

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 29. No. 7.

Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.  
Postage: home 1½d. and abroad 1d.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1952.

6d. Weekly.

### CONTINUITY

We have received for publication the following:—

Office of The Social Credit Secretariat,  
Liverpool.

October 4, 1952.

To the Editor of *The Social Crediter*,

Sir,

You have asked me for instructions concerning the publicity to be given in *The Social Crediter*, the organ of the Secretariat, following the announcement made on its front page last week, and on other matters of policy.

I am informed that two provisions in the will of the late Major C. H. Douglas affect us, and both are important.

(1) The portrait of Douglas by Mr. Augustus John has been bequeathed to the Walker Art Gallery at Liverpool, an addition to the permanent collection there.

(2) A clause in the Will reads as follows:—

**"I desire that no Obituary Notice other than the customary press notification should be published." [Clause 5.]**

In December last, Major Douglas told me of his intention in this regard. The words in which he clothed his intention were made known to me the day before yesterday. That you will accord with his desire willingly is quite certain, according to the letter. Yet in all such matters there is to be considered the spirit as well as the letter. Douglas's friends need no obituary of him, and the enemy doesn't matter. Reflect also upon the fact that, of an idea, no one can write an obituary notice, and henceforth we are concerned with an idea, the living idea of Social Credit, Douglas's idea.

We shall discover how far-reaching are the implications of this provision as time passes. As time passes we shall discover what Douglas has done for us. We have done, we hope, what we could do for him. In this particular, it seems to me that, to quote the less familiar words of a familiar passage of St. Paul's first letter to the Church at Corinth, he has made it incomparably easier that the necessity of our being "restored to unity of mind and purpose" may be respected. (The English Authorised Version translates the words, "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.")

Concerning the breaches of the restriction, however made, which are already known to most of your readers, if you study them with the assistance of available data, you will, I think, conclude that the "B." B.C. and the newspapers which have given offence, jointly and severally, com-

posed their paragraphs from four proximate sources, two major and two minor. *The Times* possibly had access to a fifth; whether we enumerate this as major or minor is immaterial. One of the major sources is that reflected by the "B." B.C., which transmitted only material from that source. The other major source is known to me as a voice and a hand writing at home on the unused surface of a child's copy book. If the owner of the hand should see these words, let him know that I forgive him, if only because of the certainty which invests these speculations through his unconscious but perhaps willing agency. Thereby, we are able now to write, almost word for word, the instruction 'from below' to Hell's spawn among the newspapers of the world. That all may know what we are talking about, I think you might print the letter from Colonel Creagh-Scott to the *Daily Telegraph*. Of the many you have shown me it is, perhaps the most suitable. It is concise and factual, notwithstanding an ambiguity, which you can annotate. The enemy came neither to bury Caesar nor to praise him. So far as they came at all, it was to bury the idea of Social Credit and to destroy, if possible, the vehicle of the idea, or that part of it (for it is a part however subordinate) which matters in their estimation, the Secretariat and *The Social Crediter*. Hargrave and his now defunct "Social Credit Party" was—a *God-send?*—to them: its parentage was congenial. (Do not lose sight of the fact that, just as you cannot do good without doing at the same time some evil, so you cannot do evil without doing at the same time *some* good; and we are not without hope that of Hargrave's relics *all* are not blind, however impaired their vision may seem to the clearer-sighted—who are clearer sighted, in any case, only by Grace and a closer attachment to a channel of Grace.)

So much for that.

I cannot write easily of the blessed letters you have shown me from those who loved Douglas and whose grief belongs to the sacred field of all human life. Do what is natural and right about them. Record, or let this record, the fact of them. But, if you can, let their authors be recalled to the overriding reality, which is, as many say, that they have for too long reposed their burdens upon the massive shoulders of Douglas himself, and that now their burden and their responsibility are restored to them. It is not we who sowed; but it is we who may "go to sleep again and wake again, night after night day after day, while the crop sprouts and grows, without any knowledge of his."\* Why should he have borne the burden of its growth so much alone?

That there is some hidden and necessary connection between pain and *real* accomplishment, between the exercise

\*Mark IV. 27 (Knox).

of inspired initiative and crucifixion, we know, without understanding it. I cannot say more about this now. We may deny our inheritance or receive it.

At an early date, I propose to invite a number of your readers to meet me, to receive a brief statement of our situation as it presents itself to me and in order that I, in turn, may have the benefit of their counsel on matters which press for solution. The key to our present position is *continuity*. No change in the constitution of the Secretariat is called for. It is apparent that there has been no change in the strategy of the enemy: we know even more certainly than before to what end it is directed and what weapons it can and will employ.

