



black paper

a
boy
scout

30/15p

SCOUT ACTION GROUP

issued
by



Cover Story

The cover of this Black Paper demonstrates more clearly than words the result of total inflexibility in progressive planning.

John Hilsdon has served Scouting all his life not far from the Elephant and Castle in London S.E.1. Despite the fact that there is no replacement available, nor could any replacement maintain the standards of courtesy and idealism that pre-APR Scouting insisted on, John and his troop of eight different nationalities have been dismissed the Scout movement. Why? Because John is 65. The rules say a Scouter must retire at that age, and as we all know, to progressive planners RULES are more important than people.

Illustrations - P. Joubert

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The Disciple

He that hath a Gospel
 To loose upon mankind,
 Though he serve it utterly—
 Body, soul and mind—
 Though he go to Calvary
 Daily for its gain—
 It is His Disciple
 Shall make His labour vain.

It is His Disciple
 Who shall tell us how
 Much the Master would have scrapped
 Had He lived till now—
 What he would have modified
 Of what He said before—
 It is His Disciple
 Shall do this and more.....

He that hath a Gospel,
 For all the earth to own—
 Though he etch it on the steel,
 Or carve it on the stone—
 Not to be misdoubted
 Through the after days—
 It is His Disciple
 Shall read it many ways.

He that hath a Gospel
 Whereby Heaven is won
 (Carpenter or Camleer
 Or Maya's dreaming son)
 Many swords shall pierce Him
 Mingling Blood with gall;
 But His own Disciple
 Shall wound Him worst of all.

It is His Disciple
 (Ere Those Bones are dust)
 Who shall change the Charter
 Who shall split the Trust—
 Amplify distinctions,
 Rationalise the Claim,
 Preaching that the Master
 Would have done the same.



Rudyard Kipling
 in
 "Limits and Renewals"

Comment

This paper affords the opportunity to express, without fear or favour, the views of Leaders of varying ages and service to Scouting; their true beliefs and feelings, to the movement and the general public alike.

One of the most disturbing trends in the Scout Association has already been referred to in 'Time and Tide'. This is the tendency to sneer and castigate those who hold contrary views to themselves. A re-reading of E.E. Reynold's reporting on the 1941 Post-War Commission may be applicable here.

One thing we share with those members of the Chief Scout's Advance Party is a great regard for the Boy Scout movement in this country. We have given of our time, and of our effort, as much as most, and in many cases, even more so. If we are forced to make our approach in this way it is only because the channels of communication within our own movement are blocked.

Few of us can recall 1907, since most were then not yet born. But we do not live in a blinkered world wherein there is but one path of progress, and one alone. Are we seriously to contend that the road sketched out by the Advance Party members is the only path to successful Scouting? And is this path so sacrosanct that none may dispute it, except at their peril?

If we really want the Boy Scouts to be a mature organisation, with balanced individuals and competent administrators, we must allow dissent and diversion from just one narrow path. This is a most individualistic country, and part of its strength — if perhaps its weakness — is its freedom to express its beliefs and faiths freely. As part of that Society it behoves the Scout movement to act in accord.

Various jibes have been made by different Scouting personalities that we are against all change, or acidic old boys, violently left-wing, or reactionary right-wingers etc. Naturally any dissident body must use what weapons are to hand to exploit the maximum publicity for its propagation. In the final analysis we are simply one thing — very pro-Boy Scout and anxious that the species may continue.

The Boy Scout movement in this country has been constantly evolving. It has never been a static entity. It has seen hard times — much harder than it encounters today. It has surmounted many splits, rebel factions, and inner storms. Through them all it has managed, until now, to retain the essentials of the spirit of the Founder. Yet this failure to create original and stimulating scouting, which still carries

the original spirit of B.P. into the space age, is the root of the argument. It is not the need for change that is disputed, but the method of change, and the skill with which the spirit of scouting is retained in modernisation. That spirit has taken a disastrous rubbing in the current re-vamping.

Yet one can still ask whether the changes are adequate. Is it really necessary to have a large administrative block in London? Are all those camp sites being used to advantage? Is much of the paper work in H.Q. superfluous? There is a powerful argument to restore the status of the group as the key unit in Scouting and reduce the official interference by District and H.Q. officials. It is one of the paradoxes of a voluntary organisation that whilst a measure of autocracy has much to recommend it in many places, it is a little difficult to operate where money is not paid BY, but TO, the proponents of that autocracy.

That there has been a rise in administrative officiousness can not be denied. Somewhere along the line, the role of Commissioner as adviser has been translated as that of Lord High Executioner. This is surely at the base of much of the trouble. Yet H.Q. today, especially via the sneers of its Wylds and such ilk, cannot escape the inevitable responsibility.

With this Boy Scout Black Paper all the objectives of the Scout Action Group have been fulfilled. The aims of this association were to seek and assess nationwide scout opinion concerning the A.P.R. and to encourage H.Q. to re-think such areas as necessary. These primary aims have been more than amply fulfilled in just nine months, with no outside subsidies, but with the warm and friendly assistance of dozens of leaders in the movement. We have travelled many miles, and met, in their own homes and troop halls, all kinds of brother Scouts from all types of troops. In every case there has been a common thread that has linked their feelings with ours.

To deny that these people should have any other belief but that promulgated by Scout H.Q., and their advisers, is perhaps the greatest obstacle to progress in the movement today.

During our brief, but very active campaign, we met and talked to most of the 'big' names in Scouting. Apart from Col. Wilson, who regrettably has passed on, we may mention no names. Suffice to say however, that we met sympathy and sincerity in their frank talks with us, and in very many, if not all cases, a general agreement. On the other hand they felt powerless to help us. One could not help recalling the superb description of the German General Staff in 1938 in Wheeler-Bennett's book "The Nemesis of Power". A very sobering thought!

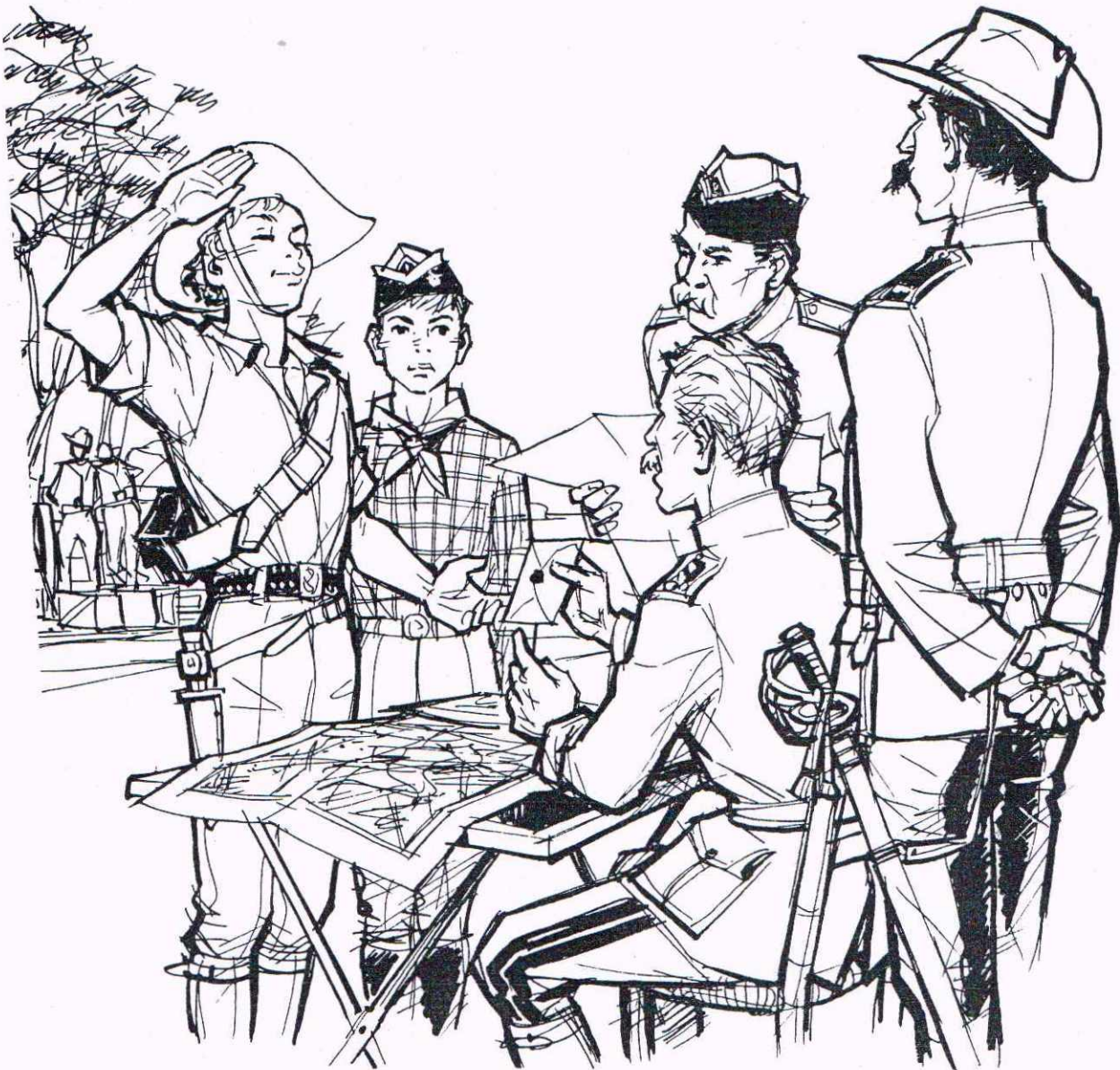
We are completely satisfied from our researches, that the movement was never consulted ABOUT THE CHANGES, that there has been CENSORSHIP and that at least three statements in the Scouter by the Chief Executive Commissioner have been quite untrue.

