

U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY REPORT

on James Johnson, M.P.

JOHNSON OF UK PARLIAMENT

Washington, Nov. 14 - Progress of newly developing areas and work with minority groups have been primary interests of the Honorable James Johnson, Labour Member of Parliament, during his present two-month tour of the United States.

"I am interested in finding out what you're doing along this line so that we can apply the most successful methods in our own newly developing Commonwealth countries," he explained. "For instance, I was very much impressed by the political and economic development of Puerto Rico, which has added 50,000 men to its factories since 1947. Thirty more factories will open there this year."

Mr. Johnson told of visiting an English firm in Puerto Rico which makes ball-point pens. "The machines and technicians are English, workers are Puerto Rican and part of the capital is American."

The problem in Puerto Rico is much the same as that in Jamaica, Trinidad and the Barbados, he declared, explaining, "The people have been largely dependent on one crop, sugar, and recently have been moving to the cities in large numbers. Tax exemptions have been granted to firms that come into Puerto Rico to encourage new industry. We can do the same thing in Jamaica to interest American and Canadian capital."

Mr. Johnson said that he was impressed by the new housing developments, as well as by the mass adult education programs to help the people of Puerto Rico.

Another housing development, far from Puerto Rico, which interested Mr. Johnson, is the 80-unit housing development at San Jose, Calif., sponsored by the United Automobile Workers, for white and colored union members.

The Parliament member praised this development as "a gallant attempt in a job which can be best tackled by the union." He declared, "White and colored union workers mingle on the floor of the shop. They can carry working side by side during

the day to living in the same community. That way, they're building on something solid. The chaps know each other, and there's a basis for getting along."

Mr. Johnson told of visiting AFL/CIO men at many cities in his coast-to-coast tour.

He also spent much of his time visiting universities, where he was frequently invited to address graduate seminars and political science groups. He spoke before a group at Johns Hopkins University earlier this week, and last night addressed the Washington Cooperative Forum on the subject "Some Straightforward and Down to Earth Ideas as to What Should be Done in Africa." He left today for Chicago, where he will give an address at Northwestern University.

Union people in the United States are "getting a share of the capitalistic carve-up and have a real stake in society," he said.

His tour, under the auspices of the U.S. State Department's Foreign Leaders Program, included most of the major cities from coast to coast, leading universities, state legislatures -- and even a Hollywood studio. In Hollywood he saw part of a Jean LaFitte biography, "The Buccaneer," being filmed, with Yul Brunner, Inger Stevens, Claire Bloom, and George Matthews.

The British visitor said that he will remember Americans as a "young dynamic people who will tackle anything, and who have a sound economic base for their efforts."

Mrs. Johnson has been travelling with her husband during the eastern portion of his trip and visiting her brother, who is attached to the United Nations.

PC/Sherwood 11-14-57