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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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The Brief for the Prosecution

By C. H. DOUGLAS.

PART II. CHAPTER V.

THE INDICTMENT*

Although there is general understanding of the fact that the war is the mechanism by which revolutionary changes are being imposed upon society, it is probable that not many persons would be able either to say what was the determinant of our pre-war civilisation, or, in consequence, what it is which distinguishes that with which we are threatened from that with which we are familiar. With every justification large numbers of the under-privileged associate the miseries of the armistice years with the fundamentals of the system under which they suffered. That is the impression which the Planners wish to convey, but it has no foundation in fact. The economic phenomena of the great depression were the result of conscious intention on the part of those concerned to wreck society, and could have been avoided without any fundamental change.

The core of the pre-war system was "the private income"—the possession of adequate purchasing-power not subject either to governmental interference, nor terminable by loss of employment. "Private incomes" were decreasing rapidly in number, but were still considerable. The fundamental object of the so-called New Orders is the abolition of all purchasing-power which is not granted "upon terms," and revocable at any time, thus making "employment" controlled by international cartels, a world government.

It was the fear of the extension of the dividend system to universality which inspired the propaganda against "profit"—a propaganda which is so irrational that only careful boycott of criticism prevented its general exposure. The same purpose inspired the attack on rent and the ferocious taxation of land, resulting in the deterioration of the countryside, and the ruin of agriculture. The price of overseas wheat was kept down by financial manipulation to make British wheat unprofitable.

The immense increase in productive capacity is ignored and world sabotage, ending in greater wars at shorter periods, is relied upon to destroy the unavoidable surpluses. Probably five thousand millions of capital values have been lost overseas in "peace" time.

*The first of the extracts which we have been privileged to publish from Major Douglas's *The Brief for the Prosecution* appeared in *The Social Crediter* on May 13, 1944. Other extracts have been published weekly since that date, in a sequence and detail appropriate to the developing political situation.

The main pre-occupation of the armistice years, on the part of those most potent in the world's affairs, has been to prevent the rectification of the dominant financial system; a rectification which would have removed any noticeable distinction between the privileged and the previously under-privileged except those distinctions which continuously serve to ridicule the claim to human equality. Economic equality, which is quite another matter, becomes meaningless in the face of large general surpluses available generally.

Under cover of the skilfully financed outcry against "profits," which have been made to appear synonymous with dividends, dividends have been reduced and the control of the shareholder over industry practically eliminated. By taxation, practically leading to confiscation, landed property has been forced into the market to be picked up by financial institutions at less than the mortgage burden imposed by the same institutions. The poisoning of the land by the use of artificial fertilisers has been enforced by "good husbandry" laws, and the effects have been misrepresented in a press controlled by the need for advertisements or otherwise, thus incorporating agriculture into the factory system.

Food has deteriorated, housing is deficient and bad, leisure has decreased, security of tenure is non-existent, pleasure and relaxation are "organised," indigenous culture has been attacked and ridiculed in favour of a cosmopolitan tawdriness imposed and spread by bad films and worse broadcasting.

Alien assistance in the stultification of Parliamentary control has reduced the House of Commons to an object of ridicule. The "educational" system, in addition to being staffed largely, and in its elementary stages, chiefly, by "socialists" and "communists," whose knowledge of the practical effect of the measures they advocate is measured by their enthusiasm for the Russia to which they prefer not to emigrate, has never included even a rudimentary commentary on the subject which controls the activities of its unfortunate victims from the cradle to the grave—the money system.

The same sources from which "the undermining of national sovereignty" has been financed, have, first covertly, and more recently openly, thrown their whole weight on the side of industrial and financial world monopoly enforced by a world police and brought about by war, and if necessary, more war. In the face of an almost world-wide demand for the local control of such government as may be necessary, local administration has been swept away, local protest ignored, and liberty curtailed.

Economic policies which have been demonstrated as a primary cause of world catastrophe are pursued and imposed and their intensification is promised. The country is flooded with undesirable "refugees," while the native-born are urged to emigrate. "Full employment," for the purpose of im-

posing an industrial civilisation on countries and continents which have expressed their determination to resist the process at all costs, is the culmination of a science which promised to transfer the Curse of Adam from the backs of men to that of the machine.

And it is expedient that a reckoning be had of these and other matters of the same nature and an accounting with those who are concerned to bring them to pass.

(The End)

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Freedom for Export?

We record the following words of Mr. Churchill to the Italian people on his leaving Italy. The reporter is Reuter's Agency:—

Italy suffered a long period of governmental tyranny under the Fascist régime, which terminated in the frightful disaster and most cruel suffering which has befallen the Italian people. She would be very unwise to let herself again fall into the clutches of this Fascist totalitarian system in any guise in which it might present itself.