One final point we should like to make. Much is said of the Press and T.V. and general communication fields these

days. It is either biased one way or another, it is not interested in other than sex or sordid affairs etc. May we say that whatever views we felt before our campaign about this matter, we today, have nothing but admiration for them. Without their assistance, we could never have achieved what we set out to do. They were genuine, sincere, and full of assistance. This does not mean that the Press and T.V. can be used like an extension of the postal circular. They knew when a 'gooly' was being bowled their way, and they knew what to leave out when some enthusiastic supporter unwound too far. They are professionals. They know their business.

So today, actually in those much referred to Seventies, we offer you this collection of views and reviews which we could not publicise by any other means.

In this regard, we feel that our loyalty to the Founder and his teachings must take precedence over any feelings of loyalty to the present Scout administration.



G H TATTERSALL

Fundamental Matters

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the Advance Party Report is, that in this document that purports to deal with the whole future of Scouting, there is almost no discussion of the aims of the Movement, and there is no statement of the basic principles on which progress and development are to be built. Out of a total of 522 pages a mere 7½ are given to 'Fundamental Matters', and in these pages 'Religious Policy' receives almost exactly the same amount of space as the discussion on whether we should be known as 'Boy Scouts' or as 'Scouts'. It may be too harsh a judgement to suggest that the Advance Party, which prepared the Report, and the Committee of Council, which accepted it almost without amendment, are not themselves clear about these fundamental matters, but one may be forgiven for suspecting that. At least it can be stated categorically that however clear their vision, they have certainly failed to communicate it to others, so that their Report appears as a catalogue of topics arbitrarily selected and arbitrarily determined. An almost inevitable corollary is that many of the recommendations, instead of contributing to what some of us thought were the aims of Scouting, actually operate in the opposite direction.

None will quarrel with the Advance Party's restatement of the Aims as being 'to encourage the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society', but this statement can hardly be regarded as sufficient without further discussion of its meaning, and a careful consideration of the relation between the aims and present day society.

The state of society, and its effect on young people, can conveniently be considered under the three headings mentioned in the statement of Aims, i.e. mental, physical, and spiritual, although of course a complete separation cannot be made in practice. With reference to mental development, Scouting in its early days had to contend with illiteracy (ability to read was a test for First Class Scout), a school leaving age of 13 with children on half-time work at earlier ages, and general lack of opportunity for even a decent secondary education. Today, the school leaving age is 15, shortly to be raised to 16, higher or further education is available to all who

can benefit from it, and day release for young employees is the norm; on the debit side there is a very great pressure on young people to try for academic success, irrespective of whether this is the best thing for them or for the nation. With reference to physical development, early Scouting had to take account of bad housing, bad social conditions and poverty, while today, most people are materially well off and living in good houses, there is an almost all embracing National Health Service, there are ample opportunities for sports and other physical activities, and young people are often able to travel. Thus, in both these categories there have been major changes that most observers would class as improvements, but approval would not be nearly so unanimous for the changes that affect spiritual development. During the last fifty or sixty years the influence of the Church has markedly decreased, Britain has changed from a strong and influential nation to one with weak leadership and no real purpose, a rigid moral code has gone beyond a state of relaxation to one of permissiveness, and some would say licentiousness, there are colossal pressures to enforce conformity, and bureaucracy and organisation are reducing the individual to a cipher and crushing the dignity of the person.

It seems to me to be abundantly clear that there is now no pressing need for Scouting to be very much concerned with mental and physical development per se, but a very great and urgent need for it to be desperately concerned about spiritual development. This is where the Report fails; it concentrates on the mental and the physical at the expense of the spiritual. It proposes the provision of expensive facilities that are already provided by the State and other bodies, and it puts forward a badge system that seems as complicated as the other examination systems with which the young are expected to comply. At the same time, where it takes account explicitly of the pressures to which the young are exposed, it yields to them, as for example in its concern about our public image, and where it fails to consider them explicitly, it increases them by setting up a vast and unwieldy bureaucracy.

Revision of the Report to get the priorities right is therefore essential if Scouting

is to have any hope at all of fulfilling its function. The fight is on the spiritual front and all the rest is important only in so far as it affects that fight. The urgent need in Scouting is threefold:— to re-establish the idealistic basis of the Movement; to provide a strong sense of purpose founded on the ideals; and to promote a knowledge of the importance of the individual.

The Report is to be commended in its proposals to establish closer links with the Churches and to emphasise the necessity of religious affiliation of Scouters, but it more than counteracts these by eliminating the Rover Vigil and Investiture, thus removing the greatest expression of their idealism that was open to many young men. The absence of the Rover ideal of self sacrificing service creates a gap that cannot be filled by the complicated Venture Scout system, and it is not too strong to say that some Groups will find that without the culmination provided by the Rover Investiture, much of the rest of Scouting becomes pointless. Consideration of the individual takes severe blows from the proposals concerning the automatic closure of Troops, the complicated and inflexible badge system, the disappearance of individual Group uniforms, and the restrictions on the wearing of the Group scarf. Loyalty to a small unit provides a means by which a boy can be led to develop his own individuality to the full, but we are expected to build Troops whose minimum size is what B.P. thought should be a maximum, pass young men on to large District units, and generally to submerge their interests in a conformity to rules made by a central organisation.

The Report recognises that Scouting is an outdoor movement and proposes more activities of this nature, then, incredibly, it seeks to impose a uniform that is quite unsuitable for any of these activities and which is radically different from the traditional dress of Scouts. Those proponents of the Report who have relied on the use of the term 'traditionalist' as a smear label to attach to those who oppose them, will seize on the use of the word

'traditional' here, but they would do well to reflect on the consequences of the wholesale abandoning of practices that have developed over a long time. Scouting is now over sixty years old and the well known uniforms, the First Class badge, the Court of Honour, and, above all the ten Scout Laws, help to form links between three generations. It would be a rash man who dismissed this as of no importance, and reasons to justify disposing of these things will have to be a lot better than those given in the Report.

Of course there are good ideas in the Report but I hope I have shown that there is sufficient that is wrong in it to justify the undertaking of a major revision. It will be a test of the quality of the leadership of the Movement to see whether those who accepted the so-called 'new look' and have so far sought to impose it without discussion, can accept that they might be wrong and that they might have been destroying things of great value. They would also be wise to contemplate the simple, though often inconvenient, fact, that no administrative decisions, however ruthlessly applied, can suppress beliefs founded on idealism and tradition.

A major revision will of course be a lengthy process so for immediate practical action I suggest the following:

- 1) Restore the Group as the important unit in Scouting and remove the threat of automatic sanctions.
- 2) Restore the Rover Scout section with its Vigil and Investiture and its ideal of Service.
- 3) Restore the traditional uniform, at least as a recognised option.
- 4) Restore those simple traditional usages that link a boy in Scouting with his father and his grandfather.

