

DEC. 14 1964
DEC. 17 1966

BENTHAM RUSSELL

EB29

(350)

REPEATING IN A150, NIGHT, DEC. 4, FOR ALL NEEDING X X X HOPEFUL.
ONLY THREE YEARS AGO THE PHILOSOPHER, ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES OF HIS TIME, PUT THE ODDS FOR A NUCLEAR WAR AS HIGH AS 5 TO 4. BUT IN HIS HOME IN THE QUIET WELSH HILLS WHERE HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME THESE DAYS, RUSSELL NOW SAYS:

"I THINK IT'S A LITTLE BETTER NOW. I THINK A GREAT MANY PEOPLE DO BELIEVE THAT A NUCLEAR WAR CAN BE FATAL AND DESTROY EVERYBODY. AND I THINK THAT HAS CAUSED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO BE AGAINST A NUCLEAR WAR. IT'S ALMOST A COMMONPLACE NOW.

"I SHOULD PUT THE ODDS THE OTHER WAY NOW: 5 TO 4 THERE WILL NOT BE A NUCLEAR WAR."

AN ARISTOCRAT WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN ARISTOCRACY, RUSSELL'S CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR PEACE IS THE CULMINATION OF MORE THAN A HALF CENTURY OF BATTLE FOR PACIFISM AND AGAINST BOLSHEVISM AND HITLER, A CRUSADE TO TELL PEOPLE HOW TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN, CONDUCT THEIR MARRIED LIFE, PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST WHAT HE CONSIDERED GOVERNMENT ENCROACHMENTS ON THEIR FREEDOM...EVEN TO ADVISE THEM HOW TO BE HAPPY.

HE HAS ENCOUNTERED MUCH CRITICISM, HAS BEEN TO JAIL AND HAS EVEN BEEN PHYSICALLY ATTACKED. YET HE HAS NEVER WAVERED IN THE FERVOR OF HIS BELIEFS, REGARDLESS OF THE UNPOPULARITY IT OFTEN HAS BROUGHT UPON HIM.

TO A GREAT DEAL OF THE WORLD, HE HAS BEEN KNOWN AS A MAN OF PASSION AND PREJUDICE.

EB30

TO A GUEST IN THE WARMTH OF HIS MODEST HOME OVERLOOKING THE WINDING GLASLYN RIVER, THIS PASSIONATE SKEPTIC IS A CHARMING HOST WITH A KEEN, PENETRATING MIND THAT SPARKLES WITH GAIETY AND HUMOR. HE LAUGHS OFTEN AND HE EVEN MAKES JEST OF HIS HEALTH DIFFICULTIES.

"I LIVE ALMOST ENTIRELY ON LIQUIDS," HE SAID IN HIS SLOW, DISTINCTIVE VOICE. "I HAVE TO BE MOST CAREFUL ABOUT SOLID FOOD. THINGS STICK IN MY THROAT FROM TRYING TO SWALLOW THE PRONOUNCEMENTS OF POLITICIANS."

PART OF HIS LIQUID DIET CONSISTES OF SEVEN DOUBLE SCOTCHES AND WATER A DAY.

HE STARTED DRINKING, HE EXPLAINED, DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR WHEN HE WAS AN ACTIVE PACIFIST AND HAD GONE TO JAIL.

"THE KING (GEORGE V) TOOK THE PLEDGE BECAUSE HE THOUGHT HE COULD SAVE MONEY AND USE THE MONEY TO KILL GERMANS. SO I DRANK," RUSSELL EXPLAINS.

MANY PEOPLE CONTEND THAT RUSSELL HAS FREQUENTLY REVERSED HIS STAND ON ISSUES, VOICING DIFFERENT OPINIONS AT DIFFERENT TIMES. HE SUPPORTED WAR AGAINST HITLER, ALTHOUGH KNOWN AS A PACIFIST.

"MY VIEWS HAVE CHANGED GRADUALLY," HE SAID, "AND THEY'VE CHANGED IN HARMONY WITH CHANGES IN THE WORLD."

THREE YEARS AGO, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE THOUGHT THE UNITED STATES WOULD START A PREVENTIVE NUCLEAR WAR.

"I SHOULDN'T SAY SO NOW," HE SAID IN THE INTERVIEW AT HIS HOME. "THERE ARE STILL VERY POWERFUL FORCES IN AMERICA IN THAT DIRECTION, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY WILL REALLY GET THE WORLD INTO A NUCLEAR WAR."

OPponents of Russell charge that he is too sure of himself. They maintain that he impulsively condemned the Warren Commission report on the Kennedy assassination before he possibly could have read it. To this, he replies:

EB31

"I DON'T THINK, TAKING IT GENERALLY, THAT I HAVE A DOGMATIC TEMPERAMENT. I AM VERY SKEPTICAL ABOUT MOST THINGS AND I THINK THAT SKEPTICISM IN ME IS DEEPER THAN POSITIVE STATEMENTS. BUT, OF COURSE, IF YOU GET INTO PROPAGANDA YOU HAVE TO MAKE POSITIVE STATEMENTS.

"AS FOR THE WARREN REPORT, WELL I READ A GREAT DEAL OF IT. THERE IT IS," HE POINTED TO A COPY WHICH WAS AMONG TEN OR MORE BOOKS HE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF READING. "I HAD READ ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT IT'S ALL SHAM AND HUMBUG."

LORD RUSSELL CONFINES HIS WORK THESE DAYS TO HIS PEACE FOUNDATION. HE OFTEN TRAVELS THE 275 MILES OR SO TO LONDON FROM HIS WELSH RETREAT. YEARS AGO HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO QUIET, PEACEFUL RETIREMENT. NOW HE SAYS:

"THE EXISTING PROBLEMS APPEAR TO ME TO BE SO URGENT I DON'T FEEL LIKE RETIRING WHEN AT ANY TIME THE PLACE MAY BLOW UP."

HIS WORK IN THE NUCLEAR AGE HAS BROUGHT COMPLAINT FROM MANY PEOPLE THAT HE'S MEDDLING IN DELICATELY ATTUNED WORLD AFFAIRS.

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CUBAN CRISIS TWO YEARS AGO HE SENT MESSAGES TO KENNEDY AND KHRUSHCHEV CALLING ON THEM TO HOLD SUMMIT TALKS.

KHRUSHCHEV SENT A LONG CALBE IN REPLY, EVEN BEFORE HE PUBLICLY REPLIED TO KENNEDY.

KENNEDY TOLD RUSSELL THAT HIS ATTENTION MIGHT WELL BE DIRECTED TO THE BURGLARS.

BUT REBUFFS ARE BRUSHED OFF BY THE PHILOSOPHER WHO HAS TURNED AWAY FROM PHILOSOPHY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS TO WORK SOLELY ON NUCLEAR PEACE AND KINDRED SUBJECTS.

END RERUN

WT557PCS