

'Could our national purpose be to see that the people of the earth are fed?'
—Alberta farmer speaks

New Canadian centre opened

From our correspondent in Montreal

ONE OF THE world's best known industrialists, Frederik J Philips, from Holland, Chairman of the Board of Philips Electric, said at a luncheon in Montreal that in the developed and developing countries human nature was the basic problem. He called on Canadians to export along with their wheat and oil an answer to human nature.

Mr Philips spoke together with his wife at a luncheon marking the opening of a new home and operational centre for the work of Moral Re-Armament in Canada. The house is located in the French residential area of the city. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau sent a message to Mr Philips on the occasion. Labour Minister Cournoyer of the Quebec Government was present with industrial leaders and trade union officials.

Other guests included Frederick J Bull, former Ambassador to Holland and Japan; Mrs Norman Wood, Vice President of the Liberal Association of Canada; Mme Pellerin, head of the Social Action group in Trois Rivières rehousing the people in a slum area of the city; Dr Gustave Morf, Montreal psychiatrist and author; Bernard Halland, Canadian businessman who was one of the pioneers of MRA in Canada, India and Germany after the war; Théophile Lauzon, Superintendent of the

Montreal Grain Elevators, and John Bocock, a farmer from Alberta.

Mitchell Bingham, from New York, brought a gift of furniture and china from the USA. An English tea service, given by friends in London, was used to serve the guests.

Andrew Webster, president of a building firm and Secretary-Treasurer of Moral Re-Armament in Canada, acted as host.

Mr and Mrs Philips who had known MRA for the past 40 years each spoke of the vital effect it has had on their family life, industrial life and industrial philosophy and practice. Mr Philips said, 'MRA gave me a greater goal - to make the world a better place to live in. No one could destroy such a goal. It has stood the test of war and the years of German occupation.'

Frank Buchman, he said, pointed out that human nature was the problem, that if you wanted to change anything you had to start with the difficulties of human nature, and to do that you had to start with yourself. The effect on him, Philips said, was that 'I was no longer afraid for my future and that my attitude to others changed. I saw them as human beings not just how they might affect my career. I learned that every one is a person for whom you have re-

Volume 23 No 2 LONDON 2 NOVEMBER 1974 5p

**NEW
WORLD
NEWS**
FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

gard, whether he is a cabinet minister or a worker in a factory.'

He spoke of the purpose which had united the energies of labour and management in Holland after the war in face of the need to reconstruct the country when the physical needs were obvious. Today the challenge was to meet the moral and material needs of the nation. 'We have to tackle human nature together,' he said. 'Experts do not know the answer to our economic problems. They do not know what to do. Buchman told us when everything fails to try God's guidance. Today everything is failing. It may well be the time when people will open their hearts to find what to do. This does not mean an instant universal solution, for the answer works in individuals. But when we accept it we get right attitudes and make right decisions. When people do that they have a wide influence - wider than they know. As Canada exports not only the material things everyone needs but this basic philosophy of how to handle human nature, Canada will give the greatest hope to the world.'

Mrs Philips spoke of what it means to be the wife of a very busy man with great responsibilities. She acknowledged it was indeed difficult and that such a

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Frank Buchman meets the Beef and Beer Club at Oxford University—one of Bill Cameron Johnson's illustrations for the film of 'Cross Road' (see back page)

10,000 see 'Song of Asia' in Bombay

1974 is the centenary of the Bombay Mill Owner's Association. As part of the celebrations, *Song of Asia* was invited to Bombay by the Association to play to the workers and executives of different mills in Bombay.

Khatau Mills, one of the oldest, have been sending men from both levels of work to Panchgani for training at the MRA Centre. These groups have come regularly to conferences over the last three years.

The mill management booked four shows for their employees; four other mill owners followed suit. On the last night of the run of ten shows, 300 people more than the Birla Theatre normally holds jammed the aisles and sides of the hall. In all 10,000 watched the play.