Finally, if the necessity for revision, which I believe is essential, is accepted, let those who carry it out remember that Scouting is supposed to be fun. It may be a trite statement, but it is nevertheless true, that the greatest fun is found in the simple and uncomplicated.

by G. H. Tattersall



Press I

When I was asked by Lord Rowallan to take his job, I hesitated. Was I really to lead a Movement with, in many quarters, an image of a boy lighting a fire with one match instead of two, and being led by a lot of music-hall Scoutmasters? This of course, I was soon to discover was indeed a poor and inaccurate image of the movement, but it was an image! And what an image!

I say all this and risk offending many. I know I risk offending those who have grown up with Scouting. I take this risk in both hands.

The Chief Scout
Waldorf Hotel, 9th June, 1966

"Alfred Hurl, The Chief Executive Commissioner sees the movement as young and progressive. The largest increase in membership is in the pop-inflicted 15 to 18 age group, and he is confident the movement can make the million by 1975."

From The Sun, 16th April, 1966

And after the Advance Party had been implemented, and after the wholesale losses in the pop-inflicted age group, the Chief Scout said — "I am convinced that we are in business to assist in the production of characters of quality and not just dwell on an ever-increasing quantity of the mediocre."

The Times, 1st October, 1968

'Says Ken Stevens, "When we made long trousers optional only a relatively few troops decided they liked them. They were quick to switch to the beret. The job ahead is to sweep away the Boer War image of Scouting. Baden-Powell would hardly approve, but the emphasis is expected to fall on Senior Scouting."'

Again from The Sun, 16th April, 1966

"I am quite sure that Baden-Powell had he been alive would not have objected at all to the changes."

And H. Wyld of the Scout Association in West Ham Independent, January, 1970.

"I used to write a Boy Scout column when I was a young reporter on the Hull Daily Mail. From that, and my earlier visits to my cousin's troop which won the British Empire Championship, I admired the principles of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts. He believed in decency and helpfulness, in the healthy outdoors; he was against military formation, although he had been a brilliant if individual soldier; he taught generations of boys throughout the world to be happy and healthy and to grow into good men.

In my column I used to try to enlighten leaders who did not understand Baden-Powell's ideas.

Recently the Boy Scouts were 'modernised' and some leaders think the attempts to be 'with it' jettison some of the Chief Scout's ideals. They met in London last Saturday. Mr. Harold Wyld, representing the Scout Association, went to the meeting and afterwards made a sneering comment to reporters, using the 'with-it' jargon 'non-event'. He, for one, should find out what Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts were all about."

William J. Brittain in *Time & Tide*, 15-21 January 1970

"Some of the changes have been in the direction of making the pastime of Scouting a lively competitor with scooter clubs, youth gangs and such-like activities. Much progress has been made in organising boating, gliding, climbing, forestry and other attractions just for this purpose. There is nothing inherently wrong in this. Where the rub lies for many is in the structural changes in the movement and the adjustment of personal attitudes which these entail. This is a real problem, particularly in this sort of movement where the enthusiasm of the leaders and activists is associated with given ideas, forms and ceremonies. It is easy to underestimate the danger of an abrupt break with a continuous and living tradition."

Daily Telegraph, 30th September, 1968

**"WORDS WITHOUT
ACTIONS ARE THE
ASSASSINS OF IDEALISM."**

HERBERT HOOVER

J B TOOLEY

One Scouter's View

When I came to Scouting as an ASM in 1962, I had not previously been aware as a member of the public, that I was joining a movement which considered itself to be "square", hide-bound by tradition and in imminent peril of extinction. Like many young adults, I had considered voluntary service of various kinds and it was the, superficial perhaps, but significant features of the accent on open air life and the colourful uniform which tipped the balance in favour of Scouting. When I later found that the APR played down both of these aspects, I wondered whether, in the light of my own experience, anyone had looked into their power as an attraction as well as a deterrent.

Within a year or two of this beginning, we heard of the Advance Party through the columns of the *Scouter*, but, in the early stages it was to us just another far away committee in London "of which we knew little". My own group, in a South coast resort, had been in existence since 1927 and was enjoying lusty life with a large Cub pack, Scouts, and enthusiastic Seniors and Rovers. Older boys were difficult to retain, but mostly because of the exigencies of homework or employment, always a problem in a holiday town, and many left with genuine regret. Staff was usually sparse, but adequate with a core of experienced Wood Badge holders, an HQ was being actively planned, a permanent campsite was established within a few miles of the town and summer camps were held in Scotland, Holland and Ireland. So far as I could see from attendance at District and County conferences and assisting a Baden-Powell House service crew, our group was by no means exceptional either locally or nationally.

It therefore came as a surprise to learn from the *Scouter*, from official pronouncements and from the words of our highly-respected and incontestably sincere District Commissioner, expressed at meetings, that, unless radical changes were introduced, Scouting would be dead within ten years. I consulted local census returns and the comparative figures of national returns published in the Association's annual re-

port, but while they confirmed that sections fluctuated with the rise and fall of the birth-rate, nowhere could I find anything to support such a startling assumption. So far as I and many of my colleagues were concerned in this by no means unusual district, we were told that fundamental change was needed rather than sensing it for ourselves.

There was of course mounting speculation as publication date approached and no doubt as much as possible was done to heighten our curiosity. The side effects were an unsettled atmosphere, new projects deferred and half the boys in no uniform or semi-uniform. When the great day arrived we were among the first to buy copies of the Report both in its full and abridged versions and most of us went into the new era with every intention of making it a success. Within a very short time, we had amalgamated with two other groups in the centre of the town to form one large unit, which was no doubt good APR thinking, and the parents had committed themselves to an expenditure of nearly £300 on the new uniform.

My own feelings however, were mixed. As the deliberations of the Advance Party had been conducted in extreme secrecy, there had been no scope for informed discussion of their proposals before publication and the Report was ratified almost immediately afterwards making discussion then rather pointless. I enquired of Headquarters whether the Report should not have been allowed to "lie on the table" for a time and the official reply was that in view of the urgent need for reform no further delay could be countenanced. But I was still left with an unhappy feeling that an important step in the democratic process had been omitted, as if the government were to accept the text of a Royal Commission report and immediately pass it into law without introducing legislation to Parliament. This might conceivably have been justified if the sudden blaze of publicity had resulted in a rapid influx of new members but, as events quickly showed, nothing of this kind happened.

Our amalgamation demonstrated a

vicious circle namely that while one needs increased numbers for the economic attainment of improved facilities, one also needs improved facilities as soon as amalgamation takes place to cater for the increased numbers. The immediate impact for us was that 50 boys had to use a hall suitable for 25. Another similar hall was available, but a troop meeting in separate halls is not an amalgamated troop. The staff situation was marginally improved, but discipline problems seem to increase in a geometrical progression to the number of boys. The new group became financially stronger, but two of the three groups had been in possession of substantial funds and equipment before. On the debit side, in the two years which have since elapsed, no fine new headquarters has arisen, no more boys went to summer camp last year than we regarded as a minimum in the one group previously, friendly rivalry and competition has been diminished, and despite the efforts of several devoted scouters, there is now one medium sized group where there were two medium sized groups and an independent Cub pack before. I am in no position to judge whether the quality of Scouting has improved, but I think it would not be presumptuous to say that it left little to be desired when the groups operated separately.

My second point concerns the local image and the uniform. For the last two years I have been looking at things mainly as a member of the public and I have therefore been exposed to as much, or little, Scout publicity as anyone else. Work takes me daily to central London and a west London suburb, and I cannot remember when I last saw a Scout in uniform in any of the three areas which I regularly traverse. Evidently the APR hope that boys would be proud to wear the new uniform in the streets has not been realised. The old uniform was an important unifying factor between all members of the group and with other Scouts throughout the world and I have no doubt that our particular brand of it, as it had been worn for forty years, meant something to our boys, "trad" and sentimental as it might seem. We never encountered any real uniform problems and although it was sometimes used as an excuse for non-attendance the real reason was almost always homework, girl friends or family troubles. To my enquiry why, when boys were happy to wear shorts for almost every leisure activity and to turn out on the football field in front of hundreds, they were supposed to be wrong for

Scouting, the only answer I ever got was that Scouting was "different". I see no reason why the APR should have demanded complete uniformity at such expense when no such requirement exists in the Army. As things are now, one is no longer visually aware when Scouts are on the move and their attendance at public gatherings can easily go unnoticed.

Judging from local events and the press, everything in my district is much as always. There has been no great decline in numbers and little increase. Scouters are in short supply as ever and those who once said "I would help if only it were not for..." have not materialised. Nothing strikingly new has happened to catch the public imagination and Scouters continue to wrestle gallantly with the problem of the weekly meeting not greatly fortified by the APR's mixture of suggested youth club and Duke of Edinburgh's award activities. Several groups have acquired new headquarters, planned and worked for over many years.

