

101

Say Jan. 1934

Rev. Joseph Fredericks Stern
(1865 — 1934)

with full notes for your study (101)
Rev. J. F. Stern. ^{2 copies}

Private and Confidential.

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THE PALACE,
LICHFIELD.

The Right Honourable
George Lansbury, M.P.
Manor House Hospital.
N.W. 11.

17th Feb: 1934.

Rt. Rev. John Augustine Kempthorne
(Bishop of Lichfield; 1864 — 1946)

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

It is a pleasure to hear from you.

First of all, let me express my very real sympathy with you in all the pain and trouble which you have recently undergone. I hope very much that you will soon be out of hospital, and able to return to your labours.

The case of Sneyd, Burslem, is not quite so simple as it seems. You speak of a "democratic choice for parishioners": but I am really asked to accept the choice of a congregation, only half of which (at a generous estimate) comes out of the parish, and comprising (on Easter Day 1932) only 127 communicants, although the parish has a population of at least 6,000. I do not think it would be unjust to say that the position is very difficult for other parishioners who do not accept the teachings of the Catholic Crusade. It really amounts to this, that the Catholic Crusaders have annexed a parish church, and want me to treat it as if it were a Congregationalist chapel.

I have the utmost admiration for my friend J. V. Wilson, who has been Vicar of Sneyd for a good many years, and who has identified himself with the Catholic Crusade. I agree that we do not at all want to drive the Catholic Crusaders out of the Church. But I do not think it is reasonable that these good people,

(who have established



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2. Rt. Rev. J. A. Kempthorne
(Bishop of Lichfield)

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THE PALACE,
LICHFIELD.

17 Feb. 1934

who have established themselves in a parish church, should expect me to accept their nominee, or at least to confine my choice to one of the very small band of Catholic Crusading priests.

What I have tried to do up to now is to find a man who, without being a Catholic Crusader, has strong Labour sympathies, and who would be able to appeal to other people in that very large parish who do not and will not accept Catholic Crusading views. Writing to you in confidence, I may say that the difficulty of finding a man who would accept responsibility for the parish while the present congregation would boycott him, is so great that I may be driven to finding them the best Catholic Crusader I can. But I do not feel there is anything reasonable or democratic in the position assumed by the Catholic Crusading congregation of Sneyd.

Perhaps I may say that, with regard to Jack Bucknall himself, very long experience has shown me that it is always a fatal thing to appoint a man to be vicar where he has been curate.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. Lifford

GL to Sir Stafford Cripps

Hospital.

[after fracturing thigh
in Dec. 1933]

17.5.34.

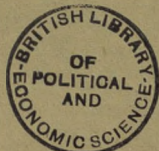
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My dar Stafford,

You will have thought the same as me, but I must write and say how much I hope you will dot Simon in the eye about Edens proposal re Paraguay and Bolivia for the embargo on arms. What have those members of the League donw worse than Japan. Why dont we stop arms and money for Japan and not wait for others, and also re. S. America We put an ambargo on White trade, way not against arms. You will have thought of all this but I just boil over when I hear and read the 'make believe' of most spokesmen.

I had a glorious look at the countryside today.

Love to you all. GL.



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Mrs. Joseph Fels



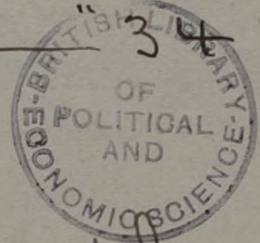
HOTEL ASTORIA

Avenue des Champs-Élysées

PARIS

Feb. 22

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Dear George, — On this day I want to write to you. Twenty years ago today you left us. So long ago, yet it seems only yesterday. Nor do I feel that he has left us. We feel, do we not, that he has

been with us all the
time. Our love would
hold him and so also
his solicitous interest
in what we do or
try to do. It was ^{no}
idle happening that
you and Bessie went
with us to America
such a short time
before. Deep within
himself Joe foresaw
that he would soon
leave us and so his

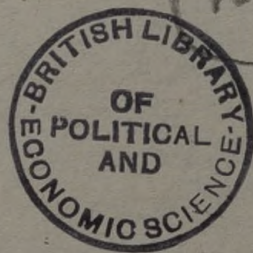


HOTEL ASTORIA

Avenue des Champs-Élysées

PARIS

Mrs. Joseph Fels
22 Feb. 1934



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inner wish made
that trip come to
pass. How vividly
it remains with
me, and doubtless
also to you. It stands
out so clearly and
beautifully.

I am very sorry,
dear George, that you
have had to undergo

these present suffer-
ings. Frank keeps
me informed as
to how you get along.
All the time there
go out to you the
loving wishes of
Mary.

Daily Herald

6 March 1934



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OUR GEORGE

by Major C. R. ATTLEE

(deputy leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons)

WHEN George Lansbury broke his thigh there was an outburst of sympathy among people of all classes and of very various political opinions. In the House of Commons Labour Members spent much of their time answering anxious inquiries. If anyone wants to know the reason, they have only to read Edgar Lansbury's book *My Father* (Sampson Low, Marston, 8s. 6d.), published to-day.

Here they will get a picture painted with affectionate skill of perhaps the best loved man of our time.

This is no conventional biography. You will seek in vain for a chronicle of achievements or for an orderly unfolding of a public career.

Instead, you will find a series of vivid sketches of a personality. Each one will bring before the reader George Lansbury as he is, for, though some of them describe events of the distant past, the essential man is the same all through the story. For what particularly emerges is the consistency of his whole career.

He has always lived the same kind of life among the same kind of people. He has tried to do the same sort of things, whether on a small or large scale, and he displays always the same rare combination of the greatest human sympathy and the widest grasp of essentials.

★ ★ ★

He tells the Prince of Wales (Edward VII), who asks him if the poor really need underclothes: "They need them just as much as you or I do."

To the noble lord who praises his clean workhouse, he says: "You wouldn't be found dead here by choice; neither would I. What is not good enough for you and me is neither clean nor comfortable enough for others."

He has only one standard of comfort for all men. He is the supreme democrat.

He does not merely say things; he does them. He goes on the War Board of Guardians and is treated like a



"Any fool can do that. Half a dozen navvies out of Poplar would have come to a better conclusion any day." He replies simply to a supplementary question in the House, "Oh, ask us another."

He is supremely unselfconscious. "Father" says his son, "never ask himself whether he is a saint or a sinner, a fool or a scoundrel. Nor does he worry about

self into your own coffin"; bringing up a large family on 30s. a week in Bow, and when food was scarce telling the children to eat the bread and smell the non-existent cheese.

We see the picture of a large, cheerful family helping with the housework, and at the rare evenings in the parties when father was at home, that desperate, dyed-in-the-wool revolutionary

waves a red flag to the children. We glimpse the self-sacrifice of the agitator's wife. She is always there, the wife and mother helping and sustaining everyone.

I like the picture of the whole family being driven on an open timber truck to Waterloo Station for a trip to Somerset—father's one conceit his handling of the horses.

"Whatever old nag he drove, his talk and bearing were those of the driver of a thoroughbred."

★ ★ ★

George Lansbury has never managed to get rich. How could he when he was always ready to help others?

He borrows a hundred pounds from the bank to help a man with no claim on him. Fortunately, it was repaid, but that is not the road to millionairehood.

If he could not make money for himself, he could do a good stroke of business for others, as when he went to prison with his fellow councillors to protest against the unjust incidence of rating in London.

Poplar gained £500,000 a year, and he was too much for the prison.

The book abounds with instances of his broadmindedness. He is a total abstainer, but refuses to compel others to abstain. He is a Socialist, but makes no attempt to compel his family to conform. He patiently endures long lectures from a Communist daughter in Russia, and though deeply religious puts no sort of constraint on his children, who may think as they will.

The author says: "Father is loved much and hated much." I doubt the second statement. If there are any who hate him, it is those who do not know him.

