

Truth

Long ago a Governor asked a Man "What is truth?" and didn't wait for an answer. Today, skeptically, man still regards truth as desirable but unobtainable. And yet, if there is no truth, there is nothing. For truth is the basis of all things.

Man, we may accept, has a mind. Many learned men, however, deny that men are superior to beasts. Man, for such men, has no mind. And if man has no mind he cannot know truth. He cannot, in fact, know anything. For to know something is to know that something is true, and that is to know truth.

If man knows anything, therefore, he has a mind, and can, and does know truth. And when he knows that he knows truth, he knows that such truth

VOLUME I, NO. 1

REASON

This is the first edition of "REASON." It is a modest effort. Its contributions come from a young group of Jamaicans who have no axe to grind. There is no political bias to "REASON." "REASON" could aptly be described as conservative. Readers may think at times "REASON" is revolutionary. The philosophically minded might even call it liberal.

"REASON" does not hope to provide all the answers to any question. At times "REASON" may only strive to stimulate thought. "REASON" will aim at other times to put the pin to the balloon of popular fallacies. "REASON" will endeavour

Neutrality

Neutrality is not new--throughout the two World Wars there were Nations who all along took a neutral stand. But today there is a Cold War, which is like a "Battle of Ideas," or a "Battle of a Philosophy of Life."

There is the Western camp, believing in a free society that recognises man's right to ownership of property so that he may find his own happiness and salvation, while not sacrificing the common good. The Eastern bloc on the other hand believes in the complete ownership of all property by an all powerful State which sets itself up to look after man's happiness here on Earth as the End All and Be All of man's existence. Between these two diametrically opposed ideas of a way of life, there seems to be no middle course, yet there are those who have set themselves up in a so-called neutralist bloc. Is it their eventual aim to reconcile these two philosophies or is there some other expediency that brings them together? Many of us in the Western world regard them as opportunists, playing one side against another in the interest of Economic Aid.

The Allen Award in Retrospect

Twelve months later--and, after the shock of retroactive pay, the smoke screen thrown up by those affected adversely has subsided, a few facts remain unaltered:

1. The workmen benefitting from the Award were not, and still are not receiving a pay such that they can live and support a family in a normal decent way.
2. A slump in the planning and design departments of the construction business began with the pre-Referendum unrest and continued through the period between the Referendum and political Independence.

Finally, the lack of work suffered by the design and planning departments was felt inevitably by the field construction department.

Then came the change in policy of the two governments, and the problem was doubly complicated. (Continued)

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"REASON" believes that there is too little reasoning around. "REASON" will ask its readers to reflect rather than readily accept appearances. "REASON" recognizes a permanent, impassable chasm between right and wrong. "REASON" holds that man is a moral being with an eternal destiny. "REASON" will try in future editions to prove that man's purpose in this world is to serve God and to save his soul.

The Church and The Voter

There is no free act of man that does not have moral implications. The Church then, as guardian of the moral law has an opinion on every free act performed by man, but a detached opinion by any society serves very little to influence man's actions. Unless a direct approach and a forceful opinion are used, man is likely to drive the way of his personal pleasure or his instinctive personal safety; for example, men sometimes will not risk their lives in combat unless harangued by a convincing leader.

The act of voting, like any other act performed by man should not be performed indifferently, but directly and purposely to reflect the greater honour and glory of man's Maker. Who then, is more qualified to instruct man as to how he can best sublimate this most significant act?

The Church as a body should never oppose any particular political group, unless such a group promotes ideas directly contrary to the aims and purposes of the Church. If the Church does not side with parties, it may have to take risks; but this does not say that it should not openly instruct its voters that they be wary of certain practices and ideas promoted by a special party, without giving offence and with the moral well-being of the individual fully in mind.

Unionism in Jamaica

Jamaica is in dire need of a trade union. Unions we have, but trade unions we do not have.

Trade unions were formed to combat the avarice and greed practiced under a system of Free Enterprise, which, degenerating into extreme capitalism, regarded the workers' labour merely as a constituent of the finished product, to be calculated at the lowest possible cost.

The voice of the individual worker was weak. But by joining together in an organization workers gained the power of collective bargaining, justly and necessarily.

However, leaders of workers eventually found themselves with powers such that they could virtually determine whether the country would go forward in peaceful cooperation between labour and management or be wastefully tied up in useless strife.

Along with this power therefore, there resides the obligation that the norms of justice and equity be strictly observed. For the common good demands an atmosphere of mutual trust. (Continued)