The local newspapers commented that the 1969 St. George's Day parade was one of the smallest and briefest on record and news has come recently of the disbanding of a Venture Scout Unit. On the other hand, a Chief Scout's visit aroused some public interest (which it would have done anyway) and the Sea Scouts, with an important advantage in a seaside town have continued to make progress.

In summing up my overall reactions to the developments of the last two years, my main regret is that so much has been changed for the sake of change. Sincere and thorough as the Report was, innumerable details involved alterations for no apparent reason. There seems to have been an assumption that before the APR the movement was "old fashioned" and that now it is "modern", but in what respect was it in fact old-fashioned? Not in its emphasis on open air life which has never been so popular as to-day. A return to the simple life has always been a recurring theme of industrialised society currently manifested by break-away hippie communities. Not in lack of sophistication. Boys of 1907 exposed to the full rigour of a working environment and a primitive educational system and even those of the twenties and thirties who came to meetings after long hours in shop or factory must have been far more knowledgeable in the ways of the world, if less in stature, than their modern counterparts who are likely to be undergoing full-time education for

the whole of their Scout lives. Not in seeing the small group as a family or in its system of rewards. The psychological needs of boys to belong to a gang and to run with the pack are unchanging as are those of all human beings to be visibly rewarded for merit. Not in its ethical principles and laws. These have always been perfectly understandable to small boys and are only outmoded in the sense that moral standards are always "on the decline" as Christianity itself has always been on the decline. Not in its uniform. The uniform which Baden-Powell devised did not represent any fashion of 1907 which has since been superseded. Had it been retained, it would now have been much closer to colourful "mod-gear" than the National Service style of the 'fifties which has replaced it. It is perhaps ironical that since Scouters gave up neckerchiefs they have caught on as a trendy Kings Road fashion. Not in its literature. Great play was made of Kiplingesque traditions but the decline of the British Empire meant little to boys of the 'sixties. The important point was the attitude to animals and whether the creature is called Rikki-Tikki-Tavi or Orlando the Marmalade Cat the instinct is the same. As for training, the earlier instructional books were as helpful and detailed as they could be; they were not improved upon by the discursive publications which replaced them. Not in its staff. Public service is a stony path at the

best of times and no movement has ever attracted more devoted officers. Training is very important and minimum standards may be, but they should not obscure the fact that if a Scouter is able to attract a group of boys and keep them coming, however conservative, ill-informed or old he may be, he is doing something more worthwhile than any set of regulations. Voluntary work will never attract more than a small minority and Scouting cannot be all things to all boys. Whatever the range of possible activities the core appeal is to boys of a fairly gregarious disposition and moderate intelligence with a practical bent. A boy may expect his school and coffee bar to be marvels of the technological age but he may well want something quite different of his Scouting. It is not to be assumed that where allegedly inadequate groups are disbanded and links and traditions built up over the years are destroyed that "swinging" new ones with sparkling headquarters and numerous highly-trained Scouters will immediately or perhaps ever, take their place.

Where then was the fundamental need for change which required the deliberations of a committee over several years, the publication of a report several times the size of most government white papers, and an administrative, financial and emotional upheaval unparalleled in the history of voluntary organisations?

Press II

The Chief Scout's proposals for the reform of the Boy Scout Movement have received a cautious welcome in progressive quarters.

Dr. Bruce Westside, Professor of Youth Studies at Stretchford University, strongly approves the proposed cutting-down of out-of-date Kiplingesque jungle ritual. But he believes that some other kind of ritual, more in keeping with contemporary life, based perhaps on the observances of Californian beatniks, should be substituted.

Dr. Heinz Kiosk, Chief Psychiatric Adviser to the Egg Marketing Board, is enthusiastic about the proposed emendation to the Second Law of Scouting. This law, which formerly read "A Scout is loyal to the Queen, his country, his Scouters, his parents, his employers and those under him" will simply read "A Scout is loyal".

"As a responsible person," says Dr. Kiosk, "The modern, forward-looking Scout, with his rationalist and humanist background, will naturally refuse to have his loyalties dictated to him in accordance with an outmoded, feudal code of values and beliefs.

"He will demand the sole right to decide whom he shall be loyal to at any given moment — whether it be the Government, his political party or himself — without having any obligation, what is more, to disclose the fact to anyone except a qualified psychiatrist."

Mr. Paul Ohm, the Edgbaston freelance technologist and youth worker who runs the British Junior Technocratic League, welcomed the proposal to establish Scouts' "National Activity Centres" for boating, sailing, gliding, climbing, caving, skiing, forestry and, best of all, electronic studies.

The last-named centre, he suggests, should be given university status forthwith and geared to a massive crash-programme for turning out 4 million technological scout-masters by 1975.

Daily Telegraph, 14th June, 1966

I went into the Scouts' headquarters near Buckingham Palace and asked how they came to lose 26,049 Scouts in a year.

And they told me and they told me until 45 minutes later I still did not know. Neither, I gathered, did they. I tried next door.

Next door was the Guides' place. A nice H.Q. they have. Red leather chairs, Flags of all nations. Two vases of yellow chrysanthemums. One splendid young woman, struggling with a short skirt on a short chair and saying:—

"I won't hear anything said against the Scouts and I'll do nothing to criticise. Its just unfortunate all this should blow up just because a few acid old boys..."

I said 26,049 seemed a pretty high estimate for the number of acid old boys, who, in any case, would have been included already in the 3,420 leaders also lost.

"Yes, I suppose you're right. You're not quoting me, are you? Well then, don't name me. Call me the spokesman."

The spokesman hitched down her skirt, said she had been a Guide herself for three years (not recently), and that the new Guide uniform would in her view knock an air hostess's eye out. Then she reconsidered my question.

"Yes, why have they lost 26,049 Scouts? It's such a pity; we're great friends with them all next door.

"We do all sorts of joing things—like the voluntary ski rescue service at Glenshee. I'll give you a pamphlet about that."



I thought to get at it another way and I said, man to woman: "The Scouts have lost 26,049 members but the Guides have would-be members queueing up. Why the difference?"

Said the spokesman: "Every girl wants to join the Guides. You know, we really are one big happy family. We're so united, so loyal to one another, from the top right down". So the Scouts were not loyal to one another from the top right down?

The spokesman said: "I will not say anything against the Scouts. They are just as loyal to one another as we are, I'm sure.

"If they're having a difficult time at the moment it might be because they're not so adaptable to change as women are..."

The spokesman looked scared, as though she had said too much, but there was no risk of being over-heard next door, so she went on:—

"The new changes are pretty drastic for both Scouts and Guides. The Scouts are pushing them through faster than we are and that probably doesn't help.

"But I don't think men like change anyway. For every man who will rebel to change things there are 10 who will rebel to keep things as they are.

"Women are different. You know our motto—Be Prepared. That's it. Be Prepared for anything. We can do it, change anything anywhere, without fuss."

I do not believe this is really the reason why 26,049 Scouts have hung up their uniforms. But it was a better reason than any I got from the place next door. A very good try.

If only it were possible, those 26,049 Scouts could do worse than join the Guides.

Daily Express, 1st October, 1968

Socialisation — a key factor

Introduction

The publication of the Advance Party Report has provoked much comment and some action both within and without the Movement. But it is important to keep these developments in focus, and maintain a rational and objective position. Scouting is, after all, concerned with the contemporary youth situation and the ultimate objective of harmonious socialisation of adult society. The problems which arise in the Troop situation are not peculiar to Scouting: indeed, the Movement, far from providing "the complete ethic", is really only one of a number of socialising influences, which include the home and school. Numerically, its proportion of the youth population is small, and its influence is thus a small one on a huge environment. This is not to deny that ex-Scouts are to be found in all walks of life, and many make a successful career. The question is how successful the Scout socialisation technique is.

The Facts

We are often told that Scouting is a game. If this is true, and B.-P. himself claimed it was, (1) then we should guard against taking the Movement too seriously. It is not a sacred cow. Even Baden-Powell has to be scrutinised in terms of the value structure of his social position. Questions are now being posed, and it is right and proper that these should receive adequate consideration. Is there equal opportunity for all? What are the lasting values and who decides them?

