The Social Crediter, Saturday, August 9, 1952.

# FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1952.

6d. Weekly.

# From Week to Week

Lady Eve Balfour's clear statement in the course of a broadcast argument about the effects of fertilisers on the health-giving properties of the soil that

If 'economics' made the production of sound food impossible, it was the economic system which should be altered not the processes of Nature

shines like a good deed in a naughty world. (Home Service, July 31).

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Of the other three contributors, only Dr. (Ph.D.) E. W. Russell, an Oxford Reader in Soil Science seemed to be wholeheartedly an opponent of the Soil Association's Organising Secretary. Flustered and outmatched, he said farmers must work for money, which would not accrue from production of quality foods in a world in which population was outstripping natural resources. Lady Eve Balfour charged that Life was the true measuring stick, not misapplied socalled scientific standards.

Incidentally, we noticed that the Chairman, Mr. J. T. Beresford of Chilmark, near Salisbury, refrained to a remarkable degree from those mischievous and untimely interjections which we have come to recognise as the distinctive call of the "B." B.C.'s carrion crows wherever there may be a carcass. And when may there not be, with proper management?

Lady Eve Balfour was objecting to a policy and stigmatised the accounting system as its instrument. It should be a short step from recognising that while an accounting system is not a political system, it *is* an accounting system, and as such it should take the facts presented as its basis, not a wangling of them. We do not quarrel about *how* the accounts are wangled; but with their being wangled at all.

It was "only as a general principle" that Mr. Churchill could be brought to defend Sir Alexander Cadogan's appointment as "Chairman of the "B." B.C. by recourse to the "fact that many difficult questions are best approached with a fresh mind." Will Sir Alexander Cadogan not seek for some fresh minds to supervise some of the "difficult questions"—not that they are all as difficult as they are said to be —discussed by pundits on the air? (How dreadful if a fresh mind guided the tottering 'Conservative' Government!)

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"But there won't be a depression in the form of an all-round deficiency of purchasing power. At the slightest sign of it Governments will shovel out the money, and they are not short of ideas or methods for doing it."

So Mr. George Schwartz in *The Sunday Times*, who states as well that "we can have all the work we want up to the end of the century," or for forty-seven years and nearly five months more. Why no longer, he does not disclose. And we can be reduced to actually doing work for so long on an intake of "fish and potatoes, watery beer and football pools." The energy equivalent of a football pool, whether absorbed by emersion of the foot in a foot-bath or taken by mouth, also is not suggested. Nor whether Mr. Schwartz favours this diet for himself or only for "the country"; though he proudly boasts that 'he " can point to countries which have managed for two or more centuries on coarse bread, dried fish, sour wine and lotteries. They even get gold medals at Olympic Games."

What is quite certain is that Mr. Schwartz, the editor who passed his article, the sub-editor who 'went through' it, and many others besides ourselves know enough about money to know that whatever reason may be assigned for inability to do anything, the availability of money is not the reason. "Distribute the National Dividend?" says Mr. Schwartz in " Certainly, whenever you like-or at least whenever effect. Conservative-Labour-Liberal-Communist-or-What-Have-You Government likes." Pontifically, Mr. Schwartz announces "There will not be a Great Depression in our lifetime," concealing thereby the fact that this is the great depression, the great and total submergence of any socially acceptable policy. He does not, of course, suggest a method of accountancy which distinguishes between food and football pools, or one which is otherwise realistic.

We have to go back now many years to the day when Lever Bros. was awarded record damages against the Daily Mail, which had had the effrontery to suggest that there existed a Soap Trust. Sir Rufus Isaacs (Lord Reading) threw up the case on the second day of the hearing at Liverpool, professing inability to uphold his clients in face of the impressive denials of the chief witness, Mr. Lever. (The brief for the prosecution, bound in roan calf, reposes in the library of the University of Liverpool, the gift of Messrs. Lever Bros.) We recall the affair which was a cause célèbre throughout the greater part of 1906, in conjunction with the concern shown in the House of Lords by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Marquess of Reading, assisted by Earl Jowitt, in the face of allegations by the editor of a monthly digest "tending to lower morale by denigrating the public standard of morals." We don't know where Messrs. Burgess and Maclean may be, and we don't very much care. But we do know that:

"Alien assistance in the stultification of Parliamentary control has reduced the House of Commons to an object of

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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 currency is debased, and the tax-payer is robbed.

