

# Society for Co-operative Studies

## Bulletin 15 March 1972

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# Reports from the Regions

## **Metropolitan and South**

*Joint Convenors:*

MR. W. J. PHILPOTT, B.SC.(ECON.), M.B.I.M.,  
Head of the Department of Management and Merchandising,  
College for the Distributive Trades,

MR. JOHN WALKER,  
Food Trades Officer,  
Luton Industrial Co-operative Society.

The next meeting of the branch will be addressed by Mr. D. A. R. McCallum, a Director of the London Society, who will present a paper on Superannuation Funds. This meeting was originally planned for 17th February but had to be postponed due to the power emergency.

## **Midland**

*Joint Convenors:*

MR. M. GIBSON,  
Department of Economics,  
University of Leicester.

MR. LLOYD A. HARRISON, C.S.D.,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society.

For the session 1971-2 the branch has decided to concentrate on the topic "Co-operation in the Midlands-the next decade", discussing this general theme from both the democratic and economic aspects. Papers have been presented by Mr. M. Gibson of the University of Leicester and Mrs. J. Stansfield of the Greater Nottingham Society.

## **North Western**

*Joint Convenors:*

MR. FRANK BRUCKSHAW,  
Editor, *Co-operative News*.

MR. ROY GARRATT (Acting),  
Librarian, Co-operative Union.

"The Co-operative Movement-the Prospects for Survival" is the sessional theme for 1972, and this was initiated in January with a lecture by Sir Robert Southern, C.B.E., General Secretary of the Co-operative Union, followed by a lively discussion. Sir Robert's remarks received extensive and useful publicity in the *Co-operative News*.

# Current Co-operative Studies and Research

Information on the current contribution by Universities and Colleges to co-operative studies and research has been given in previous *Bulletins*. The following notes now give a comprehensive list for the session.

COURSES COMPLETED OR IN PROGRESS DURING SESSION 1971/72

## *Metropolitan and South*

ILEA College for the Distributive Trades: a five-day refresher course for managers.

## *North-West*

University of Manchester in association with Co-operative Union Section: a course on "Management in Retail Distribution" for senior officials.

Manchester University in association with Co-operative Union Section: a course for directors on Regionalisation and Integration of Co-operative Societies in Britain and Europe.

## *Yorkshire and Humberside*

Leeds University in association with Co-operative Union Section: this continuing course is now covering decision making areas in management, with particular reference being made to the making of decisions in large organisations.

## *Scotland*

University of Glasgow Extra-Mural Department in association with Co-operative Union Section: courses for board members in the Glasgow, Motherwell and Stirling Districts.

Under discussion: courses for board members in the Falkirk and Ayrshire Districts.

Glasgow University Extra-Mural Department in association with Co-operative Union Section: a six-week course for senior officials at Kilmarnock Technical College.

Under discussion: courses for board members in the Borders, East of Scotland, Fife, Glasgow and District, Forfar, and North-East.

## **Research in Progress**

### *Yorkshire and Humberside*

Leeds University: Level of Decision-making in the Board Room, Mr. T. E. Stephenson.

Role of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. T. E. Stephenson.

Problems arising in the emergence of supra-regional societies. Mr. T. E. Stephenson.

### *North-West*

Manchester University: The Co-operative Movement in Sweden. Dr. A. Wilson.

The Degree of Member Participation in West European Co-operative Movements, Mr. D. Smythe.

Information about research and courses in progress or in prospect will be welcomed and should be sent to the Secretary, Society for Co-operative Studies, Stanford Hall, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

# Annual General Meeting and Conference 7th-8th April 1972

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY will be held at the CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE, STANFORD HALL, on FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 7/8 APRIL 1972.

The programme will be as follows:

## **Friday, 7th April**

- 4.15 p.m. Afternoon Tea
- 4.45 p.m.-6.30 p.m. First Conference Paper: "The Future of the Co-operative Movement in the Next Ten Years", by JOHN HUGHES, Vice-Principal, Ruskin College, Oxford.
- 6.45 p.m. Dinner

## **Saturday, 8th April**

- 9.15 a.m.-10.45 a.m. Second Conference Paper: "Management in Regional Societies", by T. E. STEPHENSON, University of Leeds. This was published in Bulletin No. 14, and it will be introduced by a panel representing various areas of interest in the Co-operative Movement.
- 11.15 a.m.-12.45 p.m. Annual General Meeting: including discussion on the future of the Society. The Annual Report is included in Bulletin 15.

Copies of the two Conference Papers and of the Annual Report will be sent in advance to participants.

Bookings are good for the occasion but any members who wish to attend and have not yet booked are asked to get in touch with the Secretary: the inclusive fee for the Conference is £3.50.

## Constitution

### 1. TITLE

The title shall be the Society for Co-operative Studies.

### 2. PURPOSE

The purpose will be to promote the exchange of information and experience on Co-operative studies and research and to help in identifying and developing the studies and research still needed.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be open to all individuals and organisations interested in the development of Co-operative studies and research, each organisation nominating one person as a participant.

