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***IT'S GOT
TO STOP!***

PETER HOWARD

Under the headline PETTY MEN 'DRAGGING
BRITAIN LOW' the *Sunday Express* of 28 July,
1963, featured on its front page Mr Peter
Howard's opening address at the Moral Re-
Armament International Assembly in London.

Newspapers in Britain with a readership of
35,000,000 reported the speech. It was sent out by
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WE ARE IN FOR A NEW AGE. The engagement between Mr Kennedy and Mr Khrushchev, with our Mr Macmillan as go-between, has fluttered the heart of humanity. It means more than an agreement to ban bomb tests. If the marriage is consummated, we shall see the start of a new type of civilisation. The two Mr K's will run the modern world.

Britain will then have to decide whether to help mould a new type of human society, with a new type of man to live in it, or to stand aside, filling her pockets, shrinking to insignificance and hoping for the best.

Freedom without morality will perish on the earth. If freedom is to endure God must dominate human councils. The new morality is only the old immorality. The new theology is only the old atheism. The new social conventions are only the old Sodom and Gomorrah. The new worship of Bingo will become only the old worship of Baal.

No country in history has been greater than our own. The image of no great country has been dragged so low so swiftly by such petty men. The nation which humbled Hitler and for centuries has been a defender of the weak and the dread of tyrants, could be destroyed by the Vassalls, Profumos and Rachmans of our time.

PINNACLE OR PIT

We face a crisis in character that could rob us of our virtue as a nation. This century demands a pinnacle of character. We dare not offer it a pit of compromise and confusion.

There is a conspiracy against our traditions and our power. Monarchy, Church, Government and Parliament, the solid institutions of our forefathers, are under attack. Which of them will lead the people in answer to decadence and once more build

the moral foundation of our life? If none dare answer that question, we shall hear the noise of strangers triumphant within our gates and suffer the death pangs of our civilisation.

Make no mistake. The appeasers of evil today are far more danger to Britain than the appeasers of Hitler yesterday. And many who stood firm then are arch-appeasers now.

The Royal Family holds a special place in the affection and allegiance of our people. Their example could do more than a million exhortations. They should refuse to consort with any whose habits are known to be debased. If their advisers are unable to tell them the true nature of some who try to use friendship at Court as a cover for moral compromise, they should get new advisers able and willing to do so. They should let it be known that they will not attend plays or public performances which honour dirt and dishonour God.

The Church can live once more for the people. It is a horrid tolerance that allows anti-Christ to shelter and shout within its gates. We must come to an end of any clerical kissing of un-Christlike ways.

PRIVILEGE AND PURITY

Government, and those who hope one day to become the Government, should make it plain they will not elevate public men with vulnerable private habits. The people need to know that those who wish to bear the privilege of leadership must pay the price of personal purity. At this crisis in history, any unwilling to pay that price can seek elsewhere than in public service their role in life.

Parliament should deal with the corrupting influence of the BBC. From some programmes of the BBC a spiritual sewer flows out into the homes of the nation. It is like the broken drain of Zermatt. It infects the community. It is hard to see how Christians with a conscience can remain governors of the BBC.

Those who live on prostitution are innocent compared with some broadcasters who live by prostituting the habits of a nation. They broadcast dirt with the air of intellectual authority. (And, of course, it is as true of Independent Television.)

TIME TO RESIGN

It is time that decent men and women resign from the governorships of the BBC in protest if this sort of diet of dung continues to be served to the people.

Some people criticise the popular press. Newspapermen are sent to gaol for obeying their conscience. At least, thank God, they still have a conscience to obey. The press are far from blameless in this matter of pornography. But thank God for papers like the Express Newspapers which stand firm against the foulness that the Government-controlled BBC puts out in some of its programmes. Think of the decadence poured out through these programmes to young people and old alike. And it is a legend that all young people like immorality. The truth often is that the older generation has decided to live in dirt and excuses itself with the lie that modern youth demands dirt of them and, like lice, feels more at home with filth.

Today our country is regarded as a humbug and fraud by millions of people in other countries. The squalid, sordid details of vice and racketeering that are unfolding in our land have shocked us all. Surely we have enough men free from the problems of adultery, homosexuality, viciousness and drunkenness left in our society to govern us and to govern us well?

We must face the truth. It is not the fault of one party or another party. It is not the fault of the so-called affluent society, though men who fight to increase wealth while neglecting character that shows men how to use wealth, are fools. It is not the fault of this wretched man or that unhappy woman. It is the fault of men and women of all classes and all parties, the men

and women of place and privilege who for years, first secretly, then more openly, have denied by their habits that right and wrong exist.

The terror of our times is not that they are evil, but that they call in question the very existence of right and wrong, of absolute standards. There has always been wickedness in Britain. But it is the first time in history that outsiders who hate us are cultivating our decadence in order to destroy us and when sincere men in our midst say good and evil no longer have relevance or meaning. The Establishment, which includes Conservatives, Socialists, Liberals, has betrayed its trust. Privileged people should have set an example of integrity. Instead they have led the downslide in bedrooms, brothels, bars, clubs, theatres and divorce courts. It is the defiance of God and the deviance from morality of the blue-blooded and the highly placed more than any Rent Act which leads inevitably to the Red hell of Rachman. Here are the ponces that have led a nation towards perversion and have procured the tolerance of what for generations was rightly regarded as intolerable.

A MODERN CHURCHILL

What is our future to be? Some statesmen say privately that they believe the triumph of world Communism is inevitable and that the task of Western statesmanship is to see it come to pass without atomic war. They say that a period of Communism will purify the churches and restore courage and character to our people. Men like this neither understand the nature of Communism nor the answer to it.

This could be Britain's finest hour. She could, in the soundness of her home life and the sanity of her God-governed statesmanship, let the whole earth know that we will not lend ourselves to a society governed by materialism, whether it comes from West or East.

British hearts are still hungry for God's truth. The ordinary man and woman in their homes or at their work, uneasy, inarticulate, almost lost in the modern maelstrom, will respond in millions to a clear lead given by convinced people, whether they come from pub or palace, from Left or Right, from Conservative or Labour. The nation is waiting for some modern Churchill to do for our morals in peacetime what he did for our guts in time of war.

A morally re-armed Britain could help both Mr K's with their problem. We can offer an answer to the dangers of the contradictions in the Communist world, as well as to the weaknesses of division and social injustice in the non-Communist world which create Communism.

It is a paradox of our times that nations which believe in God, but live as if He did not exist, and nations which say they disbelieve in God, but now need the new type of man which He alone can create, are both looking for the leadership today which Britain in her true tradition could bring.

We need once more to expand our horizons. In the twentieth century, the country whose Commonwealth carried traditions of human justice and decency across continents, must, can and, I believe, will undertake its supreme task of remaking the modern world, a world where God once more is recognised as Sovereign in the affairs of men.

Mr Peter Howard's new book BRITAIN and the BEAST is to be published in September by Heinemann (cloth bound 10s 6d). It is a frank analysis of the nation, its leadership, industry, Church and people, written in the belief that Britain can put her house in order and play a major role in the future of the world.

