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# The SEARCHLIGHT

39th YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

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VOL 39 NO. 9

COLOMBO

MAY 15th 1960

## "QUO VADIS" DR.

### PERERA ?

IS IT LEFT OR RIGHT THIS TIME ?

**M**ARXIST Parties having suffered painful defeat at the March 19th polls this year seem to be groping in the dark, throwing all principles to the winds, to stage another unholy alliance to mislead the masses of this country. In this effort we see the so-called highly principled workers' leader and the parties they represent, going back on all their earlier assertions, merely to put forward a united front against the United National Party banking on an imaginary theory, that the majority of the people of Ceylon continue to be ANTI UNP.

In a frantic effort to preserve his prestige and political good fortune for the future, Dr. N.M. Perera has chosen the path of least resistance by throwing his unqualified support on the well-being of the SLFP. Although late, this good Doctor has now seen through the situation, that his political Guru — the grandfather of the revolution — Mr. Philip Gunawardene had acted rightly in 1956, when the latter joined forces with the SLFP to set up the MEP Government. The line of action Dr. Perera now pursues is nothing but a duplication of the VLSSP line of action in 1956. Dr. Perera is virtually starting from where Mr. Philip Gunawardene left off in 1959.

In the context of Dr. N. M. Perera's present activity, it is perfectly clear that the good Doctor has taken stock of the political situation and come to the conclusion that the Ceylonese voter is not prepared to give him a mandate

(Continued on page 1)



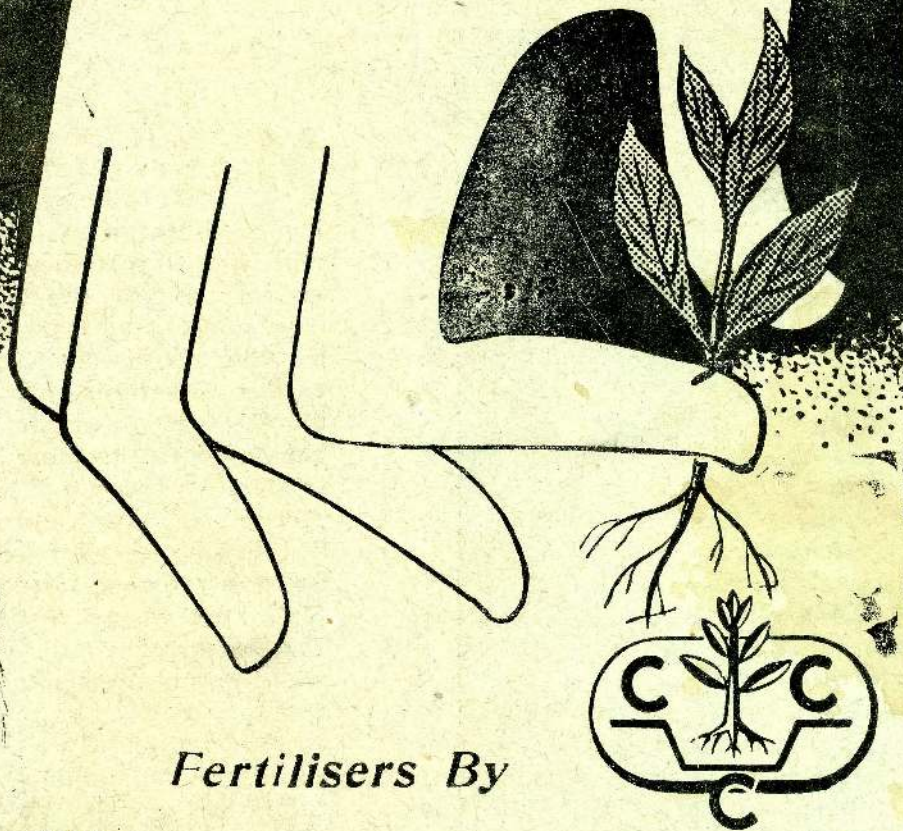
MR. ANTONY ARMSTRONG-JONES

PRINCESS MARGARET and her photographer husband Mr. Antony Armstrong Jones, went in their highly polished barge this week to Cuevas, a tiny deserted islet on the north-west tip of Trinidad.

They left this island aflutter with excitement following Friday's State drive and the after-dinner calypso reception at the residence of the Governor-General, Lord Haile.

The Joneses, were quoted as saying that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the party which featured calypsoes by Lord Melody and a folk dancing show by the little Caribbean

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VOL 39 NO. 9

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## ARE WE QUOTING SLOW DEATH?

**Y**OUR good editor has already announced our advent. So here we are. We are here to hail you from the insect world, to bring you tidings good and bad, and to bemoan the gross hatred you display towards members of the insect world, for the manner in which you continue to wage militant war against us insects.

You will of course bear with us in opening our column from an insect angle. You will no doubt know the characteristics of the average firefly. It is a harmless creature living on a wee bit of betel leaf here, or a dash of KATURUMURUNGA leaf there by night, bring quite some colour and life to an otherwise dreary night.

At the outset we would like to caution you goodly souls, Buddhist and all that, who may soon be guided by that terrible array of Marxist Buddhists of harbour fame, not to be as militant as you are now, against us insects.

You know the colossal sums of money you expend annually to bring death to us folks and in the process provide an easy and ready outlet for the profitable disposal of left over war material—to wit, poison gases etc.—that flood the Ceylon market in the form of chemical compounds such as FOLIDOL, ENDRIN, MALATHION, AGROSAN and various other compounds. Without any foresight, you pitilessly get these absorbed into our bodies and look

quite happy. Our skins, nervous system and all else affected, you subject us to slow but sure death. Every action, you know, has its Reaction. You upset the balance of nature, which you mortals will never be able to maintain throughout. Even the beneficiary Insects are killed in this process, and it is this same medium you unconsciously select as the natural reaction for your vicious actions.

