

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, BLACKFRIARS.

Sir,—Mr Woollen, in his article on 'The Case for Exorcism' in your February 1949 number, writes of 'extreme vicious cunning and intrigue in public and commercial life'. If he is referring to the public life of Nazi Germany (for example) he is justified. The Nuremberg evidence strongly supports a belief in diabolic possession. The same seems to be true of Communist states.

But his words will be understood by many in a wider sense; and I have to ask your leave to protest. In twenty years of public and political life in this country I have encountered much folly and some human frailty, but no trace of 'extreme vicious cunning and intrigue'.

The recently concluded Lynskey Inquiry has once more demonstrated the high standards of British public life, and the peril of even a slight departure from them. Any politician who believed Mr Woollen's assertion that the 'banishment of God and of moral considerations' is a 'feature' of modern political life, and acted accordingly, would find himself in grave political danger.

I do not know what is meant by the phrase 'the banishment of God'. Mr grandfather maintained that Bradlaugh, as an atheist, could not sit in Parliament; and my grandfather lost his case. But I doubt whether atheists are in a majority in either House. Certainly I know many politicians who are God-fearing men. The daily work of Parliament commences with prayer; and representations put forward on behalf of religious bodies always receive respectful consideration.

I have also a little experience of business life, on which Mr Woollen is equally severe. There are some rogues about; and some of them escape the law. My general experience, however, is that British business is transacted honestly and faithfully, and that the confidence which the world places in us is seldom betrayed.—

Yours, etc.,

Eversley Cross, Hants.

IDDESLEIGH