"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 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 imposing 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 "—this we know—" 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 Brief for the Prosecution—C. H. Douglas.)

# PARLIAMENT

# House of Lords: July 29, 1952.

#### Inspectors' Entry of Private Houses

Lord Strabogli rose to ask Her Majesty's Government what is the legal position of a householder who, for reasons which the householder considers proper, refuses to admit an inspector or other official demanding entry and when the inspector or official does not produce a search warrant. The noble Lord said: My Lords, we have been dealing with one kind of violence [Cockfighting] and I hope that your Lordships will allow me to bring up a matter referring to another kind of violence. It arises out of the Question put by the noble Lord, Lord Llewellin, on the 23rd of this month. Your Lordships will remember that Lord Llewellin startled a good many of us by asking a question of the Government about the very large number of officials who, apparently, have the right of entry into private premises. There are 3,887 of them, but the noble Viscount, Lord Swinton, who replied issued a table which made that fact seem not quite so alarming when the table was examined. In the course of the cross-examination which the noble Lord, Lord Llewellin, and myself conducted of the Government, I asked what is the position in the case, for example, of a woman alone in the house when, perhaps one or two 186

personages come to the door representing themselves to be functionaries of some kind with a right of entry. The woman's husband not being at home, she refuses to let them in. What is her legal position? The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, to whom I was referred, said he required notice of the matter, and would like the question to be put in a more specific way. I have tried to do my best, and I regret that I have not been more specific. But I think it is useful to explore the situation a little, and then perhaps the noble and learned Lord Chancellor can give the ordinary liege some useful advice.

First of all, as to these functionaries: among the 3,887 are not mentioned anyone representing the Post Office, the people who come to look at the telephone, or the Gas Board or Electricity people who come to read the householder's meter. They do not come into this voluminous list.

Lord Llewellin: But they all come by consent of the householder.

Lord Strabolgi: They do, indeed, under contract. But the principle remains. They may come at an inconvenient time, and I want to know what the legal position of the householder is. Let me come to the list. Twenty represent the Minister of Civil Aviation and investigate air accidents. I think we can eliminate those. Obviously they go to the scenes of accidents and do not really come into this question at all. Then, 859 are war damage assessors. I imagine that their work should be nearly over by now and, in any case, they presumably come by appointment. There are 2,788, employed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose duties are the examination of property for estate duty, rating valuation, development charges and claims on the development fund. I imagine that they come to a house or premises after some correspondence, and they are expected. There are 115 who are also employed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but act for the Collector of Customs and Excise, to stop avoidance of revenue duty. Twenty re-present the Minister of Health and they are for the protection of mental patients, including those detained without authority. Obviously these officers of the Board of Control are necessary and are doing useful work. Lastly, there are 85 children inspectors employed by the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland to visit boardedout children. I think your Lordships will agree that those children inspectors have not only a right but a duty to make unexpected visits, and I do not think anyone can possibly object. If a woman boards children, it is understood that they can be visited at any time, and I think that is perfectly just and proper.

Now I come to the general principle which I venture to raise. The gas and electricity men wear a uniform and they have written authority, but the telephone men do not wear a uniform at all. The unfortunate American lady who was nearly killed in Brown's Hotel recently admitted a man who said he had come to see to the telephone. He assaulted her and nearly killed her. Recently, a relative of mine was alone in her small house—her maid was out —when a man came to the door. She went to the door, but fortunately kept on the chain—a very desirable thing to fit on the door in the curious times in which we live. She saw a young man in a dirty mackintosh, who said he had come to repair the telephone. Knowing that her telephone was in perfectly good order, she slammed the door in his face. She then went to the window and told the young man there was nothing wrong with her telephone and asked who he was. He replied, "I am very sorry. I have looked again at my instructions and I find this is the wrong house. I ought to have gone to No. 40. This is No. 30, I suppose." That kind of thing is most irregular and improper.

In any case, I think we ought to know from the highest authority, the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor, if he is in a position to tell us, what is the legal position of a householder who, for reasons which satisfy him or her, refuses to admit such an official at an inconvenient hour. I have given instructions to my own servants that they are always to keep the door on a chain and to admit nobody until they are certain of his *bona fides*. I have had fitted to all the doors of my houses chains which allow the door to be opened a few inches, but no further, and I think that that should be done by everyone.