Such systems of Governmental tyranny breed in conditions of social dislocation, economic hardship, and moral depression which follow in the wake of war and defeat. It is at such a crisis in their history that peoples should be most on their guard against unscrupulous parties seeking after power and most zealous in the preservation of their liberties.

When a nation has allowed itself to fall into a tyrannical régime it cannot be absolved from the faults due to the guilt of that régime, and naturally we cannot forget the circumstances of Mussolini's attack on France and Great Britain when we were at our weakest, and people thought that Great Britain would sink for ever—which, in fact, she has not done.

But in the main, speaking for the British—*although the other victorious allies would have a say in this* [our italics]—I believe that the British nation will be happy to see the day when Italy, once again free and progressive, takes her place among all the peace-loving nations.

It has been said that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. The question arises, "What is freedom?" There are one or two quite simple, practical tests by which it can be known in the modern world in peace conditions—namely:—

Is there the right to free expression of opinion and of opposition and criticism of the Government of the day?

Have the people the right to turn out a Government of which they disapprove, and are constitutional means provided by which they can make their will apparent?

Are their courts of justice free from violence by the Executive and free of all threats of mob violence and all association with any particular political parties?

Will these courts administer open and well-established laws which are associated in the human mind with the broad principles of decency and justice?

Will there be fair play for poor as well as for rich, for private persons as well as Government officials?

Will the rights of the individual, subject to his duties

to the State, be maintained and asserted and exalted?

Is the ordinary peasant or workman earning a living by daily toil and striving to bring up a family free from the fear that some grim police organisation under the control of a single party, like the *Gestapo*, started by the Nazi and Fascist parties, will tap him on the shoulder and pack him off without fair or open trial to bondage or ill-treatment?

These simple practical tests are some of the title-deeds on which a new Italy could be founded.

Publicity in Australia

Information (almost entirely unpublished) is reaching the press of this country concerning the publicity given in Australia to popular (as opposed to "governmental") views concerning the political question of freedom *versus* control.

We publish below without comment, a leaflet distributed in Victoria and a broadcast from 7HO, Hobart, Tasmania, 6-30 p.m. July 2, 1944:—

(1)

INSIDE INFORMATION

My name is "Information." I come to warn you of the Referendum plot to rob you of your liberty.

Read me, heed me, pass me on; I have a thousand appointments waiting.

Beware of would-be "Hitlers" and bureaucratic officials seeking permanent power to boss you around after the war.

Hitler and Mussolini also told their foolish people sob-stories about employment and security. The *Gestapo* and the concentration camp soon followed.

Man-power snoopers and the C.C.C. are already here. Neither you, your mother, sisters or brothers are safe from these snoopers. The Referendum, if carried, would soon make them permanent.

The monopoly Press (along with Labour and other political parties!) is urging a "Yes" vote; that fact alone should cause you to record an emphatic "No" Vote against industrial conscription for you and your womenfolk.

Dr. Evatt has stated that freedom to choose his own job was only one of the liberties to be lost by the workers. Could Hitler speak more brutally?

Empayment is much more important than employment. Liberty is more important than either of them; don't sell your liberty for employment.

It is a cruel and dangerous falsehood to say "more power" will prevent another depression or provide security—beware of such lies.

Britain, South Africa, New Zealand and other "One Parliament" countries armed with "total powers" permitted the bankers to impose the financial depression just as our political parties did.

State Governments can carry out their own reconstruction plans—if given sufficient finance. There's no need to centralise power in Canberra.

It is the duty of the Federal Government to provide State Governments with the necessary finance—free of debt and interest charges, so as to prevent increased taxation.

Recently and in past centuries actual hard experience all over the world has proved that grave dangers and ever-increasing dissatisfaction are caused by handing over power to one "central" government.

In U.S.A., after many years of actual trial of centralised Federal control, which has resulted in general dissatisfaction, plus greatly increased taxation to maintain the centralised juggernaut, the various States are fed-up. Already 48 States have adopted resolutions calling for the necessary amendment of the Constitution to restore powers to the individual States.

Bitter experience has shown that political parties cannot be trusted; they already have sufficient power—don't give them any more—vote "No."

Labor has imposed higher and more vicious taxation on lower income groups and more regimentation than foreign dictators.

The cry for "more power" comes from political Party bosses—not from you, the people. Don't surrender your liberty.

Always remember that the other Party may soon be in office. Would you trust the other Party? Certainly not. Then play safe—don't trust any of them with more power.

You can get the "Four Freedoms," also food, clothing, shelter, medicine, and work—free—at Pentridge, or any asylum, provided you surrender your liberty—don't do it. Vote "No."

