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FEED BACK

Concorde and no concord

Sir, Peter Cadogan in his review, Radical Europeanism, takes a lot of space to point out the obvious, that we are Europeans for better or for worse, and that joining Europe is not an optional extra like joining the Boy Scouts. He seems to see political independence granted to 'regions' and communities with the benevolent approval of the Eurocrats, who are no doubt good chaps and kind to their mothers.

The trouble with the Common Market is not the politicians and military men — at least the former can be identified and fought in political terms and the military problem of Russia should not be too lightly dismissed, as anyone who has witnessed a Norwegian frigate searching for an unidentified submarine in the fjords can testify. (Norway is so socially relaxed that the police generally wear no uniform)

It is the economic power of the Common Market, its creation of a managerial system of giant monopolies, supported by the dear old Eurocrats who obligingly chop back coal mines and steel mills to the benefit of these giant corporations which frightens a good many democrats. True, at first the E.E.C. was delivering the goods but, surely, just the sort of goods that Resurgence readers have been taught to eschew in the interests of a just and free society. The propaganda for the Common Market is based on a lie, that it is a great opportunity for new markets and healthy competition. In fact, the first action of a great part of British industry was to make cartel arrangements with European counterparts to prevent competition.

The first post-war meeting between French and German socialists took place in the Dennison Hall in London and, in fairness, the later coolness of party politicians to the European developments was entirely justified. The Swiss considered that membership was incompatible with their deeply-based democracy and plenty of English people thought about the matter as earnestly as Peter Cadogan and Shirley Williams but came to the Swiss conclusion.

I applaud a good deal of Peter Cadogan's conclusions but Europe must be a confraternity of free communities with political apparatus to allow popular control of social destiny. If the economic organisation is centralised and irresponsible, and the political control fragmented, things are pretty black. To come to the trivial we already have rules and regulations to control the size of tomatoes and the end is in sight for the Cox's Orange Pippin — I cannot imagine that the authors of these measures are likely to prove sympathetic to cultural idiosyncracies of far greater import such as, say, the Breton language. It's all Concorde and no concord.

With all good wishes, Douglas Stuckey,
42 Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berks. 14.6.74

Radical Europeanism

Sir, It is hard to grasp what Peter Cadogan's vision of future 'Europe' is [Resurgence, Vol.5, no.3]. Johan Galtung's analysis, in the light of current events, is simply unrealistic. As Europe's huge trade deficit with the world outside Europe accumulates, as inflation soars, as the trade slump develops, the governments of the constituent nations are going to struggle harder than ever to beggar their neighbours. Only fear of something even worse happening if the E.E.C. collapses prevents Europe's politicians from letting it go today; and fear is a treacherous cement. In the long term Western Europe with its high and widely spread consumption patterns and scarce natural resources has no possibility of becoming a super power in the same terms as China, USA and USSR.

Far from being gloomy about this prospect, I rejoice that it is so. Europe still has a lot going for it — if the treaty of Rome can be dissolved. The Treaty is a strange mixture of enlightenment and bureaucratic folly. Its basic fault is that, irrespective of what Peter says, the signatories signed it *mainly* because they honestly believed that Europeans would become richer and therefore happier if they obeyed the new set of rules. Not very surprisingly, the same people believe that becoming poorer or even staying still economically means becoming *ipso facto* unhappier. Herein lies the error of Peter's interpretation of what 'Europe' is all about. For the reasons outlined above, post October 1973 Europe will continue to decline economically, politically and socially.

The people of Europe are beginning to understand. Michael Zwerin's article in the same issue describes the beginnings of a new consciousness among the smaller ethnic minorities. Among the young and intelligent there is a welcome revolt against the idea of more is better.



Peter's highly paid Eurocrats are no different from any other civil servants. I have no doubt that many are intelligent and diligent. It is their brief that I most object to. They are doing in a bureaucratic, paper-shuffling way, what there is really no need for. We could abolish all identity systems for example, passports, overnight simply by burning them. But that would jeopardise the security of the fraternity of civil servants which is not what Brussels is about. Parkinson's Law is the unwritten rule of the constitution of United Europe. It is a law fundamental to any civil service founded on the economics of growth.

So let us agree that sovereign regionalism and mutual co-operation will and should grow but leave the millennial dreams of a new Eurochristendom to the dreamers of the European Movement. It is too heavily pawned to military entrepreneurs, political manipulators and multinational business groups to be even worth saving.

Hugh Sharman, 275 Kings Road, Kingston Surrey. 8.7.74