I think the general situation should be clarified if it is at all possible to do so. . ..

The Lord Chancellor: . . . I venture to repeat the Question which the Government are asked.

"What is the legal position of a householder who, for reasons which the householder considers proper, refuses to admit an inspector or other official demanding entry and when the inspector or official does not produce a search warrant."

I think that must refer to an inspector or other official who has a statutory right, but does not have a search warrant. Obviously, a person who has no right can be refused admittance with whatever degree of violence is necessary. We are dealing with a person who has a statutory right, but not a search warrant.

Upon that footing, I answer the question in this way. Where the power to enter a private house (I pause again to say that I understand the noble Lord to be referring to a private house, and not to a factory, or anything of that kind) exclusively used as such is conferred upon an official by Statute, the Statute also provides for penalties for obstructing the official whilst exercising those powers in the execution of his duties. From inquiries that I have made I have been unable to ascertain that any prosecutions of this nature have been undertaken in recent years. But if proceedings had to be taken against a householder, it would be for the court to decide, having regard to the terms of the relevant Statute and the facts of the particular case, whether an offence had been committed.

I have answered that in the only way I can answer such a general question, in quite general terms; but I have been at a good deal of pains to investigate the matter further, because I know that it is of wide interest, not only to the noble Lord who has raised the Question to-day but to many other persons as well. If it is the wish of the House, I will read something which looks rather like an essay on the subject. It is difficult to give a compendious answer, because the terms of the Statutes vary so widely. . .

Where a power of entry is conferred by Statute there is also statutory provision for penalties in the case of obstructing the officer in the execution of his duties. For example, Section 204 of the Customs Act, 1876 (we are going back a long way, my Lords) gives very wide powers to officers to search houses for uncustomed or prohibited goods under writs of assistance issued by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as well as under search warrants issued by justices; and Section 12 (5) of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1881, provides that it shall be an offence to obstruct any officer of customs in the execution of his duty, the penalty for which is a fine not exceeding  $\pounds100$ .

The position of a householder, therefore, who obstructs an officer in the execution of his duty to enter will vary according to the terms of the Statute which provides the penalty. For example, under the Children Act, 1948, he may render himself liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5, in the case of a first offence, or £20 in the case of a second or any subsequent offence. Whether or not the offence has been committed will, of course, be a matter for the court to decide, taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case and the terms of the relevant Statute. Pausing there for one moment, if there were a lonely woman in a house who was afraid and barred the door, and for that reason the inspector was not admitted. I cannot but suppose that the court would take a very lenient view of the obstruction.

I conclude with this, because I think it is perhaps the most important point. Although most of these officials will not be unwelcome, an Englishman's home is still his castle, and Her Majesty's Government consider it desirable that powers of entry into private premises should be confined to the smallest possible number of persons. Already a reduction of some 2,000 has been made, and my right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has under urgent consideration, in consultation with other Departments concerned, further reductions in the number of persons possessing these powers.

Viscount Samuel: . . The Lord Chancellor . . has given a number of categories of inspectors, but he has not mentioned inspectors under the Food rationing Acts. Are there any such inspectors? If there are, are they required to show their authority when entering premises; and what form of authority would they have to show?

The Lord Chancellor: I think I can answer that point. I was dealing (and I hope that I made it quite clear) with entry into private houses. There is no provision under any of the Acts relating to food or food rationing which now enable an inspector to enter a private house.

Viscount Samuel: Can they not enter a shop, for example, to see whether there are unrationed articles kept there?

The Lord Chancellor: If the House wishes me to do so, I will explore on another day the vastly larger subject of premises which are not private houses....

House of Commons: July 7, 1952.

#### KOREA

#### Communist Forces' Equipment (Cost)

Mr. Cocks asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what information he has received from the United Nations organisation as to the estimated cost of the modern

(continued on page 6.)

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#### CREDITER THE SOCIAL

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## Confusion

We take the dubiety which is said to prevail in London concerning the affiliations of General Neguib Mohammed as evidence that he is not yet in leading strings. To say that his appearance betokens a drift towards Communism in the Near East may or may not be a correct assessment. All roads lead to Communism that do not lead away from Communism; and so far as we can see there is but one road which indubitably leads away from Communism. That's our road. We should not be treading it alone. We need not mention the two companions-by-right whom we envisage; but one of them ought to be stirred by the perhaps not entirely independent opinion of Major Weinstein, who, in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, foresees the elimination of Great Britain from the European Defence Community and the emergence of a direct German-American 'integration.' America is a country rising to civilisation and cannot give order to a civilisation.