### 4. ORGANISATION

- (a) The Society will be an independent voluntary organisation working in close association with the educational organisations of the Co-operative Movement and not intended to overlap the executive functions of these organisations.
- (b) There will be an annual general meeting of individuals and organisations in membership of the Society. Organisations will have one vote each. Decisions will be taken by a majority of the votes of those present.
- (c) The annual general meeting will appoint the following national officers.
  - (i) Presidents  
The number will be decided by the annual general meeting and will represent professional service both inside and outside the Co-operative Movement. Presidents will be eligible for re-election.
  - (ii) Chairman and Two Vice-Chairmen  
The chairman will hold office for one year and shall not be eligible for re-election in the following year.
  - (iii) Secretary and Treasurer  
This appointment will be made annually.  
These officers will be responsible for the affairs of the Society between annual general meetings and in accordance with any decisions of policy made by the meetings.
- (d) Members of the Society within a Section, or group of Sections, of the Co-operative Union will be invited to appoint two joint conveners, one primarily associated with the Co-operative interest, and one primarily associated with the academic interest, to take a lead in organising regional activities.  
The officer of the Education Department of the Co-operative Union in the Section or region will act as Secretary for each set of joint conveners.

## 5. ACTIVITIES

Without setting a limit to the activities that may carry out the purpose of the Society, the following framework will give some guidance.

### (a) Fields of Study

Appropriate fields of study for the Society to keep under review will be:

- (i) Structure of the Movement.
- (ii) Business efficiency.
- (iii) Member participation.
- (iv) Service to the Consumer.
- (v) Political action and organisation.
- (vi) Role of the British Movement in international Co-operation.
- (vii) History of the Movement.
- (viii) Development of Co-operative principles in other fields of economic and social activity.

### (b) Lines of Development

These will include:

- (i) Encouragement of courses and research projects at universities and colleges and at the Co-operative College.
- (ii) Meetings and seminars regionally.
- (iii) Meetings and seminars nationally.
- (iv) Relations with international organisations for Co-operative studies and research.

### (c) Publication

Policy on publications, whether through the Society's own or other media such as Co-operative College Papers, will be determined by members at the annual general meetings.

## 6. FINANCE

The annual subscription will be set at a rate appropriate to cover the running expenses of the Society and will initially be £2 for an individual member, and £10 for an organisation.

## 7. AMENDMENTS

The constitution can be amended by a majority vote at an annual general meeting. Notice of the proposal of any amendment must be made to the Secretary and Treasurer at least four weeks before the annual general meeting.

# The Society for Co-operative Studies

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1971/72

1. The Presidents of the Society- with Sir Robert Southern taking the place of Lord Jacques - have remained in office during the year. Mr. W. E. Lawn has occupied the Chair and Mr. D. Hopwood has served as Vice-Chairman. In accordance with the practice of the Society the 1970/71 Chairman, Mr. John Roper, has been invited to attend meetings of the National Officers during this year.

The Officers have had three meetings, and the following is their report for presentation to the Annual General Meeting on 7th/8th April, 1972.

### 2. Membership

(a) At 31st January, 1972 the membership of the Society (with the 1971 figures given in brackets) was:

Region	<i>Individuals</i>		<i>Organisations</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>'Co-operative'</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>'Co-operative'</i>	<i>Other</i>	
Metropolitan and					
Southern	6 (9)	5 (4)	6 (6)	1 (1)	18 (20)
Midland	11 (13)	3 (5)	5 (4)	1 (1)	20 (23)
North	3 (4)	2 (1)	1 (-)	1 (-)	7 (5)
North-West	8 (9)	8 (8)	8 (5)	1 (1)	25 (23)
Scottish	21 (18)	7 (9)	2 (3)	2 (2)	32 (32)
South-West	3 (3)	(1)	1 (2)	1 (-)	5 (6)
West	4 (6)	(-)	(-)	- (2)	4 (8)
Yorkshire and					
Humberside	4 (4)	1 (1)	6 (8)	1 (-)	12 (13)
Overseas	1 (2)	(-)	(-)	- (-)	1 (2)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	61 (68)	26 (29)	29 (28)	8 (7)	124 (132)

(b) The recent record of total membership, at the end of January in each year, has been 142 (1970), 132 (1971) and 124 (1972). About the distribution of membership at 31st January 1972 it is worth noting:

- (i) That the Co-operative Union nominates 12 and the S.C.W.S. 11 members.
- (ii) There are 11 new individual members and 6 new organisations.
- (iii) The proportions of "Co-operative" and "Other" members in 1971 and 1972 remain pretty much the same.

### 3. The "Bulletin".

The programme has been to publish *Bulletins* No. 13, 14 and 15 during the year. The annual bibliography is intended for *Bulletin* No. 15 and again we are much indebted to the service of Mr. B. Howcroft, FLA, Manager of the Library and Information Unit of the C.W.S. Marketing Services, for this preparation.

#### **4. Other National Activities: Research**

##### (a) CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Education Executive was grateful for the advice of the Society about the disposition of this Fund.

Two projects have already been promoted from it:

- (i) A grant to Mr. T. E. Stephenson of the University of Leeds for his research into "Management in Regional Societies". An interim report of this was published in Bulletin No. 14 and forms the basis for one of the sessions at the 1972 Annual Conference.
- (ii) A senior research fellowship has been established at Loughborough University of Technology to undertake an investigation over two years from October 1971 into the long-term problems of financing Co-operative retail societies in times of inflation. The Research Fellow is Mr. I. Kirkpatrick, B.Sc(HONS), and he has the advice of a steering committee whose membership includes Mr. K. A. Noble, President of the Society, and the Secretary and Treasurer.