Dr R K Anand, a senior child specialist, organised a meeting at which Conrad Hunte spoke to 2,000 tenants of the Worli Chawls (workers' tenements) — an area where early this year there had been riots between the Hindus and the neo-Buddhists. Conrad Hunte, former Vice-Captain of the West Indies cricket team, went with others from the show and visited the homes of these people. Hundreds followed them and squeezed into tiny living rooms to hear what he had to say. Militant young leaders came to the show and had long discussions with different ones of the MRA group.

Dr Anand, one of the hosts of *Song of Asia* in the city, had also arranged speaking engagements at clubs, receptions and meetings.

Mr Shastry was one of those who organised the Hindi showings for the workers. He is the Manager of the Borivli unit of Khatau Mills. To come to the centre of the city by car takes him an hour. He has been making this trip a number of times every day over the last fortnight to ensure that the arrangements for the cast and company have been right and that everyone from the mills got a seat.

He had first come to Panchgani in January 1973 for the opening of the auditorium-conference centre complex.

Now the unit he manages has upped production dramatically. Many of the men under him have been to Panchgani too.

At a meeting at St Xavier's College

Getting down to work

One of those who spoke at the conference was David Down who works in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of Portsmouth Corporation. In a discussion recently with a city councillor he said, 'You are now getting twice as much work out of me than you did a year ago. I used to spend my time chatting with the staff and spent too long for my coffee breaks and my lunch. I did not get through my work so I used to come in secretly in the evenings to try and catch up, as well as working overtime for which I was paid.'

A South Coast residential conference for Moral Re-Armament at Wickham, Hampshire, two weeks ago drew together people from all over Southern England and from Jersey. They came from civic life, management, labour, education and the armed forces.

The conference was held at Park Place, a Catholic pastoral centre run by Franciscans who are dedicated to providing facilities for conferences at a moderate cost. Welcoming those participating, the Director of Park Place, the Rev Anthony Faulkner, said, 'We are delighted to have you here as the aims of this society coincide so perfectly with yours. We hope that you will make this a regular meeting place for your work in the future.'

one of the workers said, 'As a result of being at Asia Plateau I realised the importance of good relations with the management. Our production increased from 70,000 metres to 130,000 metres per month. This is the result of honesty and good work.'

Another, who had been a Communist, described how the inner voice wakes him daily at 4 am. He told the gathering, 'I wanted to break the system, and brought down production drastically. Since my visit to Asia Plateau I have realised this is not the way of meeting demands. We will give fullest cooperation to the management — but we will also fight that we are never exploited by them.'

Mr Shastry told of how one worker had come up to him during the course of a working day and told him, 'If enough of us apply what we have watched on stage, then the face of the entire country will change.'

The *Financial Express* wrote of *Song of Asia*: 'Rich in social comment, with a lovely sense of humour, the two hour programme was brilliantly done and a great success.' It is, the Bombay paper writes, 'all the more welcome in these days of total gloom'. The review is headed, 'The drums of righteousness'.

Sanjoy Hazarika

THREE YEARS AGO I had no faith, but I started going to church because my girl friend used to go along, and I wanted to be with her. One day I was reading the words of a hymn and suddenly the words really meant something to me. I had a sense that God was with me, and cared about me; that I was one of God's children. I had not had much time for God before, but I went and had a talk with the pastor, and later decided to be baptised.

At the same time I met a couple who came to the Young People's Fellowship at this church and talked to us about the need for people like me to think about people in other, poorer parts of the world.

Something began to grow in me. All I had been interested in up to then was girls and playing football, and in matches I always used to hold on to the ball and be more concerned about how I was doing than about anybody else. I began to realise that there was

A challenge I had to respond to

After a showing of the documentary film about Dr William Nkomo of South Africa, A Man For All People, the Anglican Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr John Phillips, spoke to the conference. He said:

THAT IS a marvellous film. It shows the miracle which is happening all the time, in all places. His experience of God and his renunciation of old values and the taking up of new ones is something which people are going through all the time. Thank God.

