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The Liberals' Election Manifesto

THE Liberal manifesto—to be published to-morrow—with the title "No Easy Way"—says the party will insist on drastic cuts in Government spending.

Hundreds of millions of pounds, it says, would be saved by vigorously cutting the food subsidies, and more would be gained by abolishing or merging eight Government departments.

These departments are listed as Supply, National Insurance, Civil Aviation, Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and, so far as their housing functions are concerned, Health, Works, and Town and Country Planning. Under full employment "work should easily be found for civil servants thus affected.

"We must cut food subsidies, now helping many who are not in need of them. We would help those suffering by the reduction of subsidies—miners, pensioners and large families—by increasing social security benefits.

"We want to take the Government out of business which can be more efficiently and economically operated by private traders. All international marketing agencies, such as the Liverpool Cotton Exchange, should be restored to private enterprise and bulk purchase reduced."

Profit Sharing

Other points include:—

Controls: Every control not imposed by the need for fair shares of a scarcity must go.

Incentives: The Liberal Party is prepared to introduce co-partnership and profit sharing into major units of industry. The industrial worker should receive a share of increased profits as a matter of right and not as an act of grace by his employers. On immediate concession a Liberal Government would make to benefit production would be to remove profits tax on undistributed profits used to replace capital equipment.

Nationalisation: Repeal of the Steel Bill is promised and the freeing of road transport.

Defence: Peace-time conscription is opposed because it creates inefficiency and denies Regular Servicemen the pay and conditions they are entitled to and would receive if the country relied on volunteers.

A Land Bank

Food and Land: A Liberal Government would set up a Land Bank to provide cheap capital and credit for agriculture and horticultural development.

Housing: One Minister must be responsible for the housing drive, to co-ordinate the housing functions at present undertaken by four different departments. While subsidies are paid for Council building they must be made available to private building. Immediate reforms are necessary in the Rent Restriction and Town and Country Planning Acts to ensure that penalties are not imposed on improvements to property.

Equal Pay: Liberals are pledged to the principle of equal pay for equal work, and a Liberal Government would introduce the principle into the Civil Service.

Representative Government: A Liberal Government would set up a Scottish and a Welsh Parliament.

Family Allowances

Security: A pledge is given to extend the family allowance to the first child, to make a concerted effort to improve living conditions for the elderly, and to improve the administration of the National Health Service.

Liberty: All Parliamentary Orders would be made liable to challenge in the Courts and subject to amendment; no one would be tried except in a proper court of law, and the powers of Government inspectors to enter private premises would be drastically reduced.

The Commonwealth: Liberals warmly supported the granting of independence to India, Pakistan, and Ceylon, and look forward to welcoming new Dominions. Self-government must be granted to colonies only when in the interests of the majority of the people concerned.

World Affairs: The party will press for quicker action in developing the Council of Europe. Liberals do not conceive of Western Union as an exclusive anti-Communist alliance. "Until we can trade freely with Communist countries we must strengthen the interests of democracy throughout the non-Soviet world, wiping out the economic misery on which Communism thrives."

Key Controls Must Stay

—Morrison

Siting of Industry, Credit, Raw Materials, Capital

'Only Way To Keep Full Employment'

CONTROLS over location of industry, credit, some raw materials, and exports and imports of capital must be permanent if Britain wants to keep full employment, said Mr. Herbert Morrison yesterday in the first General Election broadcast.

"This is the real issue in this election. Only by controls of this sort can you bring an element of choice, an element of ethics and social purpose into the economy.

"If we want to be masters of our economic destiny and not its helpless creatures, we must assert ourselves and impose our will upon it by using the essential full-employment controls."

Mr. Morrison made it clear that Labour would not take part in any Coalition in the next Parliament.

"Any Coalition now would be ineffective and indecisive, because the opinions and beliefs of the two sides would cancel each other out and none of the major issues would be tackled."

'Four Practical Steps'

Turning to the party's programme, he said that the maintenance of full employment would be "priority No. 1." Labour would take four practical steps to prevent unemployment.

1.—Go on producing more and exporting more so that the nation can pay for the food and raw materials needed to keep our factories running;

2.—Financial controls in order to keep up employment and raise production;

3.—Measures to aid the development areas. Labour had already transformed them from despair to self-respecting work;

4.—The socialised industries would use their power of investment to expand economic activity and maintain employment.

Although good work was being done in the socialised industries, Mr. Morrison promised that "we shall find time in the next Parliament to review and improve our socialised services wherever necessary."

