

Britain's Money Crisis Laid To Evil Effects of Socialism

By JOHN S. KNIGHT

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THE ANNUAL British crisis is with us again.

This time the headlines proclaim that it is induced by falling exports and the shrinkage of dollar and gold reserves below the \$2 billion minimum required to maintain sterling as a world currency.

Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, offers as an immediate palliative the curtailing of purchases from the United States, more efficient production methods and an even tighter austerity program.

His suggested remedy is a bit like going on a diet to cure cancer.

The British economic malady is so deep-rooted that it can never be healed without a radical operation. Even then, John Bull's ultimate chance of recovery must be described as "slight."

This is why:

1—The British Empire, for centuries the world's leader in banking, international trade, colonization and mastery of the seas, is broke.

The terrific cost of two World Wars exhausted her resources and reversed her historic role as a creditor nation to that of a suppliant seeking assistance wherever she could find it. The British dominions, long exploited profitably for the benefit of England, now find the mother country owing them huge sums of money.

2—Income from British exports is steadily falling due to the drop in world prices and the fact that British goods are too expensive to be attractive to foreign markets. This is particularly true of motor cars and even British specialties such as shoes and woollens.

This situation could be partially corrected by devaluation of the pound but Sir Stafford Cripps argues that such action would lower the already depressed British standard of living.

3—The American loan and Marshall Plan funds have enabled Britain to live beyond her means. The aid provided by the United States was intended to be a spur, and not as the Washington Post says "a cushion."

Yet a comforting cushion it has proved to be for the addicts of Britain's "disincentive" philosophies.

As far back as April, 1948, Lord Beaverbrook of the London Daily Express warned, "The belief must be reiterated that the loan (American) did nothing but injury to Britain and the Empire. And the Marshall Plan will have the same result."

These were prophetic words, whether you agree with his lordship or not.

AT THE TIME Marshall Plan Aid was voted by Congress, it was generally believed that the funds provided by the United States would enable Western Europe to regain a measure of economic stability.

There was no thought, however, that it might become a permanent subsidy.

I dissented then and dissent now from the popularly held view that American dollars alone can solve the problems of the world.

The Free Press argued from the first that to be effective, American aid must be coupled with the determination of each nation receiving assistance to put its own house in order.

In a few instances such as Belgium, very real progress has been made. In most cases, however, "recovery" is a temporary upsurge that will not long survive the day when the flow of American funds is cut off.

The busted British boast of full employment, cradle-to-the-grave security and free medical care. In their fool's paradise, there seems to exist no true realization that none of these measures could be financed without outside help.

In a bitter editorial, the Financial Times of London assails Sir Stafford Cripps for his failure to "contemplate action commensurate with the gravity of the crisis."

"The Government," says the Times, "is determined to preserve the ark of Socialism, come what may. This crisis cannot be dealt with in an ostrich-like manner. It is a crisis for the country. And it would be well for the country if it produced a crisis for the Government."

The London Daily Mail thunders: "What a policy for a proud, vigorous people. . . . This country needs expansion, not contraction, freedom, not restriction." It is ironic indeed that in the hour of Britain's severest economic test, its Government should be in the hands of impractical

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theorists quite unqualified to deal with the realities of the situation.

I AM GLAD to see that Congress is not being stampeded into voting additional appropriations to "meet" the British crisis.

Senator Taft states the case well when he says, "The British planned economy just isn't working. They will have to work out their problem for themselves by changing their system or doing something else. We can't be expected to give them any more help."

Senator Herbert R. O'Connor, Maryland Democrat, commented that Britain isn't furnishing any "favorable advertisement" for state socialism.

On the other hand, Walter Lippmann is for continuing support even though he concedes that even with Marshall Plan aid, "the British are moving rather rapidly, not towards recovery but toward insolvency. That is the least alarming language in which this crisis can truthfully be described."

The London Economist puts it even more bluntly: "There was a time when it looked as though the Marshall Plan was working. It is now apparent this was an illusion."

