



A REPORT FROM CHINA

Sir,—I should like to draw attention to the entirely misleading impression given by the reporting, on the 9.0 p.m. news on August 3, by the NZBS, of an item emanating from the Peking radio to the effect that the "Roman Catholic" Church in China had declared its independence from the Vatican in matters jurisdictional.

Those of us who know from eye-witnesses what is happening to the Catholic Church in Communist China can interpret the news I refer to correctly, but the New Zealand public does not know sufficient about either the situation in China or the nature of the Catholic Church to see through the Communist broadcast without the addition of comment. It is well known that terms used by Communists do not correspond in meaning to the same terms used by free democratic speakers (e.g., the term "democracy" itself), and that any news item from Communist radio sources needs to be clarified where such terms are used.

In the present instance it is not at all the "Roman Catholic" Church which the Peking radio is talking about, but a counterfeit body of Communist creation to which it is hoped to attract the allegiance of Catholics in an endeavour to subvert the Church. The bona fide Catholic Church in China is still, as ever, in union at all levels with the Holy See. With the bishops and most of the priests in prison or other kind of detention, the main burden of keeping the Church alive is falling on the faithful laity, who are being subjected to every kind of pressure to make them apostatise. Nomenclature notwithstanding, the Association now set up by Peking is not the Catholic Church, nor in any way its representative.

J. C. P. LAND (Cambridge).

THE CHICKEN-HEARTED

Sir,—R.M.D. casts J. B. Rhine's investigations aside as just another collection of unadulterated nonsense. Undoubtedly he dismisses all Eastern philosophy, yoga practices, and hypnotic phenomena with an equally lusty howl of derision. Religious belief of any type would be completely "beyond the pale."

Oddly enough, the great Einstein was far more tolerant of such beliefs and it is only with an open mind and extreme tolerance that we can discover more of R.M.D.'s cold hard facts of physics. J. B. Rhine, of course, has his critics. It would be a most unhealthy sign if he had not. It would be impossible in the space of a letter such as this to discuss even a few of the criticisms of his work. It is, however, worth mentioning that Rhine is only one of many investigators who have obtained convincing results in parapsychological investigation. Tyrrell and Carrington are others worthy of inclusion in R.M.D.'s list of scientific conjurers.

Probably the best and most unbiased account discussing arguments both for and against is contained in H. J. Eysenck's *Sense and Nonsense in Psychology*. Eysenck, Professor of Psychology at London University, is a man who is most critical of any experimen-

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tation in psychological fields which is not carried out with the highest degree of scientific rigour. Unfortunately, he is what R.M.D. would describe as a "sucker." He feels that much of Rhine's work is indisputable.

When we consider that we have yet discovered but a fraction of the physiological intricacies of the human body it indeed seems odd that many amongst us should shower ridicule on pioneers of psychological research purely for the reason that their conclusions do not fit in with our concept of orthodox science. We would all do well to remember the shining example of Galileo.

J. C. HAYES (Kamo).

IRON CURTAIN OPERA

Sir,—I wonder if the American State Department made any cash contribution to the New Zealand Players or to the New Zealand Opera Company for the production of Menotti's musical drama, *The Consul*, staged in Wellington. My wonder is occasioned by the fact that in the *New Zealand Listener* (organ of the New Zealand Broadcasting Service) dated August 9, under the heading "Menotti's Iron Curtain Opera," the New Zealand Players' producer Richard Campion, speaking on the use made of music, acting, singing, lighting, and so on, to persuade the audience of the reality of the situation, goes on to say: "Not that they would need much persuasion. After Hungary, especially, people know that the situation is true and that the same situation confronts people wherever there is a tyrannical government."

One would expect such an utterance from members of the "Free Europe" movement, whose headquarters are in New York, and who from Western Germany despatch their gas-filled balloons to drop leaflets over Hungary, Poland, Rumania, urging these peoples to revolt against their Government. As a New Zealand watersider, I can tell Mr Campion he has no need to go as far as Hungary to find what he is pleased to call a tyrannical government. As a watersider, a workmate and friend of the late Charlie Fox, who bequeathed £6000 to the New Zealand Players, I have no hesitation in saying, and can find strong backing for it, that Charlie Fox never intended that any part of his money should be used to attack socialism or any country moving towards that goal. Charlie Fox was a Socialist, a friend of the Soviet Union and the "People's Democracies." He bequeathed £6000 to the New Zealand Players. It would be an insult to his memory to fail to make some protest at what he would himself regard as a flagrant misusage of his gift.

BILL O'REILLY (Wellington).

(This letter was shown to Mr Richard Campion, who replied as follows: "First the facts. *The Consul* is being put on by the New Zealand Opera Company. The New Zealand Players are co-operating with the assistance of their officers, scenery and workshops. As to principle, it is hardly necessary to say that the Trust Board of Control is not subject to any 'money' pressure—apart from making ends meet. Even the Government, our great benefactor, has no direct voice, so your correspondent can rest assured that donations will not be used either to promote or veto any particular production."—Ed.)

MONKEY PUZZLE

Sir,—In the Quiz Kids' session on Friday, August 9, one of the questions was: What is the Monkey Puzzle? One contestant said something about Agathis and Araucaria, and the Quizmaster when summing up said that the trees were not related as they belong to different families. As a matter of fact, they belong to the same family, the Pinaceae, but they are of different genera. The kauri belongs to the Agathis genus and

the Monkey Puzzle to the Araucaria. From Cheeseman's *New Zealand Flora* we glean that Agathis is a "close relative" of Araucaria.

The session would be more interesting if there were more questions in relation to New Zealand, especially about plants.