The facts of modern life have to be faced. It is no use pretending that society is structured in exactly the same way as it was in 1907. E.C.T. Spring decries the "nation-wide reversal of long-accepted standards or what is termed Victorian morality", (2) but the facts of leather jackets and contraceptives are with us. Youth has evolved its own culture, and an understanding of this, together with an appreciation of the problems of the adult world, is necessary for successful socialisation. As a Movement, Scouting must move, but it has above all to meet certain needs:—

- 1) the ability to cope with adult problems.
- 2) the freedom to make existential decisions.
- 3) the opportunity to exercise responsibility.

- 4) an acceptance as equals.

Appeal

In admitting contemporary needs and continuing rapid social change, it is worth considering the appeal of the Movement. B.-P. endowed it with a romantic charisma, with a particular emphasis on the outdoor life and Scoutcraft. It was the very difference from other youth organisations that gave early Scouting its strong appeal. The preservation of a separate identity is particularly important today with the development of mass society culture. The claim that

"Only by introducing a wider and unrestricted field of new interests will we be able to reverse the present trend towards the limited Scouting activity..."

(3)

is a truism. But whilst an up-to-date programme is essential, the implication is that traditional Scouting is a limited activity and thus undesirable. Yet the value of a realistic, romantic escape should not be underestimated as a concept of mental health. In many cases, woodcraft, camping and "the great outdoors" have more attraction than vast new programmes, with correspondingly less romantic appeal.

The conservative sub-ideology...

Although possessed of a prophetic vision, B.-P. was nevertheless a child of his time, and the social movement he created has to be considered in terms of the values and attitudes then prevalent. He spent the whole of his life in upper middle class surroundings, and, while sympathising with working people, he felt a strong loyalty to his own social background. It is not surprising then, that he should have developed, if unwittingly, a movement based on middle class values and ideals, thereby creating a further bastion of conservatism in which Britain and the Empire could have implicit faith. In addition to a method and ideology, he bequeathed a sub-ideology dedicated to the maintenance of the social status quo. (4) This conservative sub-ideology has, in many ways turned the Movement into a middle class institution, such that M. Carter reports that:

"Parents (of rough families) certainly do not encourage their children to go along to the 'official' sorts of youth organisation such as Boy Scouts or Girl Guides... These organisations, they believe, are 'full of snobs' and of 'people who think they are it'... There is little

understanding, and no sympathy for the standards and codes which such organisations promulgate." (5)

This rather wide generalisation does at least illustrate that 'class' feeling is not extinct. But the Teachers' Labour League went even further in 1929 to claim that the aims of Scouting

"are to train working class children to be 'loyal' to their employers and traitors to their class..." (6)

But, once the class bias is realised and admitted, Scout material can be approached with a new understanding, and, in this light,

"...its best ideals still spring from the foundations originally laid down after Brownsea and the rules first given in 'Scouting for Boys' ". (7)

...And adolescence

In this situation, it is relevant to ask whether Scouting is teaching the freedom to make existential decisions or simply propounding a value system. To a great extent, this depends on the leadership, but if the ideology is followed too closely, there is a very real constraining influence on the adolescent, which can result in painful role conflict. The Movement demands a high degree of conformity. Yet, although as Chinoy maintains, some measure of conformity is a prerequisite of an ordered society, this should not obscure the desirability of allowing the boy freedom to make his own decisions. (8) The leader has considerable power to enforce the ideology, as pointed out by Musgrove:

"Adults whose overt behaviour is suitably non-adult...can be excluded from responsible participation in affairs, rewarded for dependency, penalised for inconvenient displays of initiative, and so rendered sufficiently irresponsible to confirm the prevailing teenager — stereotype. They can be made into virtual outsiders." (9)

Greater understanding of the adolescent situation, as a culturally and socially determined phenomenon, is urgently needed. (10) Young people are eager for adult status, and it is essential that Scouters treat their Scouts as responsible equals (often difficult!) and accord them as many opportunities as possible of taking responsibility and sharing the running of the Troop. The experience gained from specific role playing such as Q.M., P.L., Librarian, and treatment as equals will greatly ease the process of socialisation. In this connection, it is interesting to note the findings

of McPhail's Oxford survey on characteristics approved and disapproved in adults.

Approved:

1. reasonable freedom
2. avoiding the use of force
3. treatment as equal
4. tactful behaviour
5. helpfulness
6. efficiency
7. good example

Disapproved:

1. unreasonable demands
2. restrictions/punishments
3. superior/sarcastic behaviour
4. refusal to listen to explanations
5. being over-critical/nagging
6. complaints in clothes/hair/teenage generation.
7. puzzling behaviour (11)

These provide a wide basis for the "wiser situational treatment (which) can reduce many of the problems of adolescent behaviour". (12) Leadership remains the crucial factor. There are still Scouters who prefer the directive approach to the non-directive, despite the fact that the latter encourages social maturation and self-reliance. Problems need to be freed from the conventions of society, particularly sex, and attacked rationally in the open.

Adolescent behavioural trends

Adolescents do not form a homogenous group, yet there are significant adolescent behavioural trends, which, when appreciated, put Scouting in perspective.

1) Decline in male peer group attendance (with age)

2) Increasing interest in a dual-sex environment

3) General trend away from group membership

These generalisations appear to hold true in many cases. Wilmott, in his study of (13) East London, found that as boys mature they tend to spend less time with their old peer group in order to be able to take out girl friends. Where interest in group life was maintained, the group was usually mixed. The girl factor is probably one of the largest single factors in the decline of Scout membership; this is only balanced by those who are able to achieve a high level of identification with Scouting and are thus retained. In the majority of the studies undertaken increased interest in girls correlated with decreasing group attendance for one sex organisations. This is certainly true of Scouting, which shows the same downward trend.

(14)	11	12	13	14	15
Scouts	94%	100%	82%	60%	38%
Venture Scouts
	16	17	18	19	
Scouts	10%	
Venture Scouts		13%	8%	4%	

Socialisation to adult life is very much concerned with attitudes to the opposite sex, and, as Fleming points out, the adolescent needs a "healthy atmosphere where interest in the opposite sex is held to be normal, unremarkable and permissible".

(15) One is tempted to ask whether an easier attitude to this question would increase the attractiveness of the Movement; mixed activities and possibly even a joint organisation could well be an answer.

Carter also points out that a significant drop occurs at school leaving age, which coincides with a certain amount of economic independence. Scouting is often associated with school children, and "young workers felt that they had 'got too old for that sort of thing' ". (16) If this is the point at which the majority of adolescents have to take their place in the adult world, perhaps it is fitting that Scouting should in fact "leave go". Yet the socialisation process is hardly complete at sixteen, and the slow expansion of both the Scout and Venture Scout sections as a result of the new possibilities brought about by the A.P.R. continues. Some of the early glitter remains, but it must be remembered that as the Movement draws nearer to the other youth organisations many potential Scouts are "lost" to Youth Clubs and more specialised groups with which the ordinary Troop cannot hope to compete in either terms of finance or equipment.

In Conclusion

Scouting, taken in its historical context, can be an exciting and stimulating force for the harmonious socialisation of adolescents into adult society. In undertaking modernisation, the character of the organisation must be considered; romantic appeal tends to diminish with increasing regimentation. Based, as the Movement is,

on considerable regional differences, there is no need for a "uniform" organisation... it is the individual Scout who matters. The spontaneity of the early days is now noticeably lacking, and a central bureaucracy has replaced B.-P.'s charisma. It is to be hoped that the need for greater responsibility, of Scouters in addition to Scouts, will be recognised by opportunities for greater participation. (17)

NOTES:

- (1) see p.270, "Lessons from the Varsity of Life" (B.-P.), and elsewhere.
- (2) p.13, "World of Boys", E.C.T. Spring, 1967, A.H. Stockwell Ltd.
- (3) p.128, "The Advance Party Report".
- (4) For an interesting discussion of B.-P. in this respect see W.S. Adams' study in "Edwardian Portraits", 1957, Secker and Warburg.
- (5) pp.57-8, "Into Work", M. Carter, Penguin.
- (6) quoted p.200, "Baden-Powell", E.E. Reynolds, 1957, Oxford.
- (7) p.249, "B.-P.'s Scouts", Collis, Hurll, Hazlewood, 1961, Collins.
- (8) see p.453, "Society", E. Chinoy, 1967, Random House (N.Y.).
- (9) p.16, "Youth and the Social Order", F. Musgrove, 1964.
- (10) see "Social Psychology", W.J.H. Sprott, 1952, Methuen.
- (11) quoted p.180, "The Psychology of Interpersonal Behaviour", M. Argyle, 1967, Penguin.
- (12) p.235, "Adolescence", C.M. Fleming, 1963, Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- (13) see "Adolescent Boys of East London", P. Wilmott, 1966.
- (14) based on 1969 Census returns, with 12 as the base year.
- (15) p.47, "Adolescence", C.M. Fleming.
- (16) p.295, "Home, School and Work", M. Carter, 1962.
- (17) Israel is a good example of responsible participation, where the National Council is made up of 34 Scouts and Guides aged 15-18, and only 17 adults.