His son brings him very clearly before us in this book. We see him wearing the well-worn reefer jacket and baggy trousers and the characteristic bowler hat which all of us in East London know so well. How often we have seen it above the heads of the crowd as its owner led us in May Day demonstrations of the old days!

★ ★ ★

has gone to prison for the sake
his people in . . . He has
rown away a seat in Parliament
for the cause of the poor men.

He has stood for Peace in the
midst of War. He has rallied a
party in defeat. He has come
through abuse and obloquy to a
secure place in the hearts of his
fellow countrymen.

This book gives the secret.

He has always kept close to his
fellow workers. His son says:
"Father believes and says that
for political and economic pur-
poses as well as for everyday
affairs of life, the man in the
street is the equal of the member
of Parliament and the Cabinet
Minister."

To work in close contact with
George Lansbury is to see this
belief put into practice. It is, I
believe, the secret of his successful
leadership in the House and of his
intuitive good judgment.

It would make him a very great
Prime Minister, if the people would
give him power. It means that he
is never deceived by jargon, but
goes straight to the reality of
things.

He has realised that people are
judged by what they are and not
by what they say.



No amount of expert knowledge
of economics will make you a
Socialist if you don't live up to
your creed. No talk of democracy
will make you a democrat if you
believe like a snob. No preten-
sions to Christianity will save you
if you worship Mammon.

In this book is portrayed a prac-
tising Christian, a real democrat,
a Socialist who lives his creed, a
great human being.

Edgar Lansbury has put us all in
his debt by drawing such a de-
lightful picture of our leader and
his home surroundings, but it will
only make us the more impatient
for his return to full activity.

making Societies, entertaining
family and perhaps a friend or two
with a song nothing highbrow,
but just the ordinary songs of the
people.

"Rare evenings, because father
is generally away speaking for the
Cause."

As the train passes Bow, he

10 F.C.

See vol. 28. a, fos. 202-203 for a letter to The
Rt. Hon. Lord Pethick-Lawrence of Peaslake, and
Lady Pethick-Lawrence, dated May 5th 1934.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE,
HOUGHTON ST., ALDWYCH,
LONDON, W.C.2.

DAILY HERALD of 21st. May, 1934

contained article by

George Lansbury

"This is Merrle England Monday."

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see also Everybody's Weekly
23 June 1934 attached

(109)

Mrs. A. Reynolds

Arundale
Rockswage Rd
Runcorn
Cheshire

²³
22nd June 1934

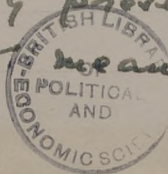
Dear Mr. Sansbury

You must have many calls upon your valuable time, but I know you are never too busy to listen to the cry of the children or to champion the cause of justice.

In a not too "high brow" paper I read "Risked his health to cheer up sick children" & the ^{only} "Labour Party" are representing the Socialist attitude to Mr. Keble's Party appeared to me cast a slur upon both Christian Socialism & the great & noble cause of Labour.

Will you out of the goodness of your kindly heart look into this matter?

I do not know whether the affair has been correctly presented by Mr. Sant Derek & I have no means of checking the



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accuracy of his statements, so I
thought I would appeal to you,
so that the good name of Labour
might not be smirched.

Please let me express my
gratitude to you for your life long
devotion to the cause of humanity
& my great joy at your recovery &
your return to public life.

May all the Powers of Good
help you to bring about the realization
of The Brotherhood of Man.

Gratefully Yours
(Wm) A. Reynolds

RISKED HIS HEALTH TO CHEER UP SICK CHILDREN

By PAUL NERAK

Carrying messages to parents who could not see them

He brightened the lives of thousands of suffering children. But now, after fifteen years, he has had to give up the work he loves so well—just because he lost an election!

THE scene is a long, high-ceilinged room with tall windows and white painted walls. Down each side, with their heads to the wall, are ranged fifteen narrow little beds. It is the children's ward (Asiatic Small-Pox) in one of London's Fever Hospitals.

It is mid-morning. The little patients have been washed and attended to and now the long hours must drag themselves out before the melancholy monotony of sickness can be relieved by the arrival of whatever food the kiddies are allowed.

Suddenly, the young probationer nurse, who is busy at one end of the ward, smiles brightly as the door opens and a man comes in.

Their Eyes Light Up.

HE is a tall old gentleman with white hair and a white moustache. He radiates a spirit of quiet cheerfulness and kindly good-humour. His ruddy face beams at the two long lines of beds. **Those children who are not too ill turn their heads. When they see who it is their tortured little faces light up and feverish eyes gleam more brilliantly.**

"It's our sweet-man," comes the faltering chorus.

It is indeed their "sweet-man." For fifteen years Mr. Philip McCarthy had been visiting the children's wards of the fever hospitals. No matter what infectious disease the little patients were suffering from this man systematically paid them his eagerly looked for visit. Always he arrived with a bag of sweets for the children who were allowed them.

Mr. McCarthy was on the Committee of one of the hospitals and his position gave him the entry to any of the others. **During his time he has continually visited no less than eight hospitals and during the recent big epidemic of measles and scarlet fever he went to see 400 children every week!**

He's Not Afraid.

MOST of these kiddies were too young to write a note to their parents and Mr. McCarthy took it on himself to send a little message from his suffering little friends to their parents. He wrote cheering postcards to the anxious parents. For this reason he was known as "The Postcard Messenger."

It takes some courage to visit the wards dealing with small-pox cases. It is an ugly disease and stamps its victims with its hideous fingers. It requires courage to go into a roomful of scarlet fever cases and to maintain a systematic cheerfulness in such surroundings. Mr. McCarthy attributes his immunity to the various diseases with which he has been constantly associated to the fact that he has never been afraid of them. He says: "The moment you become afraid of these things they'll get you. **The people who enter a fever ward and stare around them with frightened eyes, who step warily and keep carefully away from the cases, are almost invariably the ones who catch the disease.** Confidence is the keynote of immunity. Yet, you are liable to get the thing. . . ."

He Lost, so—

FOR fifteen years this tried friend of the suffering kiddies and their anxious parents has gone about this splendid work of his. It was voluntary. The expenses of the sweets and the cost of the postcards and postage he has met out of his own pocket! Mr. McCarthy is by no means a well-to-do man. On the contrary, he is a comparatively poor man. He has done this because he loved his cheering mission and because he loved his little friends in the fever wards.



Sent cheering messages to their parents.

At the last L.C.C. elections this old gentleman stood as an Independent. He was defeated in the fight and he says himself that his opponent—a Socialist—won fairly and squarely.

Now the Socialists are in power in his district. As a result of his "opposing the Socialist candidate" he has been debarred from the committee of the hospital and is consequently debarred also from continuing his magnificent work in visiting the children's wards.

They Didn't Turn Up.

AFTER fifteen years of this noble work he is informed that he can no longer continue. He protested and was informed, by letter, that "You will not be surprised to hear that wherever possible a preference was given to those who were supporters of our policy as against those who had definitely opposed us at the last election."

Yet when the new committee of the Rivers Hospital met for the first time two members nominated by the Labour Party did not attend!

Why, asks Mr. McCarthy, are these men appointed if they cannot attend when he can and is willing to do so?

So after fifteen years the kiddies' "sweet-man" is no more. No longer may they look to that cheerful, ruddy face with its white moustache. Parents, who would have received a card telling them the little intimate things that only the child himself would mention to them, will wait in vain for a line from "The Postcard Messenger."



Sir Charles Henry Collett
(1864-1938)

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FROM THE SECRETARY

TO THE

LORD MAYOR

THE MANSION HOUSE,

LONDON. E. C. 4.

TELEPHONE: METROPOLITAN 3636

5th July, 1934

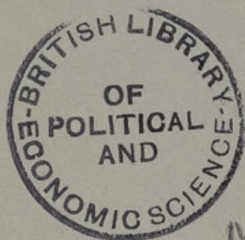
Dear Mr Lansbury,

I feel I must send you at once an expression of our deep appreciation of your most kind letters of sympathy.