We have lost an ally beyond compare and beyond confession, and we must shoulder the responsibilities of the adult status, walk without leading strings.

Yours, etc.,

(Signed) TUDOR JONES,  
Chairman,  
Social Credit Secretariat.

## PARLIAMENT

*House of Commons: August 1, 1952.*

*(The Debate Continued.)*

### American-Style Comics

*Mr. Maurice Edelman* (Coventry, North): I am obliged to you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, for the opportunity to raise again the question of the pernicious and harmful effects of the circulation of American-style comics in this country. My only regret is that my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham, South (Mr. Elwyn Jones), with whom I am associated in raising the matter, is, for personal reasons, unhappily unable to be here today to support me.

When I last drew attention to the harmful effects of the circulation of American-style comics, I received from the Joint Under-Secretary of State to the Home Department a rather anodyne and complacent reply, but since that time the amount of attention and the extreme anxiety which has been shown throughout the country about the deleterious consequences of the publication and circulation of this type of comic paper has encouraged me to bring the matter once again to the attention of the Joint Under-Secretary of State in the hope that he will be willing to initiate some further action.

Let me say at the outset that in raising the matter I am not advocating any form of literary censorship. As one who is personally engaged in the profession of writing I must declare a personal interest, but even if that were not so, I should still say that I regard literary censorship as always harmful. I consider that any form of censorship for literature which has ever been established has been harmful in its consequences and a laughing stock before history.

I want to make one other point, and it is that although I refer to these comics as American-style comics, they are printed and published not only in America but also in this country, and I should be the last person to allow the term "American-style comic" to be used as an excuse by those

who seek some stick with which to beat the Americans for adding another weapon to their armoury. On the contrary, it has already become clear that in America itself parents and teachers have the gravest anxieties about the circulation of this type of reading matter and the effect which it has on children. I am informed that in Cincinnati a board has been set up known as the Evaluation Committee for Comics—a voluntary board—which has as its purpose to try to assess the various comic papers which are published and to try to give some kind of guidance to parents and teachers in this matter. Even in this country a small and valuable committee of writers has been formed with the idea of giving similar guidance to parents, teachers, and the publishing trade.

But the problem is rapidly becoming a national one, and for these reasons it seems to me that it would be wholly inadequate were the handling of this problem left in the hands of a few voluntary workers, and my purpose tonight is to apprise the Joint Under-Secretary of State, the House, and the country generally of the exact nature of this problem, and to urge that some more drastic action should be taken in order to deal with it.

The Joint Under-Secretary of State has already said that the importation in bulk of these comics from the United States and from Europe has been stopped, and I welcome that affirmation, but although that is the case, the importation and use of matrices manufactured abroad has continued, and comic papers which are being published in this country are being printed from the material which either has been imported or is being imported to this very day.

It is notorious that, in order to make the substantial profits which the purveyors of this reading matter are, in fact, making, they have to publish runs of between 50,000 and 100,000 copies, and it has been estimated by the committee to which I have referred that no less than 30 million objectionable copies of comics of this style are put into circulation each year, and businessmen who see the profitability of this trade are enlarging it, so that we may in future, unless some action is taken, expect that that figure of 30 million—that threatening figure of 30 million—will expand, and probably eat well into the current market for comics, which has been estimated at 400 million copies per year.

Let me, without wishing to harrow the House, give some illustrations of the type of comic paper which is being printed in this country. I want to quote only from some of the captions to these strip cartoons that are used in these papers in order to give the House an idea of the sadism which is the dominant characteristic of these so-called comics. Let me quote one paper called "The Manhunt," which has a characteristic caption which says of some unfortunate person:

"He was dipped into a chemical vat . . . his skin quickly tightened and split. Already starved, he looked like a skeleton when he was pulled up."

Now here is another from the same paper:

"Letty leaps forward, hurls herself straight at the glittering harpoon-head. She screams . . . gurgles . . . chokes."

The hero hits the villain over the head with a log and says:

"You murdering mucker. I'd like to take you apart with my bare hands."

Finally there is a picture of a cross over a grave marked "Letty."

That is the type of comic paper which is being sold in shops and purchased by children of all ages. I do not want to multiply the examples, but I should just like to give a typical example of the sort of caption used by those papers which can have a horrifying effect. Let me quote from a comic called "Eerie":

"The Thing picked up the body of the unfortunate girl and threw it into an underground pit filled with sulphurous smoke. . . From out of that pit rose corpse after corpse . . . shrunken . . . withered . . ."

