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FREEDOM AND WESTERN DEMOCRACY



VERNON BARTLETT BBC presenter



DENIS BROGAN

Do most people in the world really want a say in government, or do they prefer to be told what to do? Is our Western form of democracy a suitable article for export to people who may have had little or no experience of it? Do the relatively slow processes of the party system and the evolution of public opinion seriously inhibit our adjustment to a rapidly changing world? These are some of the questions Vernon Bartlett asks in "The Democratic Dilemma," the first of 10 BBC talks called *What Price Freedom?* which will start from 4YC on August 7, and later will be heard from other YC stations. Vernon Bartlett, whose talk is really an introduction to the series, is a noted journalist and expert on foreign affairs who for many years was an Independent member of the House of Commons. He now lives in Singapore.

Following Mr. Bartlett in the series will be Raymond Aron, diplomatic correspondent and author of several works on current events, who has been described as one of the leading French political writers of his generation. In his talk on *Disunity in Europe* (4YC, August 12), M. Aron begins with what he considers to be the dominating factor in the European situation—the partition of Germany. Other speakers in the first half of the series, which inquires into the state of Western democracy today, are Denis Brogan (Professor of Political Science at Cambridge University), Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister of Health in the Indian Government, and formerly secretary to Mahatma Gandhi), and Don Salvador de Madariaga (whose career has included service as an ambassador and as a League of Nations official).

The second group of speakers, considering the impact of our civilisation on the rest of the world, try to discover if there are any grounds for believing in a decline of the West. The speakers are Philip Mason (Director of Studies of Race Relations at the Royal Institute of International Affairs), Sir Douglas Copland (New Zealand-born Australian High Commissioner in Canada), Denis Healey (Labour M.P.), Angus Maude (Conservative M.P.), and Sir Harold Nicolson (author, critic and former diplomat), who will sum up.

Success Stories

ANOTHER programme of Les Elgart's dance music can be heard from 2YA at 10.0 p.m. on Monday, August 6. Les Elgart was born in New Haven, Connecticut, studied music as a child and later joined Woody Herman's band. After a period on the staff of the CBC, he resigned in order to give full time to his orchestra, which, in a little over a year, has become a great success. He writes of his band . . . "this is largely an ensemble band. We give them the melody but within a good musical context."

The Calvin Jackson Quartet (2YD, 9.35 p.m., Thursday, August 9), made its New York debut in June, '55, with a brief and unheralded engagement in the Basin Street Night Club. Before the Quartet went back to its home base in Canada it was re-engaged, signed to a record contract and booked for three major TV shows. A combination of music and showmanship is supposed to have done it. Calvin Jackson graduated from the Juilliard School of Music in 1941, and toured America twice with Larry Adler.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 3, 1956.



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