I am so glad to read that you have been able to return home and I hope gradually, but surely, you will regain your usual activity.

Yours sincerely,

Chas H Collett



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George Lansbury Esq., M.P.

Somerville Hastings (1878-

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[see above: letter Mrs. A. Reynolds
and press cutting 23 June 1934]

THE COUNTY HALL,
LONDON, S. E. 1.

Encl.

5th July, 1934.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

Mr. Herbert Morrison has sent me the enclosed letter and newspaper cutting which he received from you.

Mr. McCarthy, who was a member of the late Metropolitan Asylums Board, had the right to visit any of that Authority's hospitals. When the Council took over the Board's functions Mr. McCarthy was co-opted on the River Hospitals Committee and I understand that, following his previous practice under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, he continued to visit hospitals where Southwark children were patients, give them sweets where allowed to do so by the medical superintendents, and write to their parents with regard to their condition. This practice has, however, now been stopped, and a general instruction prohibiting such visits on the part of unauthorised persons is being sent out to the hospitals.

The hospital committees, in common with all the other standing committees and sub-committees of the Council, are composed of members of both parties - Labour and Municipal Reform - the party in power having the majority of the representatives. Mr. McCarthy is not a member of the Labour Party. At the recent election he stood as a Liberal candidate and was unsuccessful and he has not been co-opted on any of the hospital committees.

It is, of course, essential that, so far as the Labour Party are concerned, their representatives on the various committees and sub-committees shall be those who are in full sympathy with their programme, in order that the Party may not be hampered in carrying out their projects and Mr. McCarthy must look elsewhere if he desires nomination on any of these committees or sub-committees. To allow him, while not a member of any of them, a roving commission to visit the hospitals would clearly be out of the question.

Yours sincerely,

Somerville Hastings

Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,
House of Commons,
S. W. 1.



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COPY.

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THE LABOUR PARTY,
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

23rd August, 1934.

Dear Sir John Reith,

Mr. Charles Edwards, M.P. has handed me your letter to him of the 16th instant.

As you will be aware, the House of Commons stands adjourned for the Summer Recess with the consequence that many of our Members are not readily accessible. There may be a little delay, but an answer to your request will be sent as soon as possible.

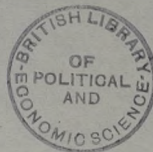
Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.)

H. S. LINDSAY.

Secretary.

Sir John C. W. Reith,
Director-General,
The British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House,
LONDON, W. 1.



M449



LABOUR PARTY,
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

27th August, 1934.

Dear Major Attlee,

I enclose copy of a letter and speakers' list received from the British Broadcasting Corporation by Mr Charles Edwards, and left here by him on the 23rd instant.

I have been in touch with Mr. Lindsay (now on holiday) and he suggests that you should be the speaker in the series of talks in question.

Mr. Lindsay is expected to be back in London on or immediately after Friday next.

A copy of the acknowledgment of Sir John Reith's letter is also enclosed for your information.

Yours sincerely,

J. Maion

Major C. R. Attlee, M.P.,
"Heywood,"
STANMORE,
Middlesex.



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From Labour Party letter 27 Aug. 1934 to CR Atlee
COPY.

John Reith
(1st Baron Reith)

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THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Broadcasting House,
LONDON, W. 1.

16th August, 1934.

Charles Edwards, Esq., C.B.E., J.P., M.P.

Stafford House,
Gelli Crescent,
Risca, Mon.

Dear Sir,

Invitations are being extended to the speakers on the attached list to contribute to a series of half-hour talks on India, which the Corporation is planning to broadcast immediately after the publication of the Report of the Joint Select Committee. No dates, of course, can as yet be fixed, but provision is made in our programmes for weekly talks in this series at 10.0 p.m. on the National wavelength on Tuesday nights, and the series will begin as soon as the Report is published. The order of the speakers is as indicated overleaf.

I should be very grateful if you would let me know what speaker you would recommend to speak on behalf of the Official Labour Opposition. We should like to make reference to the speakers in this series in our programme of talks for the autumn of this year, and I shall therefore be grateful if you let me have a reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
for THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) J. C. W. REITH.

Director-General.



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[with Labour Party letter 27 Aug. 1934 to C.R. Attlee
and letter 16 Aug. 1934 from John R. ...]

- 1. Government nominee A defence of the Report of
the Joint Select Committee.

- 2. Sir George Schuster, K.C.S.I.,
K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C.

- 3. The Rt. Hon. Lord Lloyd of Dolobren
G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.S.O.

- 4. The Rev. C. F. Andrews.

- 5. Lady Layton Women's interests in India.

- 6. Liberal Opposition nominee

- 7. The Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill, C.H., M.P.

- 8. Labour Opposition nominee.

- 9. Sir John Thompson, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.

- 10. Government nominee Summing up.



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? GL to Sir John Reith (draft circulated in favour
of letter 30 Aug. 1934 ?)

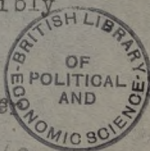
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Dear Sir John

Your letter to Mr Charles Edwards concerning the proposed broadcast speeches on the Indian problem has been passed on to me. I must express surprise at the allocation of speakers between the exponents of various points of view. It appears that the Government in addition to two official spokesmen are also to have the support of two gentlemen who have recently held high office in India who are known to take the Government view. In addition the Liberal Party which has not put forward any distinctive views on the White Paper which might differentiate it from the Government which it was returned to support is not only to have an official spokesman, but also a prominent member to speak on Women's interests. Two gentlemen who take what is known as the Die hard point of view are to speak. There are thus eight representatives of the various Government sections. As against this Mr Andrews an independent is to broadcast while the Labour Opposition is to have one tenth of the allocation. The Indian question is certain to be the big political issue in the next session. The Labour Party has expressed in the House & in the country its dissent from the White Paper proposals and its view point is quite distinct from that of any other political Party.

In these circumstances the allocation of speakers is impossibly one sided.

If it is urged that Sir John Thompson and Sir Claude Schuster



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3 G. to Sir John Raith (draft discarded in favour
of letter 30 Aug. 1934?)

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are speaking only as experts, I would remind you that in addition to two ex secretaries of State there are in the ranks of Labour a number of men of great Indian experience such Sir John Maynard and Mr Garratt who are capable of dealing with the matter from the expert angle without being in any way committed to the Government policy.

I would, therefore ask you to reconsider your proposals so as to give a fair proportion of speakers to the Official Opposition.

GL

HOUSE OF COMMONS?
S.W.1.

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30. viii. 34.

Dear Sir John,

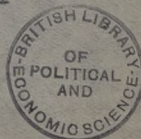
Your letter of the 16th August addressed to Mr. Charles Edwards, Chief Opposition Whip, has been handed to me. I hope you will excuse the delay in replying, but holidays have prevented the necessary consultations taking place between myself and my colleague, Major Attlee.

I feel sure the allocation of speakers has been arrived at under a misapprehension and must point out to you that there is no "Labour" Opposition in the House of Commons, but that the Party I have the honour to lead is His Majesty's Opposition, and in all official arrangements is recognised as such by the authorities in the House of Commons and throughout the country.

We are in disagreement with the Government's policy as expressed in the White Paper, and therefore ask you to place our speaker as the first speaker after the Government's policy has been enunciated. This would be the procedure both in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords.

Further with regard to the number of speakers: as we understand it, you are giving two speakers - Lord Lloyd and Mr. Winston Churchill - to those who, although Conservatives, find themselves in opposition to the Government. You are also giving one speaker to the Liberals and a woman speaker, Lady Layton, who also represents the Liberal Party.

We consider this an impossible allocation and therefore ask you very kindly to reconsider the position and give to His Majesty's opposition the right to reply to the first Government spokesman, and also ~~to close the debate~~ arrange for a spokesman to close the debate on our behalf before the final speech by the Government nominee.



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GL

30 Aug. 1934

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Continuation I.

