakistani jute-growers before the profit of the European manufacturers.

According to *The Indian Worker*, the Delhi businessman when faced with the strike threat decided to find its cause. It was management's refusal to grant a bonus to the workers as the production target had not been reached. On further enquiry, he discovered this was due to the fact that management had failed to supply the raw materials on time. He telephoned the Bengal factory: 'Grant the bonus.'

Turning to an MRA man who was a guest in his house he said, 'That visit to the theatre has cost me Rupees 25,000.'

# NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE, a thaw in human relations

A TWO-MONTH strike 'froze' to a standstill last winter the big Arctic iron-ore mines of Kiruna in Northern Sweden and Kiruna became the most discussed area of Sweden in the Swedish press. Fortunately, despite its inaccessibility—124 miles north of the Arctic Circle—it is not a one-industry town.

One of the area's most dynamic companies, unaffected by the iron-ore strike, is the Mining Transportation Company, famous for its manufacture of heavy big-scale mining trucks for both underground and above ground use. Recently a Cabinet Minister urged the company to move south but the directors decided to stay in business in the North and employ 200 men the year round. The company has caught world interest—60% of production is exported—and delegations come to look around the modern factory from Morocco to the Soviet Union, from Canada to Czechoslovakia.

## Battle

The Mining Transportation Company is in a battle—international competition, the threat of outside control and overcoming technical and manufacturing difficulties. But it is also in the more important battle to make honesty and unselfish motives the directing ideas in industry. There is no attempt to impress by fine titles—it is the quality of the man that is decisive.

Lennart Sjögren interviewed Ragnar Muotka, managing director and Torsten Henriksson, technical director, during a recent visit to Kiruna. Henriksson is on the 16-man invitation committee of directors, managers and trade unionists for the forthcoming MRA industrial conference, 'Industry's Answer to Anarchy and Breakdown', London 9-10 May.

*What made you start the Mining Transportation Company?*

The Americans had monopolised the production of heavier transportation vehicles completely. We thought we would be able to build a vehicle that could compete both in quality and price. In this part of the country we need an industry that is much more varied and which can give employment to the population here.

*Is it possible for a Swedish firm to convince Communist countries that industry in the West can be guided by anything else than by hard cash and profit?*

Absolutely! First of all you've got to treat people as people. Your attitude and behaviour towards them is watched very closely, but if you are genuine and sincere you win their respect. Our first contacts in these countries are as fresh and as good as they were in the beginning. Our relationships have been tried and tested but they have stood the test.

Here is an example: Our company offered some trucks to an Eastern European country at a higher price than the buyers were willing to pay. In visiting their mine our representative found that the working conditions were very bad. When the East European country made the order finally at an agreed price the Mining Transportation Company gave the difference between the agreed price and the price that the buyers first wanted to pay to be used to improve the working conditions.

*What would you say is of greatest importance to an industrial manager in the 70's?*

To have an atmosphere in the firm and in its relations with other firms that makes dialogue possible. Anyone should feel that it is possible to talk to us about his problem. In this way we can create an atmosphere of trust between ourselves as individuals. Then you avoid the suspicion that it is always business that is the motive. Business is only a small part of man's life, even though it is a necessary part of it, but there are so many other things in life, that we often forget.

*Torsten Henriksson, you have said that Caux (the MRA world conference centre) was a pattern for you when you built up the Mining Transportation Company. What do you mean by that?*

On my first visit to Caux I found an atmosphere there that staggered me. There I found the incentive to be honest about myself with certain people and I found a new balance within myself.

The way in which Caux was run was a pattern for running a business, I felt. I will never forget how together with a friend from Kiruna I tried to find out who was behind the whole thing managing it. But we couldn't find such a person. What we found was really a teamwork that functioned in an extraordinary way.



'Kiruna Mining Truck'



Torsten Henriksson

Caux is also an enterprise with world perspectives. So when we started the Mining Transportation Company I used what I had learnt at Caux and saw our firm in relation to the whole world.

*There is much talk on the place of the individual in industry, how to make the work more humane. What is your experience in this?*

You have got to see what the needs are and everybody, not only the managers, can see them. I cannot understand managers who often say about one of their workers—'He can't understand that!' A worker may see and understand the real problem much better than the manager, but he cannot express himself in the language that is used by the manager. The managers often say that the workers do not understand this or that. In our society we think that the intellectuals, the theoreticians, have the monopoly of common sense and that the practical man only does his job and does not understand a thing.