More Food Would Be Grown

Other points in the programme were:

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.—Private enterprise, including the small man, would be set free from the strangle-hold of restrictive monopolies.

FOOD.—Labour would grow more at home. Britain could not be so dependent on overseas supplies.

THE COST OF LIVING. — Labour would make a "forthright attack on excessive prices. Wherever competition will reduce prices, we shall encourage it."

SOCIAL SECURITY. — The National Health Service and the other new services would be developed for the general good.

RENTS OF LEASEHOLD.—"One important reform we will introduce," Mr. Morrison said, "will be the law of leasehold, which at present does injustice to so many tenants, including thousands of small shopkeepers and businessmen."

Mr. Morrison then went on:

"We have come through the most difficult economic period in our country's history steadily, responsibly. There have been nothing like the sudden panic economies, the bankruptcies, the unemployment, the strikes and lock-outs, the neglect of the helpless that we all remember in the twenties and thirties. Instead of that we have frankly explained the position, good or bad: industry, both sides, has co-operated to increase production and exports to record levels; we have faithfully carried out our 1945 election programme.

"And the result is, to-day we lead the world.

"For example, full employment. The certainty of a full pay packet every week—what a boon that has been to every housewife. What a boon that has been to every shopkeeper. There are few bad debts nowadays. And what a boon to the manufacturer whose order books are full.

"We are the only big democratic industrial country in the world—not only in Europe but in the world—which has provided jobs for all, and our economy since the war has been the fastest in Europe.

'Country's Victory is Output'

"Now just two figures to prove what I've said. First—output for last year was nearly one-third higher than pre-war. And second—last year every British worker—on the average—produced getting on for 5 per cent. more than the year before.

"That, I repeat, is our country's victory. Pride in it will stimulate our country to greater effort. Every democrat is proud of Britain's recovery and of the forward march of the British people. What a pity the Conservatives are not!

"And look at our children. They are happier in the home because the home enjoys security. They go to school well fed and well clothed and better able to take advantage of everything that our steadily improving schools can give them. All the world says they're grand—all the world, that is, except our Conservatives.

"Mr. Churchill goes on talking as if the whole secret of full employment is Marshall Aid. That shows, I am afraid, how little he knows about full employment.

Comparison With Other Nations

"Everyone knows—I've said it myself—that without Marshall dollars we could not have maintained full employment at our present standard of living. We are grateful indeed for America's aid (but we don't regard it as 'foreign charity') and we shall never forget the aid from the Commonwealth.

"But the thing to remember is that some countries besides Britain have received Marshall dollars—many of them more dollars per head than Britain.

"Some of these countries have Governments that have done what the Conservatives want to do here—every one of these countries has a grave unemployment problem. But some other countries have Governments that are broadly speaking, like our Labour Government—the Scandinavian countries, for example. All these countries have done pretty well.

"The Conservatives never tire of pointing with admiration to European countries where a minority of the people have been set free to gorge and grow fat while large numbers ..

(*Continued on page 5, col. 1*)

Paul Popper

Tibet is directly threatened by Communist China, and no one is likely to go to its aid. This handsome young Tibetan in sheepskin hat carries a German rifle, which has somehow reached the Himalayas. All Tibetans go armed when they make a journey, but their rifles and swords would not be much use if their country were invaded by the armies of Mao. William Clark, who has just returned from Southern Asia, describes on page four the critically grave situation of that divided continent.

America Now On Trial In Asia—Acheson

From Our Own Correspondent

WASHINGTON, February 4

THE Secretary of State, Mr. Acheson, in a letter released to-day, says: "The American people are on trial before the peoples of Asia, and we must ever have in mind that a hasty or ill-considered action on our part may do irreparable harm."

Mr. Acheson was replying to a letter from Senator Lehman congratulating the Secretary of State on refusing to permit American military intervention in Formosa.

'Seek Contact'

Senator Lehman said it deeply troubled him that no positive action in China suggested itself, but that clinging to a regime which had lost the confidence of the Chinese people would be fatal. "We must seek the closest contact with the Chinese people, and show them that our desire is for their welfare and interest," he suggested.

Mr. Acheson sees the problem of China "very much in the same light" as Senator Lehman, and thinks that close contact with the Chinese and concern for their welfare is a positive course in itself. "Beyond this," he says, "we should leave no opportunity to ensure their being fully aware of the threat to their national independence and territorial integrity which arises from Soviet Communism."

Ready to Aid Bao Dai

From Our Own Correspondent

WASHINGTON, February 4

THE American Government has now decided to give active support to Emperor Bao Dai of Viet-Nam in his struggle against Communists, and it is expected that diplomatic recognition will be accompanied by more weighty tokens of approval.