*I.C. Faulds,
Department of Social Theory and Administration,
The University of Durham.*

Leader's Views

"This sounds like a one-man crackpot to me." Fred Hurl

Scout Association Chief Executive, SUN, 1st October, 1968

A handful of comments from the hundreds of circulars in our possession.

"As an ex-Scouter I was very interested in the News that someone was at last challenging the 'New Look'. I believe hundreds in this area feel the same way, please let me have any suggestions you may have that would lead to restoring Scouting to the true B.P. ideals."

R.G. Coventry

"Today's groups should not be run by Scout Leaders but need an administrator, handyman, P.T. instructor, S.R.N., naturalist, and a host of other specialists. Scouting today is far too complicated and unnecessarily serious."

W.P.C. Kings Heath, Birmingham

"They seem to have made the unforgiveable mistake of thinking that members of this highly successful, gradually evolved voluntary flexible semi-democratic organisation could be made to toe a rigid line and accept bureaucratic edicts they neither understand nor believe in."

D.L. Kings Lynn

"I have been the Cub Scout Leader in Barmouth for 21 years we were a Church Pack but open to non-Church members. I had a pack of 40 Cubs. We had a new District Commissioner appointed in October and without a word to the Rector or myself we were both told we were no longer a Church pack. We met in the Church Hall free of charge and he still expected to be allowed to have the Hall. He walked into my meeting with another Cub Scouter and took over saying 'From now on we are going to do things properly.' I would also add he had not even called the Group Committee."

J.H. Merioneth

"The new uniform is impracticable on grounds of cost, use or material. The outer garment is equally useless it is not even windproof. We will retain neckers, shorts, and we hope short-sleeved shirts whatever colour. The badges are not large enough. The present capitation fee is too high — and not value for money. Why do we need an expensive H.Q. in central London?"

P.H. Manchester



"As a Scout Leader in what is described as a poor area, I am constantly faced with problems which never arose during the pre-A.P.R. days due to the fact that the boys in my troop have neither the intellectual or financial background which the new training scheme seems to demand. I would therefore welcome a return to the more basic and I believe more enjoyable training programme where a Scout troop practised Scouting and not the curriculum of a technical college."

L.P. Edgware

"The seven points you set out on the back of your letter seem to be the main points that we find are arising in Belfast. Some are in favour of the new set-up, some would prefer your seven points."

K.N. Belfast

AND ABROAD

"Scoutmaster Russell is an opponent of the new look in Scouting that will completely replace the existing program by the end of this year. The new programs were designed by the National Council of Boy Scouts of Canada to "allow boys more freedom of choice within the movement". But in my opinion, this will emasculate the scout movement says Russell. Scouting is leaning towards the academic and the boys get to enough of that in school."

Canadian Panorama, April 5th, 1969

"I think I know rather well the situation of the French Scoutism. Although it is practically impossible to know exactly how many Scouts are left, practically it is a disaster, but they will never confess it. Morally it is a catastrophe. Nothing is left from the old ideal. To save their number they asked the Bishops conference to condemn any other movement and to refuse assistance to the new movements. Their Pioneers had a meeting in Paris last year. In their discussions it was just propaganda for social and guerilla war."

P.R. Lievin France



G J DAVIES

Venture Scouting

re-assessed

Since Venture Scouting was introduced into this District, Venture Scout membership has been dropping at 13% per annum, against a rise for the rest of the District of +4% per annum.

Training has declined in an even more spectacular manner, with the numbers achieving their Queen's Scout Award declining at 35% per annum. This trend is continuing at all levels of Venture Scout training.

Activities generally are on the decline, an indication of declining enthusiasm being the recent cessation of regular Venture Scout Leaders' meetings in the District.

Much of the blame for the failure of Venture Scouting rests with the fact that a new scheme was introduced with little or no guidance as to how to put it into practice, either from the material side or from the human side.

National Activity Centres were generally created merely by a change of name, an increase in price of admission, and little else. Even now, the number of these establishments is pitifully small, and information on the many non-scout activity centres is extremely poorly circulated. Distr-

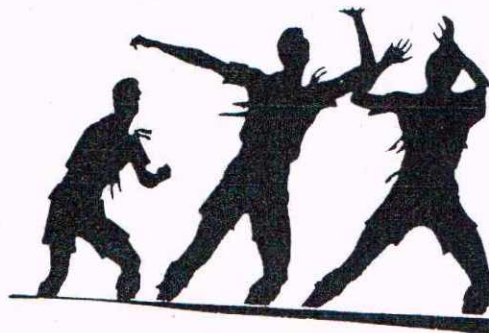
ict Activity Advisers, although recommended by the Advance Party Report, still hardly exist.

Where the recommendations have been carried out, such as the amalgamating of Units into larger ones, these have generally been "shot-gun" marriages which have usually collapsed for lack of expert advice.

Where Venture Scouting has most severely collapsed, however is in the working-class areas. It has become, more than ever a pastime for the fairly well-off with plenty of leisure time.

Many of the intended important features, such as elected executive committees and special-interest sub-sections have been a failure because Unit sizes are too small, and because Scouters were not sufficiently informed or motivated as to the purposes behind these ideas.

Scouter motivation has been completely overlooked. Are they trying to keep youth off the street? (television does that far better). Are they trying to produce better citizens? Do they know what better citizens are? Perhaps just quieter more docile (and apathetic) ones?



EE REYNOLDS

On being up to date

From time to time the cry goes up that we must bring Scouting up to date. We are told that this is an age of technical triumphs and of mechanical miracles; wireless, jet-propulsion, television and other evidences of man's increasing knowledge and inventiveness are mentioned as proofs that Scouting must widen its scope if it is to appeal to the boy of today. Photographs occasionally reach *Jamboree* showing Scouts using walkie-talkie apparatus on Wide Games of handling other bits of mechanical equipment; the implication seems to be that here is up-to-date Scouting taking full advantage of the latest inventions. On the surface this theory seems attractive, but I believe it is fallacious. Scouting has never been up to date in the sense of changing its programme of activities to include the most advanced forms of mechanical ingenuity, while at the same time discarding out-of-date activities such as using rope instead of nuts and bolts.

* * *

Could anything, for instance, be more out of date than cooking a meal over a wood-fire in the open when one can buy marvellous apparatus for the purpose? Or why hike to camp when there are trains and buses? Why, in fact, go to camp at all with all the labour of putting up tents, making one's bed, and doing innumerable chores when it is possible to have all modern comforts at moderate prices at what are misnamed Holiday Camps? Why have our own Camp Fire songs and entertain ourselves when you can turn on the wireless and lie back and listen in comfort? In fact *we are hopelessly out of date, and that is why Scouting still appeals to boys.* Where it fails the weakness lies, in most cases, in a neglect of those out-of-date features of Scouting that still attract the modern boy. B.P.'s scheme is timeless

because he based it on the permanent longings and instincts of the boy and not on passing attractions and fashions. It was just as out of date in 1907 to cook in the open as it will be in 1957, and in both years the thrill for the boy is the same. But B.P. knew that most boys have a kind of primitive urge to get down to earth and behave like pioneers and back-woodsmen and explorers. It is there that the true appeal of Scouting is found. This side of boy-nature is just as strong as ever in spite of all our modern inventions; he will, of course, be intensely interested in the latest type of motor car or aeroplane — that is one side of his nature; but there is the other side, too, the more deeply rooted love of roughing it and getting to grips with nature. Our job is with this second part of his needs, and Scouting is one of the few agencies that can still satisfy them.

* * *

The increasing mechanization of our times, accompanied as it is by a greater dependence of the individual on such aids, makes it all the more important that Scouting should offer, as it has always done, a compensating form of training in which the individual is encouraged to depend on his own skill and to do things for himself. There is one fortunate advantage in unmechanized Scouting; anyone with the proper qualities of character and the needful abilities can begin a Pack or Troop with almost no equipment. Gradually Troops acquire more expensive gear such as tents, but the Troop can begin with little more than a few lengths of rope. The more we mechanize Scouting, the more expensive is it going to become, and that inevitably means that fewer boys can afford to join the Movement.

