

that it is good in parts and that some of these parts are superbly argued and in the best traditions of the art of the politics of commonsense and reality. Mr. Powell is right in taking to task his countrymen for their almost neurotic lack of confidence in themselves and their future, but there are too many options left

open in his own case and too many hedged buts for me to accept that he is the man to show us the way. Freedom is the only way, but real freedom is something a good deal more precise and coherent than that offered by J. Enoch Powell, M.P. The new Cobden has yet to appear.

# Paranoia

ORMONDE

**I**F WE DO NOT APPROVE of someone's opinion or behaviour, the epithet "paranoid" is a useful and modern way of condemning it. Sometimes the term "schizophrenic" can be used but the ultimate reproach is to call someone a "schizophrenic paranoiac," or vice versa.

According to the dictionary, a paranoiac can simply be a "crank," which leaves the door wide open for interpretation. Paranoia is "chronic mental aberration, insanity in which the acts are systematized," and that sounds like this whole silly world. Narrowing it down, the paranoiac suffers from persistent and fixed delusions which nothing can shake, often feels persecuted, and tends to withdraw into his own world. This, too, sounds like most, if not all, nations of the world.

Even gigantic Communist China, with an estimated population of seven hundred million, by cutting itself off (or being cut off) from the rest of the world, has developed a monumental paranoia. Running the gamut, we come to tiny Israel, which, finding itself surrounded by hostile forces, and feeling abandoned by other nations, begins to develop paranoid symptoms.

The United States persists in imagining that the world has asked it to act as global policeman, and no amount of massive protests can shake this belief. Russia has appointed itself an unwelcome policeman over the communist World. Both super-powers are moon-struck. And we could go on diagnosing each nation in this manner.

Within each nation, where shall we look to find sanity? Perhaps we can begin by forgetting about government as it does not need very much to demonstrate the fact that paranoia lurks in official corridors, parliaments and bureaucracies. Perhaps it can be found in the business community? It would be nice to think so, but we would have to narrow it down. The corner grocer knows he is dealing with people, but when we get to the heart of the financial community—the Bourse in Paris, the Stock Exchange in London or Wall Street—we find, alas, that they are living in a bizarre world of their own with irrational ups and downs, magic spells, dreams of ticker tape and fantasies of immense overnight profits.

A famous sports writer has said that "the world of sport is a toy world inhabited by toy people." No matter

where we turn, we find such toy worlds. Just attend a conference of scientists, or educators, and you will see how superficial some of these master-minds can become. Each field, each business, whether frivolous or serious, is wrapped up in its own web, its private language, its wall against outsiders.

That is not to say that it is wrong for each group or business or community to develop its own concerns, disciplines, habits, tastes, etc. It does go wrong, however, when the wall it builds up starts to become a barrier against the outside world. It is at this point that paranoia sets in and much of the world appears to have reached this stage. A fundamental law of civilization is that we must deal with one another; we must trade and exchange. The more we do this (at least in an honest way), the more we progress and flourish; the less we do it, the less advance we make.

The barriers to trade and travel that nations persist in erecting against one another constitute one of the chief anti-civilization factors in the world today. This may be a less obvious paranoia than the insane armaments race, but it is nevertheless pervasive, and may even be more damaging to the daily lives of the people.

The internal situation is similar to the international situation. The groups within each nation that are developing their own paranoid shells are a reflection of an unhealthy state of society. Instead of exchanging freely with one another, each clique of professional businessmen, labour unionists and organizations, no doubt afraid of being bruised by a hard world, tries to build up its own little fortress of special privileges, protections, immunities, shibboleths, and rackets.

Freer and more equitable economic conditions than now prevail would do more to make these walls of Jericho crumble than all the investigations, protests, pressures and punishments that are now instituted—for people do things more effectively when they *desire* to do so than when they are bludgeoned into it.

Our social problems start early in life. When we are little and swing out at the kid next door, our parents tell us, "No, no, you must play nicely with him." Yet when we grow up we are asked to accept a hostile jungle of economics at home and a bristling array of enemies abroad. No wonder schizophrenia sets in . . . but that's another story.