"There hasn't been nearly enough progress towards self-support," the Economist continues. "Indeed, if American critics of the Marshall Plan say that dollars have merely removed from the British people the harsh pressure of circumstances that would otherwise have compelled them to make the necessary adjustments, it is very hard to quarrel with them. At some point, the readjustment must come. The community cannot perpetually consume more than it earns."

Down-to earth Russell Weisman of the Cleveland Plain Dealer sums up my own view when he says: "The shortage of dollars in England and elsewhere stems from the fact that the bulk of their foreign buying is necessarily done in our markets, and that they cannot produce and sell abroad enough to pay their bills here for foodstuffs and a wide variety of raw materials and manufactures. . . . As far as I can see, the situation is one which will not be altered by all the austerities that may be imposed and all the monetary and loan phrenology that may be undertaken."

The truth is that whether Britain's next government be Socialist or Conservative, the British must find some way in which to regain their competitive position in the world of trade and commerce. This end can never be accomplished by what the same Sir Stafford Cripps called in 1946 "the cumulative despair of restrictionism."

Sir Stafford should read that line again.

THE BRITISH dilemma should convince every thinking American of the dangers inherent in state socialism.

At the very moment when Great Britain is hovering on the brink of economic disaster, the New Statesman and Nation, the Socialist Party's organ, is blaming the United States Congress for causing a business slump by failing to support President Truman's Fair Deal philosophies.

In some curious way, the Socialists hold us responsible for their dollar shortage.

President Truman is doing his best to emulate the bankrupt British by advocating the spending of additional billions on welfare projects which the Country is unable to afford.

The Congress is likewise to blame for refusing to cut departmental appropriations. It talks economy but votes for pork.

Neither the President nor his 81st Congress seem to realize that if they constantly seek new ways to spend more money than is provided by tax revenues, this Country could develop a nasty crisis of its own.

Yet, they continue to seek new ways in which to finance extravagance.

When Secretary of State Dean Acheson approved Britain's emergency slash in foreign purchases, he remarked: "If you are wise, when your income falls off, your buying falls off, too."

Let us hope that Harry didn't miss this item in the Washington newspapers.



"Be careful, Junior, and don't you go getting mixed up in any of those Army-Navy fights for appropriations!"

CURSE OF BUILT-IN AGE

Nobody Wants Anything Unless It Has Extras

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) This is the common sense. Who really wants a fountain pen that will write letters, brush his teeth, take his passport photo and—

for 50 cents extra—has three knife blades and a bottle opener at one end?

This goes for practically everything from brassieres to bookcases, from three-color ice cream to cigaret boxes that play "Yankee Doodle" when opened. If it doesn't have that built-in something extra, it's strictly "twenty-three skiddoo." Even the pigeons turn up their beaks at popcorn today unless it contains three kinds of built-in vitamins.

Think I'm kidding? Well over in Glasgow they've just developed a blouse with built-in perfume. Makes girl smell sweet in any flavor she wants for months and months.

But this international craze to build something into something else probably has reached its true flower in the motor car and household gadget industries.

An automobile used to be a vehicle to get you from here to there. But now cars are gradually taking the place of the old-fashioned home. You can shave in them, listen to a concert, smoke, carry on a long distance telephone conversation with Paris, or push a button and "alice" your mother-in-law in half with an automatic sliding window. About the only thing you can't do in them is play a tuba.

Take what happened to the simple broom. It used to be a straightforward instrument for gathering dust out of odd corners. Then they turned it into a carpet sweeper. Then it developed into the vacuum cleaner. And what won't it do now? It'll paint walls, wax floors, dry the baby, manueuvre the furniture and shampoo your rug or your dog or your wife.

In another year it'll serve meals, fight peddlars, attack poisonous snakes and play you gin rummy for keeps.

Furniture has become so complicated by built-in gadgets that you can't even tell its function from an outside look. Soon we'll have to hang an index on each piece to know all it is capable of. You'll have to approach it by radar.

As it is now I always have a moment of fear when a host asks me to pull open the door of a new cabinet in his living room. I never know whether the thing will dump a sack of laundry on the floor, flip out an X-ray picture of my lungs, spray me with martini, roll out into a sofa bed or just show another television wrestling match from Chicago.

