

Editorial

British fascists out of the closet

On July 23, the London *Sunday Telegraph* ran an article by Sir Peregrine Worsthorne entitled "A Police State Beats a Welfare State." No, he was not calling for a third alternative to fascism or socialism. His article is a bald-faced endorsement of the same kind of fascism which was supported by his stepfather, Montagu Norman, the man who helped finance Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany.

Worsthorne enthusiastically supports Newt Gingrich for his attacks on medical and welfare benefits, unemployment insurance, and the protection of pensions. Worsthorne writes that we should "welcome the unbridled pursuit of wealth." However, he admits that such steps cannot be implemented under a republican form of government; therefore, he states, it will be necessary to use force. A police state is needed, he writes, because "in revolutionary times, the only form of security for property and the bourgeoisie comes, not from think tanks, but from tanks proper."

Worsthorne counterposes what he perceives to be the necessity for fascism to a statement by British Labour Party leader Tony Blair: "The key question facing 20th- and 21st-century politicians, is how to provide our people with security during an era of quite revolutionary economic, technological, and social change." To this Worsthorne answers, "Since the state will be unable to provide 'our people' with security in a revolutionary age, should politicians go around pretending that it can? To my question, there most certainly is an answer: a resounding negative. My question and my answer really would be 'new politics'—i.e., honest politics." He complains that "most people" do not "make a connection between a willingness to use force and the continued enjoyment of our relatively lavish social services."

"Welfarism is an idea whose time has passed," he writes. "This does not mean that there will be no welfare; simply that such welfare as there is, will in general be enjoyed only by those who have the gumption and ruthlessness to forge it for themselves. It will be individual, not collective, welfare.

"This won't be a matter of ideology but of necessi-

ty. . . . All but a small minority of hopeless cases will have no choice but to fend for themselves. This is how it is going to be. Life for many of 'our people' in the late 20th and 21st century is going to be nasty, brutish, and even short." He praises those who attempt, by all available means, to accumulate personal wealth. "This is not so much greedy as responsible. . . . Today's unbridled amassing of wealth does make sense. . . . We should be welcoming it as an increase in realism."

This is not the first time that Worsthorne has been so blunt. On May 21, in the *Sunday Telegraph*, for which he is a senior commentator, he called for a "form of authoritarian politics" which would allow for "cruel belt-tightening [and] bitter medicines to be forced down the throats of the body politics."

It is instructive that he has Gingrich in mind as a candidate to play the role of a modern-day Adolf Hitler. What Great Britain needs, he says, is its own Newt Gingrich.

Worsthorne is a leading member of the British group which includes the *Sunday Telegraph's* Washington correspondent, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, and Lord William Rees-Mogg. This is the Rees-Mogg who, in his U.S. newsletter *Strategic Investment*, advocated that local militias prepare for civil war against the U.S. government. Like Rees-Mogg and Evans-Pritchard, Worsthorne has played a key role in efforts directed specifically against President Clinton, and against the institution of the Presidency itself.

In suggesting that Gingrich can successfully play the role of an American Führer, and that the British need someone like Gingrich to play that role in their own country, Worsthorne is following the lead of his stepfather, Montagu Collet Norman, who, as head of the Bank of England, was himself the virtual dictator of world finance in 1931. His agent in Germany was Economics Minister Hjalmar Schacht, who set the stage for Hitler to come to power through his imposition of the same kind of vicious austerity measures now being advocated for Britain and the United States by his stepson.

It is long overdue that this fascist gang be smashed.