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Organ of the West Indies Group of University Teachers
(Jamaica Section), P.O. Box 39, Mona P.O., Kingston 7.
Phone 76661, ext. 221, or 70326.

A Christmas Message

by

Aubrey Phillips
Chairman of W.I.G.U.T.

Annual festivals give excuse and opportunity for stocktaking in one field or another. The executive of W.I.G.U.T. in its early days in office for this new session has been doing just that, and this seems an appropriate time to share our thinking with you.

We think that for the coming year we, as an association, as well as in our individual capacities as senior members of the University community, will have certain clear tasks to perform. I will here mention only two. First, we must try very hard to secure the continuance of this University as a quality institution, and secondly we must make sure that the community in which we work has a clear understanding of our proper role and function.

There is evidence to indicate that this University up to the present time has been highly regarded in the academic world. This was not the result of chance. Rather, it sprang from the firm resolve of the early leaders of the University and the various governments to establish such terms and conditions of service as would attract staff of the highest calibre. These people, by their energy, dedication and devotion have earned for us the reputation we now enjoy. Unless we wish to break faith with the visions and ideals of the past, we cannot sit idly by and allow this legacy to be squandered. We know that maintaining it will be costly and this in a territory continually harassed by lack of money to meet pressing commitments. But not maintaining it will be costlier still. Academic reputations once lost are difficult to regain, and we must make sure that our potential leadership receives the best training in a first-rate institution. Only so can we produce from our own territory the first-rate staff that the institution itself will need in the future to carry on the process. If we have good conditions of service then productivity, that ever-present bargaining counter in any negotiation, will take care of itself, and the impact of the University on the region will continue to be enormous.

Our second task for the new year will be concerned with public relations and information. We must make an effort to project a positive and healthy image of the University to the public. I am afraid that too often the public interprets our actions in a queer, warped or distorted light. This often springs from a lack of information. But too often we are inclined to ignore them, and sometimes we are genuinely unaware of misunderstandings. But where there is little communication motives become misinterpreted, and our effectiveness becomes minimised. Too often the charge of aloofness levelled against us is justly earned. Whatever our reasons we refrain from going into the community and offering the kind of leadership that the community has a right to expect from its University. The result is that both the community and the University are the poorer for this separation.

These then are the prime tasks that the executive of W.I.G.U.T. sees before it. But it knows that it can count on the support of members and indeed of all university staff, working individually as well as through their association to further these aims. We wish for all members a proper and sober enjoyment of the Christmas Season and renewed energy and vigour for the challenges of the coming year.

10 December 1965

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

Some recent experiences in the United States of America prompt me to comment for the possible future guidance of other members of staff who may be visiting this country.

Our little girl (aged 6) fell and broke her arm and she had to be in hospital for three days. The injury involved hospital, doctors' and anaesthetists' fees. On every occasion we were asked if we carried Blue Cross or any other type of Medical Insurance. We did not, so this involved fairly substantial personal payments. Our experience prompts me to make two points; one a question and the other a word of advice.

Blue Cross appears to be a highly respected service in the U.S.A. Why so much fuss here?

Members of staff visiting the U.S.A. might consider very carefully taking out some form of medical insurance plan. WIGUT might be interested in making enquiries on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A.W. Sangster
Chemistry Department, U.W.I.

25th November 1965

The S.C.R. New Year Party

It is necessary at times, in the interests of sanity, to interrupt the cerebral throb of the University. Sometimes the stoppage is temporary. December 31st however promises to be a singular dislocation. Items include:

Pool side barbecue
Suckling pigs
Band
Drinks inclusive

Further details can be had from the S.C.R. secretary.

Erehwon

Some curiosity has been expressed over the identity of "S.B.". It has even been remarked for example that "Erehwon", a well-known classic, was written by Samuel Butler and that this was an attempt, albeit presumptuous, to write in a similar vein. Not only does this overlook an obvious difference in spelling, but implies too that there is no university at Erehwon.

In fact "S.B." is none other than Dr. Byrd, a Jamaican recently appointed to the University Hospital. He is a specialist in traction of the lower limb.

Dr. Byrd is married and has three children.

Editor.

background. First, those who have lived in Rhodesia will know that England's legal ties with Rhodesia have long been a formality. Rhodesia has been virtually independent since 1923, and the angry rejection by Rhodesia of Britain's attempt to dictate Rhodesia's legislation in this year 1965 must be seen against this background. England accepted the implications of the 1923 act, and accepted without demur the Land Apportionment Acts that resulted in discrimination against the 'black' Africans' possession of land which was worse, according to the Africa Bureau, than the much-criticised South African bantustan policy. She accepted the Federation, although any independent observer at the time could see this was against the wish of the African majority; she accepted the 1961 constitution. So why should Britain now, when Rhodesia has developed so far along lines Britain has tacitly accepted, step in and suddenly claim drastic control? To pacify other Commonwealth members and world opinion?

Let us step further back from the picture. England, and other European countries, acquired colonies for a wide variety of motives, ranging from national aggrandisement to a desire to bring education and Christianity. These mixed motives became associated into a simplified and largely false cliché of benevolent paternalism. Some colonial administrators did make this cliché a sort of reality, and, for all the insensitivities and mixed motives, English colonialism avoided the worst bungling of the Belgians in the Congo, the French in Indo-China or the Dutch in Java. But England is a democracy, and the cliché of responsibility had no real support from the mass of its people. I deplore this, but I am not making any startling indictment. I cannot think of any nation's mass public, at the present, being concerned in a disinterested way with the needs of millions of people about whom they know very little. In England, then, there was a gap between the ideal of national responsibility, and its actual claims as felt by the individual. Because of this 'gap' the foreign and colonial offices received the poorer quality civil servant, and when a claim on Britain's responsibility did come up, no one really knew very much about it, and there was no pressure of steam behind the government to act. Until along comes a crisis which no one can sleep through - like Rhodesia.