##### (b) DIRECT PROMOTION BY THE SOCIETY

Following the discussion at the 1971 A.G.M. on the future of the Society and a review of this by the National Officers, two lines of action were agreed:

- (i) The commissioning of a document on "The Future of the Co-operative Movement in the Next Ten Years" by Mr. John Hughes, Vice-Principal of Ruskin: this will be the second discussion paper of the 1972 Conference.
- (ii) An offer to each Region of a grant of up to £40 to commission the preparation of a paper on some Co-operative topic of interest in the Region but also of general relevance. One or two Regions are hopeful of action on this line.

#### **5. Regional Developments**

##### METROPOLITAN AND SOUTHERN

The branch continued to meet on a quarterly basis and the attendance at meetings remains disappointing. During the year two papers were submitted, one on Value Added Tax and the other on Business Ratios. Papers from other branches were occasionally submitted and discussed.

##### MIDLAND

The activities of the branch during 1972 have been concentrated on re-establishing itself after a dormant period. The success of this has been demonstrated by attendances at a series of meetings where the topic "Co-operation in the Midlands- the next decade" has been discussed under the sub-headings Democracy and Trade. Papers have been presented by Mrs. J. Stansfield and Mr. M. Gibson.

##### NORTHERN

The Branch met twice during 1972 when two subjects were usefully discussed. Clive Kent, Esq., B.Sc., Tutor Organiser of the Workers' Educational Association, introduced and explained the experiment in Joint Collaboration between the Co-operative Union and the W.E.A.

Later in the year a very interesting and informative discussion took place following the introduction by Mr. J. B. Lister of Monkwearmouth College of Further Education of the film the "Managerial Grid".



#### NORTH WEST

"A National Co-operative Society" continued to be the predominant theme at branch meetings during the year and provoked a wide diversity of views in discussion. The departure of Regional Secretary John Atkinson to London Society and delay in finding a successor caused a temporary lapse in branch activity but eventually Co-operative Union Librarian Roy Garratt became Acting Regional Secretary, and meetings were resumed in November when Desmond Hopwood, Lancaster University, lectured on French hypermarkets. Sessional theme for 1972 is "The Co-operative Movement: Prospects for Survival" which, it is envisaged, will be discussed by co-operative leaders from all sections of the Movement.

#### SCOTLAND

The Scottish Branch, apart from interest in a number of Extra-Mural Classes, and supporting meetings of P.A.C.E., held three Branch meetings during the year.

The first meeting was addressed by Mr. George Gay, D.L., J.P., who gave a "Review of the Co-operative Scene in Scotland".

The second meeting was addressed by Dr. J. Butt, Strathclyde University, on "Owen and Owenism in the Bi-Centenary Year". Of special interest was the indication of how Robert Owen may have regarded present day problems.

The third meeting was a very successful Open Meeting on "The Impact of Hypermarkets". Invitations were issued to City Councillors, Academics and Co-operators, resulting in an attendance of 60. Five speakers gave short introductory talks followed by ample discussion. This is probably the most worthwhile activity the Branch has undertaken to date.

#### WESTERN

There have been four Branch meetings during 1971 attended by a small but enthusiastic nucleus of members. Two new Joint Convenors have been appointed and areas of activity have included consideration of a paper 'Employee Involvement in the Co-operative Movement' (continuing); a Sectional Essay Competition, and assistance with the formation of the South Wales Library of Labour History.

#### YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

The valuable weekly meeting of senior Co-operative officials from several West Riding societies continues at the University under the friendly and diligent care of Mr. T. Stephenson. The value of this course is now clearly proven, and its comradeship greatly appreciated by all who participate. The group has been discussing decision-making in Co-operative societies, with particular concern for the problems caused by the emergence of larger units. Mr. Stephenson's own research work based on experiences culled from the emergence of the North- Eastern Society now provides the society at this regional level with an area for fruitful work.

### **6. Relations with Other Organisations**

In general relations have been maintained with the British Section of the International Centre for Research and Information on Public/Co-operative Economy, the International Co-operative Scientific Forum, the Institut Français de la Coopération and the Association of Co-operative Educators in Chicago.

## 7. Finance

The Cash and Bank Account for the year ended 31st December 1971, has been audited and compared with the Account for the previous year, is as follows:

	1970		1971	
	£	p	£	p
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Cash in hand brought forward .. .. .		2·27		0·70
Cash at Bank brought forward .. .. .	603·22		758·26	
Subscriptions .. .. .	570·10		628·00	
Fees—A.G.M. and Conference .. .. .	76·00		126·65	
Fees—Seminar .. .. .	5·00		—	
Sales—Society <i>Bulletin</i> .. .. .	0·40		0·22	
Contribution to Printing—Society <i>Bulletin</i> ..	—		40·00	
Bank Interest .. .. .	3·41		4·35	
	£1,260·40		£1,558·18	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Printing—Society <i>Bulletin</i> .. .. .	295·00		323·50	
Stationery and Postage .. .. .	61·82		58·27	
Typewriting .. .. .	9·91		38·45	
Telephone .. .. .	1·33		3·07	
Annual General Meeting .. .. .	66·40		152·87	
Other Meetings .. .. .	59·20		17·50	
Subscriptions Refunded .. .. .	2·00		12·00	
Fees Refunded—Seminar .. .. .	5·00		—	
Cheque Books .. .. .	0·31		—	
Bank Commission .. .. .	0·47		0·75	
Cash in hand carried forward .. .. .	0·70		42·05	
Cash at Bank carried forward .. .. .	758·26		909·72	
	£1,260·40		£1,558·18	

The accumulation of cash-in-hand and at Bank - continues and, no doubt, this offers its comfort. It also reflects our failure to expand the programme of the Society up to the limit of the resources that could reasonably be made available.