I think you will understand that this question is one of the major issues that will be before the country during the next year or two and that it is therefore of the utmost importance that the position of His Majesty's Opposition should be both clearly and authoritatively enunciated.

I trust therefore that it will be possible for you to meet us in this matter, and on hearing from you I will let you know the names of our speakers as early as possible.

Awaiting the favour of your reply,

I am,

Yours very truly,

Sir John Reith,
The British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House,
London, W.1.



BBC and
Sir John C.W. Reith

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BROADCASTING HOUSE,
LONDON, W. I.

31st August, 1934.

Dear Mr. Lambury,

Thank you for your letter of yesterday. I have communicated with both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, reading your letter to them.

I am very sorry that in that list your Party was referred to as the Labour Opposition, instead of as His Majesty's Opposition, which, of course, we all here know it to be. I expect we used the other term for purposes of clarity, and perhaps also because we were not regarding this matter as one primarily of Party political controversy.

That brings us to the main point in your letter. I do not think there was any misapprehension in the consideration of the speakers. Our Board gave very serious thought to the allocation, then Lord Linlithgow was consulted, and finally the members of our Political Advisory Panel. Upon this latter, as you know, to our great regret, you are not represented; and this is just the sort of occasion upon which the absence of an Opposition representative is particularly regrettable. We do wish you would favourably reconsider this matter.

The point is that we are not regarding this as a political series in the sense of one confined to discussion by representatives of the Government and Opposition and other Party groupings. It is a symposium of an important issue, within the framework of which Party representation is, of course, provided for, but not exclusively, perhaps not even primarily.

Telegrams: Broadcasts London * Telephone: Welbeck 4468



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WELBECK 4468
BROADCASTS LONDON

BBC and
Sir John CW Reith

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BROADCASTING HOUSE
LONDON W. 1

31 Aug. 1934

- 2 -

With regard to Lady Layton, she is to speak from the point of view of the women of India, and we believe her to be as well qualified a woman in this respect as we could have. Her home political opinions, whether Liberal or any other, are not relevant to the series.

Of course, we agree with you in what you say respecting the importance of the issue itself, and the importance also of the position of His Majesty's Opposition being clearly and authoritatively enunciated. It was with this in mind that we invited you to nominate a representative, and as you will have noted for one of the best places. We shall arrange, however, to have him 9th instead of 8th, with Sir John Thompson earlier in the series.

In view of the explanations given we do hope you will now be satisfied with the series: if not, to us, as in other series of this sort, there remains the somewhat melancholy satisfaction of equal unpopularity all round.

Yours sincerely,
J. C. C. [Signature]

I hope you are now fully restored to active health again.

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
E. 3.

See vol. 28. a, fo. 204 for a letter of
Clement Richard Attlee, dated Sept. 4th 1934.

G.L

Wednesday. [say 5 Sept. 1934]

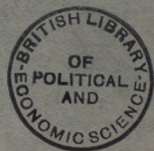
Dear Clem,

I have written to Reith as per enclosed. I will let you know as soon as I hear from him. Thank you very much for taking so much pains over the matter. The letter and your interview ought certainly to clarify the matter.

I am having a good time though I am afraid our poor old movement is in a reactionary mood rather - at least those on top - only because they really think they can get some things done which are worth while even out of capitalism. Of course, experience will prove how wrong this is.

Best of good luck,

Major C.R. Attlee,
Stanmore, Mdx.



M449

[with GL to C R Attlee of 5 Sept 1934]

As from 39, Bow Road,
E. 8.

5. ix. 34.

Dear Sir John,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 31st August. I have now also heard from Major Attlee who tells me of his conversation with yourself and Mr. Norman.

I do not know whether you have had an opportunity of consulting Mr. Whitley, but I very much hope that you will meet our position, which is really not a unreasonable, and allow us to follow the first Government speaker and also immediately precede the last Government speaker. If it would be of any service I would be very glad to come to Broadcasting House with Major Attlee to see Mr. Whitley and yourself on the matter.

Awaiting the favour of your reply,

I am,

Yours very truly,

Sir John Reith,
Broadcasting House,
W.1.



M449

125

ELLEN GOTTSCHALK
29 Rue Hippolyte Maindron
Paris XIV.

At present: (until October 12th)
London S.W.7.
13 Manson Place,
Queens Gate
c/o Dr. Rudolf Olden.

September 28th, 1934.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I thank you so much for your kind reception, I was very glad to meet you and to find you so friendly prepared to help to get M.N. Roy out of the jail.

I send you enclosed a report according to your advice and hope you will find everything in it you need to approach Sir Samuel Hoare or anybody else you think might be willing and able to exert his influence for Roy's release.

The main point, also in your opinion, seems to be that the sentences in the Meerut case have been so very much more reduced than his, and - as Roy writes himself - there is no earthly ground why to keep him in jail more than 3 1/2 years. It would be very good of you to discuss the matter with Sir Stafford and Cripps and the other English friends who are prepared to act in Roy's favour, so that there would be a united and coordinated action.

If you can imagine the sadness and agony of Roy's wife in all these years, you may measure my anxiousness and the hopes I put in this action, and how thankful I am to all who help in it.

Yours sincerely

Ellen Gottschalk.

7 should be only the place to give you any further news & data you might want.



M449

Alan G.C. Dawson
(1888-1938)

126

WELBECK 4468
BROADCASTS LONDON

B.B.C.

BROADCASTING HOUSE
LONDON W. 1

Private

Keep

10th October, 1934.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I am so very sorry that owing to an administrative mishap your request that you should receive no fee for your talk to the Unemployment Clubs was not respected. As you had asked me to treat your request as confidential, I gave only verbal instructions to the official who should normally have been concerned with the payment, and in his temporary absence the matter was handled by someone else who had no knowledge of the arrangement come to between us. I can only repeat my regret that you should have been troubled to receive the cheque and return it.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Dawson

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
E.3.

RMB.



M449

COPY.

127

G.L.

20. x. 34 (Cica)
Axi. 34.

Dear Sir Samuel,

in India
I want to appeal to you on behalf of M.N. Roy. Roy has been in prison for some time, and as clemency has been extended to the Meerut prisoners I think it might be extended to him, when the Board of Revision considers the case.

I understand you have been approached by James Maxton and others, and I wish to associate myself with their appeal.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Hoare MP.,
India Office,
S.W.1.



M449

G.L.

128

Please see where marked
J.P. 16-49.

1834



1934

Centenary
of the
Ancient Order of Foresters
Friendly Society

DINNER

in the

GUILDHALL LONDON

26th OCTOBER 1934

RECORD of PROCEEDINGS



M449

Of course it does cause some amount of uneasiness to any body of citizens which has gathered such treasure as yours, when it sees the roving eye of a Government Department beginning to focus itself on the treasure chest.

This Order of yours, with, I believe, four thousand Courts and some 20 million pounds funds accumulated, can find its real strength only in the fact that it is one of the great bodies of Friendly Societies in general with 20 thousand Orders and Branches, and a membership of 8 millions and 120 millions sterling in funds in 1932. These are figures such as States would have been proud to own in former years, and the fact that these have been accumulated by the savings of small men, shows that the eight million members will, I believe, continue successfully to beat off all the attacks upon their funds from whatever sources they may come. (Applause.) You will have problems to face. The new tables of mortality bring problems of their own. The infantile mortalities which have fallen from the year 1870 when they were 149, to this present year of grace when they are 64, the lowest figure ever recorded, finds at the other end of the scale prolongation of the lives of members, which in itself brings new problems to your Order.

Yet we know that you have met and grappled with difficult problems in the past, and we are sure that the increase in life and activity which modern sanitation brings to you and all the citizens of this State, can never be a disadvantage to any body of citizens which desires the welfare of the citizen body as a whole. But, Sir, we have problems of our own still to solve, and it may yet be that the period of our peoples herding together in great cities begins to pass. With the future we will see our people more spread out over the land than they are at present.