I could go on indefinitely giving examples and illustrations of this kind. I do not want to do so, and I merely give them to give the House some idea of the terrifying effect which not only the captions but—perhaps even more—the illustrations in those comics have upon children. I do not want to use too many examples of the actual magazines, but here I should like to show the House a type of the pictures used, and in a comic which is being sold literally in hundreds of thousands up and down the country today. Here is a picture of a skeleton with a half naked girl in some kind of container, and underneath is written:

"The Horror from the Pit. The Werewolf of Marsham Manor. The King of the Living Dead. The Subway Horror." I do not intend to develop the illustrations I have already quoted. I think I have already said enough to show that at the present time there is no protection at all for a child from this type of reading matter.

Up and down the country parents and school teachers are deeply exercised in their minds about the consequences of these publications on children. It is perfectly true that they were brought to this country in the first instance by American forces. They were widely read by American troops, but very rapidly it was found by publishers—disreputable publishers in my view—that there was a considerable market for this type of horror and sadistic literature; literature which glorifies the brute, literature which undermines the law simply because it suggests that the superman is the person who should take the law into his own hands and mete out justice in his own way. The most sinister thing about these publications is that they introduce the element of pleasure into violence. They encourage sadism; and they encourage sadism in association with an unhealthy sexual stimulation.

Now, no one is able at the present time to say whether there is any association between material of this kind and juvenile delinquency. Nobody can say so simply because there has not been an adequate inquiry. But what one can say is that individual magistrates up and down the country have found that certain juvenile delinquents who have engaged in acts of violence do use this type of so-called comic material as their favourite reading matter.

Only a few minutes ago my hon. Friend the Member for Rossendale (Mr. Anthony Greenwood) informed me that when he was sitting on the bench only recently he was obliged to mete out justice to a number of juveniles who were charged with attacking another child on Hampstead Heath. Later on it was discovered by the court that they had in their possession American-style comics of the kind I have just described, and their crime was in fact imitative. They had seen the glorification of violence as illustrated in

these comics; they had seen how the heroes used the rope, the dagger, the knife and the gun; they had seen how they were glorified, and they simply imitated the example of the heroes portrayed in these lurid publications.

There is clearly an obvious case for inquiry by the Home Office. I submit to the Under-Secretary that it is not enough for him simply to say, "Well, we must leave the matter to the parent and the school teacher." The fact is that some parents have both the enlightenment and the time to guide and direct the cultural tastes and interests of their children, but there are many parents, working parents in particular, who are so occupied with the daily struggle for life that they have not the opportunity of giving this detailed instruction, this detailed care, to the child in its cultural pursuits. Consequently, I can well imagine that a child on its way to an elementary school walking along the back streets of any town in the country—because this thing has become a national big business—will be attracted by the garish covers of these magazines and so-called comic papers in the shop windows, and will go in and purchase them.

One of the most alarming facts of this particular situation is the tremendous amount of profit which exists in their sale. It has been established by the committee, which I have already quoted twice, that the average cost of the matrices for a whole publication of this kind is something like £60 or so. When we consider that many of these publications are sold for 6d. or 1s 0d. and that the number published is between 50,000 and 100,000, it is easy to see that there is considerable profit on this type of vice.

No one wants to interfere with the liberty of free speech or with the liberty of the adult to read whatever he wishes. As adults we have the responsibility and the obligation to discriminate between right and wrong and good and bad. All that I am asking the Joint Under-Secretary to consider is whether or not children should be protected from the insidious and pernicious effect of this type of reading. I submit that it is not enough for him to say, "We will simply leave it to the parents and the teachers." That is not enough.

Not only does this matter require time, but it also requires to a great extent the opportunity of purchasing the right kind of reading material for children. Therefore I submit as a practical proposal to the Joint Under-Secretary—and I hope that he will take this into account—that the Home Office should set up a panel of educationists, of parents, of lawyers and magistrates and all those who are concerned at this problem, not for the purpose of censoring publications but to do precisely what is being done by the Evaluation Committee in Cincinnati, namely, to draw up a list of comic papers as they appear, specifying all those which are unexceptionable, all those which are objectionable, and all those which are so seriously objectionable that they may well do damage to the child. If he will do that he would make a substantial start towards persuading not only parents and teachers—I know he wants to do that—but, even more than that, persuading the trade to take the necessary action not to handle material of this kind.

Already reputable firms like the leading distributors will not touch this type of sadistic pornography, but none the

(continued on page 7.)

## THE SOCIAL CREDITER

This journal expresses and supports the policy of the Social Credit Secretariat, which is a non-party, non-class organisation neither connected with nor supporting any political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: *Home and abroad, post free:*  
 One year 30/-; Six months 15/-; Three months 7s. 6d.  
 Offices: (Business) 7, VICTORIA STREET, LIVERPOOL, 2, Telephone: CENtral 8509; (Editorial) 49, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD, LIVERPOOL, 15, Telephone: SEFton Park 435.

