

Feb 13th/70

3. Rose Cottage  
Staplake Rd. Slacks Cross  
Exeter EX6. 8 PH.

Dear Miss Land,

I have read an article  
in my Daily paper. attributed to you,  
with much interest. (Large Families) &  
I find myself wondering how old  
you are, or better still, how young!  
You speak particularly of one mother  
who looked after her five children  
during the day & worked all night,  
& had in fact, been doing just that  
for 10 years! Come come Miss Land,  
however young you are, you surely  
cannot be so easily deceived. To work  
constantly like that is a physical  
impossibility. Also, you mention, that  
in spite of their extreme difficulties,  
little food & hardly any money,  
they still find something to laugh  
at. When one is driven to extremes,  
short of food, etc. you don't laugh -  
Miss Land, they are laughing  
at you. - so convinced are they  
that they have deceived you.  
As I say, I don't know your age,  
& I don't wish to appear uninterested.  
I am 70 - & I remember so well, the

years of Depression. World Depression  
my Land. not like "Hungry 30's" as  
the Labour Government constantly  
remind us. but a Depression which  
hit every conceivable country.  
America did not have the 'dole' they  
had soup kitchens. I was married  
to my husband, who is now, receiving  
the principal pay of £4.10.0. which  
was good indeed. while he worked.  
but when out of work as he chiefly  
was. he received no unemployment  
pay what so ever. because of his  
past employment pay. he kept  
alive & out of debt. by saving whilst  
earning & when that was exhausted, by  
selling bits of our precious home. No  
welfare state then. for how could such  
as the people you mention & I as you  
say, in cases. husband & wife or  
both working. they should be down right  
ashamed of their poor living conditions.  
I lost my husband. married again in  
1940. & was much older than myself.  
87 in fact. & when have I got - keeping out  
of debt - I will tell you. we have this cottage  
we saved & worked for - we subdivide the  
commercial tenants nearly - all who have  
one or sometimes two cars. my husband gets  
no state pension - & we scrape along & perhaps  
one day someone will speak up for us who have  
always paid our way - for truth

MRS Lerner



34 School Lane

Brexton

Mr. Sandbach

Cheshire.

12<sup>th</sup> Feb 1970.

Miss Hilary Land.

London School of Economics.

London.

Dear Miss Land,

Having read about your report in the Daily Express + hearing you speak on the Radio I felt - I would like to write a few things.

My husband very frequently says to me, when referring to many of the younger people of today - "they don't know what they have missed", you may not know what he means, but I do! He

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refers the kind of life that many of us had - we are those born during the 1914-1918 war. We had to work very hard to keep a good job - give up years to train + give the best years of our lives to the 1939-1945 war.

Your report - or so the 'Express' seems to say - that many live on a diet of tea, bread + jam + chips.

Now let me say - my husband now earns much more than £600 per year but - we have a combined eighteen years service to the Medical Services when we both earned less than £3 per month! But - we only have one cooked meal per day, my daughters have two because they have lunch at school + dinner at home in the evening. I have often thought - during

3.

the past few years that many of the people who do these surveys look at the matter from their point of view + if they have never lived the life they can't really compare. I can listen to recipes over the radio or read them in books, which say take four eggs, 1 gill of cream, 1 chicken etc. + I immediately switch off my memory machine, (a) I can't afford these recipes + (b) the eggs are out because my husband is allergic to them + (c) the cream is too fattening + at our age we must watch our weight.

Now to get back to Bread + Jam etc, perhaps what these people need most of all is some help in producing good food at a small cost. I make a thick

4.

vegetable soup without meat (because I have arthritis in my hands + I am better without meat), but bones can be acquired for a few coppers + are useful where there are children! Potatoes can be baked in their jackets + have grated cheese or an egg added to the 'potato centre' afterwards + I believe these things are just as economical if not more so than Bread + Jam o' chips! Let us not forget that the children under eleven still get milk at school free of charge + the young ones at home get it at about half-price, I believe!