The possibilities of modern transport, the possibility of modern communication, will make it possible to spread our people wider, and still to have the advantages of power and industry which they have to-day, and that we will have, in addition, touch with the land, touch with the soil, touch with the sun and stars, from which sometimes the smoke of the great cities cuts them off. It is not impossible that that too may be a step which will lead to a healthier community. The death rates of the young children between one and two years in this great city of London, which is one of the healthiest of cities, has reached 18.5. For the rural districts the figure is 9.5, not much more than half. Is that not a sign that perhaps the young plants flourish better in the sun of the countryside, than under the smoke veil of our great modern cities? (Hear, hear.)

THE SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

There are other things which may make it more necessary for us to live closer to the land of our country in the future, than we have done in the past. The great problems of to-day are no longer merely physical, they are psychological also, and the spirit of comradeship of which your Society has so much, still finds a mighty field of endeavour. There is a growing spirit of social consciousness, that the presence of millions of unemployed in our country is a reproach to our comradeship as well as to our economics. Those who can do anything to assist, as our chief guest to-night has done so much in his visits and appeals throughout the country, to bring those people once again into the stream of life, are doing the work in which your Societies in their beginning found their real inspiration.

My Acting Lord Mayor, I am merely one of the Order's guests, and not by any means the foremost one, and there is still one guest whom we all look forward to hearing, the guest to whom Bro. Parker referred as "Old Sunshine", but who we, on the other side of the House, generally refer to as "Young George". We are delighted to find him back and active again. He is an adversary such as anyone would welcome, and such as any country is dignified by possessing. We are your guests, Sir, and are proud to be here to-night. We are more than grateful to Bro. Parker for the kindly terms in which he proposed the toast, and to you, ladies and gentlemen, for the cordial manner in which you honoured it, and we all here to-night wish long life and prosperity to your Society, and may its second hundred years be such as to give its third hundred years as good a send off as its second century has had to-night. (Applause.)

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, J.P., M.P., who followed, said, Acting Lord Mayor, Your Royal Highness, Worthy High Chief Ranger, Ladies and Gentlemen, When I was asked to come here to-night I was a little uncertain. After-dinner speeches are not in my line, and you won't mind my saying so, but dinners bore me stiff. But I have enjoyed sitting by my two friends here, and hearing something more about your Order than I read in the very beautiful Centenary book that was sent me.

A TRINITY OF MOVEMENTS

But my chief reason for saying Yes, and being very proud to say Yes, and attend this gathering, is in the fact that this is part, your Order is part, of the great Friendly Society Movement, which is one of the trinity of Movements which I believe distinguish our country from all other countries in the world.

I refer to the Friendly Society Movement, the Co-operative Movement, and the great Trade Union Movement.

I think that looking back over the century, as Walter Elliot has said, we have come through extremely difficult times. There have been all the complexities which beset us to-day, which beset our forefathers a hundred years ago. And in a most amazing manner, our country, without any bloodshed, without any violence to speak of, has reached the position when your Order can meet here to-night, other gatherings of a similar character can be held throughout the country, and men who come from the masses—I do not want to use the word in any class sense at all—men and women who belong to the great army of producers and distributors in the country can come together to celebrate the work which has been done. Work which, in my judgment, has helped to lay down the foundation of a Local Government system, and of a Parliamentary system, which again could not have been brought into being, I think, in any other country but ours, without bloodshed.

We have learned in the school of experience—in those three great organisations—we have learned how to administer. I may be allowed to say that sitting with workmen for about forty years at Local Authorities, I have been struck with their initiative, with their intuition, and their general knowledge of how to do things. I believe to a very large extent that is due to the fact that they had to learn how to administer their own organisations, they had brought that knowledge to the Council table, and they are also now bringing it into Parliament.

It was a fine thing, whoever was the first man or set of men and women, that thought of helping one another to make provision against the evils of sickness. But there is much more, very much more, remaining to be done. I have just spent seven months in a hospital. I had no worries at home. I had no worry as to whether my wages or salary would be stopped. It was not. I had really nothing to trouble about, except to get well, and as everybody wanted me to get well apparently, I was obliged to get well. I am deeply grateful, more grateful than I can say, for all the kind things that were said about me, in whatever manner they may have been said. I am not worthy of them. Nobody is as good as his friend thinks he is, and nobody is as bad as his enemy says he is. But in that hospital I lay alongside men of all sorts and conditions, and I used to hear from them, and they from me, exchanges as to our condition. But the thing that overwhelmed me all the time was the great kindness of the poorest of those men to one another. Many of them would have to leave

to go home without a penny in their pockets, so in each ward they started a little fund of a 1d. or 2d., whatever you could afford to give, so that when the men went out they should be able, perhaps, to get a drink on the way home, or a little food on the way home, but at least to go home with something to help them on the way.

THE FRIENDLY SPIRIT

I have never been an inmate of a hospital before, and I learned what comradeship really meant. We inherit it from those who in the past started your kind of work, and the thing that struck me all the time was that here we were all sick, some of us unable to move, all of us kind to one another. And yet somehow when we get into the world to earn our daily bread, we are all in one way or another against each other. I wondered then, and I want to say it quite honestly to everybody here, I wondered whether we would ever learn so to order our lives, that the spirit of love and comradeship could follow us into the workshop, into the street, into the counting house, wherever we are, because until we do that we shall not have learned how to live, and learning how to live is the finest thing in life. I do not think there is much in the business of preparing to die. I want to prepare, old as I am, to live to-day in the best way I can, and I want other people to do the same.

Well, my friends, we are here celebrating your Centenary. I cannot even claim to be a verderer of Epping Forest. I am only one of those who walk about it and enjoy it, and am very grateful to the City of London for all they have done to preserve that Forest. But I can claim to be one of those who have been in the stream of things for a very long time, and speaking to you out of the fullest experience, not in politics only, but experience in life, I want to say to the young men and women who are here, it is a great thing to honour the past, a great thing, too, as it were, to have memories of what has been and perhaps it is a great thing to cheer other people, but it is a much better thing to make up your minds that it is your job to put into the common stock for the future, your own contribution. To-day, when people challenge democracy and all that democracy means, I want to see the young people of our country take a pride and glory in the fact that their fathers, peacefully, without hurrying anyone, have marched steadily forward and given us education, given us the right to govern, given us the right to administer. I want us all to see that these things we have, were struggled for, not to pull anyone down, but to raise up the body of people. I want us to carry the spirit of your Order into our lives outside.

It is probably a hard and difficult job that you have got to do, but not nearly so hard as the task your forefathers had. They had to build your Order out of nothing. You can build on to it. Other things have been done during this Century, and it is on these you can build if you have the will to do it. And, therefore, in wishing you God-speed and prosperity for your Order, and all similar Orders in the country, I want to beg of you to believe that these days we are living through are days that need the help and need the work of everyone who wishes well to our country. We have done marvellous things. We have done great things, wonderful things. We can fly in a few hours to the ends of the earth. We can travel under the sea. Men and women create marvels in surgery, in science, and in knowledge. Two things we now need in addition, Wisdom and Understanding, for Understanding is the chiefest gift of all. (Applause.)

The final speaker of the evening was **Bishop Neville Talbot**, M.C., D.D., who preached the Centenary Sermon at the Nottingham High Court Church Service. He said, Acting Lord Mayor, Your Royal Highness, Worthy High Chief Ranger, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very glad indeed that I know why I am here to-night, and I do receive with great gratitude the kind words that were spoken by Bro. Parker of Leeds. When he spoke about the Centenary High Court Service in my own Church, St. Mary's, Nottingham, I felt rather inclined to send the hat round, because I think you will be interested to hear, and to hear sympathetically, that I am faced with the task of raising £15,000 in order to get rid of the death watch beetle in the roof of that famous old church. But I will refrain.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am here because I was the Centenary High Court Chaplain. The question is what ought this Centenary High Court Chaplain to say. I think I could give you a few notes for a sermon on liberty, but I do not intend to preach a sermon. But that note has been struck to-night. It has been through the free association and co-operation of masses of men and women in such a movement as this, that we are a law-abiding and liberty-loving people.