A decision on military aid is expected shortly, perhaps within the coming week.—*Copyright.*

'Piles of Groundnuts'

Mr. Walter Elliot said at Kirkwall (Orkney) last night: "There are piles of groundnuts as high as Nelson's Column waiting in West Africa because the Government will not send out 20 locomotives to move them." They preferred to send 20 bulldozers to plane the tops of the hills in East Africa, where no groundnuts had grown before.

Poland Recognises Ho Chi-Minh

Poland has recognised the rebel Viet-Nam Government of Ho Chi-Minh, reports the official Polish News Agency.

Dollar-Sale Incentives

By Our Political Correspondent

FAR REACHING proposals for increasing British exports to America are likely to be placed before the Government by the Dollar Export Board in the near future.

It is understood that the most important of these are:—

1.—There should be a special committee in each industry to study the possibilities and difficulties. While this would serve only in an advisory capacity, a committee could ask for powers of compulsion if it thought that they were necessary.

2.—Exporters to America should be allowed to keep a certain proportion of the dollars they earn. The figure generally favoured is 10 per cent.

3.—In certain circumstances American firms which import from Britain might be given concessions in this country. The idea seems to be that if an American firm imported British cloth, it might be given a licence to re-export to Britain a proportion of it in finished products—suits, for instance.

Labour Views

The problem of how to increase British Exports to America will be one of the first to face the new Government after the election, no matter who is returned.

So far as Labour is concerned, Ministers have hitherto always turned down any proposal that would allow a British exporter to retain a percentage of his dollars.

It is believed they might now be prepared to reconsider their attitude. While it is most unlikely that they would allow an exporter to spend dollars on anything he liked—on American motor-cars, for example—firms might be allowed to buy machinery, or to pay for extra advertising in the United States.—*Copyright.*

Lewis Rejects Truce Plan

WASHINGTON, February 4.—John L. Lewis, leader of the United Mine-workers' Union, to-day rejected President Truman's proposals for a 70-day truce in the American coalfields.

E.C.A. Mission Tells Bonn: 'It Will Not Do'

From Our Own Correspondent

FRANKFURT, February 4

THE West German Government's "*laisser faire* and defeatist attitude" on unemployment "simply will not do," says a report released to-day by the E.C.A. mission to Germany.

The number of unemployed is believed now to have passed the 2,000,000 mark.

The central thesis of the E.C.A. document is that "German export goals are too low to balance imports necessary for the achievement of reasonably full employment."

Government action, the mission suggests, is the only way to overcome the reluctance of German business men to turn to the less profitable and possibly less stable foreign market in preference to an assured home market. It is also required to ensure investment funds for the export industries.

Steel Limit 'Too Low'

A claim that the limit of 11,100,000 tons of steel a year laid down by the Allies for Western Germany is too low was made at Oberhausen, in the Ruhr, yesterday, by the West German Minister of Labour, Hr. Storch. He said it was insufficient partly because the pre-war population of 36,000,000 in the Western zones had been swollen to 45,000,000.—B.U.P.

Russians Let Traffic Flow

From Our Own Correspondent

FRANKFURT, February 4

THE Russians to-day took action to restore lorry traffic to Berlin to normal, but at the same time rejected the Western Allied protest against the previous slowing down of traffic.

The Commandant of the Russian border post at Marienborn gave an order this morning that lorries should be allowed to pass as before the recent hold-up.

Since then lorries have been passing the border at a normal pace, with only a cursory examination of papers, and have been arriving at Berlin without further trouble. To-night the West German police at Helmstedt expected the remainder of the transport queue to be cleared by midnight.

Meanwhile, the Western Allied Commandants in Berlin received a letter from the Russian Commandant, General Kotikov, rejecting their protest against Russian violation of the Paris blockade-lifting agreement.

Smuggling

General Kotikov claims that the Russians have been rigidly adhering to the agreed rules for inter-zonal traffic. Violations of these rules by West German firms, particularly with regard to exact declarations about what is carried, have lately become "epidemic," he states, and "an atmosphere of limitless speculation and smuggling" has developed. In the circumstances, the Russian authorities had been fully justified in insisting on a careful checking of papers.

Allied observers to-night inclined to believe that smuggling out of the Eastern Zone was rather widespread, but could not see how it was to be stopped by delaying Berlin-bound traffic originating in Western Germany. They pointed out that to-day's Russian action seemed calculated to forestall Allied counter-measures by dropping the "creeping blockade" just in time, while yet reserving the legal case for a repetition.—*Copyright.*

Teachers Seek Pay Revision

The National Union of Teachers' executive at a meeting in London yesterday unanimously decided to instruct its members on the teachers' panel of the Burnham Committee to give one year's notice before March 31 to terminate the present Burnham agreement.