* * *

I have not seen any records to show

how far the use of elaborate apparatus, for instance for signalling, has drawn more recruits. It would be interesting to have such information. One experience may be a guide. It might have been thought that an Air Scout branch would make an irresistible appeal in these days. Air Scouts were started in Great Britain during the last war; there were many recruits at that time, but the number declined soon after the war and seems to have become stabilized at some two thousand Scouts out of a total of over four hundred thousand in the Movement — about 0.5 per cent. This may be a special case as aeroplanes are not available for constant use! But there are all

the ancillary appeals connected with aeroplanes, yet these do not seem to be very strong.

My own conclusion is that Scouting still makes its primary appeal to the woodcraft instincts of the boy and if these get overlaid by more superficial attractions of the day, Scouting will suffer. This does not mean ignoring or scorning advances in invention and mechanical ingenuity; we must regard them as secondary considerations, being firm in the conviction that an open wood-fire and a billycan mean more to the boy than the latest type of pressure cooker.

***For information
or
extra copies of this paper***

**→ SAG. 30, Court Lane,
S.E. 21.**

S.A.G. AIMS

1. To retain the basic concepts of Lord Baden-Powell in "modern scouting".
2. To seek and to assess nation-wide Scout and public opinion concerning the Advance Party Report and the situation resulting from it.
3. To bring pressure to bear on Scout Headquarters and to encourage the Committee of the Council to look again at "New Look" Scouting by 1st October, 1970.

* * * * *

The Lads speak

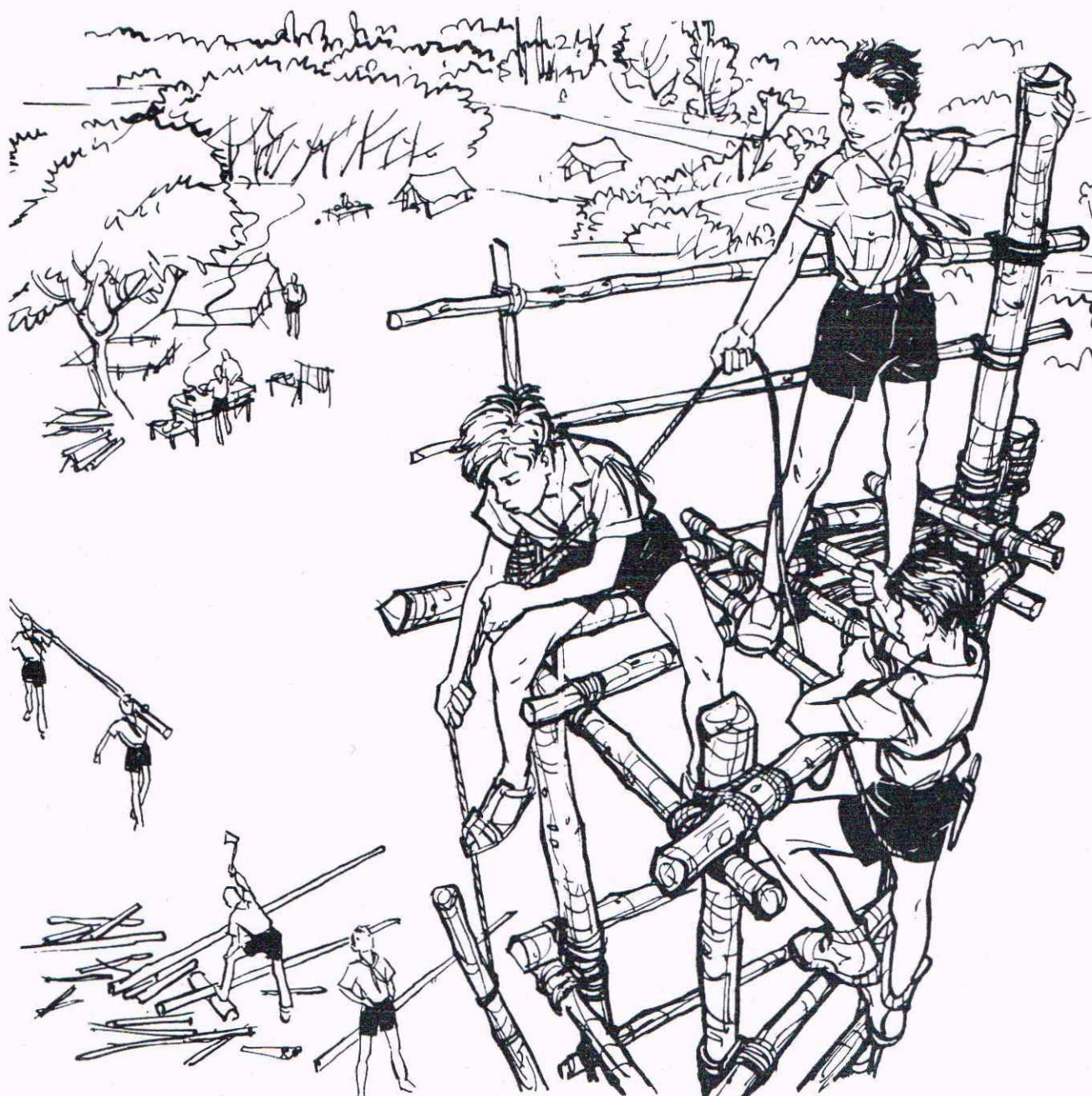
A few comments from the guys most affected — the old Senior Scouts.

"I prefer the old way of Scouting. The badges, the uniform, and the Senior Troop".

T.H. age 16.3. Left 17 months ago

Preferred the old organisation of Senior Scouts rather than the present type of Venture Units. Did not fancy travelling to a central point. One knew people in ones own Group, this is not so in the Venture Unit where standards are much lower.

P.H. and S.K. both now 17. Left April 1970



"The new badge system was far worse than the First Class I was working on and was too much like school."

K.P. 16, left 8 months ago.

"Did not like the uniform. Our Troop was one of the best, and Skip insisted that we wear proper uniform when Scouting. All those who chickened out just left. That was why our troop was the best. Now anyone can join. But its no good now."

T.N. now 19, left two years.

"I don't know why they bothered to change it. Our old troop has about the same number as before except the boys are much younger than it used to be and there is far less real scouting done."

P.H. now 18 left 6 months.

"We didn't have enough blokes to make a Venture Unit or whatever they called them, and this Commissioner came down and told us we all had to go about half a mile across town to some troop we didn't know and meet with their blokes. We went once or twice then just got bored. I liked our old gang though, but Skip said we couldn't stay officially."

T.K. and G.K. both now 18.

"Scouts used to be fun, and we had some smashing hikes with the Seniors. Our Scouter — old Bob — went off to work somewhere else so we carried on our own for a bit. Then we learnt that we had been amalgamated to a Venture Unit about thirty strong and we were going to do parachute jumping and flying and all that sort of thing. Nothing happened though and there's nothing left now."

W.H. left two years.

"Training was difficult at first due to lack of information from H.Q. but is now well under way. Venture Scouts are the potential leaders of the future and they are ready to go to troops to instruct in specialist subjects. The future of the unit is promising."

Annual report West Ham South 1967-8.

"We have done our best to interest these Venture Scouts in Venture activities, but with mixed success. Although finding Venture Scout activities attractive, they are doing excellent work in instruction. Some members of the Unit find it difficult to reconcile Venture Scouting with what they knew of Scouting, and their views are now under consideration."

"I can only say in conclusion that Venture Scouting in this District is in a state of flux and the future is uncertain."

Annual report West Ham South 1968-9.



JOCK NEISH

B.P. Overboard

"It were well that men in their innovations would follow the example of time itself, which indeed innovateth greatly, but quietly, and by degrees scarce to be perceived."

Francis Bacon

Long before B.P. came on the scene many excellent and well-intentioned people had devised schemes for the betterment of Youth. All these schemes, not excluding that splendid organisation the Boys Brigade, found themselves on sticky wickets. Something was wrong – but what?

Sir William Smith, founder of the Boys Brigade, approached B.P. and invited him to make suggestions which might bring new life into his Movement. B.P. spotted the flaw at once. He saw that all these efforts approached the problem from the wrong angle.

Adults had decided what would be good for the boys from an adult point of view. B.P. tackled it from the other end by finding out what boys WANTED. That was his stroke of genius which 'set the Thames on fire'.