## 8. Role for the Future ?

The Report of the National Officers last year analysed experience so far and raised quite pressingly the question whether the Society had found a distinctive and productive role which justified its continuing existence. There was agreement that a primary purpose was to increase the number of people in universities and colleges interested in the Movement, studying its problems and engaged in a useful dialogue with active Co-operators, and about service to that objective two general questions were raised or implied:

- (a) Do the resources devoted to the Society look like showing "cost effectiveness" in achieving the objective - either within the present framework of the Society or through some adaptation of it, *e.g.*, by taking as a basis universities or groups of universities throughout the country and by concentration on gathering in each of these staff and students with some degree of interest in the Movement?
- (b) Or should we give up the kind of separate organisation envisaged under (a) and let the educational agencies of the Movement, particularly the Education Department and College, resume responsibility for the functions which the Society was intended to carry forward- aided perhaps by a panel of active academic advisers on a national level?

In the discussion at the Annual General Meeting last year some satisfaction, but no complacency, was expressed about the progress of the Society so far: it was acknowledged that its progress was limited but so inevitably were its possibilities. Certain guidelines, particularly for the stimulation and discussion of research projects, were set out for attention in 1971/72. Now looking over the record since then we feel that the achievement on national level has been fairly well maintained but that there is still need for much more development within the Regions. The question of securing that would be a very useful focus point for discussions at the 1972 meeting.

# Recent Publications on the Co-operative Movement

## A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

BERNARD HOWCROFT, F.L.A.

*Mr. Howcroft is Manager of the Library and Information Unit of the C. W.S. Marketing Services. He has indicated his willingness to give any help and advice he can in obtaining copies of this material to members of the Society who may have difficulty in doing so. His address is Library and Information Unit, Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., P.O. Box 53, New Century House, Manchester M60 4ES.*

### BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

- AMES, J. W. *Without boundaries: Co-operative Sweden today and tomorrow.*  
Manchester, Co-operative Union Ltd., 1971.  
vii, 220pp.
- 'ANNALS OF PUBLIC AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY'  
Articles published in the 'Annals of Collective Economy' (1925-1963) and in the 'Annals of Public and Co-operative Economy' (1964-1970), Liege, CIRIEC, 1971. 38pp.  
A chronological arrangement of all articles, giving title, author and commencing page number, from Vol. 1 (1925) to Vol. 41 (1970).
- BUTT, JOHN, *editor* *Robert Owen: Prince of cotton spinners;* edited by John Butt.  
Newton Abbott, David & Charles, 1971. 265pp.  
A collection of seven essays by James H. Treble, Margery Browning; W. Hamish Fraser; J. T. Ward, Ian Donnachie; John Butt and John R. Hume.
- COLE, MARGARET *The Life of G. D. H. Cole.*  
London, Macmillan, 1971, 304pp.  
A useful chronology appears on pages 17-19 and a list of his books in Appendix A, pages 289-292.
- COLE, MARGARET, *and others* *Robert Owen: industrialist, reformer, visionary, 1771-1858:* four essays by Dame Margaret Cole, Dr. John Butt, Mr. William P. Watkins, and Prof. John Harrison.  
London, Robert Owen Bicentenary Association, May 1971. 32pp.  
The essays are:  
  
'Robert Owen until after New Lanark' by

Margaret Cole; 'Robert Owen and trade unionism' by John Butt; 'Robert Owen and the Co-operative Movement' by W. P. Watkins; 'Robert Owen and the communities' by John Harrison.

'CO-OPERATIVE NEWS'

One Hundred Years of the *Co-operative News*, 1871-1971.  
(Supplement to *Co-operative News*, 4th September 1971. pp 9-40).

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

*Consumer Affairs-A Co-operative Approach.*  
A statement to be submitted for approval to the 1972 Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party.  
Co-operative Party, Feb. 1972. 6pp.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

*The Role of the Co-operative Party today.*  
A statement to be submitted for approval to the 1972 Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party.  
Co-operative Party, 1972. 8pp.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

*We must conquer unemployment.*  
A statement to be submitted for approval to the 1972 Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party.  
Co-operative Party, Feb. 1972. 6pp.

CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD.  
Congresses, Special Congress,  
London, 4th September 1971

The Common Market: report of the special congress of the Co-operative Union held in London on 4 September 1971, 37pp.

CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD.  
Education Department. Robert Owen Bi-centenary Summer School, 17th-23rd July 1971

Robert Owen and his relevance to our times: addresses contributed during the Robert Owen Bi-centenary summer school, 17th-23rd July 1971.  
Loughborough. Co-operative Union Ltd. Education Dept. September 1971. 63pp.  
The Papers are:  
'Owen and the environment' by W. H. G. Armytage; 'Robert Owen in his own time' by John Butt; 'Robert Owen as an Economist' by Sidney Pollard; 'Owen as a Co-operator' by B.J. Rose; 'Robert Owen as a Trade Unionist' by Hugh Scanlon; 'Robert Owen as Educationalist' by Harold Silver. Foreword by R. L. Marshall.

CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD.  
Publications Department

*Portrait of a Movement: A guide to British Co-operation.*

Manchester, Co-operative Union Ltd., 1972.  
32pp.

A well-illustrated, popular description of the functions of retail societies, the national federations and the various special societies. A new diagram, "How democracy works in the Co-operative Movement", covers the centre pages.

CROSLAND, C. A. R.

*A Critical Commentary on Co-operative Progress.*

Manchester, Co-operative Union Ltd., 1971.  
9pp.

An address to the Co-operative Party annual conference, 1971.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF  
RESEARCH AND INFORMATION  
ON PUBLIC AND CO-OPERATIVE  
ECONOMY (CIRIEC)  
Congresses

*Public and Co-operative Economy and Concentration of Undertakings: report of the proceedings of the International Symposium of CIRIEC, Montreux, 11th-13th May 1970.*

The whole of a double issue (V. 41, Nos. 2 and 3, April-Sept. 1970) is devoted to reporting the papers presented at and proceedings of the symposium.

"The Concentration Trend among Co-operative Enterprise Groups" and "Co-operation in Collective Economy" are two of the four areas reviewed.

OWEN, ROBERT

*Life of Robert Owen*, by himself: with his preface and an introduction by John Butt.

London, Charles Knight & Co., 1971. xxxviii,  
249pp.

POLLARD, SIDNEY, *and*  
SALT, JOHN, *editor*

*Robert Owen: Prophet of the Poor: essays in honour of the two hundredth anniversary of his birth.*

London, Macmillan, 1971. xi, 318pp.

A collection of essays by J. F. C. Harrison; Chushichi Tsuzuki; R. G. Garnett; Harold Silver; Eileen Yeo; John Saville; A. J. Robertson; W. H. Oliver; Margaret Cole; W. H. G. Armytage; H. Desroche; E. Hasselmann. The last of the contributions by Erwin Hasselmann is entitled "The Impact of Owen; ideas on German social and Co-operative thought during the Nineteenth century".

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE  
EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION,  
Working Party [on  
Co-operative Democracy]

Report of Working Party established by Annual  
Meeting 1969.  
Scottish Co-operative Educational Association,  
June, 1970. 7pp.

PERIODICAL ARTICLES, PAPERS, ETC.

BING, H. F.

A Co-operative Development Agency-is it  
desirable?

NOBLE, K. A.

Two viewpoints by the former tutor in social  
studies at the Co-operative College and by the  
vice-chairman of C.W.S. Ltd., respectively.  
(In: The Society for Co-operative Studies,  
*Bulletin*, No. 11, Nov. 1970, pp. 9-13).

BRUCKSHAW, FRANK

The Swedes *are* member-relation conscious  
(In: *Co-operative News*, 13th February 1971,  
p. 6).

BUTCHER, M. E.

The Problem of Member Participation.  
(In: *Co-operative Review*, January 1971, p. 4).

CAMPBELL, HAROLD

Housing co-operatives in Britain.  
(In: *Annals of Public and Co-operative Economy*,  
V. 41, No. 4, Oct.-Dec. 1970. pp. 325-337).

'CO-OPERATIVE  
NEWS'

A National Society. An address delivered by  
Ernest Mather (then Chief Executive Officer of  
C.R.S.) to the North Western Branch of the  
Society for Co-operative Studies, on the highly  
controversial subject of "A National Society",  
was reprinted in two articles in *Co-operative  
News* 31st October and 7th November 1970. His  
views sparked off a lengthy exchange of views in  
articles and in letters to the *News*. For  
convenience three earlier articles are also  
included here. For correspondence, only the  
contributor's name, the issue of *Co-operative  
News* and the page on which it appeared are  
given.

*Articles:*

MATHER, ERNEST

'Why ... How'. (31st Oct. 1970, pp. 6 and 8).  
'Go National for Go'. (7th Nov. 1970, p. 4)

TAVISH, MICK

'National Co-op-Meeting the Challenge of the  
Multiples. (5th Sept. 1970, pp. 6-u).

STEPHENSON, T. E.

'Is Giant Size the Answer?'. (19th Sept. 1970, p. 6).

EMONDSON, T. R.

'Going National' is No Panacea. (5th Dec.  
1970, pp. 6 and 11).