Your sons, brothers and fathers are fighting and dying for freedom; don't betray them—vote "No."

Politicians, bureaucratic officials and economists have bungled war-time production, employment and marketing. Why trust them with power over these matters in peace-time?

The secret powers of "High Finance" are also behind the referendum plot. Don't be fooled by these hidden dictators, or their political dupes.

In the past all political Parties have sought more power over their employers (electors), who wisely refused to permit their servants to become their masters. Be wise, do likewise—vote "No."

During the turmoil of war, when our soldiers are absent is a most improper time to attempt to stampede the people into deciding such important issues, there is time enough for this when the war is over.

**MORE POWER FOR POLITICIANS MEANS LESS
POWER FOR YOU.**

**EVERY "NO" VOTE IS A BLOW AGAINST FASCISM
VOTE "NO"**

(2)

"GOVERNMENT"

In about seven weeks from now the people of Australia will be asked to cast a vote for or against granting far-

reaching powers to the central Government at Canberra.

As a great number of voters will have but the slightest idea what it is all about, and many more will not understand the vast implications until it is too late, it behoves those of us who do know something about it to be ready to do our part in acquainting others.

It seems essential therefore that we should understand the meaning of this thing we call "Government."

There was a time when kings of England ruled by what was called the Divine Right—the Chosen of God—the king could do no wrong—his word was law.

Many thought that this doctrine had died a natural death, but in our time we have seen it resurrected under various guises.

The divine right of the king has become the divine right of the "State." The "State" being those who by various means have captured the machinery for manufacturing laws and regulations and who, by control of the armed forces, are able to enforce obedience to these laws.

In so-called Democratic countries the small group in control of the State have actually more powers than kings had, because kings who attempted to extract heavy taxes or to meddle with the private affairs of citizens—to the extent practised by modern Governments—would quickly find themselves minus their heads.

The modern State can, and does, penalise minorities because it claims that it represents a majority—the fact being overlooked that we are all, at one time or another, a member of a minority. Parents are in the minority; farmers are in a minority; the country dwellers are in a minority; Skilled men in a minority; the politically wise are in a minority.

But so-called Democratic Governments demand the right—and they continually exercise this right to overrule every minority—which together, are the majority.

In other words, we are witnessing in practice Governments using so-called democratic methods to destroy Democratic Governments.

It is interesting to note the conflicting arguments used by those in power. They believe that the people are quite incapable of looking after their own affairs and that all important decisions should be taken out of the hands of the people and placed in the hands of so-called experts (hand-picked, of course).

But these same people rely on the vote of those who are alleged to be politically incompetent; they rely on that vote to overwhelm my vote and the votes of all those who are politically competent.

Thus we have a government which is supposed to represent a majority—for which it has the utmost contempt, and it uses this majority vote to destroy the minorities.

Let us put the matter quite clearly. The Democratic System of Parliament is the only alternative to dictatorship; we must use it. The tragedy lies in that its limitations have not been recognised, and by false education and the Party System of politics the people have been prevented from any real participation in the control of the Government of their country.

(To be continued)

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From Week to Week

The position of General de Gaulle, firstly in French, and later in world politics is difficult to assess with finality; but that he is bound to be a factor in the coming *mêlée* is certain. For this reason, we append the following biographical details, for which we are indebted to the *Edmonton Bulletin* (Alberta):—

Charles de Gaulle was born in Lille, in 1890. His father taught philosophy and literature in a Catholic College in Paris.

He entered the military school of Saint-Cyr (the French Sandhurst) and was lieutenant in an infantry regiment commanded by Colonel Petain when the war broke out in 1914.

He was wounded at Dinant (Belgium) in August 1914, then again in Champagne, in March 1915, and a third time at Verdun in March 1916. Picked up by the advancing Germans and taken prisoner, he was cited by General Petain in the following terms:

"Officer known for his high intellectual and moral qualities." On March 2nd, 1916, in the village of Douaumont, after a terrific bombardment, the enemy attacked his battalion from all directions. He led his company in a counter-attack and a fierce hand-to-hand fight; this was the only move which he deemed compatible with military honour. He was gravely wounded in the *mêlée*.

Before he was liberated by the armistice in 1918, Captain de Gaulle attempted five times to escape and failed, which of course resulted each time in severe punishment.

Resuming his military career, he taught history at Saint-Cyr, was admitted to the Ecole de Guerre (War College), then became Marshal Petain's aide-de-camp. After commanding a battalion of "Blue Devils," he was sent on several missions to the Near East. In 1932 he became secretary of the Council of National Defence.

In the meantime, he had written several books. After reading one of them, Marshal Petain wrote this prophetic phrase: 'Some day France will be grateful and call upon him.'

