

British Plan Legislation to Aid Morals

By FRANK MARGAN
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LONDON (UP)—Britain's 18-month-old moral clean-up campaign has moved into the political arena.

Parliamentarians, church and civic leaders and even members of the cabinet are weighing legislation to wipe out prostitution, homosexuality, pornography and obscene literature.

The Churchill government lately has been so plagued with demands to ban the sale of so-called horror comics that two cabinet ministers have hinted at the introduction of laws to keep them off Britain's bookshelves.

The government also is faced with what has been described as "intensified activity" by prostitutes and pervers, while variety theatres are being scored for presenting "nude" shows to the exclusion of what is called "traditional British variety."

The comics at issue are those whose central characters are ghouls or vampires, the "crime often pays" type, and others that exploit excesses and amoral acts. One Firm Stops

The storm against this type of children's "entertainment" has reached such proportions that already the largest firm, producing "horror" comics here has announced that it will cease publication and devote its energies to better-type products.

But there are still horror comics in circulation and so much concern is felt over their influence among children that the leader of the Anglican church, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, recently led a deputation to discuss the problem with the home secretary, Major Lloyd George.

Lloyd George promised the deputation the "most careful consideration by the government" of the whole horror comics question. Soon after he announced a full government inquiry into the matter, and hinted that legislation would be introduced into the next session of parliament to ban "horror" altogether.

Sir David Eccles, minister of education, saw an exhibition of the horror comics sponsored by the British Teachers' Union and commented: "I think it may well be necessary to take stronger action against these publications."

The Teachers' Union told its members that children may be legally punished for reading, anywhere on school premises, horror comics blacklisted by headmasters.

Nudity Scored
Recently the Bishop of Coventry, Dr. Neville Gorton, condemned the way in which sex is being commercialized in Britain in some films, books and newspapers, and his attack received much support.

Dr. Gorton said that the commercialization of sex was the most destructive influence with which he had to deal, and it had contributed to the breakdown of the Christian principle of marriage and "formed the greatest disintegrating evil of the day."

There has been a campaign against the number of films being brought into the country with the alleged intention of receiving an "X" (adults only) certificate from the censors.

Then there is the fight in the vaudeville theaters over the nude and "strip" shows. Vaudeville artists associations claim that girls with no stage ability whatsoever are crowding out real performers. Theater managers reply that today's customers want to see nudity.

A 14-member committee representative of all classes and interests in the country is at present sitting as a government inquiry into the existing laws relating to homosexual offenses and prostitution.

On the committee's findings the government will judge what new legislation will be necessary to combat the increase in prostitution and homosexuality in Britain in recent years.

Sir Arthur Morse, chairman of the British Holidays and Travel Association, said the prostitute problem in London is without parallel in the western world and that overseas visitors are being continually shocked by its enormity.

Brother Breaks Rule, Brother Reports Same

MILWAUKEE (UP)—Blood may be thicker than water, but duty came first for Benny Parker, nine.

His brother, Danny, eight, slipped his water pistol under his jacket and took it to his grammar school recently. Benny is a member of the student council and a grade ahead of Danny.

On the way home to lunch, Benny pulled his gun for the time. Benny, no squealer but honorbound, marched back to the school—without lunch—and reported his brother.

"But, mother," he said, wiping a tear, after school, "Judge Hansen told me I had to do my duty every day."

Scientists have found evidence that the January thaw regularly predicted in old time almanacs is a reality that takes place in most years, say the National Geographic Society.

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