There is no doubt about it, we have all got to think seriously as to what really is the sanction for individual liberty.

What is the sanction? General Smuts answered that question when he addressed himself to that subject the other day at St. Andrew's University. All I will say as your Padre to-night is, that I do think the sanction for liberty lies in the origin of things spiritual. Liberty is threatened because the value of the

individual in the State has been threatened. The sanction for the liberty of the individual is, that the individual as such has a higher value than being just merely a member of a State, still more so, than just being an item in the great machinery of industry. Sanction of individual liberty lies in the origin of the unseen, but you will see I am already beginning to preach a sermon and I am going to refrain, but I will develop this subject if you ask me to preach at a future High Court Service.

All I will do now, therefore, is to say how truly I have found it to be a real element of liberal education to have come into touch, as a Bishop, with this fount of British brotherhood and sisterhood as represented by your Order, and I hope that in the years to come it will grow from strength to strength. (Applause.)

CONCLUSION

The Toast Master then called upon Bro. F. Brewster, the Immediate Past High Chief Ranger, to lead all Foresters present in giving the "Foresters' Fire" in honour of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and the other guests, before His Royal Highness departed. Thus ended a most successful evening, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who was privileged to be present.

Reprinted from the "Foresters' Miscellany"

November 1934

Frank Hunt (1870-)

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and London County Council.

Telephone:
WHITEHALL 6100.
Ext. 83

REPLIES
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
THE VALUER.

QUOTING H.



Valuation, Estates and Housing Department,
The Old County Hall,
Spring Gardens,
Charing Cross, S.W.1.

31st October, 1934.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

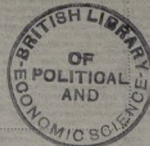
Hackney Marshes Site.

You will recall that when I had the pleasure of accompanying you and Mr. Silkin to this proposed housing site last week, I promised to look into the question of the sub-soil. This I have done, and I find that the natural level of the site was made up practically exclusively with soil dug out from the London Tube railways. The whole of this making-up was done some thirty years ago and the only rubbish ever deposited here was for a short time during the War, when the local incinerators having failed, Bethnal Green Borough Council were allowed, as a temporary expedient, to use the marshes for the purpose. Even then, however, it is not believed that any rubbish was deposited on the actual rehousing site. Thus, I feel sure, you will agree that no danger to health from the "bottom" is ever likely to arise on this site, particularly when the Council's elaborate foundation works are borne in mind.

I need only add that by developing this rehousing site (some 30 acres out of the existing 300 acres of Hackney Marshes) we should be able to make a start in sweeping away the appalling conditions existing in Stepney and in parts of Poplar. Without this site, or something similar, we can do nothing.

The loss of open space can be made up twofold elsewhere and possibly small open spaces can be provided in addition on the sites to be cleared in the most congested parts of Stepney.

The Rt. Hon. G. Lansbury, Esq., P.C., M.P.,
39, Bow Road, E.



M449

(133)

This is, therefore, a proposal which, I am sure will, upon reflection, command your support, not only from a "housing", but also from an "open space" point of view.

Yours faithfully,

Frank Hunt

V A L U E R.

Rowland Thomas Baring
(2nd Earl of Cromer; 1877-1953)

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LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE,

ST JAMES'S PALACE, S.W.1.

Personal

9th November 1934

Dear Mr Lansbury,

You will, I hope, forgive my delay in replying to your letter of November 5th as I have recently had to go to Paris.

I now write to say that in view of the circumstances you mention, it would be quite in order for you to attend the Royal Wedding in Morning Clothes, Frock Coat, etc., instead of in Uniform, and of this the King fully approves.

May I take the opportunity of expressing the hope that you are making good progress in the recovery of your health.

Yours very truly

Romer.



M449



135
India Office
Whitehall

and Manabendra Nath Roy
Release Cttee.

9th November 1934.

Dear Sir,

I write to let you know that the Secretary of State has received the copy of Mr. Lansbury's letter of the 20th October which you sent me the other day in regard to the case of M.N. Roy. In spite of a careful search we have been unable to find any trace here of Mr. Lansbury's original letter.

Yours faithfully,

W.D. Howells

P.M. Thurtle, Esq.



M449

Personal

136

13. xi. 34.

G.L.

I have your letter of the 9th November and should be glad if you would please convey my thanks to His Majesty the King for his forbearance in the matter of uniform. I will have much pleasure in attending the Royal Wedding on November 29th.

May I also thank you for your kind intervention, and also for your enquiries after my health. I am indeed making good progress.

The Lord Cromer,
Lord Chamberlain's Office,
S.W.1.



M449

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THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Broadcasting House, London, W. 1

TELEPHONE: WELBECK 4468 TELEGRAMS: BROADCASTS, LONDON

Reference: PT/JG

November 15th, 1934

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
E. 3

Clear. SL first?

Dear Sir,

I understand from Mr. Charles Edwards' correspondence with Colonel Dawmay that you and Major Attlee have agreed to represent H.M. Opposition in the forthcoming series of talks on India.

*blenn
first
=*

The dates allotted are Friday, January 4th and Friday, February 1st - the second and penultimate talks in the series. The choice of alternative dates lies with you, so could you let me know which date you prefer so that Major Attlee can be informed.

The talks are at 10 p.m. on every occasion and will last for twenty minutes.

Yours faithfully,
THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

John Green.

for Director of Talks

MO



M449

ELLEN GOTTSCHALK

Paris, Nov. 16. 24.

138

29 rue Hippolyte Maindron
(XIV)

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I wish to thank you once more for your kind reception and for the letter you wrote to Sir Samuel Hoare. I am, of course, very anxious to know whether you had a reply to this letter. Perhaps Mr. N. Roy's case has been discussed in Parliament, in the mean time, or may be you had yourself the opportunity to talk to Sir Samuel Hoare about it. I had myself, on the day before I left London, an interview with one of his secretaries, who was very polite and even kind,



M449

but I had the impression that they would not easily let him free a day before the sentence is over. I should be very much obliged to you for some lines about what you think how the matter stands and how the prospects are. - From Sir Stafford Cripps I was informed that the next official steps to be taken for a reduction, or for release, are petitions to the Lieutenant Governor and to the Government of the United Provinces, and only after their eventual refusal, there remains the Crown's Prerogative Council. Roy has been re-transferred to Bareilly in October. Thanking you once more and hoping to hear from you eventually yours sincerely
Ellen Gottschalk

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MINISTRY OF LABOUR
MONTAGU HOUSE,
WHITEHALL, S.W. 1.

Robert Spear Hudson
(1st Viscount Hudson; 1886-)

16th November, 1934.

Dear Mr Lansbury

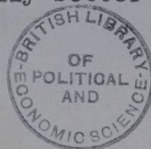
see below

With reference to your enquiry, following on my remarks in the House last night about the number of unfilled vacancies in the London area and the possibilities of juvenile transfer, as to where such vacancies existed and the qualifications required, I think I cannot do better than send you the enclosed extract, which is dated as recently as the 5th November, from a report provided by the Divisional Controller of the London and South Eastern Division in connection with a similar enquiry.

It is not possible to give an exact list of the Employment Exchange areas to which boys could readily be transferred. There is a general shortage of juvenile labour not only in the London County Council area but extending to many districts on the "fringe" side by side with which is a certain amount of maldistribution of the labour supply, because of concentrations of population or of industry.

It is the case, however, that we have placed transferred boys in practically every industry and occupation in which boys are employed in appreciable numbers; and, apart from the reservations which are made in the Divisional Controller's report, the question is rather one of personal qualities and of adaptability than of actual technical or industrial experience. As regards the age at which boys may most suitably be transferred, we do not, in general like to transfer them much under the age of 15. In the first place, the industrial wages offered to boys of 14-15 are generally insufficient, even with some help from public sources, to provide for the boy's maintenance. Secondly, boys of such tender ages are generally better housed in hostels /than

Rt. Hon. G. Lansbury, J.P., M.P.,
House of Commons,
S.W. 1.



