

Everyone I spoke to looked on the film as a bit of clean, wholesome fun, and I think its deep universal appeal lies in the fact that it shows a group of ordinary men and women getting the better of people who have ceased to be human beings and have become "authority."

All over Europe men and women are tired of being bossed by those in authority. They are too lazy or too good-natured to resist by force, and many of them no doubt feel that the authorities are probably right, but however convinced they are in their minds that authority must be obeyed, deep in their hearts they rebel, and the most civilised, in fact, the only bloodless weapon against authority is humour. Fortunately, we in the Hebrides have it in abundance.

My inquiries in Norway and Sweden were confined to "Whisky Galore," but perhaps someone better equipped might write a lively and valuable thesis on humour as a political weapon. From the kindest laugh to the sharpest satire, humour is a shield and a spear. A good laugh can dissolve an awkward moment. A pointed wisecrack can deflate the pompous or bring down the proud. Freedom to laugh is perhaps the greatest freedom of all. Where there is no other freedom, laughter is the only refuge left. It would be interesting to know how far the humour of the Russian peasant goes to make the yoke of Communism tolerable.

Cha robh duine a bhruidhinn mi ris nach do thuig an dealbh ann an spiorad àbhachdais, agus tha mi'n dùil gun do chòrd e ri uiread de dhaoine a chionn is gum bheil e toirt seallaidh dhuinn air grunn de dhaoine cumanta a' toirt a' char a feadhainn eile a tha air an daondachd a chall le mealladh "ùghdarrais."

Air feadh na h-Eòrpa tha daoine seachd-sgith de bhith air an òrdanachadh aig luchd-ùghdarrais. Tha iad ro leisg air neo ro shomalta airson gleac an aghaidh sin, is bithidh mòran dhiùbh a' creidsinn gu bheil an luchd-ùghdarrais ceart. Ach air cho deimhinne 'sa tha iad gur còir a bhith umhail do'n luchd-ùghdarrais, cha chreid iad so 'nan cridheachan, agus 'se an dìon as fheàrr a tha aca bho "ùghdarras"—'se sin gun fuil a dhòrtadh—àbhachd. Gu fortanach, tha so againn am pailteas an Innse Gall.

An Lochlainn agus 'san t-Suain cha robh mi ach a' lorg mu dheighinn "Whisky Galore," ach dh'fhaodadh fear d'am b'fheàrr a b'aithne a ghnòthaich tèasas éibhinn is fiachail a sgrìobhadh air luach àbhachd am poilitics. Biodh e an riochd gàire choibhn-eil no an riochd na h-aoire as nimheile, tha àbhachd 'na sgiath is 'na chlaidheamh. Bheir gàire math fuasgladh ann an teinn. Cuiridh abhcaid eirm-seach a ghlas-ghuib air luchd na fearas-mhóra no fear mór-chùiseach. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil saorsa ann cho prìseil ri saorsa gus gàire a dheanamh. Far nach eil saorsa eile air fhagail tha àite-fasgaidh 's a' ghàire. Bu mhath leinn fios a bhith againn de an tomhas anns a bheil àbhachd a' chroiteir Ruiseanaich.