Death by heart diseases have reached all time heights. Nervous debility, high and low blood pressure complaints, skin diseases, womb troubles and still births keep spiralling up to enormous proportions. To combat this situation you only think of producing more and



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more medical men, who with the heavy work in hand, turn specialists overnight. "FIREFLY" certainly does not grudge the good fortune of these medical men, but on the contrary is forced to pity them and the entire nation, knowing full well that expert and patient all are being surely and steadily trapped in this menace they are trying to overcome. What you human folk fail to observe is that in the process of your war against us insects, you are surely quoting slow, unnatural and premature death on your kind—the entire nation at that.

Do you know that the poisonous pesticides you use in your drive against insects, get absorbed into the leaves and heads of cabbages, the pods of BEANS, PATHOLA, MEKARAL, BANDAKKA and KARAWILA etc., which you cherish to consume? As was your wont, these chemicals remain active even after your purpose of destroying our kith and kin have been fulfilled and continue to bring the reaction to your actions, when you consume such vegetables. Think of the efforts you make to quote such slow death.

In the careless handling of such chemicals, even in temperate climatic regions, there are people living today, having to carry elongated tongues, bulging eyes and various other bodily deformities. What has the Labour Medical Officer of the Department of Health got to say about the basic safeguards provided for Ceylonese workmen who are engaged in handling such compounds?

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Your department of agriculture is solely to blame for this state of affairs. This department bristles with anomalies. "Firefly" will let you into more and more secrets as the weeks go by. Things have fast deteriorated in this Department with the advent of policy-makers whose one concern was apparently the setting up of a political administration and not a worthwhile scientific set up. They have sent all visions of patriotism and brotherly feeling to the winds. They have created animosity, frustration and inaction of a degree unsurpassed in the history of the department. If you goodly souls can mobilise your efforts even at this late stage, "Firefly" is ready to guide you to retrieve this position and promote our mutual interests in a manner worthy of all living beings.



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Towards this end all you need is to permit the Plant Pathologist and the Entomologist of the Department of Agriculture to carry out their legitimate duties without political interruptions and set-backs. If that can be done, "Firefly" assures you that the situation fast leading to the near extinction of the Ceylonese nation can still be arrested.

Let us here and now examine what is happening in this scientific branch of the Department of Agriculture. An Agricultural Instructor, without even the basic scientific degree is made to handle this aspect of agriculture as Chief Plant Protection overlord. In 1954, the Government obtained nine (9) pest and disease control units from Canada under the Colombo Plan aid and placed them under the Government Entomologist and Plant Pathologist, quite rightly. Without any justification, however, this pest and disease control service was disbanded, by those who made bold to rush in with the harbour brand of politics into this scientific field of agriculture and created a politically fruitful post of Chief Plant Protection Officer, ignoring the fact that this was nothing short of initiating slow death for the nation.

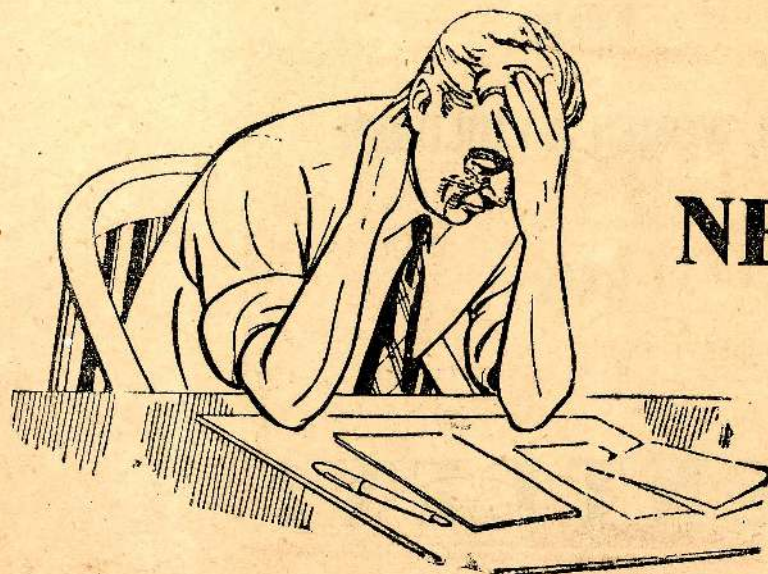
It is worthy of note that in South East Asian countries, more than 30% of the agricultural produce is lost due to pests and diseases. In Ceylon this would mean about Rs. 500 million loss to the country annually. What constructive action is envisaged to control such losses effectively? YOUR 10 YEAR PLANNERS HAVE COMPLETELY IGNORED THIS ASPECT. WHERE LIES THE REMEDY?

Will the hardworking and unassuming Minister of Agriculture and Lands and the energetic Minister of Health, who has already displayed a keen sense of duty, seriously think of summoning a conference of the Plant Pathologist and the Entomologist of the Department of Agriculture and the Labour Medical Officer of the Department of Medical Services, to formulate arrangements to arrest this situation to save themselves and the nation.

"FIREFLY" TOO WOULD LOVE TO BE THERE, PROVIDED OF COURSE, NO DANGEROUS INSECTICIDES ARE BROUGHT INTO THE CONFERENCE HALL.