- [CO-OPERATIVE UNION  
CENTRAL EXECUTIVE]
- PERROW, J. H. 'No National Society for long time'-Central Executive. (12th Dec. 1970, pp. 1 and 16).
- TAVISH, MICK 'The National Society-another viewpoint'. 30th Jan. 1971, pp. 4 and 6).
- WOODS, R. 'This National Society'. (30th Jan. 1971, p. 2)
- JACQUES, JOHN, Baron Jacques 'A National Society-why?' (6th Feb. 1971, p. 6)
- Correspondence : 'A National Society by treaty?' (20th Mar. 1971, p. 6).
- Mather, E. (26th Dec. 1970, p. 5).  
Fox, L. C. (26th Dec. 1970, p. 5).  
Edmondson, T. R. (9th Jan. 1971, p. 5).  
Forsyth, C. T. (12th June 1971, p. 6).
- CO-OPERATIVE PARTY
- 'The Need for a Trading Standards Service'. (In: *Platform*, Sept. 1971. (Supplement to *Co-operative News*, 11th Sept. 1971, p. 19).  
Re-organisation of local government presents a real opportunity for the Government to place a statutory duty for the administration of consumer protection services, on local authorities.
- CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD.  
Research & Statistical Dept.
- 'Retail Performance in 1970: a difficult year'. (In: *Co-operative Review*, Aug. 1971, pp. 1-2).  
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# The Consumer Co-operative Societies in the Common Market

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## **Foundation and Organisation**

Already shortly after the signing of the E.E.C. Treaty, the Consumer Co-operatives in the E.E.C. made contact with one another and on 11th June 1957 founded the "Community of Consumer Co-operatives". The members were ten National Unions of Consumer Co-operatives and Wholesale Societies in the E.E.C. countries. The purpose of this organisation was to represent consumer interests with the E.E.C. authorities. The secretariat was established first in Brussels and later in Paris.

When in the year 1962 the first Agriculture regulations came into force, which in their practical application, often led to very rapid changes in the import duties for the trade in agricultural products, the Wholesale Purchasing Societies set up their own representation alongside the above-named organisation in Brussels, namely EURO-COOP, in order to obtain at first hand the earliest possible information about the agricultural market.

On practical grounds and also to present a united front to the outside world, the two above mentioned organisations were amalgamated into EURO-COOP. Their Secretariat is in Brussels.

## **Adoption of the Constitution**

EURO-COOP adopted at its constituent assembly on 4th November 1970 in Cologne a Constitution defining the following objectives:

1. Official representation of the Consumer Co-operatives with the institutions of the European Communities, in particular the Commission of the European Communities, as well as representation of consumer interests.
2. to contribute to the realisation of a European economic community in the sense of the Treaty of Rome, and
3. to further and to co-ordinate the common interests of the Consumer Co-operatives in the Common Market.

At the present time EURO-COOP has 13 member organisations in 5 countries, viz. 1 in Holland, 2 in Germany, 2 in France, 3 in Italy, and 5 in Belgium.

## **The Development of Co-operation**

While in 1962 the activity of the EURO-COOP Secretariat was exclusively concerned with the distribution of information for the Wholesale Purchasing Societies, already in 1963, the Secretariat proposed economic co-operation to the members of EURO-COOP and circulated proposals for co-operation in trade. In 1964 a number of working groups were established the aim of which was the common purchase of fruit and vegetable preserves and fish products, as well as coffee and tea. Closely related to this there took place in the sessions of the working groups a valuable exchange of information on prices, markets and sources of supply.

Very soon a EURO-COOP emblem was created which will later be used by the member undertakings and printed on all their products. There followed common purchasing and also the creation of a common trademark for tinned sardines. In the following years the working groups entered those of the Co-operative Wholesale Committee which was a sub-committee of the I.C.A. in London.

From 1965 the EURO-COOP Secretariat has also been concerned with the co-operation of the Wholesale Societies in the field of production.

As the first common undertaking of EURO-COOP, there was opened in 1966 the EURO-COOP BISCUIT FACTORY N.V. in Utrecht, Holland. It was to mass produce a few articles. Accordingly its production is limited to five lines. At the beginning the productive capacity was 4,500 tons per annum. By 1971 it had risen to 7,500 tons per annum.

All the Wholesale Purchasing Societies in EURO-COOP are members of this undertaking. All the Wholesale Purchasing Societies are also purchasers of these products, even the geographically very distant Italian Wholesale Purchasing Societies. But there are also exports to the KF in Sweden. A great part of the production will also be sold to non-co-operative purchasers.

After a two-year building period the EURO-COOP CHOCOLATE AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY FACTORY G.M.B.H. in Dortmund was inaugurated. In this concern also all the Wholesale Purchasing Societies are members. This is the first big project of EURO-COOP with a total investment of more than 60 million German Marks (about £7,250,000). This, the most up-to-date European undertaking of its kind in the largest consumer field in the Common Market, went into full production at the beginning of 1972. It will in the first place replace three obsolete Co-operative chocolate factories and serve those Wholesale Purchasing Societies which do not possess their own chocolate and confectionary production, but also supply private customers.

The capacity of this factory is reckoned at about 20,000 tons per annum, the number of different commodities produced about 300 and the number of employees 600-700.

In the field of production of preserved vegetables enquiries are being under-taken as to the possibilities of co-operation, as also in the sector of pastry products. In both these fields of production the Wholesale Purchasing Societies possess several factories of their own on the national level.

### **Economic Co-operation**

For the organisation of economic co-operation, the establishment of an economic committee was foreseen in the constitution of EURO-COOP. (This economic committee is identical with the former EURO-COOP before the amalgamation in the year 1970.) This serves only for the internal co-operation of the Wholesale Societies of the Consumer Societies in the E.E.C. and does not deal with external relations.