One year's notice must be given if a revision of the agreement is sought. The teachers' decision means that the teachers' panel and the local authorities' panel will begin negotiations immediately after Easter with a view to securing agreement on salary scales to operate from April, 1951.

Marquess Married in America

WASHINGTON, February 4. — The Marquess of Milford Haven, a second cousin of King George, was married here to Miss Mrs. Romaine Dahlgren Pierce Simpson. The ceremony took place in the National Presbyterian Church before 700 guests.—Reuter.

Would-be Assassinator Shot on Gold Coast

ACCRA, February 4.—Two abortive attempts to assassinate an assistant district commissioner were made on the Gold Coast to-day in a village near Bekwai. One villager fired at him, but missed, and was overpowered and disarmed. A few minutes later another villager fired at the assistant commissioner and his police. He missed, and was shot dead.—B.U.P.

Soviet Elections

The campaign for the Supreme Soviet elections on March 12 began yesterday, when Generalissimo Stalin was named the principal candidate, Moscow Radio reported last night.

At hundreds of nomination meetings in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and other Soviet towns the second candidate was Mr. Molotov, whom the Radio described as "the closest friend and colleague of our Comrade Stalin."

Malenkov, Beria, Bulganin, and Kaganovich were others nominated.

Rain and Gales

A continuation of mild, changeable weather is forecast. In London and the South-East it will be fair for a time at first, but rain will spread from the West. The wind will vary from moderate to gale force.

H-Bomb Plea By U.S. Scientists

'Promise Not To Use It First'

By NORA BELOFF

WASHINGTON, February 4

A GROUP of seven atomic scientists led by Dr. Hans Bethe, now Professor of Physics at Cornell University and formerly superior of Dr. Fuchs at the Los Alamos Atomic Laboratories, to-day urged the American Government to give an undertaking that it would never use the hydrogen bomb unless it was first used against America or against America's allies.

They said one hydrogen bomb could destroy New York or any other large city.

At a Press conference the scientists said: "We believe that no nation has the right to use such a bomb, no matter how righteous its cause. This bomb is no longer a weapon of war, but a means of extermination of whole populations.

"We shall not have a monopoly. The Russians will be able to make one, too. They will probably need a shorter time.

"We must remember that we do not possess the bomb, but are only developing it, and Russia has received, through indiscretion, the most valuable hint that our experts believe the development possible."

Dr. Bethe said the "indiscretion" was recent widespread publicity about H-bomb plans of the United States.

The statement said there was as much difference between the present A-bomb and the proposed H-bomb as there was between a block-buster and an A-bomb.

If Allies Are Attacked

The group agreed this country should make the H-bomb because of President Truman's directive, and said they, as scientists, should work on it for that reason.

But they added: "The only circumstance that might force us to use it would be if we, or our allies, were attacked by this bomb."

They insisted that there would be time enough after this country had been attacked. They said H-bombs could not win a war in a first attack because they could not destroy enough military objectives.

Dr. Bethe said it might even be possible to counter an H-bomb attack by using only A-bombs.

It is now privately believed in the State Department that the President may be compelled to revise his earlier statement that the hydrogen bomb decision will not lead to any new American diplomatic action.

'Repudiate This Policy'

The Executive Committee of the Peace Pledge Union, in a statement on President Truman's decision on the hydrogen bomb, says the first action of the next British Government should be to repudiate the policy involved, and to invite President Truman and Marshal Stalin to meet the Prime Minister at the earliest possible moment.

A Myth, Says Moscow

MOSCOW Radio, giving the first public Soviet comment on President Truman's decision to develop the hydrogen bomb, said the "aggressive policy of Wall Street" was "bound to lead to catastrophe."

Speaking of "the myth about the hydrogen bomb," radio observer Petrov said American diplomacy, having failed with its atomic blackmail, was looking for "a new bogy to scare the faint-hearted.

"Wall Street was not able to alarm the peoples of the world by the atom bomb, and it certainly will not succeed in doing so with its fairy tales about the hydrogen bomb."

Fuchs Case Reactions

From Our Own Correspondent

WASHINGTON, February 4. — Lieutenant-General Leslie R. Groves, wartime head of the United States atomic energy project, appeared before a closed session of the Joint House-Senate Atomic Energy committee here to-day.