Vol. 29. No. 7.

Saturday, October 11, 1952.

### DOUGLAS

The last resting place of Douglas is a grave between the Church at Kenmore and the loch-side which borders the churchyard to the west. The southern slope of Drummond Hill, dropping to Loch Tay, alone hides it from his home five miles away. A lovelier situation would be hard to find.

Thursday, October 2nd, the day of the funeral, began in the eastern and central counties of Scotland, after a night of heavy rain, threatening and overcast by low cloud, which dispersed as the morning passed, sunshine flooding the countryside and lighting softly the massed colours of the foliage, crimson and gold with bright patches of green. It was a scene of incomparable beauty, and a fit setting for the short graveside service.

What could be more fitting than that Nature, which is concrete Truth, whose laws Douglas fought so valiantly to uphold, should bless him and bid him rest by a sudden brighter shaft upon his casket as they lifted it and lowered it?

### "The Early and the Late Rains"

What leads to war, what leads to quarrelling among you? I will tell you what leads to them; the appetites which infest your mortal bodies. Your desires go unfulfilled, so you fall to murdering; you set your heart on something, and cannot have your will, so there is quarrelling and fighting. Why cannot you have your will? Because you do not pray for it, or you pray, and what you ask for is denied you, because you ask for it with ill intent; you would squander it on your appetites. Wantons, have you never been told that the world's friendship means enmity with God, and the man who would have the world for his friend makes himself God's enemy? Do you think scripture means nothing when it tells you that the Spirit which dwells in you loves with a jealous love? No, the grace he gives us is something better still; and so he tells us, God flouts the scornful, and gives the humble man his grace. Be God's true subjects, then; stand firm against the devil, and he will run away from you, come close to God, and he will come close to you. You that are sinners must wash your hands clean, you that are in two minds must purify the intention of your hearts. Bring yourselves low with mourning and weeping, turn your laughter into sadness, your joy into downcast looks; humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Brethren, do not disparage one another. In disparaging one of his brethren, in passing judgement on him, a man disparages the law, passes judgement on the law; and in passing judgement on the law thou art setting thyself up to be its censor, instead of obeying it. There is only one Lawgiver, only one Judge, he who has power to destroy and to set free. Who art thou, to sit in judgement on thy neighbour?

See how you go about saying, To-day, or to-morrow, we will make our way to such and such a town, spend a year there, and make profit by trading, when you have no means of telling what the morrow will bring. What is your life but a wisp of smoke, which shows for a moment and then must vanish into nothing? You ought to be saying, We will do this or that if it is the Lord's will, and if life is granted us. As it is, your self-conceit makes boasters of you; all such boastfulness is an evil thing. Yes, if a man has the power to do good, it is sinful in him to leave it undone.

Come, you men of riches, bemoan yourselves and cry aloud over the miseries that are to overtake you. Corruption has fallen on your riches; all the fine clothes are left moth-eaten, and the gold and silver have long lain rusting. That rust will bear witness against you, will bite into your flesh like flame. These are the last days given you, and you have spent them in heaping up a store of retribution. You have kept back the pay of the workmen who reaped your lands, and it is there to cry out against you; the Lord of hosts has listened to their complaint. You have feasted here on earth, you have comforted your hearts with luxuries on this day that dooms you to slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent man, while he offered no resistance.

Wait, then, brethren, in patience for the Lord's coming. See how the farmer looks forward to the coveted returns of his land, yet waits patiently for the early and the late rains to fall before they can be brought in. You too must wait patiently, and take courage; the Lord's coming is close at hand.

James, the Apostle. (*Trs. Mgr. Knox.*)

**"Letters from England"**

By ROBERT SOUTHEY

*(Continued)*

LETTER XXXVI. (Birmingham . . . Coiners—Forgers . . .) p. 198. (July 7.)

. . . The coins of every country with which England carries on any intercourse, whether in Europe, Asia or America, are counterfeited here and exported. An inexhaustible supply of halfpence was made for home consumption, till the new coinage put a stop to this manufactory: it was the common practice of the dealers in this article, to fry a pan-full every night after supper for the next day's delivery, thus darkening them, to make them look as if they had been in circulation.

Assignats (French paper money issued during the Revolution) were forged here during the late war; but this is less to be impugned to the Birmingham speculators, than to those wise politicians who devised so many wise means of ruining France. The forgery of their own bank notes is carried on with systematic precautions which will surprise you. . .

