

SHERMAN

20th May 1980

You wrote a memorandum on 1st May about a lecture on "a Christian View of Society".

I fully share your view that another talk on this subject would be valuable and I have no doubt that it will be forthcoming - I will keep you posted.

Richard Ryder
Political Office

Alfred Sherman Esq

Highly Confidential

M E M O R A N D U M

Proposal for a talk/lecture on "A Christian View of Society"

When I examine disastrous social and economic policies undertaken during our life-time, I am struck by the fallacies which underlie them. These can be traced to the de-Christianisation of social and political thought in this country, and its subjection to an incoherent philosophy containing Rousseauism, Pelagianism, materialistic determinism, moral relativism, and which ends by rejecting not only the idea of personal responsibility but the idea of good and evil which is inseparable from it.

This fallacy stems, I believe, from lack of moral and intellectual fibre. The reality of evil and sin is too harsh for people to face. They therefore take refuge in a philosophy which blames evil behaviour on material conditions and institutions, and thereby promises that government action to change society will obviate sinful behaviour, but ends by condoning sin and blaming society.

This thinking has penetrated the establishment, including large parts of the Churches and the Conservative Party. Yet common people seem largely immune.

A restatement of Christian doctrine on good and evil and personal responsibility would therefore be of great value. It would be difficult for your detractors of little learning in the Party to attack the restatement frontally, since they pay lip-service to Christianity, while worshipping the State. I should be quite happy to produce the talk if you wished, alone, or in collaboration with Peter Utley.

1st May, 1980.