

# MACLEOD OF IONA

THE Rev. Dr. George MacLeod, founder of the now famous Iona Community of the Church of Scotland, is at present visiting New Zealand and has already broadcast over the main National and Commercial stations. While he was in Wellington, Dr. MacLeod was interviewed for "The Listener." Here is what he had to say.

"WHY did you come to New Zealand, Dr. MacLeod?"

"To talk. It's my vocation. During my youth my father was once asked, 'has the mantle of his famous grandfather, Norman MacLeod, fallen on young George?' He replied, 'So far only the gas mantle.'"

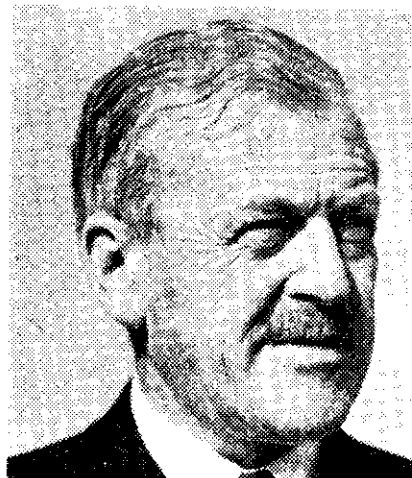
"And what are you going to tell us?"

"That you should no longer be—if indeed you any longer are—the unconscious imitators of Western institutions. For you are the preservers and pioneers of the new expression of Western institutions that the world must have—and have pretty quickly—if these institutions are to revive and to continue. Leadership is no longer in Britain's hands. We are too held in the vortex of European problems and of the capitalist economy. It depends on you 'down under' more than anywhere."

"Aren't you just buttering us up before asking for some money, Dr. MacLeod?"

"Not money, timber—when the time comes that you can spare 30 or 40 tons—though money for timber will be gratefully received. Iona Abbey, the third greatest shrine in Christendom, is still only partly roofed. In 1941 when wood could not be bought we were daily expecting a gable would fall unless we could get some immediately. Then a Canadian ship obligingly jettisoned its deck cargo in a storm 200 miles out and the Receiver of Wrecks who meets me every time I land on the island told me it had come to our shore—all cut to just the lengths we wanted!"

"But that's off the point. I meant every word I said about new leadership being needed. We all know it. It's everybody's cliché that unless the spiritual forces can take charge of the material forces, our civilisation is finished."



DR. GEORGE MACLEOD  
Everybody's cliché seems to be  
nobody's business

"Nothing could be more obvious."

"But it's not obvious to many. They are like the old lady in London whose room, itself unharmed, was completely buried during a blitz. When the rescue squad dug through to her she wouldn't let them open the brandy bottle. 'I only

take that in an emergency,' she said. Starvation from Calais to Hong Kong and a grim determination among the dispossessed from Calais to Hong Kong that they will end it—that's our situation to-day. Coming here our plane landed first in France, where the alternatives of Communism or De Gaulle become more inescapable every day; then Italy where the same struggle is only a little delayed; then in Cairo, Basra and Karachi where things were too bad for us to be allowed off the airport; then in Burma where the second largest city was in Communist hands; then in Singapore where Communist guerrillas were only seven miles inland. A mere strike at Darwin was Paradise regained.

"Look deeper. In London, the citadel of Western democracy not more than 10 per cent. of the population are church folk; in England 17 per cent.; in Scotland 19 per cent. I remember an Indian at a meeting where he had been welcomed as 'our coloured brother' in reply beginning, 'My dear colourless brethren.' That's what most Westerners are — so inoculated with Christianity that they are immune to it."

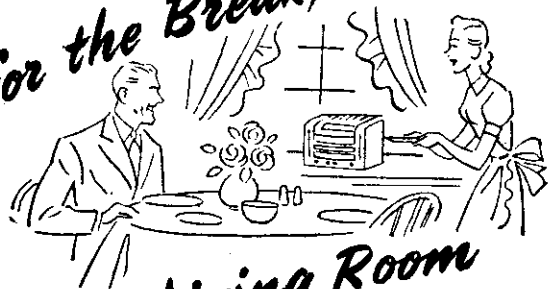
## No Lack of Organisation

"Why isn't the Church making more impact?"

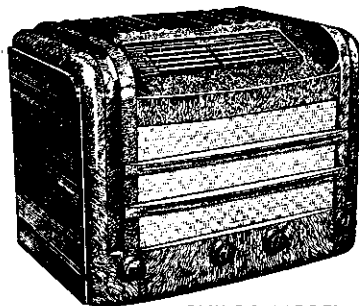
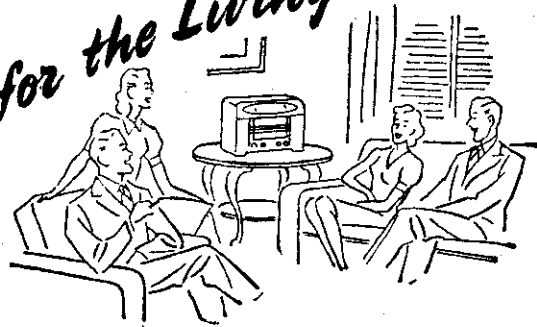
"It's not for lack of organisation. Two doors opened before a man as he walked

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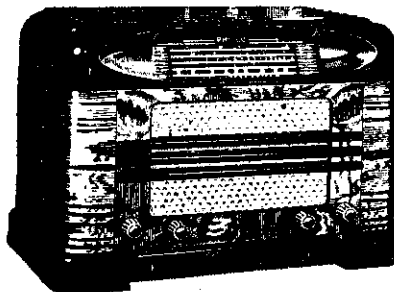


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