Within this economic committee are eight working groups for different fields of production, e.g. a group of experts for pastry products, wine and spirits, meat and meat preserves, coffee, etc.

These working groups have ensured a very close co-operation. Their purpose is first of all to arrange common purchasing in their countries, but also to further co-operation in buying in the E.E.C. countries as well as the exchange of co-operatively produced goods in the E.E.C. countries. The consumer societies united in EURO-COOP have a retail trade of more than 12 milliard DM and a wholesale trade of about 5.5 milliard DM, of which more than 1 milliard DM is in their own productions.

### **Relations with the E.E.C. Authorities**

EURO-COOP is the accredited representative of the consumer co-operatives with the Commission of the European Communities, especially with the General Administration for Agriculture as are also the other national organisations of those engaged in agriculture which are on the E.E.C. level.

Besides this, EURO-COOP was also up till now represented in the Consumers Liaison Committee in the E.E.C., in which along with the Consumer Co-operative Societies, the Trade Unions, the Family Associations and the Consumers' Associations were represented. This Consumers' Liaison Committee was however dissolved on 14th February 1972. The Consumer Co-operative Societies must therefore increase their efforts to protect efficiently the interests of consumers in the E.E.C.

In detail, co-operation with the E.E.C. authorities takes place in the following ways:

EURO-COOP expresses an authoritative view on the E.E.C. Commission's most important proposals for Ordinances and Regulations relating to Consumers and Consumer Co-operative Societies. To work out its attitude to such proposals there exists in EURO-COOP a "Consumer Protection" working group.

EURO-COOP participates in various advisory committees which have been set up on the Commission level for those agricultural products, for which there exist marketing regulations, e.g. for milk and milk products, grain, rice, etc.

The EURO-COOP Secretariat conducts professional and consumer-political discussions on all levels of the E.E.C. technical offices and represents the interests of the Consumer Societies. With the Council's Secretariat and with the Economic and Social Committee the Secretariat of EURO-COOP maintains contact as also naturally with the other European organisations of Employers, Commerce, Agricultural Co-operatives, etc.

In the past year EURO-COOP organised, together with the E.E.C. Commission, an Information Conference at which was discussed the E.E.C.'s agricultural, industrial and regional policy and also the problems connected with the entry of England, Denmark, Norway and Ireland. Representatives of the Co-operative Consumer Societies of these countries were present.

EURO-COOP has established together with the Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg a common "COOP" working group. Within this working group the Statistical Office has carried out an investigation into the cost structures of the Co-operative Societies in retail and wholesale trade and in production.

In addition the Consumer Co-operative Societies take part in the half-yearly retail price fixing in the retail trade, that is to say price increases follow after a comparison, of prices in the Co-operative Consumer Societies' stores.

### **Towards a European Co-operative**

The working group on Law, after two years of work, has prepared a draft of a constitution for a European Co-operative and has sent it to the Commission of the European Communities with the request that they should adopt it. The European Consumer Co-operative Societies need for their economic co-operation a modern Law on Co-operatives which will allow them to borrow the necessary capital. In fact the first joint session of the appropriate division of the E.E.C. Commission with the EURO-COOP working group will be concerned with this proposal.

A working group on Taxation within the EURO-COOP has in recent years occupied itself with the problem of Value Added Tax and will discuss the future proposals of the E.E.C. concerning the harmonising of taxation systems and regulations.

Finally, the working group on Co-operative Politics has produced a memorandum entitled "The Co-operatives and Europe" which was adopted at the last members' meeting of EURO-COOP on 15th November 1971. In it is described the establishment of the Common Market and then attention is drawn to the gaps in the building of Europe. Finally proposals are put forward indicating the way the Consumer Co-operative Societies envisage a European Economic Community and suggestions as to the role the Co-operatives should play in the creation of this Europe.

### **Future Tasks**

The next tasks of EURO-COOP will lie in defining what long term aim should be pursued in the Co-operation of Consumer Co-operative Societies in Europe and in securing a stronger representation of Consumer Co-operative Societies with the E.E.C. Commission.

EURO-COOP hopes in this work to have the support of the Consumer Co-operatives of the newly joining countries, especially Great Britain.

The growing competition in the E.E.C. which results from even more powerful competitors, makes it absolutely necessary that the Consumer Co-operative Societies in the E.E.C. unite all their forces, in order to maintain their future position in face of economic competition and thereby protect effectively the interests of the consumers.

# International Notes

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*7th International Congress of Co-operative Science.* A preliminary announcement issued by the Co-operative Research Association at the University of Münster (Westphalia) includes the provisional programme of the next triennial Co-operative Scientific Congress which will be held at Munster from 19th to 22nd September 1972. There will be three days of discussion, followed by a day for visiting different Co-operative enterprises, of which Westphalia can offer a rich assortment, including the great regional consumers' co-operative based on Dortmund and some powerful agricultural marketing, supply and credit federations. The first day's proceedings are concerned with problems of democracy, management and control in co-operatives of highly industrialised market economies. The second day is devoted to co-operative problems of the developing countries and to the internal organisation and politico-economic functions of co-operatives in countries with socialistic planned economies, with special reference to Poland and Hungary. On the third day the Congress will return to the highly industrialised countries in order to consider Co-operative policy in relation to competition and cartel legislation. During the Congress there will also be a meeting of the International Forum on Co-operative Research. More detailed information will be issued in April.