The French High Command however, did not follow his suggestions. The Germans did, however, and recognised him as the leading precursor of mechanised warfare on a modern scale. The Panzer divisions used by Germany in the present war are patterned in almost every detail on the suggestions given by de Gaulle in 1933.

There are three spheres of activity which, beyond question, are either wholly, or preponderatingly dominated by Judaeo-Freemasonry. They are Gold Standard Finance, International Cartelism, and International Socialism, the latter masquerading under such local names as the C.C.F., etc.

It would be difficult to over-rate the importance of the fact, which can be verified by anyone reading the Press dealing with these subjects, that every agency of them, whether open or covert, is beginning a subtle agitation for an easy peace for Germany, and in particular, that she shall not be "dismembered."

We are witnessing one more exhibition of the art of the double-cross. Just as "Hitler," the quarter-Jew, has probably circulated through his agent Goebbels most of the stories of Jewish "annihilation," an effective treatment of Germany, which would make it difficult for Germans to be used more to produce that delightful condition of "war or threat of war" so helpful to the World Planners, is being represented as the policy of "reactionaries," and so to be resisted by every good proletarian.

M. J. Coldwell, National leader of the Socialist C.C.F., speaking at Medicine Hat in an attempt to secure the election of a C.C.F. Government in Alberta, said: "Almost every day messages of encouragement reach me from the great labour and socialist movements of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the underground movements of de Gaulle and other parts of what was once democratic Europe."

All Gaulle is now apparently divided into underground parts; but unlike that of Caesar, which was inhabited by the Belgae, the Aquitani, and the Celtae, would appear to be populated by *protégés* of the London School of Economics. . . Underground seems correct.

The one lone Member of the Socialist C.C.F. elected to the Alberta Legislature by or in spite of Mr. Coldwell's efforts and the lavish advertising of *The Times* and the *Economist* can therefore always console himself that South Africa (where the gold comes from) and the underground movements of once-democratic Europe are looking to him with anxious affection.

CUP, 1944; LIP, —?

A circular of the Ministry of Education issued on August 16 to the local education authorities stated that the provisions in the Education Act for raising the school-leaving age to 15 of April 1, 1945, cannot be carried out because of the impossibility of securing the necessary teachers and accommodation. The Minister will therefore make an order retaining the school-leaving age at 14 under that section of the Act which empowers him to defer raising the age until April 1, 1947. The Minister says it is not possible at this stage to say how long the order will remain in force, but local authorities can assume that it will not cease to have effect earlier than April 1, 1946.

PLANNING THE EARTH (II)

By GEOFFREY DOBBS

Although the aims of the Tennessee Valley Authority, as described in the preamble to the Act which constituted it in 1933, are many and various, the navigation system "forms the logical and constitutional basis of all other activities of the Authority;" flood control and navigation alone being inter-State matters. The powers given to the Authority under section 22 of the Act are given directly to the President of the U.S.A., and apply not only to the Tennessee basin but to such adjoining territory "as may be related to or materially affected by the developments consequent to this Act." The spread of control from water to almost everything else makes an instructive study of the totalitarian nature of Planning.

The first important Federal interference with the area took place during the last war, when a dam and power plant for the production of nitrates for munitions and fertilisers was constructed at Muscle Shoals. After the War the plant stood idle. In 1928 and 1930 Congress declarations in favour of Government operation were blocked by the Presidential veto. Nevertheless, for ten years before 1933 War Department engineers were busy carrying out a survey of natural resources and "basic engineering and economic data" in the area. It would be interesting to know through what channels they received orders which clearly coincided with the policy of the President's successor, which resulted in the building up of large power resources just in time for the next war.

The first duty of the Tennessee Valley Authority was the rehabilitation of Muscle Shoals and its co-ordination with the wider plan. The next step was the building of other vast dams and the creation of immense reservoirs, the eventual aim being that "When the system is completed very little water will normally reach the sea without passing through turbines..." and hence coming under the control of whoever, at any particular time, controlled the sluice gates. The Norris Reservoir, for instance, is stated to have a shoreline of 775 miles. Interference with the earth's surface on this scale brings with it, besides centralised control of water and electric power, many 'problems' which can be dealt with only by extending the interference still further. There is the employment of thousands of workpeople, the development of towns and camps to house them, the resettlement of the people displaced from the obliterated land, the diversion and rebuilding of roads (over 100 miles in the case of the Norris reservoir alone), and the problem of malaria control arising from the creation of huge sheets of water.

