

Jan 22 1969
THE DISABLED

From Professor Peter Townsend

Sir,—The Secretary of State's refusal to set up the Disablement Commission proposed by the Disablement Income Group and introduced in Parliament by a disabled Labour M.P., Mr. Jack Ashley (and now supported by members of all parties) is an extraordinary decision in style as well as substance. His correspondence with the Director of D.I.G., Mrs. Megan du Boisson, deserves to be published in full. The failure to seize an opportunity to involve the disabled themselves in the management of policy is especially depressing.

The proposal was imaginative in conception after the recent amalgamation of the Ministries of Health and Social Security. The new Department of Health and Social Security gravely lacks certain expertise about disability. It lacks knowledge about welfare and social insurance provisions in other countries. It also lacks knowledge of the latest developments in social science and social medicine of the study of disability. And above all it lacks an adequate channel of advice from the disabled themselves. It would be the business of the proposed commission to make good these deficiencies and provide up-to-date commentary, advice and action on the needs of the disabled.

Mr. Crossman seems to have taken the decision without reminding himself of the advisory committees and councils he already has, nor of the groundswell of opinion in favour of treating the needs of the disabled as a whole instead of as a number of arbitrarily selected and limited

categories. On the social security side he has a National Insurance Advisory Committee, Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, Special Grants Committee, and a Central Advisory Committee on War Pensions—constituted under the War Pensions Act of 1921. On the health side are the Advisory Committee on the Health and Welfare of Handicapped Persons and the Standing Medical Advisory Committee. So far as the disabled are concerned, rationalization to bring the structure up to date is badly needed.

The Secretary of State has made a sad misjudgment. I hope he can be persuaded to consider afresh the evidence and argument.

Yours, &c.,

PETER TOWNSEND, Chairman.
Department of Sociology, University of
Essex, Colchester, Jan. 20.

PRESTON OR LEYLAND?

From the Rev. R. Butterworth, S.J.

Sir,—As Lord Shuttleworth says in arguing that Preston should be the name of the proposed new town in North West Lancashire, it would "be disastrous if historic place names were discarded". But there is a local name of longer historical standing, more central to the general area of the new town geographically, and nowadays of greater international repute. The new town should clearly be called Leyland.

Yours faithfully,

R. BUTTERWORTH, S.J.
Heythrop College, Chipping Norton,
Oxfordshire.

present in the sanctuary. Among
se present were:—

Edy Langley-Taylor (widow); the Duke of
York (president, Council for the Preservation
of Rural England) with Lord Molson (chair-
man) and Lady Molson, Mr. Roland Wade (vice-
man), Mr. M. V. Osmond (secretary), Mr.
F. Holford-Walker, and many branch
representatives.

Mr. A. Charles Judges and the Earl of
Dorset (partners, C. Langley-Taylor and
partners) and the Countess of Kinnoull, with
members of the staff.

The Earl of Malmesbury (official verifier of
New Forest) and Mr. J. N. Scott (clerk,
New Forest Verderers); Viscount Escher (represent-
ing Royal Institute of British Architects),
Dowager Viscountess Galway, Lord Irwin,
Chorley, Lady Brocket, Lady Milverton,
Adrian Boulton, Sir George Taylor, Lady
Dunham, Sir Charles Norton, Mr. Desmond
Phipps (Comptroller and City Solicitor, Corpora-
tion of London) and Mr. Alfred Qvist (represent-
ing Corporation of London Open Spaces
Committee and Chartered Land Agents Society).

Mr. G. Bell (under-secretary, Royal
Institution of Chartered Surveyors), Mr. I. M.
E. (Ministry of Housing and Local Govern-
ment), Mr. B. Harrup and Mr. T. R. Newman
(Ministry of Transport), Mr. P. Proby
representing the Provost and fellows of Eton
College).