### An Englishman in Jugoslavia

"... On holiday, wandering around Austria with a bicycle, I spent a few days in Jugoslavia . . . Jugoslavia is officially an aggregate of 'Peoples' Federal Republics'. An old Slovene of 73, speaking from the safety of the Italian side of the frontier, said in excellent English that the people 'Communism! If you possess do not like the régime anything, they take it away from you!' As a tourist one sees little of Communism's effects in the country districts, though everywhere on the caps of officials of all kinds appears the five-pointed star of David. On buildings it appears with the hammer and sickle in the middle of it. In Ljubljana I was ticked off by a policeman for crossing the road on foot at a place other than a controlled pedestrian crossing, but, adopting the stratagem of bovine incomprehension, and asking in German whether the policeman spoke German (which he didn't, fortunately) I was treated to a shrug of the shoulders and waved on. I visited Postójna (late Postumia, late Adelsberg) to see the greatest stalactite cave in Europe. One is taken in for the first mile by railway, and the visit lasts two hours. The largest chamber, the size of a fairly big church, was gaudily lighted by chandeliers, and high up, where, had it been a church the Cross would have been, was a hugh five-pointed star of red glass, brilliantly lighted from behind. It made me shudder; but it was perhaps an appropriate symbol in this underworld. I came away thinking that even the Germans and Italians who had used the cavern as an air-raid shelter had not defiled it as have the Zionists. In Ljubljana, too, I visited a 'Narodna Magasin' or nationalised shop-like an inferior Woolworth's, but with wire netting covering all the goods to prevent people from handling them. There was not much for sale-a treadle sewingmachine of no special pretensions was priced at £80, and one at least eighty years old and second hand at £15.

"Jesnice, the frontier town struck one as povertystricken. Children went bare-foot and the workers patched and in rags. The railway station had hardly begun to recover from war damage. Trains are not frequent; but they run to time and, excepting for the lavatories, are clean. Food seems to be adequate, and the shops, though not as full as the Austrian shops now are, are not bare. On the surface, life goes on much as in other countries. The Slovene people, in sharp contrast to the neighbouring Italians, are quiet, shy and diffident but kindly, helpful and possessed of the same innate courtesy as the Irish. I came away with a high opinion of them."

# A Test Case at Bristol

A test case was recently brought against Mr. A. V. Blackburn, of Knowle, Bristol, by the South-Western Gas Board. According to Press reports Mr. H. R. Askew, for the Gas Board, said that the charge for Mr. Blackburn's meter was increased from 1s. 3d. to 3s. per quarter under a tariff issued on June 1, 1951. Mr. Blackburn refused to pay. The following remarks by the judge are of special interest:

- Judge Paton: What this man wants to know is why the rent for the meter supplied to him by the old gas company has to be increased when all the money needed to bring the meter into existence has been spent.
- Mr. Askew: One sympathisies very much with that point of view.

Mr. W. M. Huntley, for Mr. Blackburn, said that the Board knew that nearly half the users were renting domestictype credit meters at 1s. 3d. a quarter, and most of them had had their meters for a very long time. The consumer had the right to an explanation. He also argued that the Gas Consultative Council had been short-circuited, but the judge said that he could not accept that argument and found for the Gas Board, with costs against Mr. Blackburn, giving leave to appeal.

The hearing of similar cases against nine other defendants was adjourned, two of the original twelve defendants having paid the arrears. The number of consumers who may be affected is said to be 70,000.

Mr. Blackburn, who is vice-president of the Independent Traders' Alliance in Bristol, was formerly vice-chairman of the Bristol Ratepayers' Representative League which secured a rate reduction in 1942 followed by a local objective campaign based upon policy groups.

# Correction

Bishop Eric Hamilton (line 4, column 1, page 1, T.S.C., July 12) is Dean of Windsor not Dean of Winchester as inadvertently stated.

