

### Britain's Socialist Government's Vote Of Confidence Is Merely Friendly Gesture At Zero Hour

By DEWITT MACKENZIE  
Associated Press Foreign Affairs Analyst

Britain's socialist government, having received a vote of confidence from its big majority in the House of Commons, is free to continue its struggle with the economic crisis which is tearing at the vitals of the nation.

That affords some moral encouragement to the harassed cabinet, but it cannot provide the material aid or even the advice so grievously needed. It is merely a friendly gesture at the zero hour as the badly armed government goes into fresh action against strange hazards.

One of the hopeful aspects of this grim situation is that the government has no delusions about the gravity of the situation. It is well aware that the country is in the midst of an economic life-and-death struggle.

All of which is by the way of saying that no man can foresee the extent of crisis, or the remedies necessary to its cure. It's likely to be a protracted operation, recognition of these facts constituted the main value of the two-day debate in commons, or so it seems to me.

Sir Stafford Cripps, chancellor of the exchequer, was near to tears as he hammered home to a tense commons that "our civilization itself must fade and wither away" unless the nation produces more goods immediately and sells them to America. Cripps isn't

given to exaggeration and he is not the emotional type. He meant what he said.

Britain is scraping the bottom of the economic barrel. Her immediate resources have been largely depleted. She hasn't the wherewithal for a quick recovery. That is why Sir Stafford warned the country that it couldn't exist on the charity of the United States. Said he:

"At the root of our success or failure lies our own capacity to produce. The only real solution for our difficulties is more and more economical and efficient production."

One drag on Britain's recovery rests in the fact that much of the rest of Europe also is hard hit. Numerous countries are just about living on the Marshall plan which is slated to expire in 1952.

In addition to increasing production the government is taking other measures to conserve resources. The budget is to be slashed \$784,000,000, and another \$400,000,000 is to be cut off dollar imports. Loans and credits to

### Motor Vehicle License Fee Of \$10.20 Explained

If the annual motor vehicle registration fee is \$10.00, why does a license good for twelve months cost \$10.20?

That is the question puzzling thousands of Oregon passenger car owners as they receive statements from Secretary of State Newby, giving the amount they must pay for their 1950 license plates. These amounts range from \$3.10 to \$14.45 for validity periods ranging from six to seventeen months.

Newby explained that the last legislature increased the regular annual license fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00, but at the same time provided for a staggered renewal, permanent plate system in which one twelfth of all future expirations will occur each month. To put the plan into operation, it was necessary to issue the first plates for periods of six to seventeen months, with the fee varying accordingly.

To avoid the difficulty of computing fees in fractions, the legislature simply set the license cost at 85 cents per month for the first plate. Future renewals will be for one year at the annual fee. All 1949 plates will expire December 31, the same as in other years, Newby reminded owners. The staggered system applies only to 1950 licenses, which must be obtained before January 1.

Other countries are to be restricted.

The government also will make it difficult for people to sell in the so-called sterling area, thus forcing them to sell in the dollar area to glean the dollars, which are needed badly for the purchase of supplies in the United States.

In this connection it is noted that about 20 per cent of British exports have been going abroad against sterling credits. This operation is to be stopped so that the exports will go to the dollar area.

Present indications are that the government isn't going to let itself be stampeded into a general election but will carry on and try to secure an economic improvement before next summer when an election normally will be due.

In trying to figure what would happen if a general election were held now, some political experts confess themselves at a loss. They say that the independent voter, who will swing the balance, is confused and undecided because of the gravity of the economic crisis.

Therefore the calling of an immediate election would be gambling on an unknown quantity. Thus the government's present plan is to hang on and see if it can't improve conditions before asking the country to vote.

### Sheep Production Of U. S. Drops From All-Time High In 1942 To Record Low On January 1, 1949

In 1867, the first year of annual records in the United States, there were more sheep than people—46.3 million people, now, and around 38 million people. Now, according to a recent department of agriculture report, there is one sheep per 5 persons.

The 32 million head of sheep and lambs on farms and ranches as of January 1, 1949, was a record low. The number also represented a reduction of 43 per cent from the record high of 56.2 million in 1942, the largest reduction for any class of livestock in a 7-year period.

The report points out that partial cause of the big decline in sheep numbers after 1942 was a shortage of skilled labor. Opportunities in other farming and in industry lured many sheep herders from their lonesome and often low-paying occupation. It is likely that sheep herders will remain comparatively scarce except in times of economic depression.

The history of the migration of the sheep-raising industry was roughly similar to that of the receding frontier, as sheep shared with cattle in varying proportion each new farming and range area that was opened up. Since there are no more frontiers, the future of sheep raising will depend in large measure on how effectively sheep can compete with other enterprises for land and labor in established farming and ranching areas.

Sheep ranching requires many acres of land for even the smaller flocks. Sheep also demand considerable care for protection against predatory animals, shearing, lambing, dipping, and other services.

This year, flocks are being reduced less than last year, and numbers may be substantially the same at the end of 1949 as at the

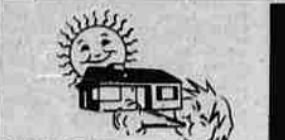
beginning. Future levels of sheep numbers cannot be foretold accurately. Any improvement in comparative costs or returns, however, would encourage expanded numbers.

**SHOTGUN WOUNDS YOUTH**  
Lakeview, Ore. — (AP) — Jerry O'Leary, 15, was shot in a hunting accident Sunday.

Sheriff Thomas Elliott said Jerry's companion, Charles Hamilton Jr., 18, was loading his shotgun. The shell exploded as it entered the chamber. The charge went through the barrel and into O'Leary's left thigh.

### Births at Mercy Hospital

**BASHFORD**—To Mr. and Mrs. Robert W., 635 Cobb St., Oct. 28, a daughter, Penny Joy; 8 lbs. 9 oz.  
**DENNY**—To Mr. and Mrs. Arthur F., Sutherland, Oct. 26, a daughter, Vicki Lee; 7 lbs. 12 oz.  
**BAIRD**—To M. and Mrs. Elmer C., Oakland, Oct. 25, a son, Stephen Elmer; 11 lbs. 1 oz.  
**BANNINGER**—To Mr. and Mrs. Lauren O., Myrtle Creek, Oct. 28, a daughter, Laurie Josephine; 8 lbs. 6 oz.



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