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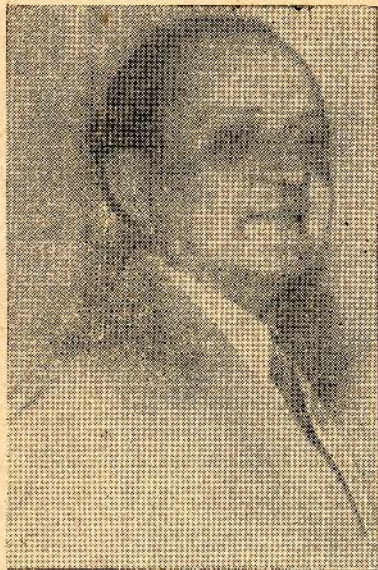
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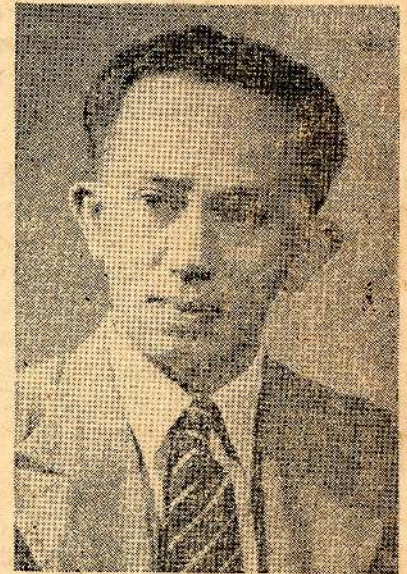
# The Architect of the Ceylon Institute of Architects

“Our Architectural Needs and Problems, and the  
Challenge of Our Times”



Mr. H. J. Billimoria  
A.R.I.B.A., F.I.I.A.  
F.C.I.A.

We have pleasure in giving full publication to the address given by Mr. Herbert E. Gonsal, retiring President of the Ceylon Institute of Architects, since his address contains valuable food for thought & coming at a time like the present when great building schemes are being contemplated both by Government and the public. It is an undisputed fact, that the retiring President, has spared no pains right from the start in the promotion of the Institute of Architects and verily his dream has come true. That the members of this Institute will most enthusiastically render every support to make this body a great success, there can be no doubt. For, if we are to judge by the interest now shown



Mr. Herbert E. Gonsal  
B. Arch: (Livl), F.R.I.B.A., F.I.A. A.  
F.I. Arb, A.R.A.I.A., M.R.S.H.

by our young Architects, the future is going to create even greater history than was envisaged by its pioneer Mr H. E. Gonsal,

At the annual session Mr. H. E. Gonsal, on behalf of the Council proposed the Election of Mr. H. J. Billimoria as President for the next year. This was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Billimoria stated that, before proceeding further, he wished to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. H. E. Gonsal for his able address and good work. He said that Mr. Gonsal was connected with the Institute since its very inception and he had great pleasure therefore in proposing the Vote of Thanks to him. This was seconded by Mr. Wynne Jones, who referred to the substantial work done by the outgoing President and the motion was carried with applause.

Mr. Billimoria taking the Chair expressed thanks to the members for electing him Presi-

dent for the current session. He said that the Institute was only 2½ years old but achieved something by securing the affiliation with the R.I.B.A. The aims and objects set forth in the preamble of the Constitution could be achieved and with the co operation of the members the Institute could go ahead and achieve something which they could really be proud of.

Mr. H. J. Billimoria, the new President of the Institute is a calm and dignified professional man connected with the Government. With matured wisdom and architectural knowledge he has quietly but steadily built up a grand reputation in his professional ranks. Following the footsteps of the late Homi F. Billimoria and emulating the splendid example set up by his former Chief, he carries with him the good wishes of many members of the Institute of Architects and those friends of his who look upon

him as a guide, philosopher and friend.

Incidentally Mr. Billimoria qualified in Architecture at Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy School of Art in Bombay. He obtained his A.R.I.B.A. having sat for the external Examination in India. He was also Editor of the Journal of the Indian Institute of Architects for 3 years. As a sportsman he excelled in Tennis and was the Singles Champion in the School of Art. Coming to Ceylon in 1946 he joined the P. W. D. as an Assistant Architect and with devotion to duty and a sense of integrity and character rose to the present position of Deputy Chief Architect.

We wish the new President all good luck and may his efforts in the new office of President bear ample fruit for the greater good of the greater number

x            x            x

**F**OR the benefit of those who are unaware of what transpired at the initiation of our Institute, I might disclose how this Innovation occurred. The inauguration Address which should have come from our first President, Mr. N. Wynne Jones, was postponed, in a gesture of willing co-operation to enable Mr. Oliver Weerasinghe, President-Elect, to deliver the Presidential Address. In view of his having expressed a desire to speak to the members on the eve of his departure to the U. S. A. on an assignment with the U.N.O. Mr. Wynne Jones' address, was, therefore, delivered last year at the ending of his tenure in office, and I am accordingly under the necessity of conforming to a precedent from which there appears to be no escape.

There are, no doubt, advantages and disadvantages in a post presidential address, if I may so term it. An obvious advantage is the opportunity it affords the President to review the work of the year with a feeling of confidence, and the ability to evaluate, and anticipate the possibilities for future progress with a greater degree of certainty and assurance. I shall leave my successor, Mr. H. J. Billimoria, to discover the disadvantages, if there are any, and trust you will pardon me for this, (somewhat mischievous ?) comment on my successor in office.

Before I come to the subject of my address, I think it would not be out of place if I should give you a brief outline of our early efforts towards the formation of this Institute; if only for the benefit of the younger members who have recently joined us. I presume it will also serve the purpose of a useful record of our first uncertain steps and be a source, perhaps, of information and inspiration to many others who will be members in the future.

