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The Morning Star

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A DANGEROUS TREND

The irrepressible Minister of Education, Mr. I. M. R. A. Iriyagolle, was once again in his unreasonably aggressive mood the other day in Galle, when he addressed a conference of Principals and Head-teachers of schools in the Galle District. In the words of a report appearing in the *Daily Mirror* of the 6th inst., he "severely condemned all and sundry, including the Press, errant teachers and university dons, the politicians and the leaders of nations for the existing indiscipline and unrest in the world in general and this country in particular." It is very difficult for many people like us to understand just why the Minister is so relentlessly hard on the universities and their dons, and other teachers. If according to him they are bad, it is up to him to remedy matters, for they are directly under him. Instead of doing that, he holds them to public ridicule and condemns them loudly. We have had occasion in the recent past to censure his wild condemnation of university dons. Now he has once again resorted to similar wild allegations against them. This is what he said at the meeting referred to above: "Some parents were averse to sending their children to the universities because the varisities in Ceylon were hopelessly bad. After a few days in the varisities several students committed suicide. Some of the varisity dons lectured like parents to the undergrads because within two years of service they knew their lectures by heart. They repeated the same old thing without doing any research on the latest methods on any subject or acquiring fresh knowledge on subjects." Is not the Minister here guilty of precisely the same fault he finds in the dons? Is he not repeating the same accusation ad nauseam without doing any research on actual facts about the dons? He would do well to engage in the necessary research before lapsing another time into his reprehensible practice.

However, we are glad to agree with him in one important matter—his criticism of certain sections of the Press which tend to corrupt society, especially the youth, by unhealthy publications. He could not be contradicted when he said: "The newspapers published long articles on Buddhist doctrine, culture and civilisation during Vesak days only and during the rest of the year foisted upon the peoples articles and pictures to corrupt the morals of even adults." He also made particular mention of a week-end publication which carried all sorts of nude pictures and sex stories to appeal to the baser instinct of man. The Principal of Kingswood College, Kandy, gave expression to the same opinion in his report at the last prize-giving: "With a high literacy rate in Ceylon it is inevitable that people read a good number of daily papers and on Poya Day. If you glance over the inner pages of some of the week-end papers, you would see that they are full of sexy articles, nude pictures and suggestive material. Some lassie who returns to the island after a short jaunt to the so-called civilised parts of the world is given full page coverage for her psychodelic idiosyncrasy and to please whom? Imagine the young ones getting a dose of such questionable reading and illustrations going on the Poya Day to the Temple, Church and Mosque with a tranquil mind." There cannot be any doubt in the correctness of this analysis. We ourselves have referred in the past to such lapse of some sections of the country's Press. They seem to resort to such practices because they would increase their incomes, but little realise the irreparable damage they are causing particularly to the youth of our land. Can it be maintained that they cannot secure adequate material for filling their pages which would uplift and ennoble the minds of our youth? We appeal to our fellow-workers in the Press of

THE WAKE OF THE D. C. BILL

(Contributed)

Many people have felt during the past few days that the Federal Party must walk out of the Government. The Federal Party had been led to hope during the past three and a half years that the D. C. Bill would definitely be presented to Parliament; and that, though the Opposition would certainly oppose it, the Party which the F. P. had helped to put into power would without doubt support the Bill. Now, of course, it is well known that the Bill has had to be dropped, largely because the U. N. P. itself was revolting against it.

There are some who hold that there was nothing in the Bill anyway; and that its acceptance by Parliament would have conferred no substantial benefit on the Tamils. However, the significance of the D. C. Bill was not in anything that it offered as in the attitude it is not the gift that matters but the giving, i.e. not the content of the gift as the attitude behind it. The D. C. Bill was looked upon as a gesture of the U. N. P. towards the Tamils to let them know that the Government cared for them.

The fact that the D. C. Bill is not going to be brought up, therefore, means that the U. N. P. is not willing to show the one gesture it was expected to show the Tamils. And the Tamils have every right to feel that a Party that is not willing to give them (in the words of a correspondent in this paper) even an "empty bottle" would hardly give them anything more. Therefore, the question has been asked whether the Federal Party should not walk out of the Government.

If the Federal Party withdraws its allegiance, there is no doubt that the fall of the Government would be imminent. It may possibly survive a month or two. After that those who come forward to support the Government in its present need would think it advisable to join the Party strong enough not to need their services; and so the Government would fall. But the question is whether the S. L. F. P., if it comes to power, would be more generous to the Tamils than the U. N. P.