*Continued on page 4*

## World role seen for New Zealand as 'creative society'

A BRITISH PLAYWRIGHT working for the Moral Re-Armament movement said yesterday: 'If New Zealand can show that it can have affluence without decadence, apathy or complacency, it will be an immense service to the world.'

Mr A E C Thornhill advocates the 'creative society' as the answer to social problems. This meant imaginative living, he said.

As an example, Mr Thornhill cited industrial problems which he believes could be caused by lack of imagination on the part of management, or 'a refusal to understand what other people are feeling'—another instance of the apathy Mr Thornhill opposes.

Mr Thornhill believed that the permissive society is rather callous, and

does not care too much about what happens to the other fellow.

He is also convinced that New Zealand could give a demonstration of what a multiracial society should be.

'We've got to have this in Britain: you've gone quite a way toward it but you should go a bit further,' he continued.

Mr Thornhill also expressed the hope that New Zealand would not blindly follow the example of Britain in passing 'permissive' legislation such as the controversial abortion bill.

People in Britain were horrified at the results of the abortion bill.

As permissive legislation came in by private members' bills rather than by party sponsored legislation the electorate never really had a chance to know what it was all about, Mr Thornhill said.

'People must choose between the permissive and the truly creative society.'

\* \* \*

*Our correspondent writes:*

Thornhill's name was well-known in New Zealand before his visit through his plays *The Forgotten Factor* and *Mr Wilberforce, MP*. *The Forgotten Factor*, the industrial drama, was seen by 32,000 people in New Zealand and was invited by members of Cabinet, and Opposition leaders.



Queen Te Ata-i-Rangikahu

*Continued from page 3*

If I present a thing in the right way to people then I will get a response from them. Their answer, interpreted rightly, is the means of including them in solving the problem we are faced with in a way that makes them feel co-responsible. And if we want to solve the problems rightly we must all contribute our thoughts.

*How are the relations between the practical men and the intellectuals in your firm?*

We have launched the campaign 'Speak Swedish' among our engineers. We have maintained that if you cannot express yourselves in a way that the practical men will understand something is wrong. For a long time there was a battle for prestige, but today I believe that both groups are grateful for each other.

*The kind of teamwork that you sketched out just now appears rather unorganized. Does it work?*

Looking at our firm as a whole, it has worked. We have a product that many said was impossible—it is too heavy and too complicated to be produced up here. Just recently a Cabinet Minister said, 'It would be better if the product was not produced up there!' And at the same time the government is trying to solve the problem of unemployment in the North!

It has worked—and not thanks to some intellectual capacity—because we have not employed people with a higher education until we have seen that we needed them. We are giving the individual the chance of achieving the maximum and we have not taken personal responsibility from him.

The Maori Queen Te Ata-i-Rangikahu, recently honoured by Queen Elizabeth as a Dame Commander of the British Empire, and hundreds of her people welcomed Mr and Mrs Thornhill on Turangawaewae marae, the Queen's traditional village. Thornhill's speech in reply is still being talked about several weeks later. In a speech strengthening the unity between the Maori and British people he apologised for the wrongs of the past and said all peoples were needed to put right what was wrong in the world.

## Asian role must be lifted above party politics

BRITAIN'S ROLE IN ASIA is a vital issue and one that must be lifted above party-politics and the taxpayer, according to Canon Julian Thornton-Duesbury, former Master of St Peter's College, Oxford. 'It may include military involvement, it will certainly include economic and technological assistance. The world is too small and communications too swift for the philosophies of "Little England" and "Fortress Europe".'

Canon Thornton-Duesbury, who has recently returned from three months in India, was addressing a meeting in London on the theme 'Europe's Role in Asia.'

He added, 'Colonialism of the Nineteenth Century is a corpse, but that does not mean we are to disengage ourselves. It is in the realm of ideas that Europe has its biggest role to play in Asia. Like it or not, what we say, do and are profoundly affects Asia. A Bombay professor said to me that Europe is spreading a philosophy of disenchantment. We have held up material progress as the greatest good. More and more we are realizing that material advance is not enough.'

Thornton-Duesbury said he was convinced that the Asian-European relationship should be one of 'free and equal exchange between partners. That is a relationship which will demand not only our best brains but a rare understanding, for it is not easy to give generously, but harder still to accept graciously.'

'Europe's role in Asia can be forged here in London.' He urged the audience to 'think of all the Asians here. Either they will take home disenchantment, or a better way to live.'