

Message from The Rt. Hon. C. A. R. Crosland

Those responsible for the direction of Co-operative societies and the Co-operative Movement - whether directors or officials - have of course an immediate task of meeting the conditions and challenges of the moment by the relevant decisions. These decisions, however, require to be guided by long-term objectives based on the analysis and assessment of the needs of the future. This was a general emphasis in the Co-operative Independent Commission Report: the last words of the general part of that Report were:

Indeed, our final recommendation is that the Movement should formally re-examine not only constitutional issues such as this but also its basic trading policies at least once every decade.

To this process, formal or informal, of continuing re-examination and re-definition of Co-operative policies I believe the Society for Co-operative Studies can be of great help. It can bring together representatives from all areas of Co-operative interest and many individuals, particularly from universities and colleges, interested in Co-operative institutions and policies. The Movement can gain greatly from exposing itself to this kind of sympathetic and salutary study: and universities and colleges too can gain from this engagement with an organisation of considerable economic and social significance in our times.

I wish the Society well in its intentions and efforts.

ANTHONY CROSLAND

June 1967

Notes

Anthony Crosland served as Secretary to the first independent Commission of Inquiry into the Co-operative Movement, also known as the Gaitskell Commission (1956-58). The report produced in 1958 and published by the Co-operative Union was largely written by Crosland. An archive copy of the report can be found at Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/details/CooperativeIndependentCommissionReport1958/mode/2up>

This message was first published in the Society for Co-operative Studies *Bulletin*, 1. June 1967, p. 3