If then the U. N. P. has let down the Tamils and the S. L. F. P. has shown, as in the past, that it is even less worthy of trust, what should the Tamils have done three and a half years ago? Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, has said "Majorities always persecute minorities." This is certainly not true. What is true is that majorities are always tempted to overlook the claims of minorities; and they often succumb to that temptation.

The reason for this is that any Party comes into being and exists to safeguard the interests of a certain group or community. It is natural that it should not be concerned with the interests of others. The Labour Party in England exists to safeguard the interests of labour and not those of the Conservatives. One party does not expose the cause of other parties unless it suits its purpose. Therefore, for any group or community to depend on the spontaneous goodwill and charity of another would be extremely risky. Sir Ivor Jennings, who wanted to lay down the law not merely for the present but the future also, drew up the Constitution of Ceylon on the basis that the minorities in Ceylon should depend on the goodwill of the majority and not ask for legal safeguards. This spontaneous goodwill or charity has shown a few signs of forthcoming; and naturally so.

The Madras Hindu thinks that the Tamils should have "pressurised" the Government, when they

the country to abandon this pernicious practice and publish articles and pictures strong enough for the edification and moral regeneration of all our people, pointedly the young people. It is a sacred duty which the Press cannot, and dare not, shirk.

BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

(A sermon preached at the Jaffna College S. C. M. Service at the Cathedral Church, Vaddukottai, on Sunday, the 14th inst., by the Rev. S. S. Arulambalam.)

And He who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Rev. 21: 5.

This verse from the book of Revelation is relevant for us, for more than one reason. It is relevant because it happens to be the theme of the 4th assembly of the World Council of Churches now meeting in Uppsala, and therefore has a message for all Christians. But it is particularly relevant for the young people of our time, because it has something very important to say to them.

In the book of Revelation we read about the vision that John the author of the book sees, and also about the voice that he hears from God. God speaking through this verse assures John of a renewal which he had promised to bring about on this earth. If we read through the Bible carefully, we would find that this very same idea of renewal is present much earlier

were in a position to do so, instead of waiting so long. There is no doubt that the Federal Party has pleaded with Government during the last three and a half years to bring up the Bill. What happened was that, by the time the Bill was ready for presentation, the pressure on Government had waned. It was not adequate to make the Government go forward against the opposition that had gathered against it.

The initial mistake made by the Tamils was in their attitude of renunciation towards power. They had refused to accept places in the Cabinet; they had wanted the U. N. P. to wield the power, and for themselves merely wanted the privilege of enabling the U. N. P. to do so. (It was only at the last moment that they consented to let one of their men to accept a place in the Cabinet). This act of self-abnegation was expected to release the well-springs of charity on the part of the U. N. P. But the well-springs of political charity seldom gush.

It is to be hoped that the Federal Party will learn its lesson. If it wants the Government to do anything for it, it must share in the Government. It must make itself felt in the Cabinet and not merely in Parliament. Help in Parliament is readily accepted and readily forgotten. If more Federal Party members that one had been in the Cabinet, they would have seen to it that Government did not always take the turns that finally led to a blank wall.

Those who want the Federal Party to walk out of the Government, must advise which of the two courses left open to it after that it should take; it may join the S. L. F. P. or it may not join any party whatever but remain entirely independent. To join the S. L. F. P. and support its policies would be to help actively in bringing about our extinction. To join no party whatever would be to sit by and watch while others bring it about. The one would be perverse but at least heroic; the other would be quite ridiculous. The result, however, would be the same—the extinction of the Tamil race.

If the aims of the Tamils are to be achieved in a Parliamentary manner, the wisest thing would be to preserve the Parliamentary alliance with the U. N. P. It may mean that we do not achieve our aims now, but we at least survive to achieve them some other day. It must, however, be clear to all that the alliance with the U. N. P. is Parliamentary only; it does not mean that either of the Tamil parties merges with the U. N. P. and identifies itself with all that the U. N. P. stands for.

In view of what has been said above, I trust the readers of the "Morning Star" will be able to see that the Federal Party is not a stable govern-

ment. In other words, the change that they advocated was a drastic change which would involve a complete break with French tradition. But the renewal that we as Christians are expected to bring about should not be anything like the French Revolution. The transformation that we are asked to make is one which pays all regard to law and order. Jesus, though a great reformer, yet had a great deal of respect for law and order. The renewal that God ushered in through Jesus was one that was based upon the Jewish tradition. Jesus's reformation was, therefore, within the framework of Jewish law and tradition. It is because of this respect for tradition, that Jesus says that He came not to destroy but to fulfil the law.