When I was young, my mother died + left five small girls, my father had to go to work, arrange for someone to look after us, then come

home, wash, cook + clean, dig his allotment + look after his poultry. This he did! we were fed purely + simply because of his hard work. he never expected other people to look after his family.

He worked as an 'overlooker' in a weaving mill + once helped to build a road, when the mills were closed, 'due to lack of work'.

He hasn't benefited personally, but he always says he has been well repaid. his children are now - Headmistresses (two) Ex. Nursing Sisters (two). One son self-employed + another son a Doctor, (the two boys are half-brothers to me) we are now trying to do something for him to make life better.

You are also reported as saying some people work 50-60 hrs, but I have heard on the Radio recently that 10/- per hour can be earned in London doing domestic work!

If they can get this

for domestic work, <sup>6</sup> perhaps they  
should be persuaded to change  
their jobs. Also many of these people  
don't have to stay in London, & work  
& houses are easier in some other  
areas, I believe Burnley, Nelson &  
Colne (Lancashire) wanted some of the  
Londoners to come into these areas.  
My husband & I have had to move  
about quite a lot since we came  
out of the Army in 1946. We saved  
very hard after we were engaged,  
don't smoke, drink or gamble & object  
very strongly at having to reduce  
our standard of living, which we  
have had to do during the past  
five years! I have no objection to  
helping those who are handicapped  
mentally or physically or those who  
need temporary help because a



2.  
parent has died, but I believe  
people must learn to stand on  
their own two feet.

We find our money goes on the  
house, the car (which my husband must  
have to get to work as he couldn't  
get there any other way), rates,  
fuel, income tax, insurance etc. we  
try to save a little for our 'old age'  
& do the best we can to give our  
three daughters aged nearly 15 yrs.  
a decent start in life.

I have walked to school behind  
people who had children in 'pleinolls'  
in the middle of winter but who had  
'free everything' & carried a bag of  
crisps in one hand & a block of  
chocolate in the other. I have given  
good clothes which my daughters  
have outgrown, but were still

very good to other people's children  
 only to find they are ill used &  
 don't last five minutes. I could go  
 on relating these stories for ages  
 but it would be a waste of time.

I think the person whose  
 voice was on the radio yesterday  
 should have been saying, "the  
 country is very kind to give me  
 fourteen pounds for my family,  
 even though I do find it hard to  
 manage."

I have been poor, I sat down  
 to dry bread once or twice when my  
 sister was at College & trade was  
 bad in Lancashire, I worked from  
 7.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. for many years  
 with one day off a week & nine  
 months on active service without

a day off when we invaded France  
+ my husband has done all this +  
more! No! they don't know what-  
they have missed!