Mr. H. E. S. Snelson (National Council of
Natural Service), Mr. N. B. Riley (Society for the
protection of Nature Reserves), Mr. Francis
Holland (County Landowners Association),
Colonel E. A. Ayr and Mrs. Ayr (representing
Horticultural Society), Mr. P. S.
Thurthwaite (Forestry Commission), Mr. W. W.
Lyle (Society for the Protection of Ancient
Buildings) with Mr. H. C. Dance (representing
secretary), Mr. M. Lee (Royal Automobile
Club), Mr. P. A. L. Vine (Automobile Associa-
tion), Mr. W. R. Hornby Steer (chairman,
London Society), Mrs. Tyrrell (Hertfordshire
Society), Mrs. B. Tatham and Mr. W. A.
Chinchen (Friends of Box Hill Association).

Mr. K. Miller (representing Georgian Group), Mrs.
W. Day (Alexandra Rose Day), Mr. C.
Old-Baker (representing National Association
Parish Councils) and Mrs. Arnold-Baker,
Mrs. Judith Scott (secretary, Central Council
of the Care of Churches), Mrs. E. Dalrymple
(representing Britain Tidy Group), Mr. D. M. G.
Henson (Caravan Club), Mr. Gerald McCu-
mber (Hostels Association, England) and
Mrs. Dr. J. Greenwood Wilson (vice-president,
National House-Builders Registration Council).

Mr. A. W. Purvis; Mr. L. H. E. Perks
(vice-president, Chartered Auctioneers' and
Estate Agents' Institute), Mr. P. N. Vey (Shell-
fish and B.P.P.), Mr. C. J. M. Bennett (Bartlett,
Hew and Company), Mr. A. L. H. Carter
(Hew and Company), Mr. E. Gregory-Carlton
(Hew and Company).

Mr. David Karmel, O.C., and Mrs. Karmel,
Mrs. M. G. Booker, Miss M. C. Booker, Mrs.
J. Buchanan, Mr. Jeremy D. Spofforth, Mr.
J. Mostyn, Mr. Richard, Mrs. Cyril Farey
and Mrs. Edward Mustoe, Mr. G. Cubitt,
Mr. Dudley Stamp.

LONDON.—Princess Alexandra at
Where Eagles Dare film premiere,
in aid of the Haemophilia Appeal
Fund, Empire Theatre, Leicester
Square, 8.

Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of
Westminster, preaches at service
for Christian Unity, St. Paul's
Cathedral, 7.30.

Association of Public Health Inspec-
tors conference on Noise, Seymour
Hall, Seymour, Place, W., 11.

Royal Institution of Chartered Sur-
veyors centenary agricultural con-
ference, Connaught Rooms, Great
Queen Street, W.C., 10.30.

Confectionery Trade Fair, Royal
Horticultural Society Old Hall,
Vincent Square, Westminster, 10-
10.

Universities Federation for Animal
Welfare symposium, Zoological
Society of London, Regent's Park,
10-4.

Lecture by Sir Alec Rose to the
Little Ship Club, Bell Wharf Lane,
Upper Thames Street, E.C., 7.15
(admittance by ticket only).

John Howard retrospective exhibi-
tion, Architectural Association,
Bedford Square, W.C., 9.30-7.

Changing of the Guard, Buckingham
Palace, 11.30.

Memorial services: Brigadier J. E.
Stirling, Garrison Church, Fort
George, 2.45; Mr. Jack Barker, St.
Giles-in-the-Fields, W.C., 11.30.

Poetry exhibition
and journals.

Festival Hall, 2-
per Fair, Imper
CARDIFF.—Ind

Arts Council G
HULL.—Selection
exhibition, art

LEEDS.—Natio
housewives' pa
store.

LLANELLI.—Ph
mond Moore.
Craft.

MANCHESTER.
German graphi
Art Gallery A

PORTSMOUTH.
and Allied T
Guildhall.

ROTHERHAM.
torian glass, a

SHEFFIELD.—E
championships.

YORK.—Garden
public library,

The Arts

LONDON.—Fes
Philharmonia
Academy of
Choir, Otto K
Price, Yvonne
Elizabeth Hall
Alan Barlow,
7.45; Purcel
Levano, 7.30;
can Robertson.