You may well imagine what such people as these would be in times of popular commotion. It was exemplified in 1791. Their fury by good luck was in favour of the government; they set fire to the houses of all the more opulent dissenters whom they suspected of disaffection, and searched everywhere for the heresiarch Priest [Joseph Priestly (1733-1804), chemist and theologian. He was most widely known in his own day as a defender of the French Revolution]; carrying a spit about on which they intended to roast him alive. Happily for himself and for the national character, he had taken alarm and withdrawn in time.

It ought, however, to be remembered that there is more excuse to be made for dishonesty in Birmingham, than could be pleaded anywhere else. In no other place are there so many ingenious mechanics, in no other place is trade so precarious. War ruins half the manufacturers of Birmingham by shutting their markets. During the late war nearly three thousand houses were left untenanted here. Even in time of peace the change of fashion throws hundreds out of employ. Want comes upon them suddenly; they cannot dig; and though they might not be ashamed to beg, begging would avail nothing where there are already so many mendicants. It is not to be expected that they will patiently be starved, if by any ingenuity of their own they can save themselves from starving. . . .

LETTER XXXVIII. (Manchester . . . Remarks upon the Pernicious Effects of the Manufacturing System).

. . . This system (manufacturing system) is the boast of England—long may she continue to boast it before Spain shall rival her! (Southey is writing as though he were a Spaniard visiting England). Yet this is the system which we envy, and which we are so desirous to imitate. Happily our religion presents one obstacle; that incessant labour which is required in these task-houses can never be exacted in a Catholic country, where the Church has wisely provided so many days of leisure for the purposes of religion and enjoyment. Against the frequency of these holydays much has been said; but Heaven forbid that the clamour of philosophizing commercialists should prevail, and that the

Spaniard should ever be brutalized by unremitting task-work, like the negroes in America and the labouring manufacturers in England! Let us leave England the boast of supplying all Europe with her wares; let us leave to these lords of the sea the distinction of which they are so tenacious, that of being the white slaves of the rest of the world, and doing for it all its dirty work. . . .

LETTER L. (Lady Wortley Montague's Remark upon Credulity . . .).

Lady Mary Wortley Montague, the best letter-writer of this or any other country, has accounted for the extraordinary facility with which her countrymen are duped by the most ignorant quacks, very truly and very ingeniously. "The English," she says, "are more easily infatuated than any other people by the hope of a panacea, nor is there any other country in the world where such great fortunes are made by physicians. I attribute this to the foolish credulity of mankind. As we no longer trust in miracles and relics, we run as eagerly after receipts and doctors, and the money which was given three centuries ago for the health of the soul, is now given for the health of the body, by the same sort of people, women and half-witted men. Quacks are despised in countries where they have shrines and images."

How much to be lamented is the perversion of a mind like hers, which, had it not been heretical, would have been so truly excellent! She perceives the truth. . . . The foolish credulity of mankind!—To be without faith and hope is as unnatural a state for the heart as to be without affections. Man is a credulous animal; perhaps he has never yet been defined by a characteristic which more peculiarly and exclusively designates him, certainly never by a nobler one; for faith and hope are what the heretics mean by credulity. The fact is, as she states it. Infidelity and heresy cannot destroy the nature of man, but they pervert it; they deprive him of his trust in God, and he puts it in man; they take away the staff of his support, and he leans upon a broken reed.

. . . The boasted knowledge of England has not sunk deep; it is like the golden surface of a lackered watch, which covers, and but barely covers, the base metal. The great mass of the people are as ignorant, and as well contented with their ignorance as any (in) the most illiterate nation in Europe; and even among those who might be expected to know better, it is astonishing how slowly information makes way to any practical utility. . . .

LETTER LXXI. (. . . The Royal Institution—Metaphysics).

. . . To end the list of fashions What think you of philosophy in fashion? You must know that though the wise men of old could find no royal road to the mathematics, in England they have been more ingenious, and have made many short cuts to philosophy for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen. The arts and sciences are now taught in lectures to fashionable audiences of both sexes; and there is a Royal Institution for this purpose, where some of the most scientific men in the kingdom are thus unworthily employed. (The Royal Institution was founded by Count Rumford . . . in 1799. Humphry Davy was appointed assistant lecturer in chemistry to the Institution in 1801. In its early days the Institution concerned itself with a very wide variety of subjects, including cookery and mech-

anics. Sydney Smith gave three courses of lectures on moral philosophy there in 1804-6, which were immensely popular, and was followed by Coleridge in 1808). . .

But even oxygen and hydrogen are not subjects sufficiently elevated for all. Mind and matter, free will and necessity, are also fashionable topics of conversation; and you shall hear the origin of ideas explained, the nature of volition elucidated, and the extent of space and the duration of time discussed over a tea-table with admirable volubility. Nay, it is well if one of these orators does not triumphantly show you that there is nothing but misery in the world, prove that you must either limit the power of God or the goodness, and then modestly leave you to determine which. Another effect this of the general passion for distinction; the easiest way of obtaining access into literary society, and getting that kind of notoriety, is, by professing to be a metaphysician, because of such metaphysics a man may get as much in half an hour as in his whole life.