Which brings me, improbably, but, I hope, legitimately, to WIGUT. WIGUT has been much concerned lately with resisting any pressures that might prevent students enjoying the chance to hear the various sides of social or political issues, or that might prevent them developing independent and responsible minds. For one does not need to be a colonial power to find informed and independent minds prerequisite to the working of democracy.

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Rhodesia

The situation in Southern Rhodesia strikes at everybody's sensibilities. Ex-colonial peoples see there anachronistic white domination, exploitation, and denial of the basic rights of the majority. To those like Lord Salisbury, numbed by the rapid revolution in Africa, it is a courageous act resisting the sacrifice of 'civilized' values to the shibboleths of misguided liberalism. Those with investments in Rhodesia might (inaccurately) compare the claims of the Africans with that of a landless but indigenous Carib to the house of a non-Carib Jamaican. Racism, nationalism, neo-colonialism, foreign investment, human responsibility - all highly charged topics - are all relevant to Rhodesia. One would expect the flood of confident advice and angry reprimand that has been directed against England.

The more one knows about the Rhodesian situation, paradoxically the less one knows. It is easy to advise immediate invasion of Southern Rhodesia. A sober consideration of the extent of the well-equipped Southern Rhodesian army, its air force, its extensive territorial backing, the potential support of South Africa, while not ruling out frontal attack, makes one realise the immensity of the task that would face the peace-time British army, already committed in Aden and Malasia. There are a number of complicating factors, such as the lack of adequate airstrips in Zambia (those at Lusaka and Ndola, if in the process of militarization, would be immediately harried by Rhodesian Canberras). All in all not, perhaps, an impractical operation, but a very considerable one, which makes the often-quoted flight of troops to Kenya and to B.G. very different affairs. The most effective use of force would have been in the first stages of UDI, when a determined show of arms might have swayed, with comparatively little bloodshed, a country anxiously uncertain about the outcome of its act. But, each day, anger at the economic pressures exerted by England appears to solidify the country behind Smith. There is now no 'right' way to handle the situation, only the choice between potentially appalling possibilities. At the same time, Wilson must make up his mind about which possibility he is going to embrace: vacillation is the worst course of all.

Perhaps more useful than 'crystal-balling' would be a consideration of the

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Excerpts from The Anatomy of Britain Today by
Anthony Sampson, 1965. Pub. Hodder & Stoughton,
42/- (U.K.)

"One of the most tragic mistakes of British diplomacy since the war has been to leave the Commonwealth - one of the most important and exciting fields of influence - in the hands of a service that was visibly second-rate, and which was kept separate from the Foreign Service, thus producing internal rivalries almost as complicated as international ones...

There remains a sleepiness and slowness in many High Commissions which has transmuted the challenging job of Commonwealth diplomacy into an anxious drudgery, with a perpetual sense of embarrassment about the local inhabitants; indeed many British diplomats, with their fussy periphrases, seem to find the very existence of their temporary country an embarrassment, like a drunken wife rather than a challenge...

The O.D.M.^x represents the opposite kind of diplomacy to the stately irrelevance of the Paris embassy and the old 'Inner Circle'. It is the main outlet for the idealism and enthusiasm of post-imperial Britain, freed from overlordship or paternalism. Compared to the vast cost of conventional diplomacy and international showmanship, it is still a very junior partner. But it represents a far more exciting aspect of Britain's role in the world".

^xThe Ministry of Overseas Developments

The Senior Common Room

The contractor is more or less on schedule and any delay in completion is likely to be due only to problems with the transformer or kitchen equipment. Work is, according to the contract, to be completed by 17th May 1966.

Development of the S.C.R. is three-fold.

1. A new two-storey block with dining-room, linen store, servery, washup area and new kitchen on the ground floor and six new bedrooms on the first

floor (in progress).

2. Reconstruction of the existing staircase with the formation of an entrance with a Porte Cochere (to begin in the New Year).

3. Reconstruction of the bar and with alterations to the present lounge and dining-room. Alterations are to be made too to the toilet accommodation (to begin about April 1st).

It is unlikely that the bar services will be interrupted significantly although there may be temporary inconvenience. Sketches of the bar alterations will be sent from the architect after Christmas.

Further information regarding the development of the S.C.R. can be had from Professor Cruikshank or Dr. John Strangways-Dixon.

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New Staff Appointments - Mona

Dr. Murchison B. Wilson	Research Fellow, Medicine	Nov. 1, 1965
Mrs. A. Jefferson	Assistant Librarian Grade II	Nov. 1, 1965
Mr. Cliff Lashley	Assistant Librarian Grade II	Nov. 8, 1965

One Man's Meat ...

One of our members reports this interesting conversation, which recently took place in the lobby of the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Visiting U.W.I. man: Yes, of course, our campus has much to recommend it; the pupils are congenial and not too numerous, one can usually play tennis, and the sea is not far away ...

Recent American Ph.D. (interested): Why, that sounds swell. How's the pay?

U.W.I. man: Well, I imagine that you might expect about three thousand dollars ...

American Ph.D. (baffled): Aw now, I mean for the year; summer school down there doesn't interest me ... say, did anyone see an Englishman around here?