



The Great Betrayal

AS BRITAIN enters the Common Market with little more than one in three of the population in favour of the move, what are our thoughts?

Two things must be said at the outset. First, this policy of joining the Common Market is utterly wrong in principle and will be proved to be so in time. Secondly, the Government is deliberately flouting the wishes of the majority of the British people, and will ultimately come to regret it.

It is ten years or more since it was first proposed that Britain should join the European Economic Community. Since that time there has been a ceaseless barrage of propaganda, both government and non-government, much of it of a dubious nature, in favour of Britain joining the EEC, the cost of which must have run to hundreds of thousands, if not millions of pounds. Yet the British people remain unconvinced. The national press, with the honourable exception of the *Daily Express*, has contributed to the brainwashing, extolling the virtues of membership, predicting dire results if Britain did not join, and for the most part reluctant to print any contrary view except perhaps in the correspondence columns.

The forces in favour have been powerful - the civil service, the Government in power, the press, industrialists, academics, and particularly well financed propaganda organisations. The articulate opposition has been small, fragmented, and perpetually short of funds. Yet most people remain unconvinced.

Entry into the Common Market goes against the whole of British history. It is at variance with the British character, and involves acceptance of methods and institu-

tions incompatible with our own. In short, it means the end of Britain as we know it - or at least as we may like to remember it - and the merging of a once independent country into an artificial community of illusory benefits and very real problems.

We say "as we may like to remember it," for Britain has changed considerably over the last ten years, and nearly all this change has been foisted on us with one eye on eventual membership of the EEC. Decimalisation of the currency, metrication of our traditional and far more convenient weights and measures, the use of the centigrade temperature scale, value added tax, are all examples of the softening up process, designed to make Britain more like the rest of Europe, so that the transition will not appear so great. It is a monumental, politically shabby trick.

Already some of the effects of membership are becoming apparent. The question of continental heavy lorries is much in people's minds. The British Government can no longer control the size of lorries on British roads - it is done from Brussels. This is just the first effect of membership to make itself felt - but there will be a thousand more, each one convincing the people more firmly of the folly of this sell-out by their political masters.

Governments no longer represent the views of the people to any real extent. Parliament has lost its authority and its stature, and is seen for what it is, a rubber stamp for the decisions of the executive. The executive is firmly controlled by the Prime Minister, who can replace cabinet ministers at will, and the Prime Minister is in his turn the sounding board and front man for powerful vested interests.

Britain is going into Europe not because the British people wish it - they do not - but because there are people and institutions who for their own purposes and their own ends want us in. As always, they dress up the proposal to make it appear to be for the benefit of the people (the campaign for fluoridation is another recent example) and are joined by the political theorists and the emotional do-gooders in a wave of righteous authoritarianism that is contemptuous of all opposition and of the wishes of the people at large.

LAND & LIBERTY has always opposed Britain's membership of the Common Market. It has done so for three reasons:

- 1) We believe in freedom, and there will be less freedom in the EEC; in particular this country will no longer be in control of its own affairs, and the businessman will be subject to a host of new rules and restrictions.
- 2) We believe in free trade. The Common Market is a customs union - to put it bluntly, a protectionist racket - and the chances of achieving unilateral free trade are thereby immeasurably decreased.
- 3) We believe in the taxation of land values. The

Community does not. Neither does the British Government, but it is easier to convince one government, and bring about a change, than to convince six - soon to be nine - squabbling governments and a supranational authority answerable to no-one.

Entry into the Common Market is a disastrous step. Britain is taking her eyes from the horizon and resting them on her own back yard. She is renouncing a worldwide outlook for a posture of parochialism. She is renouncing tradition and principles at the expense of her own overseas peoples. And our foolish government sees this as a cause for celebration.

Never has a British government been so short-sighted, so indifferent to the wishes of the people, so arrogant and so dishonest as this present government has been on the issue of the Common Market.

This is a day of gloom for Britain. It will be no consolation, when things go wrong, when the promised benefits fail to materialise, and the shortcomings are so apparent, to say "I told you so." The people of Britain do not need telling. They know. It was the Government that needed telling, and the Government would not be told.

Meanwhile we can only work to undo the monumental error that has been made and to assert once again the common sense voice of the ordinary people of Britain. From now on it is not *Keep Britain Out* but *Get Britain Out*.

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THE CITY of London probably never was as enthusiastic about membership of the EEC as it was represented to be, and if it was, it certainly no longer is, says Lombard, writing in the *Financial Times*.

The recently elected Lord Mayor of London, Lord Mais, admitted that he was not "a completely dedicated Common Marketeer."

The chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Martin Wilkinson, pointed out that the traditions of the City were much at variance with those of other countries. There was a fear that directives and regulations from Brussels would conflict with the City's traditional ways of managing its affairs.

The head of one of the American banks in the City warned that the much talked about prospect of London emerging as the financial centre of Europe might well be achieved at the sacrifice of its present position as the international banking centre of the world.

There is a growing feeling that British membership of the EEC will bring the City little business that it would not have had anyway, while exclusion from the rest of the world will lose it a great deal of its present business. On balance the City will be very much worse off.