

power to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to earn a living, and to blame the abandonment of free trade for the mass unemployment we have known in the past, is to fly in the face of reason — and of history.

The British unemployment of the 1930's, for example, was not the *result* of defection from free trade after a century of enjoying its benefits. It was the tide of unemployment (never below one million from 1922, and rising to 2.6 million between 1929 and 1931) which forced the National Government of October 1931 to take action — any action — against it. Unfortunately, one of their measures was the misguided imposition of tariffs.

For all its virtues, free trade cannot neutralise the more fundamental effects of a country's system and pattern of land tenure, the factor above all others that determines — or very largely determines — who shall have the opportunity to produce and who shall not.

ADVENTURE OR DISASTER?

SIR, — Mr. Heddle (May/June issue) calls Europe a "great adventure". An avalanche is an adventure — so is falling into an abyss.

With the amount of unscrupulous, one-sided, pro-market propaganda paid for by the public treasury (nothing like doing your own brainwashing!) and the quite disgraceful roping in of the state education services, up to university level, for this purpose, (as I have first-hand experience of myself), it is no wonder if ordinary people feel their confidence in their own underlying judgement of the situation shaken at times. One is grateful to journals like *LAND & LIBERTY*, which have continued to present the true perspectives of the situation. George Gale, of London Broadcasting Company also put it well recently:-

"In terms of the economics of the argument it is extremely difficult for the man in the street to determine whether we are going

to gain from entry into the Common Market, or not.

"However, if you take the economics side of the question as unproved either way, we are then left with the political question. Now the political question is really a very simple one, and that is, whether or not you wish in the long run for the government of this country to remain in the hands of Parliament and in the hands of the British people, or whether you wish, in the long run for the government of this country to pass to some federal united states of Europe, of which we would be a province, or a part, and in which the capital would presumably be Brussels, or somewhere like that. Do you wish, that is to say, for the ultimate political authority to pass out of this country, or not?"

Mr. Heddle's words about our "leading from the driving seat" in Europe, express a deluded hope — and a dangerous one. Bureaucracy has never given the lead to anything worth while *at all*, in any case. If one doesn't know that, then one doesn't know the ABC of P.P.E.

Yours faithfully,

SHIRLEY-ANNE HARDY

London, W.11.

OVERPOPULATION?

THE entire U.S. population could live in single-family houses in an area the size of Iowa, or if we all lived in the states of Texas and Oklahoma combined, with our other forty-eight states completely devoid of population, the density of those two states would be a little less than in West Germany and the United Kingdom today.
Charles F. Seymour, President American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE?

SIR, — Mr. John Heddle (*LAND & LIBERTY* May-June) equates his statement that on 28 February

"18 million electors in this country voted for the pro-European Conservative and Liberal Parties and only 11 million voters gave their support to the anti-European Labour Party," with support for or against the E.E.C. For naive self-deception this takes some beating.

As for "going back on our word" (if we withdrew from the E.E.C.) is this not precisely what Mr. Heath did to the electorate when he led us in without a mandate?

Yours faithfully,

J. G. GERRARD

Slough, Bucks.

THE AMERICAN DREAM?

WHEN, some 200 years ago, that slightly smelly real estate speculator Daniel Boone slashed his way to the top of Cumberland Gap, he saw blanketed before him what was probably the largest territorial commons in the history of North America. He stood dumb, it is said, silently dipping into the future far enough to envision those grasslands filled with commerce. The land was called Kentucky.

Two hundred years later, Kentucky is once again on the verge of the real estate man's dream. Caught up in the nation's headlong lust for land, the state is faced with a real estate hustle nearly as great as the one Boone and his fellow settlers first unleashed.

The speculators on Kentucky's soil have found a classic rallying point — the construction of a new international jetport for Louisville, the state's largest city.

The airport's dreamers determined to locate well beyond suburban Louisville in one of three rural counties, thereby gobbling up hundreds of acres of fine farm and dairyland — cheap. From the airport comes growth: hotels, shopping malls, amusement parks, new towns, freeways.

— *New York Times*, May 29