There is indeed a very close connection between the two verses. The verse that occurs in the book of Isaiah speaks of a renewal that God proposes to bring about, sometime in the future; and the one that we have read from the book of Revelation refers to the very same renewal which He has already begun in history. When God said to John that He would make all things new, He was referring to a process of renewal, which He had already set in motion. And because this process of renewal had not attained its ultimate goal, during the time of the author, God assures him of its fulfillment in time to come.

God saw that the beautiful world which He had created had become an awful place, as a result of man's disobedience and rebellion against Him. And so He sent His only Son to this world, in order to recreate the whole created order. The arrival of Jesus to this world was thus a fulfillment of a promise which God had made to Isaiah.

To put it in Pauline language, Jesus, the second Adam, became the father of a new creation, that God intended to bring about in the future. This man Jesus, unlike the first Adam, made peace with God on man's behalf. He was thus able to re-direct the whole course of human activity to attain its destined goal. He made man see God in a different light from what he was used to all along. Man under the curse of sin looked upon his creator as an unapproachable and cruel tyrant. But Jesus revolutionized this very concept of God. He helped us to see God as a loving father, rather than as a hard task-master. Thus Jesus set in motion a process of recreation that God had promised to Isaiah.

Every person who came in contact with Jesus returned as a different person after the encounter, and every issue that He dealt with received a new interpretation from Him, and thus everything on earth became transformed by the power of His love. Rebirth, Renewal and Recreation were the words that characterised the ministry of Jesus on earth. This process of renewal which God had initiated in Jesus, He hoped to complete with man's assistance. It is, therefore, to this consummation of a long process of renewal that God refers, when He says "I will make all things new."

This work of renewal, as we shall see later, was not confined to the ministry of Jesus alone. Though it originated during the time of Jesus, yet it did not cease after His departure, but continued for ever, through the work of His faithful followers. The power of this new force, to transform everything was evident not only to the Christians, but even to their pagan neighbours. It was, therefore, no surprise to find even the pagan Roman Empire being transformed by a small community of committed Christians. We, therefore, find that the promise to make all things new, was a promise not merely to a particular group of people, living at a particular time, but to all men throughout the ages. Once the process of renewal had begun, it was assured of its continuance, provided man was willing to co-operate with God to attain its end.

But before man makes any attempt at joining hands with God, he should be on his guard, not to identify this work of renewal with any and every movement for change in society. To do so would be to make the great mistake of identifying religion with culture. The Church in Germany, which made this identification under Hitler's regime, realised its mistake later on. We should also be aware of the fact that change does not necessarily mean a complete break with the past. Very often men have thought that the best way to bring about a change would be to overthrow everything that tradition stands for.

The young people, who took part in the recent student rebellion in France, thought that they could put the French society in order, by throwing overboard

ment. In other words, the change that they advocated was a drastic change which would involve a complete break with French tradition. But the renewal that we as Christians are expected to bring about should not be anything like the French Revolution. The transformation that we are asked to make is one which pays all regard to law and order. Jesus, though a great reformer, yet had a great deal of respect for law and order. The renewal that God ushered in through Jesus was one that was based upon the Jewish tradition. Jesus's reformation was, therefore, within the framework of Jewish law and tradition. It is because of this respect for tradition, that Jesus says that He came not to destroy but to fulfil the law.

In other words, Jesus was never for violence as a means of change. He always thought of His reformation in terms of love, rather than in terms of violence. And, therefore, the change that He hoped to bring about, was a slow and a gradual process.

The renewal that God expects to bring about is not one which caters to man's whims and fancies, but one which fulfills His purpose for us. Therefore, any credit for the good that we find in human society should go to God, instead of to man. God's promise of renewal is one that is entirely from above. Man is only used as an instrument to realise this end on earth. Therefore, if we are anxious to see this renewal taking place in our midst, we should realise that we must be also prepared, to be fully open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Like the Prophets of old we must wait upon God's guidance, and allow him to bring whatever change He desires to bring about.

