

## NO DANGER TO SOVEREIGNTY

From the U.S.A.

SIR, — I have read the articles on the Common Market in *LAND & LIBERTY*. Basically your position is right; that is, that a full free trade programme is what we want; and that a common tariff wall around the Common Market countries is not free trade.

But there are other aspects to the Common Market that strike me as significant and encouraging. Firstly, it was a great step forward that six countries, traditionally hostile to one another could have achieved such a rapprochement. Each one had surrounded itself with trade barriers against the others, and now such barriers have been reduced and are in line to be abolished altogether; and other benefits have resulted, such as greater freedom of movement and common business rules. That Europe did not go all out for free trade is to be regretted, but historically few advances toward freedom are made on such an all out basis; rather they are built up bit by bit. Our own U. S.A. took a similar step when the Constitution forbade tariffs between states. This was a great improvement over the previous condition, in which thirteen separate bickering states had tariffs and other barriers against one another. True, it would have been better if the U. S.A. had not also erected a common tariff barrier against the rest of the world, but the step that was taken was nevertheless an advance.

Besides the internal good that the Common Market has done, it has also had a great effect on the rest of the world. It has served to demonstrate the advantages of freer trading. The world may not yet be ready for the next logical step, to see that full free trade is the best way; but the Common Market has at least shaken loose some old fixations and, in countries far and wide, it has given rise to some very earnest thinking about freer trade. The U. S., too, has been stimulated to undertake a freer trade programme.

I realise that the discussions in *LAND & LIBERTY* have been dominated by the urgent question of whether Britain should or should not join the Common Market. The main arguments against joining are: that it would not be a real step toward free trade, but simply joining a trade bloc; that it would endanger the political independence of Britain; and that it would force less favourable trade arrangements upon the Commonwealth countries. If you will pardon the temerity of an outsider offering opinions on these points I offer them herewith.

True, joining the Common Market would not be a real free trade programme. But what really are your chances of persuading the British Government to adopt an out-and-out free trade policy as an alternative? On the other hand, if Britain did join the Common Market, the other members of the E.F.T.A. would undoubtedly follow suit. Besides the beneficial effects on the countries concerned, the effect on the world at large would be redoubled, protectionist theory and practice would be still more jolted,

# COMMON MARKET

*America*

*Scandinavia*



and the move toward freer trade would be further accelerated.

As for Britain's political status, would that not depend upon negotiations? The Treaty of Rome is rather general on that point, and so far the member countries have certainly not relinquished any of their national sovereignty. They have come more readily to agreement on economic matters; but there is at present some disagreement as to how to proceed toward political union, and meanwhile, no country is giving up a jot of its identity. Should an agreement be reached, it is one that all will find acceptable. If Britain were in the negotiations her terms would be part of the deliberations. I think a desirable outcome would be some sort of federal union. (Do you recall, the British Government went even further than that just before the fall of France in 1940, and proposed that France and Britain form one government?)

As for trade relations with the Commonwealth countries it is true that is a tough nut to crack. But, there again Britain in her negotiations with the Common Market can surely work out some sort of agreement, even if it is a compromise. The Commonwealth countries are already looking around for other trading opportunities in anticipation of Britain's joining the Common Market. They may not fare so badly; and may we not anticipate their re-joining when the idea catches on; when we all finally realise that we should have nothing less than a world-wide Common Market?

Yours faithfully,

New York.

—R. CLANCY.

## NEW BYZANTINE EMPIRE?

*From Denmark*

SIR, — Sometimes history is stronger than ideas, at other times it is not. But if history and ideas unite, nothing will be stronger. European integration is both history and ideas.

Much more unites our countries than divides them. Western Europe is a product of the Atlantic Ocean; our climate is Atlantic; our rivers flow to this ocean and our trade goes across it. We have a common cultural heritage from Palestine and Greece, and we all honour

# CORRESPONDENCE

M. CUSTOMS



*New Zealand*

*W. Germany*

the Declaration of Human Rights. And in spite of the blood that has watered our soil, the idea of European co-operation is still strong.