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Nearly thirty years ago in England, in the winter of 1932, on the eve of my leaving for Ceylon, I had the pleasure and privilege of calling on Sir Ian Mc Allister, then Secretary of the R. I. B. A., and a far-sighted, wise and pleasant man. How well I remember the conversation I had with him, centering mainly on the possibility of the formation of an Institute of Architects in this Island.

As a means bringing the advantages and benefits of better architecture to our island home, and popularising the idea of the indispensability of the services of Architects to the people of this country, if the best and latest results of architectural practice and progress in other countries had to be made available to them; it was clear to me that some authoritative and unified body should be established. I always hoped that this cherished dream should materialize. I found no difficulty therefore in agreeing whole heartedly with Sir Ian's views and, accordingly, assured him that I would do all I possibly could in this matter when I returned to Ceylon.

As the few older members here will perhaps remember, the earlier attempts I made were disappointing. The proposals I put forward at interviews and conferences with the



members of my profession, did not look as if it would provide any recompense for the long travail involved. A knowledge of men and matters invariably teaches one how unaccommodating some minds sometimes are to new ideas. One is faced with an initial difficulty and sometimes with an attitude bordering on suspicion, and both of which had, however, to be overcome by persistence. There were also doubts to be dissipated, and unforeseen and scarcely defined fears to be set at rest.

There were wet blankets, touches of cold-shouldering and nebulous brick-bats to be endured and survived for the ultimate good, but there was one bouquet which kept fresh these years—the promise I had made to Sir Ian Mc Allister and my confident belief in the benefits that would accrue to the members of my profession and to the nation at large by the formation of a local branch of our parent association—the R.I.B.A.

#### A DREAM REALIZED

One learns, as well, over years of bitter experience, how easily daring proposals and imaginative schemes can peter out into oblivion unless they are backed by perseverance, unflinching faith in a good cause and undeterred determination.

The dream of three decades has at long last now come true, and we are an established society today—a professional body with a 100% of the members of the Royal Institute of British Architects resident in Ceylon, on our rolls, and this includes every qualified and eligible architect in the private sector and public services. Our coming together is an achievement which will be long remembered and one of which we can all be justly proud.

While I am on this subject, I shall be wanting in my duty if I fail to pay a tribute to those who have been associated with me in the formative stages, both directly and indirectly, and whose advice I often sought; and I can say of them that they have left their mark on the architectural advances in this country.

Those who I am referring to are, the late Mr. Austin Woodeson, Mr. Herbert H. Reid, Mr. H. F. Billimoria, and Mr. Shirley D'Alwis. Among those abroad, and who have been specially helpful and deeply interested in the success of this movement, I must make mention of the late Sir Charles Reilly, Sir Patrick Abercrombie and Professor L. B. Budden, all of whom are unhappily no more.

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Of the many who have given and continue to aid us with their unfailing support and encouragement, is our distinguished Patron, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., K.B.E.—Governor-General of Ceylon—who is interested in the development and progress of this Institute. His Excellency has graciously sent us a very inspiring message for publication in our first Annual which, incidentally will be in the press shortly.

In a very special way we are deeply indebted to our first Honorary Member—Mr. C. D. Spragg, C.B.E., till recently Secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects, for well-nigh 30 years and now in retirement. Mr. Spragg has done most of the spade work for us—the work literally below ground level, testing the subsoil—the excavations and silently building in the foundations to ensure that the structure above would retain its stability for all time.

Our thanks go also to the President of the Premier Architectural Institution in France—the Societe Des Architectes Diplome Par Le Gouvernement, for the honour of Corresponding Membership conferred on this Institute, through the good offices of Monsieur M.

(Continued on page 9)

# Food on the Trains

TRAVEL on trains has been steadily becoming a nightmare and an agony of recent times and the Railway authorities seem the least concerned about it. The purpose of this article, however, is not to spotlight this already known fact but to draw attention to the appalling conditions in the Restaurant Cars at present days.

In the words of Sir Ivor Jennings we appear to have "levelled down our standards instead of levelling them up" and as such are being forced to accept standards which we would have been ashamed to accept a few years ago.

For one thing the size of the Restaurant Cars on long distance trains have been so considerably reduced as to appear to be farcical. Even this small sized car is split up into two sections namely for the First and Second Classes.

In spite of all our Socialist Policies and Platform Speeches no arrangement has been made for the poor Third Class Passengers who form the bulk of the travellers.

The difference between the First and Second Class eating and dining Sections is that Dirty Linen is used in the First Class and even Dirtier Linen is used in the Second Class. Be you White, Black or Brown and in spite of the long and im-pressive Menu, you must satisfy

yourself with one English Diet or Course. It is only if you are a Return Ticket Holder that you are privileged to order a Rice and Curry Meal on your Return Journey. So be you First, Second or Third Class Diner you must have Marmalade on Toast, Omelette and Bread, Steak and Chips or a peculiar Savoury Omelette which is most unsavoury.

Truly we Ceylonese deserve a better fare. If the present Caterer cannot provide the goods replace him. No special orders are accepted by the Restaurant as they are unable to make any purchases. So if you want a Roast or Curried Chicken the only place you can have it is at the first Hotel outside the Station.

In the Mornings It is Scrambled Eggs on Toast, Bacon and Eggs or Poached Eggs. Really, isn't that too much? What is wrong with our good old stringhoppers or Hoppers with Pol Sambol? Where is Seenl Sambol and Bread with Butter? What about Cutlets or Rolls.

Let us think more of the passengers instead of the Caterers. Let not inefficient caterers hold us to ransom on account of political relationships. What are the Railway Authorities up to in being party to such low standards? The purpose of the Restaurant Car is to provide food and drink to all the passengers on the train. Why this class discrimination in this age of Socialism?