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MINISTRY OF LABOUR,
MONTAGU HOUSE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

15 Nov. 1934

-2-

than in approved lodgings, and, as you are aware, having regard to the many demands upon it, hostel accommodation in London is very limited at the present time. It is for this reason that we are now actively

considering the possibility of providing adequate hostel accommodation with proper supervision in various parts of London.

Yours sincerely

A. P. Hudson

with Ministry of Labour letter
of 16 Nov. 1934

(141)

EXTRACT FROM REPORT FROM THE DIVISIONAL CONTROLLER, SOUTH EASTERN DIVISION

DATED 5TH NOVEMBER, 1934.

In so far as the number of vacancies carried forward is an indication of an excess of demand over supply the position in the L.C.C. area at the end of September is interesting, as over 4,500 vacancies were carried forward when the total live registers were only 3,157. The problem in Greater London is twofold, e.g., (1) the supply areas do not always coincide with the demand areas and (2) the supply is not of the type required by the demand. Notable examples of the latter are at Wembley and St. Helier, where the demand for factory workers is heavy but large numbers of local juveniles desire clerical and shop work. Some Exchanges and Bureaux eventually have to cancel as many as one third of the juvenile vacancies notified owing to the death of juveniles of the type required. The demand for school leavers is continuous throughout the year, but in the higher age groups the unsatisfied demand is largely for skilled or semi-skilled workers.

There is at present a shortage of skilled and semi-skilled workers in the 17-20 age group in the engineering and allied trades. In recent months there has been an unsatisfied demand for stenographers (male and female) but the demand is usually greater in the spring and summer. There is also an unsatisfied demand in some areas for shop assistants with experience, but this demand is partly seasonal. For many months there has been a general unsatisfied demand for factory workers but this demand is now declining for the winter months. There are acute seasonal shortages of learners and experienced workers in the needle trades especially in the West End of London. The demand for domestic servants exceeds the supply throughout the year. The retail distributive trades are finding difficulty in securing an adequate supply of boys for delivery work owing to the prejudice against this type of work, and the prominence recently given to road casualties and traffic dangers.



M449

/It

with Ministry of Labour letter
of 16 Nov. 1930

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It is not possible without a special enquiry which would delay this reply to ascertain the precise nature and volume of the unsatisfied demands in the three age groups, 14-16, 16-18 and 18-20. It is safe to say, however, that a considerable proportion of the unfilled vacancies are unsuitable for transference for various reasons, the chief being the fact that the wages are not sufficient to make the worker self-supporting. It is an unfortunate fact that much industrial development with unsatisfied labour demands is located in better class residential areas where lodgings at economic prices are scarce.

Having regard to the low birth rate during the War years there is at present a reduced population in the 17-20 age group and the industrial revival in this area has given rise to a shortage of workers in that group. The demand however is largely for skilled or semi-skilled workers and it seems that the prospects for successful transference are better with applicants of this type.

Cases

(143)

G.L.

20. xi. 34.

Dear Mrs. Gottschalk,

Mr. Lansbury has been in communication with the India Office and has spoken to the Secretary of State about Mr. Roy but he is sorry to have to say that his intervention has not been successful.

The Home Secretary caused enquiries to be made and in his letter to Mr. Lansbury says:

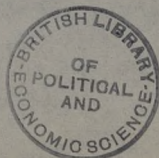
" As to M.N.Roy, the Viceroy points out that he has not yet served a quarter of the sentence passed on him in January 1932. He was examined by a medical board in March last & who found him suffering from hyper-thyroidism. He was sent to the same jail as Nehru is now in near the sanatorium in which Mrs. Nehru is staying, and a medical report a few months ago showed that there was considerable improvement in his condition. There is nothing to show that he is suffering from tuberculosis. It would seem therefore that there is no ground for alarmist views about his health".

Mr. Lansbury is very sorry indeed he has not been more successful.

Yours faithfully,

Private Secretary.

29, rue Hippolyte Maindron,
Paris XIV.



M449

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THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Broadcasting House, London, W.1

TELEPHONE: WELBECK 4468 TELEGRAMS: BROADCASTS, LONDON

Reference: AT/SJdeL

has been checked

26th November, 1934.

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
E. 3.

Dear Sir,

I understand that you have been good enough to undertake for us the tenth talk in the "India" series. This will take place on Friday, February 1st 1935, at 10 p.m. and will fill a twenty minute period, which means somewhere about 2,300 words. As I think you know, the talks in this series will not be "censored", but we should be very glad if we could have your script by the previous Wednesday, so that there may be time to set it up for reproduction in the "Listener". We very much hope that this will be possible.

Yours faithfully,
THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION,

S. J. de Lotbinière

General Talks Executive.



FMP

M449

re F. Angus

[see also: 3, 22, 25, 26 Jan; 4 Feb (1935) below]

28. xi. 34.

Dear Private Secretary,

About two months ago Mr. Lansbury wrote to the Secretary of State concerning the case of Private F. Angus. The letter was, I believe, addressed to Mr. Duff Cooper in error who kindly forwarded it to your Department.

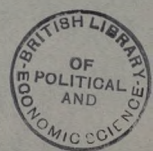
Mr. Lansbury has now received a further letter from the parents of this young man which I enclose herewith and which Mr. Lansbury would like you to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State. According to the local doctor's report, this young man is entirely unsuited to army life because of his physical condition, and although Mr. Lansbury is aware that in normal circumstances a man is not allowed to leave the forces unless he has work guaranteed, he does feel that this is an exceptional case.

I am returning some papers connected with the case which I should be glad if you would return at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Private Secretary.

The Private Secretary,
War Office,
~~Whitehall~~ S.W. 1.



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THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Broadcasting House, London, W. 1

TELEPHONE: WELBECK 4468 TELEGRAMS: BROADCASTS, LONDON

Reference: PT/JG

November 29th, 1934

Dear Private Secretary,

I have looked into the matter of the time when Mr. Lansbury's manuscript is due. It will be convenient to us to have it on Wednesday, January 30th.

However, if Mr. Lansbury is particularly anxious to amend his speech after hearing Mr. Winston Churchill on the Tuesday night, it will be all right if we receive his finished copy on the Thursday morning. The advantage of sending a copy at the earliest possible date is that the "Listener" can publish it in the ensuing number.

Yours truly,

John Freeman

The Private Secretary to:
The Rt. Hon George Lansbury, M.P.,
The House of Commons,
S.W. 1

MO



M449

~~John~~ Gottschalk Paris, Dec. 8th 35 (147)
Ellen Gottschalk 29 rue Hippolyte Masséna
XIV^s

Dear Mr. Kausberg,

I thank you very much for your kind letter. I am, of course, very sad that your intervention was not more successful. May I, however, mention that the information of the House Minister is in one point mistaken. It says that M. N. Roy has not yet served one fourth of his sentence! He obviously overlooked the fact that the sentence of 12 years, passed in January 1932, was reduced to 6 years in ^{April} 1932. So that on the 9th of January 1935, i.e. in a few weeks he will have served half the sentence.

In his letter of the 23th of November which I received yesterday he writes the following about Roy



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possible release by the Board of Revision: "The Revision board is not a judicial body. It makes its recommendations exclusively on departmental grounds. My case, like all others, will be considered automatically. What I suggested was that efforts should be made generally to secure my premature release by executive order. The Government - provincial, Indian or the British (indirectly) can order the release of any prisoner any time it pleases. The efforts in this sense can be made in the usual way."

The Government will most probably not be pleased. But I feel the efforts should not be dropped, anyway. Could not you approach Sir Samuel Hoare as the one who made the mistaken statement again on the grounds of his weak health, his scientific work and of the expiring half of the sentence? Thanking you again, I am yours sincerely Ellen Gottschal

ALEXANDRA PALACE, L.N.E.R.
WOOD GREEN, L.N.E.R.
MUSWELL HILL STN. L.N.E.R.
PALACE GATES, L.N.E.R.
Numerous Tram and Omnibus
Routes.
Service No. 111 pass the Gate.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY." - NOT TO INDIVIDUALS.