The call from God to join hands with Him, in this work of renewal, seems to me to be more to the young people of our time, than to anyone else. It is not because the others are incapable of doing it, but because of the fact that the youth see things more clearly and differently than their elders. The elders are sometimes not quite aware of certain evils, that exist in society, because they have lived with them for many years.

But the young people of our time are more sensitive to the evil in society than their predecessors, and are, therefore, beginning to question the society which has tolerated them so far. In spite of all the criticism that has been levelled against the Hippie Movement, the great historian of our time, Arnold Toynbee, has a good word to say about the Hippies. He says that these young people are more conscious of the evil in society than any other group in America. He, therefore, describes them as "A red warning light, for the American way of life". Because the youth of our time are sensitive to the evil in society, we can also expect them to work towards the eradication of them.

And it will not be very wrong to say that the prophesy of Joel that our young men will see visions far beyond today, God has really shown to many a youth the vision of a better and happier world. And it was part of this vision that Dr. Martin Luther King saw, and which he later expressed in his famous speech from Lincoln Memorial about his dream for a better world. Yes, God can make all things new for us today, if only we are prepared to join hands with Him, and work towards that goal. And He who sat upon the throne said "Behold, I make all things new". Amen.

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maxi-mini-skirted assistant told me that it was imported. I wonder how many Biafra lives were lost by the ballets sold to Nigeria to buy this idiotic toy. The assistant was not at all pleased when I made this comment.

A few weeks ago, in a University toilet, I saw scribbled on the wall, "Man, we are Blacking Britain".

FROM MY LONDON NOTEBOOK

R. D. KARUNARATNAM

Ailing Currency

The next two months are believed to be the most crucial period for the sterling. There are 30 sterling area countries and Britain would try its best to attract any particular area changing its reserves from sterling to other currencies.

Recently at a conference of representatives from the world's top Central Banks in Switzerland, a standby import to the tune of £333 million was given to the pound to last over a period of ten years. This came up for ratification in September.

The confidence in the pound could be easily undermined by any of the sterling area countries, should there be some rocking of the boat during the next 2 months. The 12 contributing countries will no doubt reconsider this support, in the event of a weakening, to the pound.

Sterling and Nigeria

The Federal State of Nigeria has £300 million worth of investments in Britain. The position of sterling is in such predicament, the British Government may not risk reprisals from the Nigerian Government by taking a humane, fair and just stand on the Nigerian-Biafran war.

Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Holland have stopped supplying arms to Nigeria. But Britain continues to supply arms. The British Government is evidently too concerned about possible take-over of all British interests in Nigeria, especially Shell-BP and Unilever. The chances of Britain flying food into beleaguered Biafra are nil, as Major Gowar has clearly stated that any aircraft carrying foodstuffs or medical supplies to Biafra would be shot down.

A few days ago an aircraft chartered by the World Council of Churches successfully landed urgent supplies in Biafra.

Britain and Arms Control

A recent issue of *Punch* says, "We have a reasonably sensible control of firearms at home, but we have no difficulty in finding excuses to provide other countries with the weapons needed to prosecute civil war and separatist violence".

When I was a fledgling, the first vivid impression that was given to me about Britain was that the British were the shopkeepers of the world. Financially Britain is in a sickening mess now. Running arms to areas of civil conflict, therefore, is both opportune and 'good business'. There is present in Britain a strong armaments lobby. Their vested interests, no doubt, lie in violent death. The Labour Government has been under very severe criticism for accepting the United Nations ruling a ban on supply of arms to apartheid South Africa. There is, however, no doubt that the armaments lobby will continue to pressurise and nag the powers—that is, till they get the Government's ban reverted.

Back Britain

"Back Britain", "I'm Backing Britain", "Buy British", and "Buy Home Products" labels are seen all over London and in the country as a whole. This new upsurge in patriotism to inject strength into the weakening pound is even expressed by the use of the Union Jack in cheap use of the Union Jack in all forms and manners. Carrier bags, dresses, shoes and ribbons and countless number of other items display the National Flag. I have even seen cars painted with the Union Jack. Every other thing seen on the highways and by-ways is a flag-draped affair. Recently I went round a large and famous Departmental Stores in London where there was a liberal display of "Buy British" stickers. But inside the shop, they appeared to stock more imported goods than British made products. Most of these items were luxury and super luxury goods. One of them was a child's fancy roundabout made of paper board and twine costing 27 shillings. Scrambles costs less. This roundabout could be made by a child within an hour with 6 penny worth of material. When I expressed revolting shock at the price, the

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