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## The Architect of the Ceylon Institute of Architects



[Continued from page 7]

Dupont, Commercial Counsellor to the French Embassy in Ceylon, and last but not least, to my good friend, Mr. Oliver Weerasinghe, and Mr. N. Wynne - Jones, Past-Presidents, the former of whom is presently in New York, watching with keen and distant interest our year to year progress, and the latter of whom we must remember for the helpful, sobering and steadying influence which he brings to bear on all our deliberations.

### OUR NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF TODAY

Having prefaced my address with relevant references to the history of the past, I now proceed to develop the theme of my address which is "Our Needs and Problems of Today"

As we have now achieved a remarkable and at one time unpredictable basis for unity, developing goodwill and co-operation amongst ourselves, we are accordingly in a position to employ the whole body of diverse and complementary local architectural talent for our progress as a group and, more than all, for Ceylon's future.

We can now confidently ask the Government to consult us as a body, whenever projects are to be put in motion that will effect the planning of our cities and towns and all urban areas, so that there may be a coherence in the manner, techniques and congruent visibilities of overall architectural development to the lasting benefit of the country.

It is time that we, as an Institution, should give the most convincing proof of a community of patriotic feeling towards the country's progress. The work of the architect lasts. Good work lasts, and unfortunately, bad work lasts too..... Now that we are an Institution, we should not permit mistakes to be made which would detract from the architectural beauty of our country and which would be a reproach on us both today and perhaps even more so on posterity.

I think you will agree with me when I say that we should offer our generous co-operation to the Government in the line in which we are most experienced and best qualified to do so, and if such co-operation as we offer becomes

an established practice, I am sure that this will mark a turning point in the developmental planning which will positively take us away from the present position, which may legitimately be described as one of chaos and confusion, with no thread of congruous consistency running through our programmes for betterment.

### GOVERNMENT MUST CONSULT US

We trust that the Government will always call a Conference of representatives of our Institute whenever it has large projects in hand, and in fact I would most seriously urge on the Government the absolute necessity for having a Permanent Panel of Architects of this Institute, both from the private sector as well as those in the Government Service, to advise on all building schemes which may be deemed by the Government to be of national importance.

The Government must pay architects in private practice, who have abundantly and continuously proved by the quality and merit of their work, the generous and just compliment of believing that they are willing to do their best in the interests of the country. Criticism by the private sector from the outside is of little value, when once a governmental decision has been reached. It may even be found to be irritating, embarrassing and obtrusive. The rational approach is to have discussions before projects and schemes are finalized.

We are under a moral obligation to see that the country gets the best results that can be derived from the collective architectural talent available today. It now remains for the Government to make the first move in this matter.

### A SCHOOL OF TROPICAL ARCHITECTURE

What are our most vital present-day needs in the architectural sphere? I would ask your leave to make just a few suggestions in respect of this matter. I would suggest that the time is ripe for establishing a School of Tropical Architecture and Department of Civic Design at University level, to serve our needs, the countries of South and South-East Asia and our neighbouring lands. An approach has already been made. The institute has approved the proposal in principle of a scheme of training, at the Government Technical College, with the active

co-operation of Dr. S. L. de Silva, Director of the College. This will be just a beginning from which we can go to the larger scheme I have referred to, and for which the generosity of the U.S.A. and Great Britain can, I am sure, be counted upon.

Here I would mention that the present-day trend in England and other progressive countries, is that all technicians in the field of construction, should have a preliminary basic training in subjects which are inter-related with architectural design, and the elements of town and civil planning, sanitation, surveying, etc. those who have shown a distinctive aptitude for architecture are advised to take to higher studies, while others can develop and specialize in the respective lines in which they have shown special skill.

In this system which has been successfully initiated at the University of Liverpool, under the able guidance of Professor Robert Gardner-Medwin and is now being followed at other centres of learning and training, no talent is wasted but is directed towards the most useful channels. In this way architecture and the allied arts and crafts and the associated engineering skills are enabled to be developed harmoniously and beneficially, and the country is thus provi-

ded with enough diversified talent to satisfy the full range of technical education in many fields in which it is at present lacking.

I should like to quote the views of Sir Percy C. Spender, Q.C., the originator of the Colombo Plan, for his pointed views on this aspect of basic co-operative training—"Human contact, he says, is most pronounced and flows from mutual interests in solving the problems nature has set us. There is something particularly fine and rewarding about men and women, drawn from each of their allied sciences and arts working in order to gain a basic knowledge in each others field of specialised and technical activities." In this way not only are skilled technicians and trained leaders created, able to assist in solving their mutual problems at all levels with understanding in every field, but perhaps, no less important, lasting friendships are formed, misunderstandings dissipated and true human sympathy established between teams working together to improve the lot of millions of people greatly in need.

#### A UNECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT MUST BE SCRAPPED

In due course I would suggest that Government should in all departments involving architectural work, have architects employed, instead of such work being entrusted to officials whose training, skills and avocations are in an entirely different sphere. I would also suggest that architects in private practice be entrusted with Government work unhampered by official red-tape, in order to clear the back log in urgent schemes.

It is surely right to ask that architectural work be entrusted only to architects as they would be working in their own specialised field and be held responsible for the results.

I feel that they would be able to fully justify their employment by concentrating wholly on their work and keeping a constant watch for unnecessary costs. By their skill, knowledge and vigilance they are able to offer economies and often save more than the amount of remuneration in fees. With more economy we would have more funds to build for the benefit of the people of the country. There must be a very radical change in the practices we have derived from the past, and which are very much out-moded and quite uneconomic and unacceptable today.

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## 'QUO VADIS' DR. PERERA ?