THE ALEXANDRA PARK TRUSTEES.

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INCORPORATED BY
ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
(83 84 VICT. 1900.)
TUDOR 5000
TELEPHONE
MOUNT VIEW 7101



*Alexandra Palace,
Wood Green, N.22.*

15th December, 1934.

The Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, P.C., M.P.,
39, Bow Road,
London. E.3.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

In view of the fact that you were the Member deputed by H.M. Government to deal with the appeal of the Alexandra Park Trustees for assistance from the Unemployment Grants Committee towards the rebuilding, etc., of the Alexandra Palace, we approached you in the hope that you would still show your interest and sympathy by endeavouring to arrange for the Chairman of the London County Council (or the Chairman of the appropriate Committee) and any other Authorities interested, to receive a deputation of the Alexandra Park Trustees with the object of securing financial help in a revised scheme of reconstruction. You were kind enough to grant an interview to Messrs. Corbett, Holden and myself on Tuesday last, and I desire, on behalf of the Trustees, to express our grateful thanks for your courtesy in this matter.

I do not think you would wish me to take up your time unnecessarily by recapitulating the various efforts which we have made to achieve our object. I would, however, briefly remind you that, in July 1929, we approached The Rt. Hon. J.H. Thomas, M.P., at that time Lord Privy Seal, and the matter was referred to you as His Majesty's First Commissioner of Works.

The Trustees were urged to submit a concrete scheme and, therefore, invoked the good offices of the Architect and Surveyor to the County of Middlesex, and the Engineers and Surveyors of the various Local Authorities interested in the Alexandra Palace and Park. Estimates of the cost of

- (a) Renovation and improvement of Buildings.
- (b) Lighting and Heating.
- (c) Repairs to roads and footpaths in the Park

totalling £192,500, were prepared and submitted to H.M. Government. On the 6th May 1930, a letter was received from Mr. E.J.R. Edwards, of Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S.W., in which it was stated that, in principle, this scheme for the reconditioning of the Palace and its grounds commended itself to the Ministers concerned with the Unemployment Policy of H.M. Government.

Edwards



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Alexandra Park Trustees

15 Dec. 1934

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Full consideration had been given to the most convenient way of rendering assistance, and as the Trustees had no power to raise a loan, the only way in which a grant could be made was upon the basis of 75% of the wages of unemployed men taken on for the work. The wages bill was estimated at £115,000, to which H.M. Government would contribute approximately £86,625, leaving the Trustees to raise £110,000, being 25% of the wages, cost of materials, supervision, etc. etc.

Application was made in various directions and conferences were held at the City of London Guildhall, under the Chairmanship of the then Lord Mayor, The Rt. Hon. Sir William Phene Neal, Bart., on the 27th February and 29th May, 1931. As a result, £103,545. 10. 0. was promised towards the cost of carrying out the scheme, with further amounts anticipated. Upon the advice of Mr. Eady and yourself the Trustees then made formal application to the Unemployment Grants Committee for the £86,625 tentatively promised.

You will remember the Trustees were strongly urged to make arrangements for the work to be commenced by October 1931, and to expedite matters an Architect was appointed, a complete survey made and preliminary drawings prepared for submission to the Unemployment Grants Committee, a firm of Contractors also being actually engaged to control the work.

- the Trustees - On August 31st, 1931, to their extreme surprise, received a letter from the Unemployment Grants Committee stating their scheme could not be recommended for State assistance. In reply to a further application on the 7th September, 1931, they were informed the Committee could not see their way to depart from their previous decision.

It is unnecessary to say how deeply disappointed the Trustees were at this decision following the enormous amount of work done by them, the trouble also to which you and other public spirited and influential gentlemen had gone, and the heavy expense incurred.

Owing to the financial crisis prevailing, the Trustees decided to defer action for the time being.

In January 1933, the Trustees again approached Mr. Eady, then Principal Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, to ascertain if there was any possibility of a grant from the National Exchequer. They were informed the Unemployment Grants Committee had been disbanded and grants discontinued entirely. Further, there was no method by which H.M. Government could assist.

The only course which seemed to be left was for the Trustees to approach the Local Authorities who had previously promised contributions, to increase same, and secure additional help.

A preliminary Conference of representatives was held at the Alexandra Palace on the 13th May 1933, when the Authorities were asked to subscribe some £203,563. A number agreed to assist, but others demurred, and sufficient

Subs.

15 Dec. 1934

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help not being forthcoming, the proposal was abandoned.

Early this year a further effort was made to obtain assistance from H.M. Government and a conference of Members of Parliament representing constituencies in the Counties of London and Middlesex, together with the Trustees, was held at the Guildhall, Westminster, on the 1st May last. The Rt. Hon. Godfrey Locker Lampson, M.P. for Wood Green (in which constituency, as you are aware, the Palace and Park is situated) kindly promised to make representations to H.M. Government Departments concerned. After exhaustive enquiries he informed the Trustees he had ascertained there was no means whatever by which H.M. Government could lend its aid.

Two months ago the Trustees thought there might be a possibility of obtaining a grant from the Unemployment Assistance Board, and Mr. W. Eady, the Secretary, was interviewed by me. I was very kindly and sympathetically received, but Mr. Eady had to inform me the above Board had no power to make a capital grant such as we required.

The Trustees are driven to the conclusion that the only method to accomplish their object is by grants from Local Authorities interested. It would seem it is most unlikely the full amount of £200,000 will be raised, and the Trustees have, therefore, instructed their Architect to prepare a modified scheme at a cost of approximately £120,000, to which it is proposed to ask the various Authorities to contribute, in accordance with their previous promises, and to increase the amounts wherever possible. Previous promises amounted to approximately £112,000, but it is hoped the London County Council would be prepared to increase their contribution, and maybe additional subscriptions obtained. The modified scheme would not include many valuable and attractive features, such as the original scheme held, but if sufficient funds are forthcoming, the renovation of the Great Hall and repairs to roads and foot-paths in the Park could also be undertaken.

I hope this communication will give you all the particulars you require, but any further information desired will be forthcoming immediately on request.

A small deputation of Trustees will be ready to wait upon representatives of the London County Council if you can kindly arrange for them to be received.

In conclusion, may I again say how very keenly the Trustees appreciate your continued and unflinching kindness in being so willing to render them what help you can in their efforts in the public interests to place Alexandra Palace and Park in the forefront of the health giving, entertainment, and recreational resorts of the Metropolis.

Yours very sincerely,

Emiel J. Lawford

Chairman of
THE ALEXANDRA PARK TRUSTEES.

WELBECK 4468
BROADCASTS LONDON

BBC and
Sir John Reith

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BROADCASTING HOUSE
LONDON W. 1

Private. (2nd Baron Reith)

Dear Mr Lansbury,

17th December 1934.

In the Debate on the Indian Constitutional Reform Bill last Wednesday you suggested that the Government might ask the B.B.C. if we could not arrange for Indians to participate in our forthcoming series of talks on India.

I am writing to let you know that we had not only thought of this but had been anxious to bring it about.

There were, however, great difficulties: first, that of finding in this country really representative Indians on a level with the home speakers; secondly, that it would not have been a case of one or two Indians, but of necessity four or five in order to represent even the main bodies of opinion; and the series is tolerably long even as it is. Finally, ignoring the lengthening of the series (or possibly reducing the number of home speakers), we wondered whether we might be able to take the Indian speakers from India, but this is not yet possible; the technical difficulties are such that there could have been no guarantee that the speeches would have been heard in this country with any degree of intelligibility.

After careful consideration, and with much regret, therefore, the series was arranged as you now know it to be.



Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. G. Lansbury, M.P.,
House of Commons, S.W.1.

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