CONIFER (Wellington).

HOMAGE TO PERCY SCHOLES

Sir,—I was very glad to see your appreciative reference to Percy Scholes in the August 16 issue. Among his books, however, you make no mention of his two fascinating volumes, *The Mirror of Music*, being a history of music for 100 years as recorded in the *Musical Times*—a work comparable in every way with his monumental *Dr Burney* or the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

It may be news to younger readers that this very English musicologist was obliged to assert and defend his Englishness during the great wave of Kaiserphobia during and after World War I. Anyone then with a name that sounded the least bit German was liable to be convicted of the then greatest crime—that of being German. I remember at that time reading Scholes's published advertisements to the effect that he was of English descent, had done war work, and that his family name was pronounced Skoles, or the analogy of "schools"—not Sholes as in German names that started with an Sch. . .

F. K. TUCKER (Gisborne).

TWO PIANOS

Sir,—There are capable organists, flautists and orchestras in New Zealand. On August 5, at 7.23, from 3YC, works for each of these media were broadcast, arranged for two pianos.

To suggest that these works are less effective when played on the instruments for which they were composed than when played on two pianos would be to suggest that the fourth Brandenburg Concerto, which we heard at 7.45, should always be played on two pianos, one piano and two pianos. Doubtless the new cathedrals at Wellington, Auckland and Napier will each be equipped with two pianos, while the National Orchestra will soon be replaced by a varied ensemble: two pianos, one Bechstein, one Welmar, two Steinways and two forties.

Nevertheless, I can see no point in a programme such as that on August 5. Can anyone suggest what point this programme might have had?

DETSUGSID (Christchurch).

THE EPILOGUE

Sir,—What a pity that your reviewer B.E.G.M. should have wondered so long about the Epilogue (BBC), and then have tuned in to the NZBS version. He can hear the former from any YA station at 10.50 p.m. on Sunday. I think he will find that he is not tortured by the Vox Humana stop or Basic English, and he might even appreciate some fine unaccompanied singing and first-rate reading of Lesson and Collect.

MARGERY HORNE (Wellington).

AN UNHAPPY EVENT

Sir,—My son, aged 13 years, always listens with interest to the BBC News and Radio Newsreel. Imagine my surprise when he asked me what a miscarriage was, as Miss Marilyn Monroe had had one. Yes, she was in hospital, following a miscarriage and an operation, a performance hundreds of women go through. I have had three miscar-

riages, but I haven't heard it over the BBC. Well, it took a mighty lot of explaining to my son.

IRATE MUM (Napier).

WASTE PAPER BASKET

Sir,—J.M. can't say that you haven't any sense of humour, after the position you found for his letter. I, too, am weekly intrigued by the waste paper basket, and amused at the top left-hand corner sketch, as well as that which appears on Aunt Daisy's page. These three are my first look, before the programmes. So thanks to you and your artist for many a chuckle you give me, and others too, I'm sure.

M. MCINTOSH (Auckland).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Middlebrow (Palmerston North): (1) The mistiming by four minutes of that work in the *Classical Hour*—where, in spite of your incredulity, it was perfectly well placed and sure to be heard with pleasure by numerous genuine middlebrows—is greatly regretted. (2) The YC programme was designed, six or seven years ago, as one in which listeners may count on hearing that "type of stuff," which (again, believe it or not) many of them enjoy—as Sullivan. Your pleasures seem a little restricted; why seek to restrict theirs?

Not Quite Satisfied Yet (Lower Hutt): Because the new series is judged to be one that rates high as a family entertainment and as such best justifies the early placement.

D.V.R. (Auckland): She is an Australian who has lived and worked in England for many years.

J. G. Ward (Point Chevalier): Yes, so it was; but you over-simplify the problem. In general, all care is taken to maintain the standards you describe, though "all radio speakers" include many whom the Service has neither the right nor the opportunity to correct. But some names are so widely known and almost universally used in a contracted or otherwise incorrect form that the correct one will to many sound pedantic and to some be hardly intelligible. For an analogy, how many Aucklanders call their suburb Panmoby, which is the traditional English pronunciation? A.A.S. (Levin): Sorry; it arrived just too late.

Sunday Supplements (Tokoroa): Thank you. Will make inquiries.

M.M. (Upper Hutt): Thank you. Will pass it on.

C.R.P. (Auckland): No recorded version of *Richard III* is available.

M.M.B. (Wanganui): Correspondence furnishes a constant test. Writers who prefer late placements and writers who prefer early ones are fairly well balanced; but the great majority, who express no preference, may confidently be supposed to include the numerous people who go to bed early or late, as they feel inclined, and will stay up if they have something to do—such as listening to a programme they want to hear. With them will be many others, who habitually go to bed late. The late listener has just as much right to good listening as the early listener.

Mrs Eva Chapman (Howick): Will examine possibility. Thank you.

F. A. de la Mare (Eastbourne): Your letter has appeared elsewhere.

Disappointed (Hamilton): Surely your watch kept bad time? First half, 8.5 to 8.45; interval, 8.45 to 9.0; concert ended just before 10.0. More than an hour and a half is a great deal more than "a brief hour or a little longer."

D.M.L. (Wellington): The rule, known and accepted by all churches, is that if an evening service is not completed by 8.0 the broadcast may be cut at once; and there is often no alternative to cutting it. In Christchurch, however, on the occasion you mention, the broadcast was cut in the mistaken (but not inexplicable) belief that the service had ended.

2YA Listener (Wanganui): "Trolley Bus," by Charles Williams, played by Queen's Hall Light Orchestra, conducted by the composer.