(Continued from cover page)

to rule Ceylon as long as he fostered the cause of international Marxist groups and flew the colours of the Fourth International.

In his long but fruitless political career in Ceylon, it must be said to his credit that Dr. Perera was the only left-wing politician or workers' leader whose gentlemanly tactics, whether at a workers' conference table, in the House of Representatives or even at the head of a militant workers' demonstration on the highway, brought in a touch of sobriety or a sense of realistic proportion and values. Dr. Perera must be fully aware of this public attribute in his favour, as much as he understands that the elusive top hat is getting further and further away from him if he continues to tread the path he did militantly follow during the last quarter of a century. He is now prepared to go Right as has been pointed out by his versatile lieutenant of yester years, Mr. Robert Gunawardena, in an effort to preserve his personal prestige, to woo the electorate through the tottering remains of the power hungry SLFP. Dr. Perera is fully alive to the fact that if he clings on to the same ends of that

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"Comic Gang" he used to detract and calumniate with all the resources at his command in the not too distant past, he would very soon out a leading figure therein, do public penance to expiate the sins of his past Trotskyite days, and be groomed to win popular support even to lead the U N P not to speak of the SLFP.

Let us here examine the hazy visions that would have met Mr. Philip Gunawardene's inward eye, when he set the seal of consent to his alliance with the S.L.F.P. in 1956. He would have seen visions of his acting the Mao Tse-tung while the late Mr. Bandaranaike enacted the Syngman Rhee episode in deference to popular public demand built up on his (Mr. Gunawardene's Paddy Lands Act and the Development Bank Bill. Visions such as these must have been the base for popular gossip which gave birth to the prospects of an OCTOBER REVOLUTION. Recent history has it on record that such visions only proved to be wishful thinking.

Dr. Perera, however, has chosen to tread that same path. The good Doctor may be seeing similar visions, though not of the hazy sort. He is reputed to be going by the book, or at least to be guided by those of his lieutenants who go by the book, even in the matter of chasing a fly on your forehead. In this case of

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course the Doctor has the BOOK—a colossal work indeed—of the action, inaction, failures and prospects of his political guru, Mr Philip Gunawardene, to go by. Marginal comments, glossaries, explanations and analyses, that must of necessity go to form the massiveness of that volume, will surely guide the good Doctor not to fail where the master failed. Armed with this BOOK and shedding for the time being his recent claim that he is the one and only suitable—Ekama Sudussa—Dr. Perera now goes forth, determined to ride to power through that “Comic Gang.” Here’s wishing you *bon voyage* Doctor! But you might do well to remember that history has that unkind habit of repeating itself.

By the way, when shall we hear you denouncing that bit of MEP—SLFP legislation—The Public Security Act in the same strain you will denounce the UNP reduction of the price of rice?

#### NEW ISSUES

In the absence of effective political issues to counter the UNP call for stability out of chaos, the SLFP and its confederates hope to create an anti UNP atmosphere in the country. This indeed is a gross under-estimation of the political consciousness of the Ceylonese voter. There was indeed a time when Anti-UNP feeling was eminently evident. That was before the purification ceremony performed by the electors at the 1956 general elections. The late Mr. Bandaranaike succeeded in harnessing all such anti-UNP forces to bring about purification on the strength of his own personal popularity and his care-free promises of a heaven on earth in Ceylon!

All hopes and desires of the people to have a change for the better were shattered, with the continued dissension, ill-will and intrigue indulged by the motley band of his followers, till after three and-a-half years of chaos, he paid for it with the supreme sacrifice of his life. The period of his rule will go down to history as the darkest days of modern Ceylon. With such a hopeless record in hand, the SLFP is only engaging in wishful thinking, when it hopes to win popular support at the next polls. The last strains of the Weeping Widow’s tearful appeals to sentiment have faded away for all time with the March 19th elections. The events immediately prior to the current dissolution of Parliament, proved to the electors their folly in backing a highly unprincipled party, prepared to sell its birthright for a mess of pottage. This is evident in their dealings with

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the Federal Party and their policy of alignment with the Marxists in their bid for power and power alone.

Meanwhile, the UNP has proved to the country that they mean honest business in the larger interests of the nation: They did not rush in to sacrifice the Sinhalese nation on the altar of Federal Demands. They were not prepared to cling to power at any cost, citing precedents that would have justified their actions. They have not, like the previous MEP Government, started to sing the tune that they must clear the mess left over by the previous regime. They have set down to silent work right from the start. These are all details the enlightened voters of the country are fully aware of. The majority have now decided to chose between chaos and stability. The issue is as clear as daylight, so much so that if one speaks of any “ANTI” feeling, it ought to mean that the feeling is positively ANTI-SLFP and Anti-Marxist. The talk of united fronts, the promise of the good Doctor’s blessings and guidance to the SLFP and the brain-oum-brawn combinations of any further unholy alliances can all go west, when the enlightened Ceylonese voters pass judgment at the next polls.

## Ceylon's Rising Population

DR. GAMINI COREA, Director of National Planning, delivering his first address on the Ten Year Plan, at the opening of the Industrial and Scientific Institute last week-end indulged in a forecast about Ceylon's increasing population. He reminded his audience that "the dominant factor confronting the economy of the country, is the increase in her birth-rate." In seventy two years', Dr. Corea said "Ceylon would have a population of 52 millions". This pre supposes that all the living space, or nearly all, will be taken up by the population. Dr. Corea, however, allows a reduction of 5 per cent in her birth-rate. Here is a vital matter that must make government and the people furiously to think.