### Statesmanship

### By NORMAN F. WEBB.

The significance of Douglas's discovery of the accountancy flaw in the system of industrial costs, and the subsequent failure on the part of society in the early twenties of the century to act on his suggestions for repairing it, is a realization that keeps returning to one with always To some extent this must be because events fresh force. are a constant reminder, though from a different angle each time, that it is precisely this failure to insist on what would then have been perhaps a simpler step than now that is responsible for the success, since those days, of the Socialist plan to centralise control of political and economic power all over the world. For it is actually in the quite hopeless attempt to achieve a correspondence between an utterly unrealistic and deceptive system of costing on the one hand, and a realistic economy on the other, that is to be found the germ, so assiduously cultivated by the promoters of the idea of the Socialist World State, of the incorrigible tendency to centralise and concentrate everything, displayed by present-day industrial society.

The struggle which would seem to have been the main feature of human life on earth has always been for the control of physical energy, either existing, or potential in the form of ownership of its source. At the core of this struggle is fear; lack of confidence or faith. This shows itself in a chronic anticipation of distasteful eventualities and the panic effort to circumvent them at all costs. Regarded from one point of view this impulse can appear to be—and doubtless in a sense is—the effective force underlying all social activity; not only a spur, but as the ruling precautionary factor in human mentality. However, it is not that general aspect of the matter that it is intended to examine here, so much as the behaviour of those in the grip of this literally fearful impulse, given a specific and unchallenged opportunity to indulge it.

It would seem as though Social Crediters constituted the only section of society in a position to realize the fact that such an opportunity actually exists today under the control of those who professionally operate the accepted method of credit creation and redemption. And further, that the really fantastic power of control over physical energy it represents, is automatically concentrated-inadvertently, in the first place, no doubt-in the hands of the comparatively few individuals who direct the policy of the Central Banks. In their hands, it has become a weapon by the aid of which they can-or imagine they can-once and for all gain the upperhand over the adverse forces that appear to threaten them. Moreover, it is only we who fully realise the harm that has already been done by this fact. For in such circumstances, what has been shown above as a necessry factor in an active society, rapidly degenerates according to what might well be called Acton's Law of Corruption, from a reasonable self-interest into a condition that can only correctly be described as Satanism, power-lust. This is just the blind, irresponsible determination to suppress in advance all possibility of an attack from outside. Such an insane policy inevitably involves a bid for world-domination; control of everyone, and of every kind-except, of course, selfcontrol. It was to this Satanism, or power-lust that St. Paul referred when he warned his generation that those who

took a realistic stand for Christian order and balance, and decency, must be prepared to find themselves violently opposed; wrestling, not with "flesh and blood," in a direct man-to-man contest, but "with principalities and powers" —abstract organisations of material energy, under the devious and occult direction of "the rulers of darkness, spiritual wickedness in high places."

From this it is to be inferred that the condition of world affairs today is no different in kind from what it has always been. Since social consciousness first emerged, there has always existed a bid to seize power out of the hands of the existing authority that has amounted to what might be described as a Plot. Hence the recurrent purges under all despotisms, and the particular character of much Western literature, notably, Disraeli's novels. What makes the whole situation today crucial-apart, that is, from the completely new factor introduced by Social Credit-is the degree, the excessive size of the bid, the absoluteness and universality of the power aimed at and the apparent nearness to success. It is the very magnitude of this combination which looks like forcing society generally into a realisation of the existence-if not an understanding of its nature-of a deliberately disrupting element active within it.

We talk complacently of World Affairs and Social Revolutions; dealing with these universal matters in somewhat abstract terms, and forgetting that the real crisis is transpiring all the time in the individual mind, and emerging effectively, where it has any opportunity, in individual decisions and actions, upon which the shape of the future will depend. Here again, however, we are apt to generalise, and appeal to Society at large for a moral reformation. But if Lord Acton was correct the source and origin of corruption is at the top of the social pyramid where the power-the control of material energy-is at its greatest intensity and therefore most corrupting. This is what the moralists-the "religionists," who are always appealing to the public at large for a change of heart,--do not recognise; that the basic conditions which make for a general lowering of ethical standards not only in business but in pleasure, are created and maintained by individuals at the very hub of society, to whom such appeals, if there is any use in them, which is doubtful, should be made.