At present the English philosophers and politicians, both male and female, are in a state of great alarm. It has been discovered that the world is over-peopled, and that it always must be so, from an error in the constitution of nature—that the law which says "Increase and multiply," was given without sufficient consideration; in short, that He who made the world does not know how to manage it properly, and therefore there are serious thoughts of requesting the English parliament to take the business out of his hands. (Note. This is a sidelong glance at the doctrines of Malthus, which Southey held in great detestation).

### "The Shifty Guardian"

How far we are right in attributing the new interest in real economics displayed by writers in the 'national' press to a desire to jettison some of the heavier burdens of their cargo of lies and to steer nearer to the wind of political and economic realities we cannot say. The examples we might mention will be familiar to regular readers of *The Social Crediter*. That the ship is low in the water is shown by the shrewd observations of the following article in *The Grocer* for September 27, to which excellent journal and to the author "Corsair" we make every acknowledgment:—

"The latest figures issued by the British Bankers' Association show that since February of this year, when Mr. Butler first issued his directive to the banks to restrict loans and advances to traders, the total outstanding amount of advances by British banks has declined by £208.2 million. Since May, 1952, people in the food, drink and tobacco trades have had their credit facilities reduced by the 'Butler screw' by about £40 million; the retail trade has had £27 million drawn off its credit facilities. This is a lot of money in a short time. Traders have been forced to find the cash to repay the banks by selling out their stock on a very unwilling market. It's no wonder that bankruptcies are on the increase; it's no wonder that the small trader is feeling 'hunted' and hardly knows where to turn.

"While admitting that serious troubles need serious remedies, the credit restriction measures, as they are now being applied, are operating unfairly against one selected

section of the community. The policy, as it is being administered, is immoral and discreditable. Let us try to analyse exactly what is going on. Let us first consider the basic situation as it is at the moment.

"Since the Budget, Government borrowing from the banks has risen by £425 million—the Government borrows from the banks by 'selling' the banks Treasury Bills—which are 'promises to pay,' or I O Us if you like. Just think how marvellous, it would be for you if, next time a traveller called for payment of his account, you just gave him an I O U instead of cash! And when he asked you when you would be likely to redeem the I O U you just said to him: 'Oh, I don't know, old man; some time in 1995, I suppose.' Just think how much more you could buy on that basis!

"The reason why the Government has had to increase its borrowing to this alarming extent is the fact that the Government has been spending more money than it has been receiving in revenue. Between April 1 and September 6 the Government spent £531.3 million more on Ordinary and Capital Account than they collected in revenue.

"This money is paid out to contractors making armaments or houses or any of the other hundred and one things the Government has to purchase, finance or pay for. The contractors distribute a large percentage of this money in wages, and they also retain a certain percentage as their profit on what they produce with the money; they in turn buy materials from other manufacturers, who again distribute a percentage of the cost of such materials in wages and salaries. This excess expenditure by the Government, therefore, creates more purchasing power in the country. It puts more money into the pockets of countless thousands. This can be seen by the fact that bank deposits in the same period (from April 1 to September 6) rose by £152 million, and currency in circulation (that is to say, £1 notes) rose by about £200 million. Quite recently currency in circulation reached the highest figure in history.

"But . . . since February advances or loans by banks to trade and industry declined by £208.2 million, as has already been stated above. The Government, which relies overwhelmingly on the electoral support of the middle classes in general, and the small trader in particular, is, in fact, doing its best to destroy both. In the forlorn hope of appeasing labour, the Government is using discreditable methods. It is making a human sacrifice of its friends and supporters. There is still no sign of any policy to restrict Government expenditure; that can be clearly seen from the figures quoted above. On the contrary, the Government continues to insulate what they call the 'public sector' of the economy (that is to say the Government departments, local corporations, and so on) against the restrictions on credit, while continuing to pour out money and so to create new purchasing power. (Wages rose by £475 million, salaries by £270 million in 1951, and we have continued to rise since.) Yet by their restrictions on credit to private enterprise, the Government is forcing the private trader to jettison his stocks under compulsion from his bank.