The present population is in the neighbourhood of eight and half or nine millions more or less. In ten ten years it would have grown to one of twelve millions and more. While we are not concerned what our population would be like in 2032 A. D.—for that would be a matter for posterity to see about the systematic annual increase of the population of today, is in itself serious enough and calls for prompt attention being given it by Government and our public men. There is no time for delayed action or to waste time talking about religion and language or about political ideologies. Something has to be done soon and not wait till the problem overtakes us like the case of the Stateless Indians menacing the people of Ceylon.

In these modern times with science fully developed and perfected so to say, human diseases and ailments have been mastered There is now a cure for everything. Besides the population of a country does not remain stationary but goes on increasing imperceptibly. What should worry government, therefore, is how Ceylon can sustain her rapidly increasing population during the coming ten or fifteen years. Our councils of state are being enlarged. Members of Parliament are being increased. Electoral constituencies are being multiplied. And why should not our food sources and granaries be enlarged or increased. Let us get busy. It is well to remember that "Procrastination is the thief of time".

Already the present agricultural and industrial developments show signs of being unable

to supply the population with a sufficiency of food. The country's economy is obviously not able to bear the strain put upon it. Not only is poverty increasing but food is lacking. With food there is also the lack of employment and housing. Ceylon is not able to provide these three essentials. She is not producing enough or is able to produce enough. It looks as if national development has met with a sudden check. Independence had raised high hopes but has dampened the enthusiasm of the agriculturalist and the industrialist. Taxation has put a curb on development and enterprise. There is no capital or incentive forthcoming for those who are willing to grow two blades of paddy where one grew before. Initiative is killed. The capitalist is being squeezed out. The producer does not know on which side he is to turn or where he can put his talents to good use. And withal this Ceylon is increasingly dependant on imported foods. This is proved by our Rising Food Bill on which we are shelling out 900 millions rupees annually. The Gal Oya Multi Purpose Scheme which increased the hopes of everybody, has not helped to augment our food supply. Since this scheme was completed periodic floods destroy whatever crops that are grown in the valley. Thus is Ceylon handicapped on the food producing side. This is a fact we cannot get away from.

The late Prime Minister, Mr. Bandaranaike confronted with what no doubt was a bleak prospect made this significant declaration "What causes my Government deep concern, is the rapid rise in Ceylon's population. We are today faced with the biggest problem ever. That is how to feed the rising population of over two and half lakhs of people each year. Where is the food to feed the additional population to be found, and where is the money to come from and how"? We shall deal with this subject further in a subsequent issue.

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## Letters to the Editor

### In Her Husband's Footsteps

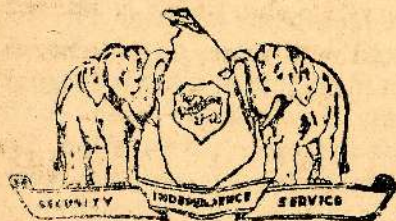


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**M**R. BANDARANAYAKE'S excuse for taking to active politics was that she wanted to implement the policies of her late husband. The late Mr. Bandaranayake in no uncertain terms stated that the nationalisation of foreign owned estates, insurance, and banking will not take place for another 10 years and that he was opposed to Communism.

It is reported that the SLEP manifesto will be amended to negative the assurance given by the late Premier, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake. Is this how she is implementing her late husband's policies? Is it a case of "Voice of Sirimavo but the hand of N.M.—that same hand of co-operation that was offered to the late Premier who found it to be only a shadow?

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### Intimidation Bribery or Black-mail?

In its issue of the 15th instant in the "Times" there appeared a news item under the caption that "Government men seek assurance." It is stated that "Public Servants will seek a categorical statement from leaders of the various political parties whether they would implement the Salaries Commission Report if they are returned to power."

What does this request mean? What does its acceptance mean? What does its refusal mean? Is not such a request tantamount to an attempt at intimidation? It is not a request for a party to implement the Salaries Commission Report but for an assurance that the recommendations would be implemented. What is the necessity for an assurance unless the request carries a veiled threat of vengeance to follow on a refusal. This certainly is political intimidation.

Suppose a party, taking a political field at the forthcoming elections, gives an assurance that it will implement the recommendations of the Salary Commission Report, is not this a clear case of offering a bribe in consideration for the votes of the members of the P. S. Workers Trade Union Federation which will be available to the guarantors. Suppose a party refuses to give an assurance, will not the disappointed members of the Union go about working against this party? Will not this be political black-mail? Let us have more of national and less of sectional interest and not attempt to get what we want at the demoralisation of the Country.

15 5. 60.

CIVIS.

### A Grave Danger Ahead

**V**.D. Among City's School Children is a headline that appears on the front page of a Sunday paper drawing the attention of the public to the sad and dreadful situation. In amplification of what the headline attempted to convey, the news item that followed stated "Several cases of venereal disease among senior school boys, in some of Colombo's boys' schools, have been reported to the Department of Health. A few cases have also been reported



from girls schools in the city.....most of the detected cases are between the ages of 14 and 18 years."

These constitute all the available information to the newspaper readers. There is no doubt that the Health Authorities will leave no stone unturned to get to the bottom of this scandal. In the meantime I think it would be permissible for social workers, particularly Child Welfare workers, to express their views in order to assist the Health Authorities. In the first place this is a case where the Parents and Teachers should take immediate joint action through the Parent Teachers Associations where such exist. Although the cure of the conditions is much quicker, less costly and more certain these days, the crux of the matter is the existence of opportunities and facilities, places and persons who will not hesitate to ruin young lives.

I feel that it will not be unfair to presume that cases in the lower age group concern girls more than they do boys, since boys at the ages of 14 and 15 are ill-equipped to swim in the sea of Eros unless their cases were extra genital. If the cases among the girls were not extra-genital the suggestion would be that these girls have been the innocent victims of human vultures since these girls would not be sufficiently mature to have acquired even a precocious development of the sexual impulse.