I suppose we have all had that experience in our lives and have gone through that process of change. One of the things which I have learned, I hope,



David Down (centre) with members of his football team. A civic employee, he said that three years ago his interests did not go beyond football, girls and himself. Now he is actively engaged in his trade union and planning with others to bring a greater spirit of service into local government.

something more in life than just thinking about myself.

This couple explained to me the ideas of Moral Re-Armament. They talked about the absolute moral standards of Jesus as a guide in daily life, and I started to see that there were many things which I needed to put right.

I was working in a men's boutique on Saturdays, and I knew they did not deduct any tax on what they paid me. It was my responsibility to declare my wages for income tax purposes, but I had omitted to mention the money I was paid on Saturdays. I felt I should pay back to the authorities the money I owed. I have just completed doing so this summer!

There was also the question of pilfering stationery from the office store at work. I was secretary of the football club and used the office stationery and postage stamps for club purposes. I wrote to the Town Clerk and apologised



David Down (left) is introduced to the French Finance Minister, Jean-Pierre Fourcade, by Sheffield Councillor John Pate, during the visit of a British civic party to France on their way back from attending the MRA World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland.

for this, and also paid money to cover the cost. Then there were bus fares too. I also took a stapler belonging to the civil service. It was broken at the time, but I decided to take it home and fix it—and then kept it. So I gave that back. These were small things, but they had slipped by and I never thought about them.

I felt as if great weights had dropped off me and was happy as I have never been before.

In the local government reorganisa-

tion I had to be interviewed for a job. I had actually been doing much of the work related to that job for more than a year and everybody took for granted that I would get the post although others were also applying for it. In my heart I felt I would not get it, because I knew I had not obeyed what God had told me to do. God said, 'You won't get it because you have made a mistake, and you need to learn.' I felt this was part of God's plan for me and was completely at peace when I went for the interview, with no fear, knowing that God still had a plan for me if this job did not work out.

A few weeks ago I realised I had only given 99% of my life to God. I was told plainly in a dream one night by God that 100% was what He was asking of me. He said, 'You will find peace and joy in giving all.' After I had seen the show *Cross Road* in Portsmouth I realised the thing I was keeping back was my desire to marry a particular girl, who had said she did not want to marry me. I was told 99% was not enough, and that the one per cent I was holding back would run my life unless I decided. He said, 'You are not being a true friend to Me.' So I gave that one per cent, and I felt marvellous. In return God has given me peace and joy. I know there will be times when I do not feel marvellous, but with God's help I can lift myself up and go on.

In less than three years I have developed from a person without any faith at all, depressed about the world situation, to believing now that I have a part to play and God can show me what it is.

through my life is that in terms of surrender and giving oneself to God you never really make a final act. It is something which is renewed day by day. As you look back you regret the things that have gone amiss, and as you look forward you are given new heart and new hope and new courage.

I have no shadow of doubt that all that this film was saying is a message that is desperately needed in our society today, let alone the society of South Africa. When I look at our society I cannot help remembering some words of Kenneth Clark, in that very moving series he did on television, when towards the end he said, in that quiet and therefore convincing voice, 'What destroys civilisation is disillusion and cynicism, just as effectively as bombs. And what ultimately destroys is loss of confidence.'

We are very obviously living in a society with an almost complete loss of confidence, because for so many people there is nothing left to believe in. And no one to believe in. I meet a number of people who quite simply say, 'I don't think life is worth living. I don't think life has got any sense or purpose.' When you do lose confidence in that way it is,

of course, simply a breakdown of faith, in having no one to look up to, no one to reach out to. It means that the heavens are empty, and when the heavens are empty it means that man has only got himself, and then the devil gets to play in a big way.

There never was a time when it was more desperately needed that those of us who are Christians, and those of us who look to God and seek to live by His guidance, should be ready to stand up and be counted.