General Groves was summoned to testify before the committee following yesterday's appearance in court in London of Dr. Klaus Fuchs on charges under the Official Secrets Act concerning atomic research.

The Fuchs case has provoked even greater excitement and bigger newspaper headlines than the news of the President's decision to proceed with the construction of the hydrogen bomb earlier this week.

It has virtually excluded the possibility of obtaining Congressional approval for the revision of the Atomic Energy Act, which forbids American atomic scientists to collaborate with their British and Canadian colleagues.

Lord Norman Dies

Lord Norman, former Governor of the Bank of England, died yesterday at his home, Thorpe Lodge, Camden Hill, Kensington, W. He was 78. An obituary notice appears on Page 5.

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Churchill: 'Reckless' Liberal Plan

MR. CHURCHILL, at Leeds yesterday, condemned as a "reckless demonstration" the action of the Liberal Party in running 400 election candidates.

"That section of the Liberal Party which is led by Mr. Clement Davies," he said, "has openly avowed its desire to bring about a deadlock or stalemate so that the handful of members who follow his guidance may hold the balance and dominate the scene.

"As they cannot exceed seven or eight, this is a vain expectation, however gratifying to the self-importance of a few individuals.

"In order to realise it they are running 400 candidates and insuring with Lloyd's against the forfeit of 250 deposits. In nearly every case the votes cast for these candidates will be thrown away.

Queering the Pitch

"It is hoped, by the authors of this reckless demonstration, that they may so queer the pitch that the result of the great electoral struggle may be meaningless. They take a great responsibility upon themselves for which they may afterwards be held accountable to public opinion.

"The return of a number of minority candidates through split votes cannot be of any help to the British nation in its difficulties and dangers. Moreover, it is essentially undemocratic for a party, or a section of a party, to work for the return of minority candidates and thus frustrate or pervert the true expression of the national will.

"I do not believe these tactics will be successful, but I am very sorry that such a state of things should have come about.

"It certainly is not my fault. Nothing would have given me greater comfort two or three years ago than to have made an honourable and friendly arrangement with all who hold to the Liberal faith which would have enabled all true Liberals and Conservatives to work together as separate and independent parties for the main interests of the nation and in resistance to the establishment of a Socialist State, to which both are equally opposed. But when overtures were made they were repeatedly spurned and we were mocked for our efforts.

"Thus the years passed. Conservative candidates came forward and every constituency was filled. It is not possible at the last minute to ask men who have built up their position in the local constituencies to stand down, nor would the local associations agree to their doing so. Here and there a sensible arrangement may be made, but in the main the die is cast.

"We have, therefore, at this grave and critical moment in our history, an element of confusion which, however understandable because of the hardships which the present electoral system inflicts upon minorities, is a serious aggravation of the public dangers.

No Petty Bargains

"Mr. Herbert Morrison said the other day there must be no bargains. There certainly seems no likelihood of that. I am quite sure that a coalition between men and parties as the result of a lot of petty bargains and deals and compromises would be no use at all. There must be some great common bond of union, like we had in 1940, to lead to that melting of hearts, where sacrifice seems to be an indulgence and pain becomes a joy, and when life rises to its highest level because death has no terrors.

"If we get into that state of mind, which most of us have been through, no doubt we could all come together and then I do not doubt that Britain would rise again in her unconquerable strength.

"The reason I ask for a strong majority is not that one party may rule roughshod over another, but that we may march increasingly together through all our difficulties and dangers towards that broad national unity in which alone our salvation will be found."

Sale of Jet Aircraft

Speaking about National Service, Mr. Churchill said: "There is a terrible story to be told about jet aeroplanes—that wonderful example of British genius. Fancy selling 100 of them to the Argentine Government and others to Egypt for comparatively small sums of money when they might have rearmed our whole Auxiliary Air Force with them and, by making our island safer, have made world peace surer."

Emphasising Conservative support for compulsory National Service, Mr. Churchill continued: "This does not mean that I do not think that great improvements cannot be made in our military system. It may well be that much better value in fighting power can be obtained for the money we are spending.

"The Conservative Party do not intend to take compulsory powers to conscript the term of National Service. On the contrary, it is our view that too many men are being called up each year, either for the staff to train or for the units to absorb, and that the burden of Naval and Air Service can be sensibly reduced. I have a feeling, having handled these things before, that unless the foreign situation gets worse, which I do not think it will (but of course I may be wrong), a considerable reduction in the expense and burden of our defences might be combined with an actually stronger fighting power and better conditions for the troops. Let us leave it at that."

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