

The Bishop's Village

THE village of 100 Mile House, with a population of 1,200 people, the only village in British Columbia owned by one man, is up for sale.

Lord Martin Cecil, the fifty-six year old British-born nobleman who owns the approximately one square mile of land the village occupies (and the 11,000 acre Bridge Creek Estate nearby) has offered to sell his leaseholders the land they occupy.

But the leaseholders are not, as yet, making a mad rush to buy. They feel that the price being put on the land is exorbitant.

A spokesman for the leaseholders, who asked not to be identified, told *The Sun* that the land is being offered at prices as high as four times the value of the land as assessed for tax purposes. He estimated that if all the land was sold at these prices Lord Cecil would take in close to \$2 million.

Lord Cecil told *The Sun* that the land values were set by independent appraisers from Kamloops who appraised the land according to current market values in comparable communities.

In 1954, Lord Cecil became Bishop of the Emissaries of Divine Light, a religious order founded in 1932 by an American, Lloyd Meeker.

—*The Sun*, Vancouver, November 22

Amazing Price

THE Evesham building firm of Wheeler and Mansell Ltd. paid the highest price it has ever paid for building land at an auction sale of a site of nearly two acres at Stow last month. The purchase price was £15,250.

Mr. A. R. Mansell, the managing director, said: "It is definitely the highest price I have ever paid for building land anywhere and is exceptionally high for this part of the country."

The latter observation was confirmed by the auctioneers, Curtis and Henson, of Banbury. A member of the firm said: "I cannot recall a higher price being paid in this part of the Midlands; it is an amazing price and must be well in excess of what one would normally expect for a site of this size."

"We shall certainly proceed with the building, for which permission has been given," Mr. Mansell said later. "This is a very nice site, elevated seven feet or so above the ground and the houses will have a wonderful view across surrounding countryside."

— *Evesham Journal*

Our Delinquent Mothers

MR. NEIL MARTEN asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what has been the cost to public funds in the latest convenient period of twelve months of school milk.

Mr. Redhead, Minister of State, said: The cost to the Exchequer of free school milk supplied during the financial year 1964-65 was as follows:

	£
Purchase of Milk	13,117,000
Overhead expenses	306,000
	£13,423,000

— from *Hansard*, November 15.

The Surcharge Affair

THE debate in the House of Commons on the Temporary Charges on Imports (Continuation) Order 1965 — in other words the 10 per cent surcharge — was a strange affair, with the conscience-torn Liberals, for whom the high agricultural protectionist, Mr. George Mackie, Member for Caithness and Sutherland, spoke, voting against the Government, Mr. MacLeod making what sounded very like an attempt at a free trade speech for the Conservatives, and Mr. Douglas Jay, the basically free trade

President of the Board of Trade, weakly defending the continuation of the surcharge with quite uncharacteristic lack of logic.

— *City Press*, December 3.

In the Public Interest — Of Course

THE Board of Trade announces that no imports of butter will be authorised in addition to basic quotas for the period December 1, 1965, to January 31, 1966. A further announcement will be made shortly about any additional allocations for the last two months of the quota year, from February 1, 1966, to March 31, 1966, in the light of the supply situation and of the price.

Basic quotas for the year April 1, 1965, to March 31, 1966, were announced on February 24, 1965, and totalled 420,000 tons. In addition, 39,000 tons was authorised at that time for delivery in the period April-November from countries with basic quotas who had estimated that they might have such additional butter. Australia and New Zealand, whose heaviest shipments come in the period December - March, and the Irish Republic, retained their rights to send us proportionate shares of total imports.

Letter to the Editor

SIR, — As a resumé of the history to date of land use and planning, the article "Groping in the Dark" in your last issue was excellent and informative.

What I am concerned about, however, is the last paragraph which supports the idea of authoritarian direction of land use. Fortunately the "new reader" might also have read "Expensive Space" in *Miscellany* on page 154 — "Arbitrary designation of land uses will never provide the efficient land use that market forces will produce."

If by planners the writer meant people acting in their individual capacities and subject to natural economic law, well and good. But the whole of the article refers to the existing authoritarian planning set-up; therefore the last paragraph suggests that provided we had land-value taxation, these despots could go ahead quite merrily with their arbitrary direction of land use.

I do not dispute that these planners are efficient and that their plans are based on knowledge of the varied

uses of land, but they would be supermen if they could conceive the infinite intricacies of human inventiveness and imagination.

It is not that "land based taxes should eradicate many of today's planning problems" but that these taxes should enable all men to have the use of land to carry out their own ideas of what they want to use it for.

There are too many examples of ruling political forces having used the Town and Country Planning Act provisions for their own political objectives. Some of these are positively unsound economically; sometimes it has been emotional ignorance based on concepts of state paternalism.

I hope I have not misread the article, but the above is what it meant to me. I am all for planning but it must follow from the liberty of the individual and not be imposed upon him in a fashion far beyond the legitimate interests of the community.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN MARTIN.

Fordingbridge, Hants.