It was the JUVENILE, as distinct from the ADULT, approach.

That was his great break-through and because of it Scouting arose spontaneously on the initiative of the boys themselves. I was one of those boys. Now the Advance Party has reversed the process. They have tried to substitute an "Adult Image" for the Juvenile.

Scouting is, and always has been, a juvenile Movement – and what's wrong with that? My Dictionary describes Juvenile as "young; suited to youth".

The Advance Party pays a little lip-

service to B.P. and then proceeds to drive a cart and horse through his basic principles.

B.P. said "Scouting is a boys' game: not an exact science."

The Advance Party has substituted 'the sophisticated approach'. The emphasis is all on 'efficiency'; on conscious self-improvement. Games are largely 'out'; technology is 'in'.

B.P. said – "Never allow the Movement to become an Organisation". But this is just what the Advance Party has done. A vast bureaucracy of Commissioners, Committees, panels, and all the rest of it was visualised and the Scout Movement saddled with it even before it was operative – which perhaps was just as well?

B.P. said – "There are no STANDARDS in Scouting – except the STANDARD OF EFFORT." By this he meant that any boy, dull or brilliant, could achieve success provided that, in the opinion of his Scouter, he was giving of the best that was in him.

Now the Advance Party has introduced STANDARDS at every level.

B.P.'s intention was to encourage, and give self-confidence, to the backward boy rather than turn out super-Scouts.

B.P. gave us the Badge System. He advised – "Let the young Scout gain one or two EASY Badges as soon as possible after he has achieved Second Class." Where are these "Easy" Badges today? They have "gone with the wind".

Take just one example – First Aid Badge. This was a Badge which could be taught by any Scouter who had a simple, common-sense, knowledge of home First Aid. The boy learnt a lot of simple things which he could put to practical use and, if he had tried, could go home as proud as a

cow with two tails to show his BADGE to Mum. Now we only have a "sophisticated" Ambulance Badge geared to the standards of The Red Cross Society.

After the age of sixteen the lad is not thought to want Badges at all. What rubbish; what rank bad psychology.

Human nature delights in some tangible symbol of Achievement. The Olympic Athlete treasures his Gold Medal; the General treasures his chest-full of Medal ribbons. What are these things but Badges of achievement?

B.P. never regarded his Badges as sort of "City & Guilds" standards of efficiency. He hoped that, among the many Badges offered, the lad might find a life interest which he might perhaps follow up as a hobby. But there was far more to it than

that. The Badges were simply tools — "carrots" if you like — by the use of which the Scouter might be able to hold the boys' interest and so keep him in Scouting. B.P. believed in "infiltration" rather than the bull-at-a-gate approach. Through the FUN and interests the great spiritual principles of Scouting could be "infiltrated" unbeknowns. After all what boy ever joined, or stayed, in Scouting to have his "character developed"? He stayed for the FUN.

The whole thing can be summed up in one final quotation from B.P. He said — "Scouting is a sugared pill".

All that the Advance Party has done is to scrape the "sugar" off and offer the "Medicine" undisguised.



Countdown

As the old saying goes, there are statistics and damn statistics. Not unnaturally, the census figures are scrutinised most closely, both by those who support the changes, and those who do not. Close attention to these figures is obviously essential to any appreciation of trends in the movement despite what some folk may suggest.

Of course, it is comparatively easy to manipulate these figures to prove that this, or that, is happening, which may, or may not, be the case in reality. Generally speaking however, it contributes little to the argument to say the Grand Total is up, or down, following a particular change, unless this is related to what the original intentions were.

Much of the Advance Party plan was aimed at the older boy. This has never been disputed. Therefore the excellent increases in the Cub section whether in boys, or leaders, or instructors and helpers is not necessarily highly relevant. In addition, most folk would agree that such changes that have been made in the Cub section are comparatively milder and less provocative than further up the age range.

The further one goes up the age scale however the worse the post-APR situation becomes.

Most folk find figures of this kind rather a bore, but one specimen should suffice. Let us take the figures for 1965 and 1969 as follows:

	1965	1969
Cubs 8 - 10	236,122	249,561
Scouts 10 - 14	180,713	168,449
Youth Service age range Scouts 14 - 21	94,155	81,000

From the above one would deduce favourable situation in the Cubs with unpleasant, but not disastrous losses in the older boys.

If however you spotlight the Senior Scout v Venture situation it would look like this:

	1965	1969
Senior Scouts	47,896	
Venture Scouts		21,698

Now agreed there were some 18,000 Seniors in Boy Scout troops etc. but the point is that the section was more viable, particularly as regards Queens Scouts etc.

If one investigates the previous Rover Scout situation in comparison with the current Service Team position, the results are infinitely worse. Leaders too, take on quite a different look if you apply the above analysis. Whilst overall, the position seems a modest drop, the sectional view indicates much greater losses in leaders of the older boys. The addition of so many extra Instructors and Advisers tends only to obscure the issue we should all be facing. An Instructor or Adviser is no substitute for a responsible Leader. One good Leader may put in as many hours as a dozen Instructors apart from the responsibility. The injection of such numbers in the overall figures and grand totals may obscure the issue from the press and layman, but the average Scouter has a pretty fair idea of the real drift in his area.

The statement made fairly frequently by Scout H.Q. that the 'great majority' of Scouters approve of the new scheme is probably correct. Since the really drastic changes were in the upper age ranges, and the 'great majority' of the movement is concerned with much younger lads (65% 11 or under). Even if all Senior and Rover leaders had disagreed they would still have been swamped by the other leaders. Yet the current position in the over-15's after the A.P.R. is infinitely worse. Since the report was primarily concerned to strengthen this section therefore it is reasonable to assume it has largely failed in its intentions whatever has been gained in Cubs by side-issues of the report.

Angus Referendum

The results below were part of a 56-question referendum held in Co. Angus. The full results were sent to Scottish Scout H.Q. The questions were collected and selected without censorship by the D.C.'s and the A.C.C.'s of the County of Angus. The answers to the questions were provided by 125 active Scouters and members attending the Annual Scout conference held on 1st March 1970 in Arbroath.

1. *Do you think that the new 'adult look' for Scouting has improved our image, and has attracted more boys into the Movement?*
 YES 40% NO 59%
2. *Do you think that the alterations to the Scout Law and Promise have improved them?*
 YES 40% NO 60%
3. *Do you think that our Founders name and his basic principles should appear more in our manuals?*
 YES 93% NO 7%
4. *Do you think that the group gets value for money from the capitation fee?*
 YES 37% NO 63%
5. *Do you think that some of the old and popular outdoor badges which have been scrapped should be brought back?*
 YES 94% NO 6%
6. *Do you feel that there has been a censorship on criticisms of the new look?*
 YES 79% NO 21%
7. *Is the new age group for Scouts working?*
 YES 6% NO 94%
8. *Do you think that there should be a retiring age for Scout officials and leaders?*
 YES 13% NO 67%
9. *What do you think of the new uniform – Do you think that 'Jeans' should be accepted for Troop meetings (general activity work) where the New Uniform is obviously inadequate?*
 YES 89% NO 11%
10. *Should every Scout unit have close connection with a church?*
 YES 43% NO 57%



NORTH AND CENTRAL LAMBETH SCOUT COUNCIL

106 Kennington Road,
London, S.E.11

15th April 1970.
(Dictated 14th April)

J. C. Hillsdon, Esq.,
19, Crampton Street,
LONDON, S.E.17

Dear John,

I am writing to confirm what you told me when we met last night, 13th April, in the presence of our Chairman, Mr. Eric Dew, namely that you had no intention of giving up, that you intended the Group should continue and that you intended to go to camp in the Summer. I told you, you will remember, that there could be no question under these circumstances of the Group being re-registered at the 31st March last and, therefore, I must tell you that the Group, so far as we are concerned, as from today's date no longer exists.

I further confirm that you promised to write to me with a detailed list of the Group's equipment and with the Group's Statement of Account and Balance Sheet. I therefore look forward to receiving these in the very near future.

Would you kindly take note that as from the date of receipt of this letter no member of your Group will therefore be entitled to wear Scout badges of any kind, neither will they be covered by insurance for any activity, and the use of the Group's flags must not be continued.

I am extremely sorry to have to take this step but you of course readily appreciate that you have left me no alternative. I must of course inform the Church authorities that the 73rd no longer exists.

Yours sincerely,



GORDON RATMAN