Yours sincerely

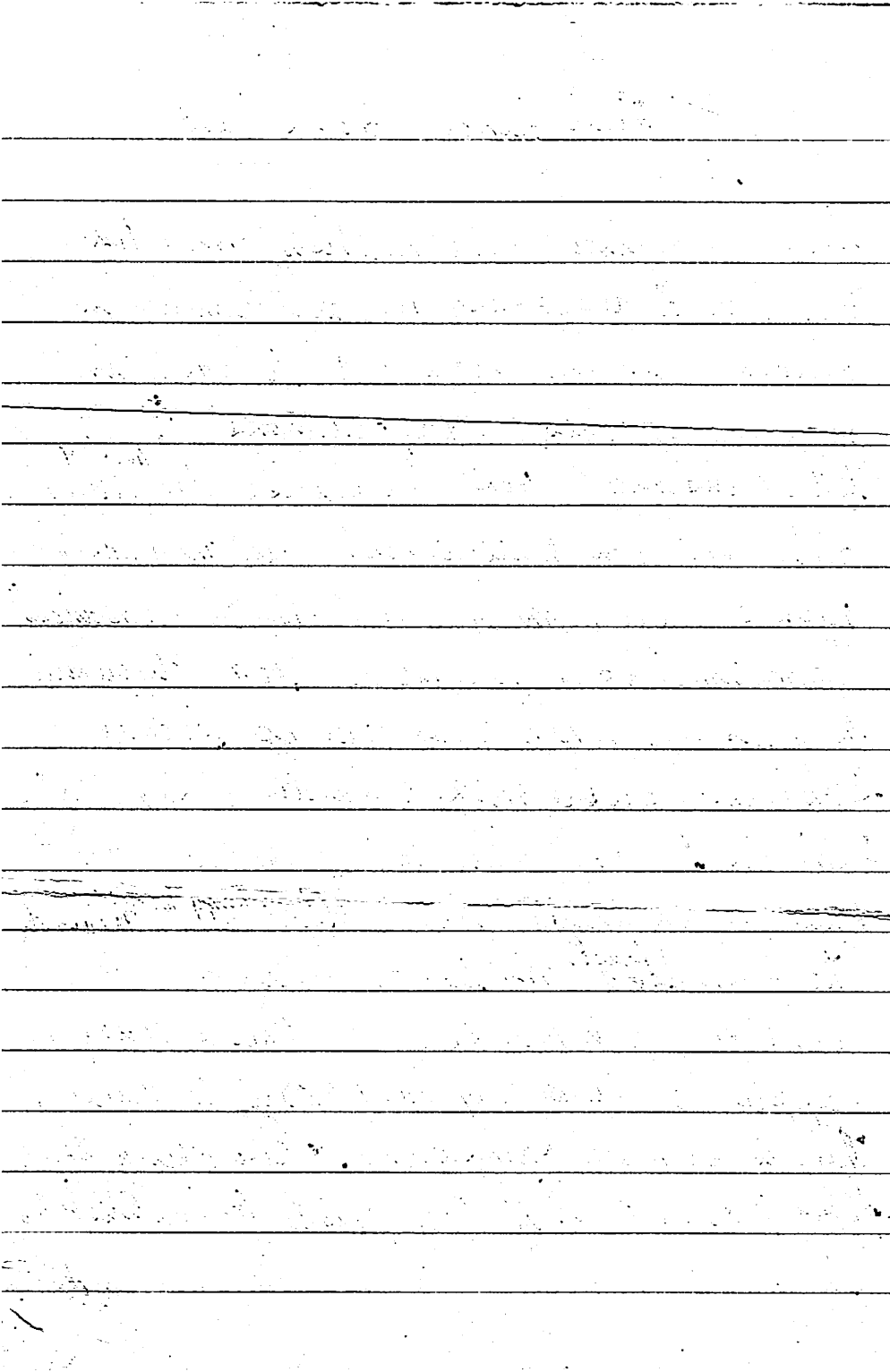
M. Floyd-Norris (Mrs.)

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P.S. I believe what the Country  
lacks today is hard work, honesty,  
+ discipline, 'self discipline' most-  
of all & we won't find this until  
we fill our Churches again with  
true Christians + there people will  
shelter the poorer people + help them  
if they will only let themselves be  
helped in that way!.

To Hilary Lancel & Frank Field.

What a damned lot of rubbish, you & Mrs  
Frank Field are writing re. 'Large Families in  
London' are you both out to 'cash in'  
on a lot of lies & exaggerations? <sup>mostly</sup>  
Utter nonsense. Don't you realise the <sup>lumpy</sup>  
dirty lot you write about (in most cases)  
with a large family - get family allowances?  
(sometimes up to £10 a week) some difference  
to years ago, when there was no Social  
Services. & people worked harder, & kept their  
families tidier. This lot of today, don't  
know when they're well off, <sup>the lumpy</sup> <sup>to cook</sup> <sup>Meals etc.</sup>  
No fresh ~~food~~ <sup>frank</sup> my heart. Why not?  
Can't they go to markets & get cheap oranges  
& apples etc (or do they want Public conveyance)  
There is too much pampering. & coddling these  
types today. a lot of them, Irish Blighters, who  
haven't a good word to say for England



2.

but how they love to Come here &  
Collect our benefits. Send them all  
back to Ireland, & then there is more  
room for English people.