It is true that those conditions are apparently maintained by common consent but it is a consent obtained by occult means; by deliberately hiding the facts, as the history of the Social Credit Movement clearly proves. Sooner or later those facts must emerge; and if one might judge from the almost apocalyptic atmosphere surrounding present world affairs, sooner, rather than later. Doubtless, what appears to be approaching with alarming acceleration, will not be-indeed cannot, in the nature of things, be-the Millenium. Let him who feels personally like it, declare his conviction that society looks in any way to be ready for such an event; the present writer feels no such readiness. Nevertheless, what is coming could well constitute a tremendous step forward in that direction; a revelation, or uncovering -which is the meaning of the word apocalypse-of a vast system of abuse, and misrepresentation, such as might conceivably lead to a public revulsion of such violence as to call for an antidote. Equally likely, it might result in the disclosure of vital facts at present suppressed in the interests of this last desperate bid for World Power, the success of

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which presupposes the occult control and ownership of the sources of material energy of every conceivable kind; from coal and hydro-electricity, to the sheer numerical weight of ballot-box democracy.

One cannot avoid speculating whether Parliament is destined to be behind the public in all this. Is political leadership, of which there is so little today, really out of the question? Is it impossible that along with this uninformed public awakening that we have pictured, a conscious, as distinct from a sub-conscious realisation might be generated in the minds of our more thoughtful politicans; and even our Churchmen, of the urgent need to align the conduct of political and economic affairs, not so much with some hypothetical moral standard of conduct, popularly known as Religion, as with the ascertained and recognised mechanism of human psychology. Statesmanship demands a philosophic and detached outlook. To deal effectively with the present situation and the problems to which it gives rise,—one must be in a position to realize that all of them stem from the central fact that the main influence as regards the direction of technical invention (applied physics) has unwittingly been allowed to get into the hands of the irresponsible few who control the creation of credit, and is, in effect, subject to their unbalanced reactions. This implies, not only a knowledge of the inner workings of International Finance, but an appreciation of the fact that the real control of material energy, of physical motive power, begins in the understanding of human motivesmetaphysical energy-along the line of self-knowledge, and self-analysis, leading to self-control. And that it is this knowledge, applied scientifically and expertly to the general needs of society, that constitutes statesmanship, which is the only antidote to Statism.

Statesmanship requires a philosophic understanding of the reality that underlies the appearance in all phenomena. In the case of social and political activity this means the real motives and ends behind the professed objective. To that knowledge there is only one road; and that, as has been said, is through self-knowledge, objective analysis of one's own motives and the working of one's own mind and a shrinking from nothing to be found there. The implication of that statement would almost seem to be, that without the knowledge contained in Douglas's writings, and—quite as important—the courage to accept, and act on *all* its implications, there can be no such thing as statesmanlike direction of national or international affairs in the circumstances now existing.

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military equipment now being supplied to the Communist forces in North Korea.

The Minister of State (Mr. Selwyn Lloyd): None, Sir.

#### Supply: Committee-Fuel and Power

The Minister of Fuel and Power (Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd): ... Year by year the electricity industry in this country, however organised, increases the thermal efficiency of the new power stations it constructs. Last year the new power stations saved 800,000 tons of coal, and I would think that by about a year from now another million tons of coal will have been saved by the extra thermal efficiency of the new power stations constructed during the period.

In gas, too, the newer gasification plants are more efficient and experiments are being carried out in the total gasification of coal—that is producing gas without making coke—which has the advantage of a wider range of coals being used. Experiments are also being made in the gas world in the total gasification of fuel oil which links up with the great increase of home refineries here, and of which, I am told, one of the great advantages is that while it produces a gas which is really the thermal equivalent of ordinary coal gas, the capital equipment to produce it is much less expensive than that used with coal as a basic material.

The right hon. Gentleman touched on this point, I think, that both electricity and gas have their grids. The electricity grid is much larger and is much better known. I think that not enough attention has been paid to the importance of the gas grid.

Mr. Gerald Nabarro (Kidderminster): Hear, hear.

Mr. Lloyd: I am glad to have the support of my hon. Friend. The gas grid was first developed in this country in South Yorkshire before the war—if the right hon. Gentleman will allow me to point that out—and it was not just the development that comes from nationalisation. It has been much expanded and seems to be springing up in all the areas of the country. It has the advantage of being able to link up with the coke ovens, planned by the National Coal Board, and by some of the steel companies, and it will also link up, we hope, to take some of the refinery gasses—that is surplus gas produced in the oil refineries. What is very important, and rather new for gas, is the idea now being discussed of linking up the Sheffield-Nottingham area and the Birmingham area by an inter-connecting gas grid communication across the Midlands.