Yes, it's all confused. Try to dial a telephone and somebody complains you're turning off the air-conditioning unit. Are we living at peace in a built-in world, or dwelling at war in a built-in peace? Call a social engineer. The planet's awful no longer offers any escape. I met a friend emerging from one the other day, and he said with a dazed look:

"What a new slot machine they got in there! I put in a nickel. And what happened? Why the darn thing rang up a 10,000,000 score, shot off three Roman candles, weighed me, shined my shoes, told my fortune—and reached into my pocket for another nickel. I don't go in there, pal. I barely got out alive. If I'd put in a quarter, the thing would probably have married me, moved into my apartment and set up housekeeping."

There is only one way to end the built-in age. That's to develop a race with some built-in

by Dick Turner Questions, Answers

Bolsheviki Stole Marx Statement

By HASKIN

Q. WHO SAID "Religion is the opium of the people"? G. S. D.

A. This statement is made by Karl Marx in his "Introduction to a Critique of the Hegelian Philosophy of Right" (1844). In 1919 it was adopted as a slogan by the Bolsheviks in Russia, attributing it to Lenin.

Q. What is the origin of the word "torpedo"? H. O. O.

A. The word is derived from the Latin "torpere," meaning "to be numb." Robert Fulton is said to have been the first person to use it when, in 1805, he demonstrated a method of destroying ships by exploding a charge of gunpowder against the hull under water.

Q. How much does Gloria Jean Thompson, the lady boxer, weigh? M. L. P.

A. The lady boxer weighs 140 pounds. She uses the regulation 6-ounce gloves in her bouts.

Q. When was the Organization of American States formed? L. T. R.

A. The organization was set up on April 30, 1948, when representatives of 21 American republics signed the charter in Bogota, Colombia. O. A. S. functions through six agencies, one of which is the Pan American Union, and it is, in fact, a continuation of the system of international relations inaugurated by the American republics in 1890.

Let's Explore Your Mind

By ALBERT EDWARD WIGGAM, D. S.



Answer to Question No. 1 No. They should base them on the fact that they are human beings. They should have all the rights of human beings the same as men. There are of course some functions such as bearing and rearing children, and running the home that fall exclusively to women. But both men and women should have their rights, not because of these separate functions but because they are both engaged in one common enterprise—the business of living and making a good world in which to live.

Answer to Question No. 2 Yes, although nobody does unless he is judged. An English psychologist, Franklin, found that he spent on the average 9 per cent of our time writing, 10 per cent reading, 30 per cent speaking and 45 per cent listening. (Some husbands spend 94-100 per cent of their home-time listening.) Psychologist J. L. Brown asks, "Why not teach listening?" He thinks it is as important as teaching reading. You will be surprised at how much you learn through the habit of paying close attention to what the other fellow says instead of merely waiting for your chance to "butt-in."

Answer to Question No. 3 Not unless you imagine yourself really living in a dream world and act as though it were the actual world of hard work and earning bread and butter. However, it's a fine cure for whatever ails you to let your imagination go free now and then and build castles in the air where life is easy, beautiful and happy. This is as natural as breathing and adds to the enjoyment of life. Sometimes, too, it brings new ideas and plans which may bring money and happiness if you keep your feet on the ground.

RADIO PROGRAMS — TODAY AND TOMORROW

Table listing radio stations: KLAC 570, KFI 640, KMPC 710, KECA 790, KHJ 930, KFWB 980, KNX 1070, KFOK 1200, KFAC 1330, KGER 1390.

The following programs are compiled from reports provided by the broadcasters. No responsibility assumed for last-minute changes which sometimes are made.

Large section containing radio and television schedules for today and tomorrow, including programs like 'DIAL-LITES', 'TELEVISION SCHEDULE', and 'FRQUENCY MODULATED'.

AUNT HET



I reckon we all learn that fire will burn and ice is slippery, but we keep on doing fool things to put cricks in our backs.