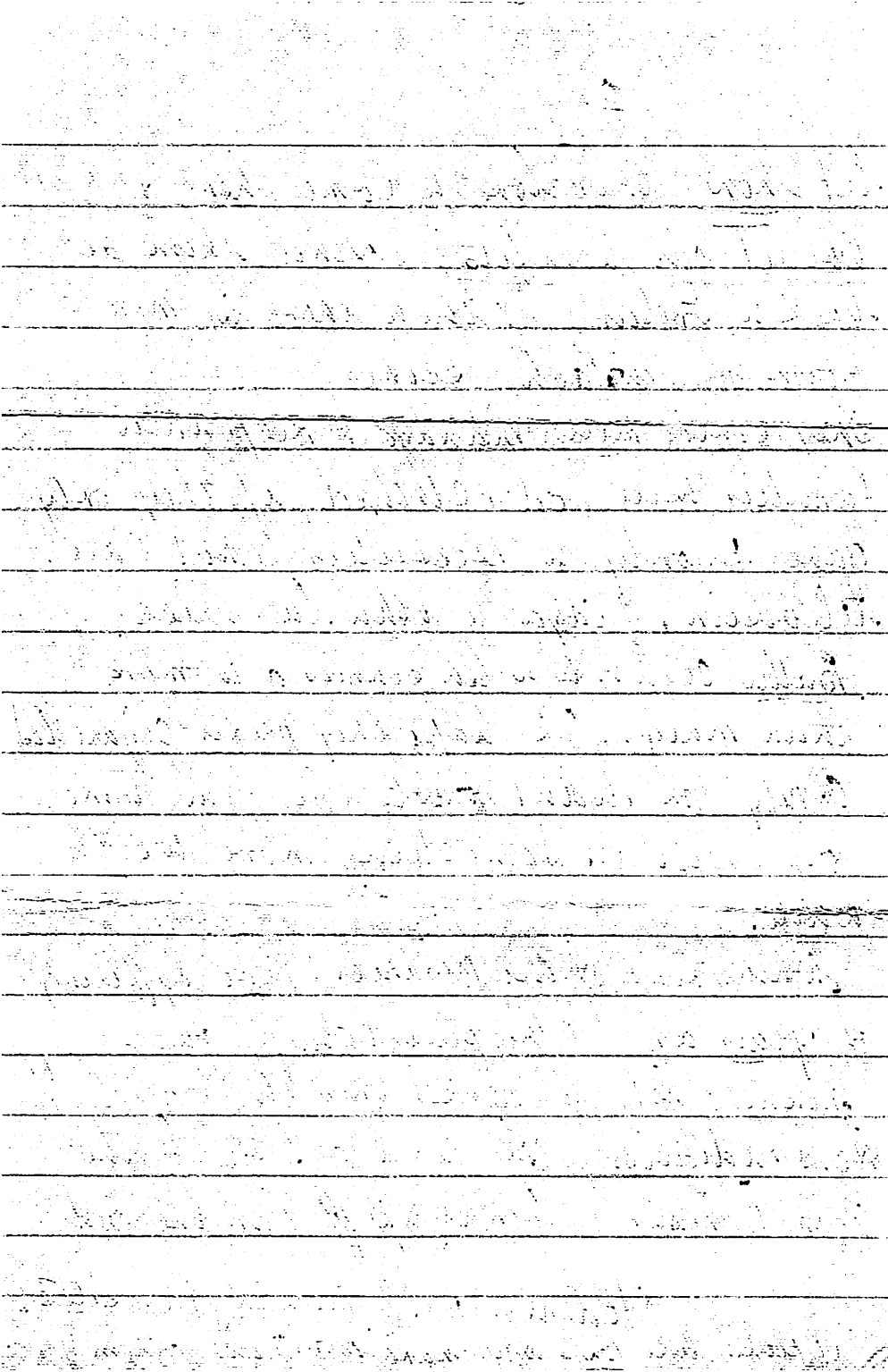
They could well manage to keep their  
families well fed & clothed, if they only  
gave priority to necessities, & not Cars -  
television, fridges & other luxuries.