"This conflicting policy, which is as incomprehensible as it is reprehensible, seeks to 'buy protection' (in the Chicago sense) from organised labour, at the expense of the small private enterprise traders who put their trust in this

Government, but who are now facing distress, losses and even bankruptcy in rapidly increasing numbers. It is possible to put the situation in the form of a parable:—

“Once upon a time there was a keen enterprising young man called ‘Imp’ Porter, who wanted to be independent and to try his hand at running his own business, in partnership with his friend ‘Rhee’ Taylor. Having scraped up a capital of £3,000 to buy a business, they then arranged with their friend Mr. Flint, the bank manager, to give them a revolving credit of £2,000 to finance the purchase and holding of stocks. Young ‘Imp’ had a guardian called ‘Con’ Servative whom he trusted implicitly, and whom he had been prepared to support, through thick and thin, on many occasions in the past. It hadn’t always been easy to overlook his guardian’s moral weaknesses; there had been that affair over the Abyssinians in 1935, and then again over those Czech fellows in 1938—it still made him blush just to think of it! Well, ‘Imp’ told his guardian about this new venture.

“Now it so happened, shortly afterwards, that his guardian, who was in rather a big way of business himself, was having trouble with his ‘workers.’ They constantly grumbled about rising prices and demanded more wages. ‘Con’ knew that the grocery business was a bit slow at the time. He called his shop stewards together and said to them: ‘Look here, if I keep giving you more wages, you are only going to put prices up still more, and in six months’ time you will be back for still more wages, so I will tell you what I’ll do. You know Taylor and Porter, the grocers in the High Street! I happen to know that business is very slow and that they have borrowed £2,000 from their bank to finance their stock. I will tell old Flint the bank manager who is a pal of mine, to ‘call in’ their loan. They will be forced to cut prices to sell out their stock in a hurry to repay the bank; they will be in real trouble. I will give you *half* the increase in wages you are asking for. Now just keep your eyes on Taylor and Porter’s shop. You will be able to pick up some bargains while they are ruining themselves chucking their stock overboard.

“Do you want to know what happened next? Well, very soon ‘Con’ didn’t have a friend left in the world, and at the first opportunity Taylor took him by the scruff of his neck and threw him into the sea—after first obtaining permission from the American Admiral who by that time was in command of the Western approaches.”

Won’t “Corsair” consider a similarly direct approach to a preview of the efforts, short-term and long-term, of *extending* loans? and compare the two accounts?

## PARLIAMENT—

(continued from page 3.)

less there is a large number of retailers up and down the country who will do so. I submit to the Joint Under-Secretary that a panel of the kind I have suggested, and for which there is already wide support in the country, would be able to reinforce the guidance which he has already recommended and with which he has stated he is in sympathy.

Before I conclude, let me say this. Many of my own

generation remember the comics which charmed our childhood like “Comic Cuts,” and “Rainbow,” with characters like “Jumbo” and anthropomorphic characters which did nothing but good to those children who read about their antics in those multi-coloured publications. It is not my intention in any way to discourage the publication of comics of that kind. On the contrary, it is my purpose to suggest that one of the objects of the Home Office in putting down the publication of this shameful type of reading matter should be to give such guidance to parents, to teachers and to the publication trade generally that eventually we may once again have wholesome publications for our children.

*The Joint Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth):* I am glad that this subject has been raised and that I have the opportunity of giving the point of view of the Government upon it. Perhaps I should say that I can properly speak only for England and Wales. The law in Scotland is different, and, therefore, I cannot give a full answer to the hon. Member for Coatbridge and Aidrie (Mrs. Mann). She will have to tackle one of my hon. Friends about it on another occasion.

I quite agree with what has been said by hon. Members, that many of these magazines and publications are of a most objectionable character. I do not think there is any doubt about that. The hon. Member for Coventry, North (Mr. Edelman) referred specifically to one or two. Many of them are in the worst possible taste, to say the least of it, and verge on the obscene.

But there is nothing new in children liking adventure stories with a strong element of violence in them. For generations they have revelled in such stories without suffering any apparent harm. The works of Stevenson, Henty and Ballantyne, and many other authors, contains scenes of great vigour and, indeed, of violence. I think they have been enjoyed by children and have certainly not done them any harm.

The peculiarity of the publications we are now considering is the emphasis they place on violence as such. Second—and this I think is of great importance—they have reduced the letter-press to almost insignificant proportions. The ordinary “comic,” while it may not be of very much value in itself did at least teach the children using it to read, but with these publications it is almost unnecessary to be able to read in order to get the sense of what is depicted. They also use a crude and alien idiom to which all of us take exception.

The question posed by all hon. Members who have spoken is: what Government action is desirable in the circumstances? I think that first I must answer another question: what Government action is possible in the circumstances?

There are three kinds of action which have been canvassed. First, there is the physical action—the prevention of the import of these publications. As I told the House in answer to a Question by the hon. Member for Coventry, North recently, there have not been any imports from America at all material times. There has been a general prohibition of bulk imports of this class of publication. That prohibition has not been for the sort of reason that we have been discussing. It has been for currency reasons. Nevertheless, there has been a prohibition.