With regard to the electricity grid, very important developments are planned. I think that there is some misunderstanding about the functions of the existing grid. That grid was really planned only to take rather temporary and relatively small passages of power, so to speak, between local grids and power stations. It was never planned for the continuous and bulk transmission of large amounts of power. That is the purpose of the new 275,000 volt grid. It is, I think, particularly interesting that this grid will link up with the new power stations which the British Electricity Authority are planning to build in the expanding area of the East Midlands coalifields, and which will ultimately mean the bringing of very large amounts of power to London which had, in fact, been generated in electricity stations sited in the East Midlands coalfields.

I believe that ultimately it may be necessary to raise the voltage of this super-grid, particularly for this purpose, to something near 400,000 volts, and that may mean—as much as 2 million kilowatts will be going about 120 miles to London which will be the equivalent of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million tons of coal which will not then have to be transported by rail.

I ought also I think to mention, because it is rather important from the point of view of fuel efficiency, that the British Electricity Authority and the National Coal Board are planning to construct power stations in particular areas in the coalfields in order to use coal which is really practically unsaleable for any other purpose, and these stations will, of course, also be connected with the grid.

I should like to mention what I think is a rather interesting development in the grid. For some time, the British Electricity Authority and the Electricité de France have had a joint committee which have been studying the possibility and the desirability of having a submarine power cable under the Channel which would connect the electricity grid of the two countries. This Committee has been working for some time, and it has now made a report which indicates that it should be technically possible to do it, although a good deal of experiment will be necessary in order to make quite sure that it can be done properly.

I am glad to think that the experience gained in the laying of the Pluto pipeline will almost certainly be useful to electrical engineers in this peacetime project. It is also felt that it is commercially desirable partly because the peak hours in the two countries, partly for social reasons, partly for industrial, and partly for climatic, take place at different times. It may be that at some time in the future we may, from time to time, draw some power in this country from the hydro-electric stations of the Alps and make a similar return across the cable from the coalfields of the East Midlands to France. The position at present is that the British Electricity Authority are engaged in considering that report.

Mr. Robens: I take it that the committee are not dealing with the strategic aspect of a policy such as that, and that, in this very important development, the B.E.A. will not be authorised to go ahead with such a scheme until the Government have very carefully considered it?

Mr. Lloyd: As I have said, the B.E.A. are now considering it, but, of course, it will also be for the Government to consider it as well. I think that the Committee will see that there is great technical progress and activity in all these fuel and power industries, certainly in the extracting industries.

I think that we have to go one stage further, because we cannot merely depend on the active technical development taking place at the moment. We have to have an active system of research looking for better techniques and methods of utilising fuel in the future. Here, all the nationalised industries, and certainly the oil industry, are extremely active in research. As the right hon. Gentleman knows, the Department is engaged also in a research programme of a practical nature, and, in particular, there are two interesting projects at present under way.

One of them is related to the utilisation of the principle of the gas turbine of which, of course, the jet and the Comet jet airliner is a particular example, for general engineering purposes and motive power on the ground. The Department is developing a form of gas turbine which has already successfully run on coal instead of oil, and, what I must say surprises me every time I think of it, it is also being made to run even on peat. That is rather an interesting development and, of course, it can have a considerable influence in the utilisation of fuel in the future, as I am sure my hon. Friend the Member for Kidderminster will agree that the gas turbine is inherently an efficient unit.

The other research going on is in regard to what is called the underground gasification of coal. Let me make it quite clear that the objective here is the utilisation of what is believed to be about 1,000 million tons of coal which is so bad in quality or so difficult to work by virtue of the narrow seams that it can never be mined by ordinary methods.

Already two schemes have been tried out. The interesting thing is that both have succeeded in obtaining a thermally useful gas. It is not like the coal gas we get in the gas supply, but it is a form of gas which would be useful to drive an engine for the purpose, for example, of making electricity. Gas has now been obtained at two sites where the coal conditions were very different. It was obtained by drilling, and a pneumatic process for making the junction between the two drilled holes in the seams has been discovered. Thus the whole process of the production of gas can be started by means only of the drilling and without anybody having to go underground. That has interesting possibilities for the future.

