

Message from The Rt. Hon. C. A. R. Crosland

Those responsible for the direction of Co-operative societies and the Co-operative Movement—whether directors or officials—have of course an immediate task of meeting the conditions and challenges of the moment by the relevant decisions. These decisions, however, require to be guided by long-term objectives based on the analysis and assessment of the needs of the future. This was a general emphasis in the Co-operative Independent Commission Report: the last words of the general part of that Report were:

“Indeed our final recommendation is that the Movement should formally re-examine not only constitutional issues such as this but also its basic training policies at least once every decade.”

To this process, formal or informal, of continuing re-examination and re-definition of Co-operative policies I believe the Society for Co-operative Studies can be of great help. It can bring together representatives from all areas of Co-operative interest and many individuals, particularly from universities and colleges, interested in Co-operative institutions and policies. The Movement can gain greatly from exposing itself to this kind of sympathetic and salutary study: and universities and colleges too can gain from this engagement with an organisation of considerable economic and social significance in our times.

I wish the Society well in its intentions and efforts.

ANTHONY CROSLAND

June 1967