More valuable

I look back personally with deep gratitude to MRA, to the Oxford Group, when I had the great experience of going to the house-parties in Oxford in the early 'thirties and sitting at the feet of Frank Buchman, indeed of talking over personal problems with him. I was at that stage which afflicts so many of the teenage population, when I was not quite sure what life was all about and had no clear leading as to what I was meant to be doing with my life.

The thing which came across very, very strongly was first of all the need to live by a moral standard, and I found

the absolute standards I was presented with so challenging that I had to respond to them. But I think the thing I learned and have valued more than anything down the years was the very simple fact of sitting and listening to God. This has become something which has increased and become part of my life.

Somebody once said with some truth that we in our prayers have usually turned little Samuel's prayer 'Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth' into 'Hear Lord, for thy servant speaketh'. Simply to learn to sit quietly and wait and know that God does speak, and that His Spirit is there to lead and to guide, is one of the deepest experiences and discoveries that any man or woman can make.

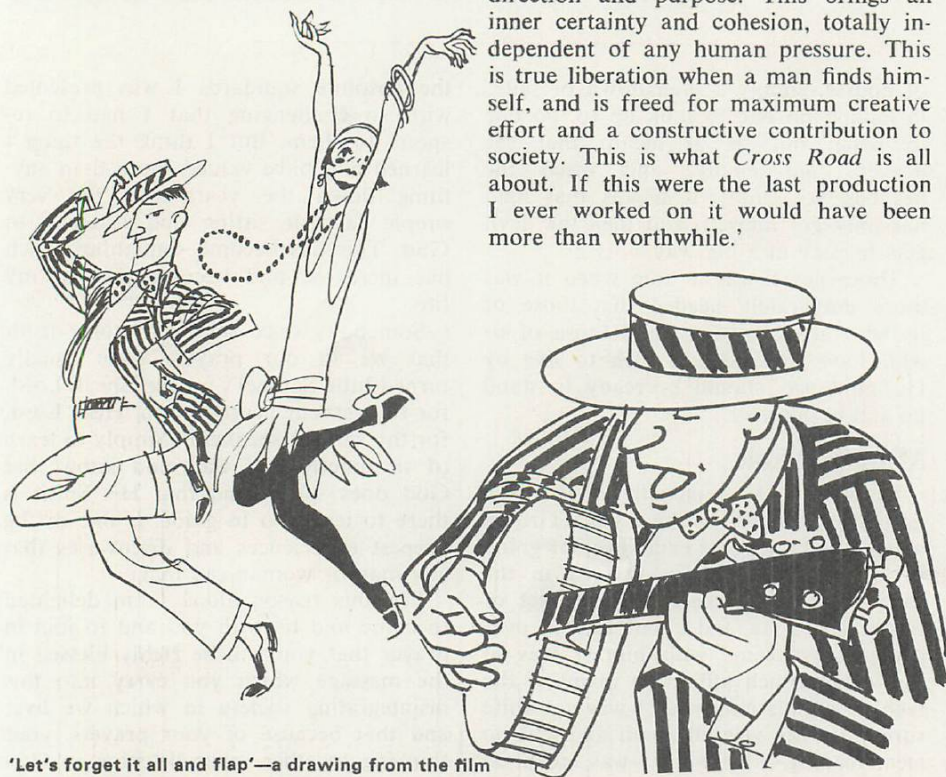
For this reason alone I am delighted to come and be with you and to join in prayer that you will be richly blessed in the message which you carry into this disintegrating society in which we live; and that because of your prayers, your thinking together, your listening to God here, you will be sent out to do great works for Him, and to achieve those miracles of God that we ought to be expecting day by day.

'Cross Road' film nears completion

'I HAVE FOUND a purpose for my art—to let people know there is hope. I have found a purpose for my life—to live as God wishes.' So says a young Canadian artist, Ellen Ostero.