*The French Institute of Co-operation.* In the special issue of the *Revue des Études Coopératives* which appeared towards the end of last year to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of that quarterly review, was an announcement giving full particulars of the Institut Français de la Coopération formed by the merger of two bodies which had existed separately for many years. These were the Institute des Études Coopératives, whose aims and activities have been mentioned from time to time in these Notes and the Institut Français d'Action Coopérative. The former and older institution operated almost entirely within the boundaries of metropolitan France and, like our own Society for Co-operative Studies, aimed, among other things, at promoting active collaboration between Co-operative educationists and researchers on the one hand, and, on the other, teachers and students at all levels of the national educational system throughout France. The latter and younger institution was founded in the 1950s when the French Co-operative Movement began to shoulder its responsibilities for rendering technical assistance to the promotion of Co-operation in the French-speaking less-developed regions of the world, and especially Africa.

The basis of the new Institute, even more than that of the two previous ones, is inter-co-operative. That is to say, its founder-members include all the national non-trading federations which represent the different branches of Co-operation in France, besides two central credit institutions and the Central Office for

School Co-operatives-14 in all. Its objects are the organisation of studies, research and experiment to every form of Co-operation and the diffusion of the resulting documentation both inside and outside the Co-operative Movement, so as to promote and strengthen Co-operative enterprise in advanced industrial countries and developing countries alike. Its headquarters remain at the older Institute's address: 7 Avenue Franco-Russe, Paris VIIe.

The *Revue des Études Coopératives* (Review of Co-operative Studies), mentioned earlier as celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation, was the creation of Professor Charles Gide, the eminent economist, one of the founders of the International Co-operative Alliance and France's greatest propagator of Co-operation, and of Professor Bernard Lavergne, well known for his studies of co-operative service organisation amongst French and Belgian local authorities, who is still living.. He recently published a re-statement of his Socialist and Co-operative doctrine, entitled *Le Socialisme à visage humain* (Socialism with a human face). The commemorative number of the *Revue* is a remarkable volume of some 200 pages. It contains a facsimile of the titlepage of the first issue and reprints the full text of the Manifesto in favour of Co-operatives published in 1921 by eminent French publicists, scientists and academic teachers of social sciences in 13 universities. Besides Professor Lavergne's own reminiscences and other articles looking back upon the development of the *Review*, this number contains a series of articles describing the progress of every form of Co-operation in France and the International Co-operative Movement from 1921 to 1971. The contribution of the *Revue* to every aspect of Co-operative thought and action on both the national and international levels entitles it to a unique place among Co-operative periodic publications.

*Co-operative Management in the 1970s.* In 1969 the International Co-operative Alliance held its 39th annual International Co-operative Seminar (formerly School) at Madison, Wisconsin, where the University, in conjunction with the Co-operative organisations of the U.S.A. and Canada, several years ago established a Training Centre which now has a world-wide reputation. Owing to difficulties in assembling the necessary material, publication of the proceedings of the Seminar has been delayed, but it is hoped to bring out soon after Easter a volume in the I.C.A. "Studies and Reports" series which will make generally available the ideas and suggestions put forward by eminent professors, consultants and Co-operative administrators in their respective special papers and case-studies. Starting with the change, now visible, in the concept of management from a centralised authoritative process to one of participation and widely diffused responsibility, the underlying argument proceeds through planning, control and communication to its natural conclusion in the appropriate methods of education and training the newer concept requires.

#### REORGANISATION OF RETAILING

*Regionalism.* The re-organisation of the retailing sector on a regional, rather than a local or district basis is making notable progress in most of the Consumers' Co-operative Movements of Western Europe. In Western Germany



last year's congress at Wiesbaden adopted a plan, already partly in operation, to cover the whole territory of the Federal Republic through 20 regional Consumers' Societies. It was hoped to complete the preliminary planning by the end of last year and to fulfil the whole scheme by 1975. On the 1st January, 1971 the three district societies based on Cologne, Düsseldorf and Wuppertal were formally united as a single society for the Rhineland; with a membership of 250,000 and aggregate turnover of 500 million Deutschmarks. Immediately to the south of it, based in Frankfurt, is another regional society, the Rhein-Main. In Austria amalgamations are steadily proceeding according to the scheme adopted in 1969 whereby the Movement in the several Lander (or provinces) will be consolidated on the basis of strong local societies already well-established in the principal conurbations. From Switzerland come reports of an amalgamation which will form a similar nucleus in the area of the Rhine valley, Lake Constance and St. Gallon. In France, where regionalisation began fifty years ago after the first World War, over nine-tenths of the national Co-operative retail turnover is now handled by such societies. A line drawn on the map from Paris to Strasbourg intersects the boundaries of no more than four societies- Paris, Champagne, Lorraine, and Strasbourg. Regional societies in all the countries named are making rapid headway in the establishment of supermarkets and hypermarkets at strategic points in their respective areas. The time is rapidly approaching, if it is not already come, for some comparative studies on the processes and problems of regionalisation in neighbouring countries in the European Economic Community.