I said earlier that the consumption per head of fuel in this country and America was a very interesting and important fact in the national life. That is so, but we must remember that those were the crude figures. They are only half the story. There is also the efficiency of utilisation...

Sir Arnold Gridley (Stockport, South): ... I intervene for a few moments to say something about nationalised electricity, because I am more than a little worried about the present situation in that industry. In order that I may not be considered a humbug, I will, if I may, read a brief extract from a speech which I made on the Third Reading of the Electricity Act in 1947, when I said this:

"While I think that nationalisation is a mistake, and that if it had to be, it could have been carried through under a far sounder and more wisely constructed Bill than this, I do not wish to see this great industry, which has rendered such magnificent service to British industry in the past, failing to repeat or enhance those services in the future. I can only hope—as I profoundly do that in the years that remain to me I shall not see it fail."— [OFFICIAL REPORT, 30th June, 1947; Vol. 439, c. 1005.]

I felt compelled to say that at the time, having been in the industry for half-a-century and being turned out by nationalisation. Today I am worried about the industry, and I am not alone in being worried. I believe that members of the British Electricity Authority are concerned, as I know are some of the chairmen of the area boards, that so far this year, and particularly in recent months, the anticipated increase in consumption, which has occurred year by year for many years past, is not being achieved. In other words, there is a falling in the rate of growth of consumption of electricity.

I think that is due to three reasons. In the first place, as we all know, in some industries there has been some recession in trade. There are other industries which have lost confidence in the electricity industry because of the many power cuts which have taken place in the past, and which, thank heaven, were fewer last winter—and I hope they will be fewer still next winter. But there is a third reason which I think is an unfortunate one. Statements are being made and spread about the country condemning the use of electricity for cooking, water heating and air heating.

I think we are all agreed that the electricity industry is vital to our prosperity, and we must hope that this recession in the consumption of electricity will be brought to an end and expansion encouraged again. In my view there is one obvious way of doing that-to do everything possible to provide for the area boards what is known as off-peak load. We all know now-we have heard sufficient about it from time to time-that there are certain peaks at the power stations. They are between eight o'clock and ten o'clock in the morning and between two o'clock and five o'clock or six o'clock in the afternoon in the winter months. Those peaks are very much smaller in the summer months. But there are deep valleys which require to be filled, if they can be filled, with load that does not add to the peak, and one way in which that load can be provided is by not discouraging the use of electricity for domestic and certain industrial purposes. . .

... I remember the days when I first started in the electricity supply industry when we were burning—what?— 12 lb. of coal per unit generated I saw that in a very short time reduced to 5 lb.

I took on as assistant a young engineer from the sea, and put him in charge of a power house, and he very soon reduced the 5 lb. to 3 lb.—and that man rose to be the Chairman of the Central Electricity Board. He showed his skill and experience in those early years when we were gradually developing the industry. Now we have made so much further progress that I believe that in the most modern plant the Electricity Authority has got down to something below 1 lb. of coal per unit generated. So for heaven's sake do not let the Electricity Authority or industry be accused of not having made every effort during the years the industry has been gradually developing to use coal as efficiently as possible.

I would rather see coal being used very efficiently in that way than I would see coal being used in fire grates, however modern the appliance that may be obtained in these times. After all, power stations do use the most inferior coal that is now made available, and the more we go on with mechanisation of the mines—a process which we all want to see accelerated—there will be more of this small coal—" slack and duff," as it used to be called in my time —of which the power stations are practically the only possible users. That quantity is increasing. For domestic use and for coke manufacture superior coals of higher quality, and higher in price, must be provided for gas and cokeoven plants. . . .

# To Overseas Readers

# (Policy of the Social Credit Secretariat)

# (Repeated from our issue of January 12, 1952.)

A report which refers to correspondence we have not seen suggests that we may suitably remind Social Crediters abroad that no responsibility whatsoever is accepted by the Social Credit Secretariat for expressions of opinion bearing upon major (or minor) items of its policy, strategy, or tactics unless signed by the Deputy Chairman (Dr. Tudor Jones), or the Director of Overseas Relations (Mr. Hewlett Edwards) or (on technical matters) the Director of the Technical Department (Mr. H. R. Purchase). Were it to diverge in any sense the opinion of the Advisory Chairman (Major Douglas) would, of course, override any statement, so far as the Secretariat is concerned.

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