To prevent the silting up of reservoirs, the Authority is empowered to purchase such land as it thinks necessary around them. It 'co-operates' also with the farmers, encouraging terracing associations, "in which the manufacturers of terracing machinery co-operate with the T.V.A. . . The farmers themselves pay the cost of the terracing programme, including the necessary equipment." It also co-operates with the State Agricultural Colleges in moving some thousands of farmers out of the eroded areas. "Anyone knowing the Southern hill farmer," writes P.E.P., "with his Anglo-Saxon and Scottish traditions, will realise that this was not the least of the engineering problems encountered."

The prevention of soil erosion by the use of fertilisers, is one of the aims of the Authority. The fertilisers in

question are, of course, of the chemical type largely blamed for the impoverishment of soils all over the world. The soil, like the Public in a Planned State, must take what it is convenient to produce, in this case the chemical by-products of 'national defence,' and of phosphate-bearing lands near Muscle Shoals. 'Research' is being busily carried on into the best way to use these, and the cheapest way to transport them, and the development of new industries and various dodges for "taking up surplus labour." There are "some interesting experiments in housing" in the new town of Norris, built by the Authority, also in "highway construction, amenities and land planning." Indeed the whole business is most 'interesting'—for the Planners! First, where the labour may live, then how the labour may live, and what it may labour at, and what sort of hutch it may live in, and what sort of road it may walk on, and what sort of bath, and sink and lavatory it may use, and how it may poison the already dying soil most cheaply, and how it may amuse itself, and finally how and what it may think. "The whole T.V.A. enterprise has been visualised from the outset not just as a great public works scheme, but as an immense and significant programme of education."

The number of books, articles, pamphlets, brochures, radio talks, *etc.*, all over the world, boosting the Authority, appears to be legion. There seems to be a certain similarity about their style, and about the sort of people who approve of them and spread them about. The latest example I have come across in England is a book by Dr. Julian Huxley of P.E.P., the B.B.C. and the Zoological Gardens. It has lots of shiny photographs of planned dwellings and interiors and electrical gadgets, and it does not make use of capital letters, so you will realise what it is like. The broad impression which it drives home is that of the utter uniformity of planning everywhere. There is nothing in it which looks like Tennessee, rather than anywhere else. Nothing which has a recognisable character such as that of a Cotswold, or a Norwegian, or a Dutch village; and yet I had always understood that Tennessee was one of those parts of the U.S.A. which had a definite character of its own. It is a horrible thought that there is nothing about the work of the Tennessee Valley Authority which could not be copied anywhere; and it was intended from the first to be copied everywhere. In fact, one of the directors has stated that "every step taken, every project set up, every result, is weighed from the point of view of its possible application to other parts of the country" and, it is made clear by P.E.P., to other countries, particularly ours.

Probably the best 'selling point' of the Authority so far has been the generation and distribution of relatively cheap electric power, which has been possible through the use of a privileged financial position to force policy upon privately owned companies, and local distributing agencies. This the Authority does by charging municipalities, *etc.*, "only slightly less than wholesale prices through the country generally," but, as the price usually charged to the consumer is only one-sixth to one-tenth of the cost of generating, it insists upon a very much reduced retail rate, which greatly stimulates consumption. The local concern makes a loss, which, however, is soon made up.

This is the price-cutting stage which is essential to the establishment of every monopoly. While it lasts it brings obvious benefits, but also more and more complete dependence upon the monopoly in the details of living. "The social

results of increased electrification are illimitable," and include "a revolution in conditions of life and work." Running water, electric light, bathrooms, plumbing systems and radios become necessities of life where they were formerly unknown, and electricity brings additional income to the farmer, enabling him to branch out into small-scale, semi-industrial operations,—“employing more labour, and raising the standard of life of the whole area.”

What is nowhere even hinted at is that this increased prosperity could have been built upon a broad and secure foundation of decentralised water power, instead of being balanced very cleverly upon the point of a single Monopoly owing its allegiance outside the area, which is about as safe as having your child suckled by a tigress. In this way every advance is fraught with greater danger, and every benefit is used as a bribe for the acceptance of further control.

Even the control of domestic details has not been forgotten. A separate body, the Electric Home and Farm Authority, was set up, at first with the same directors as the Tennessee Valley Authority, with an initial capital of a million dollars, and a credit from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of ten million dollars. Its aim is to supply electric appliances on easy credit terms, and to standardise them by means of a badge “for use upon those types which meet its requirements in design and in value for money.”

In this connection it should be noted that the Authority advertises its belief in “a greater decentralisation of industry, scientifically planned and organised.” The word should, of course, be *delegation* of centralised powers, a process without which no monopoly can operate, but which at the outset sufficiently simulates real decentralisation to secure its acceptance by a majority.