She has been working in London to create animated sequences for the film version of *Cross Road* which will be completed in a few weeks time. She is one of the 60 people who have had a part in the last 18 months in transferring this multi-media show built around the life of Frank Buchman from stage to screen.

There have been researchers combing newspaper files, old records and magazines for period material; camera crews filming in Europe and Asia; artists like Ellen Ostero doing the layout for 500 different stills that had to be filmed; musicians rehearsing, orchestrating and recording the background music; script writers and film editors putting the material into its final shape.



'Let's forget it all and flap'—a drawing from the film

The creators of *Cross Road* say that the financing of this film has been an adventure in itself. 102 people have contributed, not counting the gifts which came from collections at four public occasions. The total cost will be about £13,500 for the one and a quarter hour film, towards which £11,500 has already been given. Anyone else who would like to have a part can send cheques made out to The Oxford Group and marked 'Cross Road Account'.

The *Cross Road* film can now be ordered, £250 a copy, from MRA Productions. With each copy will go suggestions as to how to use it, because *Cross Road*, writes Ron Mann, 'is not a film in the ordinary sense. It is meant, like the stage show, to be a combination of live and recorded material. The live element keeps the show relevant to the contemporary world and means that in each place it can be re-created so that it belongs to the particular environment and to the people who will be seeing it. Each presentation can include singers as well as speakers, but as there is a good deal of music in the film, it is possible for one person to act as presenter at informal showings.'

Peter Sisam, film producer and writer, who has devoted the last 18 months to directing the film, says, 'The translation of *Cross Road* to film has involved a close study of the facts and events of Frank Buchman's life and work. It is impossible not to be affected by it. During this time I have experienced what it is to come into touch with God, and to find from Him, and Him alone, clear direction and purpose. This brings an inner certainty and cohesion, totally independent of any human pressure. This is true liberation when a man finds himself, and is freed for maximum creative effort and a constructive contribution to society. This is what *Cross Road* is all about. If this were the last production I ever worked on it would have been more than worthwhile.'

BERLIN'S WELCOME

Herr Klaus Schütz, governing Mayor of West Berlin, last week received the European Action Force of Moral Re-Armament in Berlin's historic Schöneberg Rathaus.

Welcoming the force of 28 from 10 nations he said: 'We have found we need the solidarity and support from countries outside Berlin. We must show solidarity ourselves in order to solve the problems elsewhere in the world, and I hope we are doing this. You will find that the people of this city are very open to your ideas.'

The Berlin newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel*, wrote: 'The group is here to provide an alternative to materialism and violence.'

SWEDISH STUDY GROUP

People from all over Sweden met last month at an MRA conference in Lundsbrunn, Western Sweden. The initiator was a policeman who met Moral Re-Armament last year through participating in a study circle on the book *The New Man*, recently published in Sweden.

Forty study circles on this book have been meeting, financially supported by the Government-sponsored adult education programme.

'I had no faith when I joined the study circle,' said Bengt Olof Yman, a young piano tuner. 'But as a result I found God.'

One evening a delegate from Kiruna introduced Rickard Tegstroem's film on Lars Pirak and other Lapland artists, with a personal greeting from Pirak to the conference. Four other artists told how they were putting their art and their lives at God's disposal.

Three retired men announced that they were making a journey to help get the publications of Moral Re-Armament out widely, and several young people said that they would be taking part in actions in Asia, the Pacific Islands and Europe.

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wife could at times feel neglected and resentful. But since meeting MRA 40 years ago she and her husband had held to the one aim of remaking the world which nothing could take away from them and which was the basis of their life together.

John Boccock, Chairman of the Council of Moral Re-Armament in Canada, said, 'As a farmer I feel I must produce more food and take more responsibility for getting it distributed. This will take a change of attitude. My aim in life is to feed all God's children and care for them. To do that I work to enlist industry and government to meet the needs of people around the world. Could our national purpose be to see that the people of the earth are fed?'