It is true that a certain number of these publications may have found their way here. Separate copies may have been brought by different people, and so on, but there have been virtually no imports from America. On 11th March of this year the import of these publications—and by that I mean publications of this class generally and not of the objectionable type only—has been forbidden from Europe as well.

It would probably be true to say that the old stocks are running out, that the previously concluded contracts are coming to an end and that very few indeed of these publications are coming here from Europe. It is probably true to say that virtually all the publications now being sold are printed and published in this country. Therefore, so far as the physical prevention of imports is concerned, nothing more can be done, and I do not think that the hon. Member really suggested that it was possible to do more. There is the possibility of the statutory prevention of the publication and sale of these comics.

*(Concluding extracts from the Minister's speech will be printed next week.)*

### Creeping Up

Mr. W. F. Crick, general manager for research and statistics of the Midland Bank, Ltd., has been talking to Aberdeen members of the bank staff on "The Uses of Taxation," of whom he asked the question: "Is it time that a permanent advisory body was set up to review the operation of the tax system in this country?" According to the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, he said:

"This past decade or so, and more particularly since the war, taxation has come to be used more and more deliberately as an instrument of economic policy."

Purchase tax had been found to be a particularly handy instrument of policy. After the fuel crisis in 1947, electric heaters had been taxed to restrict the demand on fuel supplies.

Last year, the tax on radios and television sets had been raised to check the purchase of these and direct the larger share of the national capacity to defence needs and export demands.

Dealing with the possibility of setting up a permanent advisory body to review continuously the operation of the tax system, giving special attention to current changes, their purpose and effect Mr. Crick expressed the view that there would be a good deal of in-grained conservatism to overcome before there was a chance of this taking place.

There were many problems within the field of taxation. Many people were tempted to over-simplify these problems. They were those who said, in effect, that all taxation was bad and there was far too much of it.

They were too impatient to attempt to give objective study to the disposition of the burden, in order to determine just where relief would be most effective.

We should at this point ask Mr. Crick a question:—"Most effective in promoting whose interest—the people's or the bankers'? Just how simple should the answer be?"

### Misrepresentation

The following is a copy of the letter sent to the *Daily Telegraph* by Lieut.-Colonel J. Creagh-Scott, D.S.O., O.B.E., of Moretonhampstead, Devon, dated October 1, 1952. It has not, so far as we are aware, been published in that newspaper. Concerning the Very Reverend the Dean of Canterbury who is mentioned in the Letter (and was mentioned by the *Daily Telegraph*), the Social Credit Secretariat dissociated itself from Dr. Hewlett Johnson in a personal letter dated December 11, 1937, more than three years before the Canons Residentiary of Canterbury Cathedral did the same in a letter to *The Times*, dated March 11, 1940. The Secretariat's letter asked for authority to deny rumours "damaging not only to the Social Credit Movement but to you." We are not aware that Dr. Hewlett Johnson was more willing to clarify his position then than in 1940, but in 1938 he left us:—

*(Copy)*

To the Editor, *The Daily Telegraph*,

Dear Sir,

Whoever supplied you with the Obituary concerning the late Major C. H. Douglas should be ashamed of himself.

I have been intimately acquainted with Major Douglas for nearly 20 years. It is grossly untrue to connect the Dean of Canterbury with Social Credit. From reports he is a Supporter of Communism. Anyone who has made a study of Douglas Social Credit knows that Communism is anathema to it. One can be forgiven for assuming that this is just another miserable attempt of the Daily Press to misrepresent Douglas Social Credit. And Sir, don't you think it is unkind, and discourteous to Mrs. Douglas to publish misrepresentations of her husband's life's work while still on his death-bed?

Again, in the last 4 lines of the Obituary, it is stated that "The Movement in England dispersed at the beginning of the war." Entirely untrue. It progressed in England and the Commonwealth all through the war, and progresses still. Only the controlled Press hides the facts.

Again, the Obituary states that "Mr. Douglas himself left the Party." Entirely untrue. Major Douglas never formed a Social Credit Party, nor had he and The Social Credit Secretariat, nor the bulk of Social Crediters in this Country anything whatever to do with the one that was formed, and which has, as far as I know, petered out.

In all fairness you will correct the obituary if (as I suspect) you Sir, personally, have been misinformed.

Yours truly,

J. Creagh-Scott, Lt.-Colonel.

### To Correspondents

Only the most urgent correspondence has received attention during the week before this issue went to press. We ask the indulgence of many writers for delay in acknowledging their kind letters.