It should not be supposed that the Authority has been allowed to swallow the whole of its allotted prey without some opposition from among the smaller carnivores which had formerly made their happy hunting ground in the area. The Power Companies, in particular, very naturally attacked it, and the Authority received the heaviest available supporting fire, including a statement by President Roosevelt himself which began “Crafty managers...” and ended with “rife with corruption and bribery.” The Alabama Power Company succeeded so far as to get a favourable verdict in a District Court, but when the appeal was taken to the Supreme Court the Authority won by eight votes to one. We note the statement that “The large funds known to be behind the T.V.A. . . give it, however, an immensely strong bargaining position.”

Great care has been taken to represent the Authority as non-political, impartial, and untouched by corruption. The Board has to consist of three “persons who profess a belief in the feasibility and wisdom of the Act”; *i.e.*, they must be politically ‘New-Dealers.’ Examples given of its ‘non-political’ behaviour are: equal pay and opportunities for negroes —“a conspicuous victory over racial prejudice in one of its best-known strongholds,”—and the encouragement of trades unionism, both actions against which the strongest political feeling exists in that part of America.

Finally we note the unlimited prospects for the expansion of this plan-infested area:—

“When more comprehensive plans come to be made, the

T.V.A. will have to face the problem that, while the valley is an appropriate area for flood control and hydro-electric generation and so forth, its boundaries are meaningless for electricity supply, for transport, for industrial development and other purposes. This problem of the overlapping of optimum areas for different purposes is again a universal one. At present the T.V.A. system of having a defined territory as a nucleus, with power to go outside it where necessary, may be the most practical solution. Encouraged by the T.V.A.’s achievements, other regions are putting up schemes on similar lines.”

(To be continued)

“NO THOROUGHFARE”

“The one means to strengthen the intellect is to make up one’s mind about nothing—to let the mind be a thoroughfare for all thoughts, not a secret party.”

— JOHN MILTON.

I am not so much concerned to criticise Mr. Harold Laski’s latest book,* with its somewhat grandiloquent title, as to try and arrive at the truth regarding Mr. Laski himself; and by that I mean how he and his ideas concern one personally. If one can get an inkling of that, one automatically becomes aware of the real content of his writing the significance that he wraps up in his *saucy* and erudite style. For Mr. Laski is not one of that all-too-prevalent class of present-day Jewish writers, that naively fills pages with slipshod incoherence in pursuit of some pet version of the racial policy. He is far too subtle and sophisticated for that, and his flowing pen conceals, as I take it it is intended to, his egotistic intention, possibly even from himself.

It may seem a somewhat crude manner to approach this earnest exposition by reminding oneself that its author is a Jew. We cannot afford to forget that Mr. Laski, in common with his whole race, is by nature, organically, in what I may call a millennial hurry. Just as Bolshevism has been called ‘Socialism in a hurry,’ so Socialism itself is no more than an attempt to hustle Nature—the desire, as it were, to be at the Golden Gate well before zero hour. For instance, such a statement as “Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” is, like every other authentic word of Jesus of Nazareth, *blah*, sound without sense, to the Jew—a stumbling-block, as Paul truly said. For Jesus’s mind was, and is the perfect example of Milton’s “thoroughfare,” whereas the Jewish mind has been aptly likened to a one-way street; and one always presenting itself to the would-be collaborator from the wrong end.

After all, what is the Millenium but the reign of the Absolute—a tyranny, when applied to our relative life upon this planet, inevitably involving force and coercion? I am quite satisfied that it is the attempt to apply force to Nature that is directly productive of all the baffling inconsistency of terrestrial existence, more especially so at the present time; and it is the Jew above all of us, owing to this millennial impatience of his, who is the most baffled and inconsistent of mortals. This is the attitude of mind which is at the root of what Douglas has called the Tragedy of Human Effort

**Faith, Reason and Civilization* by HAROLD LASKI. Gollancz 6/-.

the wholly mistaken idea that means and ends need not be consistent with one another. In short, that if only one's desire and determination are sufficiently forceful and insistent, the "right" thing can be achieved in the "wrong" way,—in other words, the "letter" can be made to triumph over the "spirit."

It is, of course, essentially the attitude of mind of the doctrinaire, who holds the belief that it is feasible to map out, to Plan, a detailed course of action that must be "right" in itself, irrespective of circumstances or the spirit in which it may be carried out. The result of which is, of course, that the doctrinaire finds himself compelled to give all his attention to making circumstances or "events" fit his Plan. We have seen the game being played out in Russia during the last twenty, perhaps fifty years; it is the familiar pattern of all Terrors, from the days of Nero and the Roman Arena, through the Counter-Reformation, and Cromwell's Irish Tours, and the French Revolution, down to the liquidation of the Kulaks.

