

regret it now. Their unstinted support and encouragement from the very beginning is the main reason why we are all here today.

I may say that when I set out to persuade British industry to accept the idea of the first Conference I had very considerable qualms. After all, it was something entirely new and rather outside the scope of most people's experience. This time I felt a good deal more confident which explains, I hope, some of my methods of persuasion.

I felt more confident for three very good reasons. In the first place the Oxford Conference went off very much better than we had dared to hope. The methods we used -- that is the study groups and study tours -- proved to be workable and an excellent way to stimulate discussion. Secondly, in the years since 1956 I have done several more long journeys and come across many of the Oxford members. I gathered from each one I met that the experience of the Conference continued to be of real value to them in their work. Incidentally it may interest you to know that shortly after the Conference we published a little booklet called "Who's Where", giving the names and current occupations of all the members. This booklet has been brought up to date every year since at the insistence of the members.

The third reason for my confidence was that since 1955 I have seen a very great many more industrial developments in the Commonwealth, particularly in India, Pakistan, Singapore, Hong Kong, in the Pacific, and parts of Africa. The more I see the more convinced I am that people engaged in industry can learn a great deal from each other, not just in the narrow technical sense, but in the broad conception of industrial communities. During my recent visit to South America I couldn't help thinking how much they would