

WORLD MOURNS ERNEST BEVIN

Ernie Bevin has fought his last fight. The great heart which for so long fought for others is stilled. From nothing he rose to be great, and yet keep the faith of the small. The General Strike brought him to Downing Street as spokesman for the union he had built, but when Churchill called him to be Minister of Labour in the war, he rose to his greatest heights. With peace in Europe, he went to Potsdam as Foreign Minister in the new government. He walked where Hitler had triumphed and saw where he had died.

New York gave him Broadway's traditional welcome when he began his long struggle to build a world in which no man need look in fear over his shoulder, at his neighbour.

Wherever peace might be strengthened, there he went, gladly. Vishynski was friendly, but Russia's "No!" was firm. With Russia Bevin could make no progress. There remained only Western Defence, and to the planning of the Atlantic Treaty he gave his great powers. Then, on his 70th birthday, ill-health forced him to hand on the torch to younger hands. And now an illustrious figure leaves the stage and the world is the poorer for his passing.