It all comes from the human intellect postulating its own imperative regarding "things" which it conceives as good in themselves, apart from anything else, and therefore justifying compulsion. But the truth of the matter is that there is no legitimate imperative but Nature's; there can be no ultimate *must* except that of the law of Cause and Effect—"Action and reaction are equal and opposite. . ." If because of that we feel prompted to say that life is cruel, we say it in the sense that a child in a temper, running his head against the eminently serviceable wall of his nursery, complains of its hardness, and it can be no different in the case of any individual or society. If we elect to pit ourselves against Nature, to assert our imperative against, or above her's, which is what the doctrinaire always does, Nature (circumstances) will react, naturally, and like the wall, present a hard surface in place of her natural protection.

I shall be told that I have forgotten Mr. Laski and his book: but in fact I have not. Because the point I want to make is that Mr. Laski, by reason of his race, and its peculiar circumstances, is the Essential Doctrinaire. So that beneath the suave and sophisticated surface of his style, which gives the dangerously misleading impression that we are moving on the highest peaks of philosophicated culture, he in fact typifies in excelsis what I may call the ruthless experimentalist that lies dormant in every human heart: just the naked, elemental, cruel, human *will* to have our trumpery, short-sighted ideas realised and carried out, as the phrase goes, at all costs—*except our own*. On page 174 of his book, Mr. Laski himself confirms what I have been saying in what he writes: "The fact we have got to recognise is that any belief passionately held will seek to obtain power"—this in extenuation of the more unfortunate details of the Russian Revolution. And while I would assent to that statement, I would add the rider: Except the belief in Truth, in the Natural Imperative. Mr. Laski, however, in common with all Planners, having set up his own imperative, is debarred from that particular belief.

"Power corrupts" said Lord Acton. And we can see it at work in our own midst, in Russia and all over the world. "And absolute power," he concluded, "corrupts absolutely." Jesus of Nazareth, when he was taken up to a high place by the devil, was not unique, but representative of all of us. His uniqueness lay in his treatment of his guide; in his turn-

ing down the offer of the Kingdom of this world on the suggested terms: that is, that he should admit that Satan was right when he knew him to be wrong.

It may be objected that I am taking an unfair advantage of Mr. Laski in confronting him with Jesus of Nazareth. But Mr. Laski asks for it by his insistence—the parallel is drawn several times in this book—in the similarity of this age, particularly as affecting the Russian Revolution, and the early Christian era, as well as what appears to him as the impractical, unrealisable values of Jesus's teaching in comparison with *the already realised* values represented by the Soviet Republics. For Mr. Laski—and for a great many others, I am afraid—what was achieved by the excursion into history of Jesus and his (to them) charming, but entirely irrelevant ideas, was the delay by some nineteen or so centuries of the happy consummation of the Socialist Work State. History to Mr. Laski, I should imagine, is representative of "events" which, through unavoidable circumstances, Mr. Laski has been debarred from personally supervising. He is quite clear and precise about it. "No one" we learn on page 27 "can read the Old Testament without the sense that it comes from a people to whom the gospel of hard work was vital; just as," he concludes, "in reading the New Testament it is hard to discover in the central figure of its narrative any deep concern with the workaday world."

I am not suggesting for a moment that Mr. Laski does not believe what he writes. On the contrary, it is because he is so earnest in his refusal to fact facts, or accept as real history what was shaped in spite of his race, not directly by it, that I say the only, and proper, course to take with the Jew is to face him with the real teaching (philosophy) of Jesus of Nazareth the teaching and its practice as applied to him. What is known as "The Jewish Problem" will never be solved till Christendom is in a position to do that. It is the doctrinaire in all of us, the whole army of abstractionists who presume to elevate their own imperative above that of Nature, and at whose head is the organised Jewish race, as it were the General Staff of Materialism Militant—it is they particularly that must be got to face this truth that as there is no Effect without a Cause, there is equally no Cause without an Effect. And in using the imperative here, I am not, I hope, committing the folly I am condemning. What I mean by that *must* is simply, that if not now, then some time, every abstractionist of every race—Greek or Jew, bond or free—must face this Truth of *his own free will*; that is, that they must come freely to acknowledge that the Truth and the conditions of seeing it, the end and the means, are identical—Freedom can only be realised freely.

Among the most tragic of all the unhappy results of this setting up of our own imperative, is that it comes between us and our views of the world as it really is. The doctrinaire is inevitably "a peculiar person." Since he is perforce a law unto himself, the rules under which he wants to play his game are not those that apply to life in general—as it were, a Soccer football team in a Rugby world. The beauty of the Natural Law is that being common to all Nature, it constitutes a master-key to all useful knowledge, as Francis Bacon so clearly perceived. But all this beauty is lost, both on, and to the doctrinaire, with his heartless non-reciprocating, "one-way" mind: in operation more like a hemorrhage than a circulation. One can clearly see this crippling disability operating in Mr. Laski's case; for in

spite of his fine air of philosophical detachment, his blind partisanship as concerns the Russian Revolution and all its affects is every bit as naive and complete as that of such an incoherent fanatic as Professor Chakotin, Pavlov's pupil, whose breathless book, *The Rape of the Masses*, was reviewed in these pages in March, 1943.