But history often develops more slowly than the demands of time. Although we are building up a European Common Market, we are citizens of the world and the demand of our time is for freer trade between all countries. We want good relations with the under-developed countries and so must neither shut them out, nor discriminate among them, but simply let them sell their goods to us.

As most of our exports go to Great Britain, Western Germany and France, and as most of our imports come from those countries, I think that my country, Denmark, has to join the E.C.M. But, I fear that the Common Market will then be closed to other parts of the world and a Byzantine Empire of administration will be built up.

Although the best way would be to abolish all customs duties, perhaps the Rome Treaty will eventually lead to free trade. If the detour proves to be a short cut, we must join.

However, in future, history may present a new demand for an open world. Then history and the idea of free trade will unite and nothing will be stronger.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER USSING OLSEN.

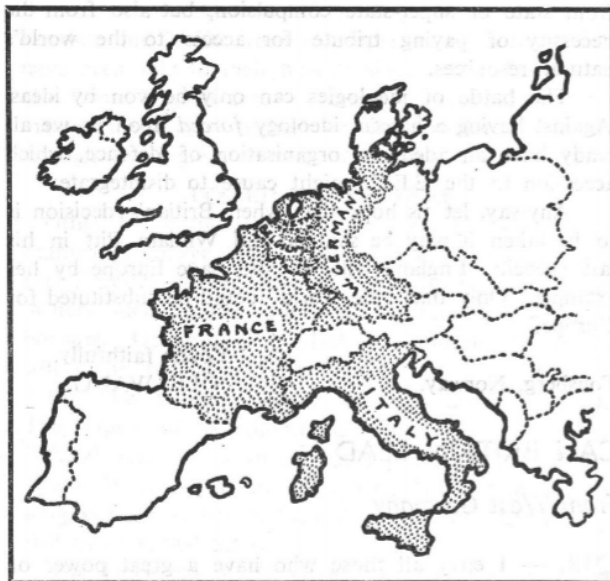
Denmark.

## ATTEMPTED SELF - SUFFICIENCY

*From Norway*

SIR, — The excuse for outside comment on Britain's joining the Common Market is that the question concerns us small fry inasmuch as we are supposed to follow in Britain's wake if she decides to put into the inner harbour of the Six.

It may be questioned whether the benefits supposed to be derived from participation in the E.E.C. with its 200 million inhabitants would not be more than offset by the obstructions that would arise between the 15 times as many in the rest of the world. The arguments for free trade and the international division of labour within the



Community hold good and to a higher degree for world-wide co-operation, the working towards which would be hampered by the attempted self-sufficiency of the E.E.C.

It should be borne in mind that the inner Six and their prospective further members, form, as a whole, a highly industrialised community for which it is essential to exchange its manufactures for the raw materials and foodstuffs from other parts of the world, where control previously exercised by the "inner circle" is lost or dwindling. If trade between the not yet industrialised areas and E.E.C. is obstructed by the latter's protective tariffs, there are others anxious to step in.

Other aspects of the E.E.C. have been overshadowed by the economic considerations. In view of the expected development into a federal union, would it not be wise to see what form this will take, before deciding one way or another? A "Bill of Rights" according to time-honoured English and American precedents might be necessary.

The main objection to the Rome Treaty is, however, that its draftsmen do not seem to have taken sufficiently into consideration the enormous progress of science and technology which, to quote from last year's Papal, Encyclica "increase the relationship between political communities and hence render their inter-dependence ever more profound and vital" so that all problems "present today supra-national and even world-wide dimensions." The Encyclica also speaks of the need to create a more human balance in world relations.

So far, the high-level conferences seem to centre only on the *instruments*, not on the *causes* of war. One of the most important of the latter are trade barriers. From behind the Iron Curtain there has been talk of peaceful co-existence, and of surpassing the West in productive capacity. Our belief in liberty makes us feel confident that a free system will eventually win. But by a free system of production is meant one that is free not only