Batter costs only a few pennis a lb more  
than marg. (perhaps they prefer cigarettes)  
A pity you didn't ~~take~~ use your time  
& energies on something more worth  
while.

When I read of the miseries & real suffering  
of years ago - & the present day, greedy  
moaning lot. it makes one blood boil!!  
How ridiculous to send a letter to the  
Prime Minister. How stupid can one get.

Fed up with Moaning Parasites.  
(& people like you - who make money out of them!)





The Nook,  
Amwell Lane,  
Stanstead Abbotts,  
Ware,

Hert's

10. 2. 70

Hilary Land Esq.  
London Sch. of Economics.

Dear Sir

I set little store on anything that emanates from the College and I consider the place ought to be closed down and the foreign staff of staff and students sent back to their countries of origin, but I am interested in one point in your research on families.

What was the percentage of families

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of the Catholic religion in this survey?  
That is an important point, but it  
is not stated in the Press.

Religion is the cause of all wars,  
religion is also the cause of hunger  
and starvation - and the leaders  
of the so many creeds must be  
held responsible for any hunger and  
poverty in their dioceses.

I also forgot to mention that  
religion encourages war and the  
latest example of this was Nigeria.

Yours etc.

H Johnson.

Without Prejudice 56 The effendi  
Bumt Oak  
Edgely Hill

Dear Miss Lane

In ref to your book article  
in the Daily Mirror on the poor  
welfare of large families I would  
like to mention that one great  
thing that has been overlooked  
into the causes of this problem  
I am now retired after 47 years in  
the building industry and have  
worked a great deal & lived  
amongst these large families in  
the slums and a great majority  
& more so to-day are Irish  
many are born or rather conceived  
under the influence of drink or lust  
or their religion where the  
forbiddance of contraceptives are  
not allowed to be used by their

1. *Chrysomelidae*  
 2. *Chrysomelidae*  
 3. *Chrysomelidae*

*[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]*

the book was

[illegible]

4/20/2020 6:00 PM

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creed whether they want them or  
cannot afford to care for them as  
they should. In this respect I  
would like to submit to you my  
opinion of this problem without  
prejudice to whom it may  
concern that

Man is the miracle of God  
In man God created an image of  
himself to create man or women  
The pope says you must not  
destroy the seed thro intercourse  
by using contraceptives & yet  
when the seed or child begins to  
form the Catholics & other  
denominations have Abortions  
to destroy Gods image so where do  
we go from here  
Yours Sincerely  
A. L. White O.A.P

I have not yet received your letter of the 11th inst. and am sorry to hear that you are not feeling better. I am sure you will get well again and be able to go on with your work. I am sure you will get well again and be able to go on with your work. I am sure you will get well again and be able to go on with your work.

[illegible]

I would be esteemly grateful to  
your opinion on what I have  
enclosed as I cannot afford &  
would like to have need your  
book on this subject I can along  
with my dear wife say we are  
& have always been a very  
Lovable & affectionate big  
family 4 married daughters &  
9 grand-children My Eldest  
daughter spoke for all of them to  
us both last year by telling us  
Well if um you & Daddy worked  
very hard to bring us up  
decently & were not able to give  
us much when we were little

But we always had your love  
& affection & you were always  
around us. This statement

1. The first of these is the

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proves what is lacking in many  
families to-day all over the world.  
Sex drugs violence breeds  
delinquency hate & discontent not  
forgetting the foremost lead to all  
this the permissive age.

There is a great deal of  
work to be done in the  
field of the history of the  
United States.

The first step is to  
collect the materials  
which are necessary for  
the study of the subject.