As it is true of the doctrinaire that he is a peculiar person, so it is equally true of his schemes and theories that they are never by any chance "ordinary," but always extraordinary, and for that reason—which should be, and in fact is, their condemnation,—in their authoress's estimation assured of success. For the ordinary laws of Cause and Effect having been annulled, or rather reversed, the simplification thereby achieved in the process of reaching a desired goal is quite intoxicating. This is easy enough to see, since by this "trans-valuation of all values," to quote Nietzsche, what in Munich or Berlin constitutes no more than a common blood-purge the unedifying spectacle of a dictator getting rid of possible rivals—is in Moscow an inevitable and statesmanlike step in the march of the Great Plan, and, of course, *vice versa*.

There is, however, one not inconsiderable drawback in all this for the doctrinaire, and it is that the whole regiment of humanity still being part of the "obsolete" Natural System must of necessity be out of step with himself and his colleagues, a fact which gives the outside universe an appearance (to him) of absolute chaos—the whole Company out of step except "our Joe." As Mr. Laski observes on page 81: "It is not, I believe, excessive to argue that the scale of the issues raised by modern war is too massive to be capable of resolution by minds of the calibre of ours." That statement with its extremely subtle symbolism suggestive of concrete dugouts and guns, exactly expresses the materialist's practical resourcelessness and essential pessimism. In Mr. Laski's own case the whole horizon is black with clouds, with the exception of a blinding shaft of hope from Soviet Russia, where, I suppose, the laws of nature having been suspended, miracles may be confidently anticipated.

The outstanding impression left on me by this book, in addition to that of Mr. Laski's millennial obsession—I had almost said Messianic obsession—with the Russian Revolution and the Soviets, which colours every page, is the constant presence of the unmentioned fact that the author is *not a Social Crediter*; that his innate bias is in the contrary direction to all that is implied by the term. I mean that statement in the precise and positive sense in which David Harum indicated the particular Church to which he did *not* go. The particular group of economic facts of which Mr. Laski, the political economist, is entirely aware, but for which he has no use, is that known as Social Credit—the disposer of all economic doctrines, as well as doctrinaire economists. This self-preservative reaction, which is what I take it to be, is, of course, based on a false conception of "self." It is no doubt the same instinct that prompts Mr. Laski to omit from the conventional list of those who are regarded as the "founders" of the Modern World, the name of the greatest of them all, Francis Bacon. Mr. Laski has made up his mind in a manner allergic to the humility exhibited by such eminently Anglo-Saxon minds as Francis Bacon, and John Milton, and a host of others. A notice is up in the street of his consciousness: No Thoroughfare. The "secret party" referred to by Milton

is in session there, and all traffic is stopped. Listen to Mr. Laski on page 21: "A war of this magnitude brings us up against ultimate things. Few people believe any longer that a liberal economic system is likely to achieve prosperity for the masses." And therefore he no doubt gives his blessing to Sir William Beveridge's efforts to concoct an illiberal one. "What has become obvious in our generation" he says elsewhere, "is that within the postulates of our present system there is no hope of finding the conditions of renovation." There you have it. So with a generous application of High-Financial intrigue—Wall-Street Blend,—and a jolly dozen or so yo-heav-hos, to the tune of the Volga Boatmen, out goes the Russian baby along with the bath-water, and the next military phase, whatever it may prove to be, of the World-War on Christian liberalism is assured.

I said at the commencement of this review that we were out to discover what Mr. Laski himself was; and in that context it is almost as useful to find out what he is not, as what he is. And again, emphatically Mr. Laski is *not* a Social Crediter. It is clearly evident that as far as his policy is concerned—his, or his race's—it makes no matter, —the present vessel of Western society, so criminally and so apparently avoidably run on the economic rocks and in danger of breaking up, is not to be salvaged,—"renovated." One suspects she is built too much on Christian, liberal lines to suit the underwriters; who no doubt have already cut their losses, and have other designs coming forward, possibly *a la Russe*. Or is it more likely to be Mr. Kaiser's Victory Ship on which they have their eyes?

TO (ANOTHER) EDITOR

"... I don't think Mr.— is altogether aware of how emotionally his brain works. But I am open to conviction, and await with apprehension his more intellectual efforts."

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