There is a common and faulty belief, unwarranted by scientific data, that the sexual union of a person suffering from V.D. with a "Virgo Intacta" would relieve him of this dire malady. I remember very vividly that when I was a student at the Ceylon Medical College, our Clinical Tutor demonstrating to his class the case of a young girl who contracted V.D. at the very first sexual union she had.

Car-lifts are asked for from absolute strangers and they are offered and accepted without any knowledge of the likely consequences. There are honourable men and plenty of them, but you come across land sharks as well. Children cannot separate the wheat from the chaff. The Health Authorities have given figures for the City of Colombo schools. Again, these are the known cases. Aren't there cases that are hidden or cases that have gone underground. Many a parent would prefer a 'hush hush' policy, especially in the case of a girl. This will become a big problem ere long. An early amendment of the Penal Code is imperative to ensure that the punishment fits the crime.

WATLER PEIRIS

Moratuwa  
15-3-60

President  
Maternity & Child Welfare Association  
Moratuwa

# The Ale Conner

**E**VEN before beer was first taxed every town and village in England appointed its ale-conner to see that only "good ale and wholesome" was sold alike for the children's breakfast and for father's noble thirst. London had four ale conners, who under the Lord Mayor (especially Dick Whittington) had to drink hard for their living.

At Cambridge this Lord of the Tap was resplendent in scarlet coat betasselled with spigots and faucets, though to Chaucer the official's nose was sign enough that "wel he knewe" good beer.

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## Of Statistical Interest

**T**HE latest issue of the Ceylon Labour Gazette issued by the Department of Labour exposes several false notions most of us have entertained in the past. This information is based on 1958 figures which is the last published information available, but even so the figures are very revealing.

For instance when there was all this fuss about Foreign Nursing Sisters and a fanatical desire on the part of some of us that they should immediately leave the Island not only for religious reasons but also to provide substitute employment for Ceylonese, one would have imagined that there were hundreds in the Island, whereas the official figure furnished by the Immigration Department as holding Temporary Residential Permits was only 13.

Then there was considerable agitation that the Accountancy Profession was being bottled up by too many Foreign Accountants on T.R.P.'s in service in Ceylon. Well the actual number was only 14 Europeans and 2 Indians.

The Teaching profession was also at one moment up in arms against the employment of non-nationals on the grounds of un-employment within their own ranks, whereas in actual fact there were only 11 Teachers on T.R.P.'s in the Island,

Headlines were often made in the Papers of several plans under consideration by the Labour Department to replace Managers, Assistants and executives of Mercantile Establishments here on T.R.P.'s so that Ceylonese may hold these offices. But the total number involved was only 20 according to the Immigration Department who should know best in these matters,

The total number of foreign Engineers in Ceylon amount to 14 and Technicians amount to 7 while Social Workers amount to 3 and Laboratory Assistants to 1,

In all there were 301 T R P. holders working in exclusive occupations of which 120 were Permits issued to U.K. nationals and 70 to other Europeans with Indians and Pakistanis totalling to 60.

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With regard to Indian Estate Labour it may be pointed out that in 1955 there was an excess of departures over arrivals of 2 339 and in 1956, 2,330 in 1957 it was 3,881, in 1958 it was 1,340 and in 1959 it was 1 562. Thus it will be seen that we are solving our Labour problems by repatriation and accordingly such jobs are becoming available to Ceylonese.

It would be well to remember these statistics with the approach of the next Elections when it may likely happen that false figures and exaggerated statistics may be quoted in provocative speeches, to inflame the masses and obtain votes under false pretences.

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15th May 1960

### DISORDER IN PLACE OF ORDER AND INDISCIPLINE IN PLACE OF DISCIPLINE

**T**HE country in general, cannot now endure to think that the S.L.F.P. Government held any goodness in the Island especially when it wielded its power for selfish interest and sacrificed the State to a party. The people endured the S.L.F.P. Government for a number of years. And, even the very people who voted them to power should now ask themselves what progressive legislation the Bandaranaike Government had implemented during its regime. This is a question into which you would do wisely to inquire.

Its supporters, of course, may point to two bills:

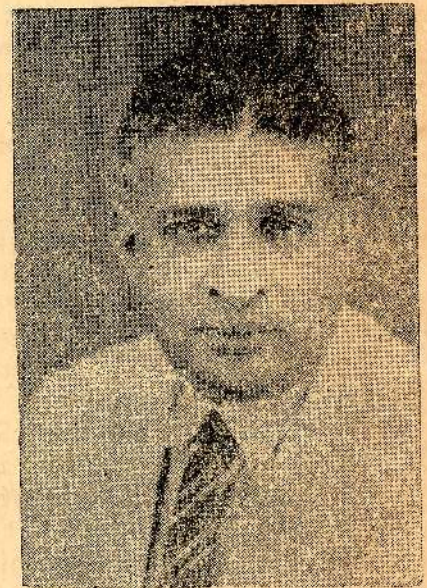
1. The Paddy Lands Bill
2. The Employees Provident Fund Bill

With regard to the first you all know that this particular Bill has been the brain child of Mr. Philip Gunawardene. While in the case of the second it has been the creation of intense Trade Union activity quite unconnected with Government support. Yet this was merely taken advantage of at the last moment in order to grab the money so obtained for further squandermania by the S.L.F.P. Government merely for the prize of political power.

As such at every meeting which overflows with tears (pretension it is with a liberal intermixture of enthusiasm) there is more sound than sense in the endless speeches, especially when Mrs. Bandaranaike keeps on sobbing and saying before all assemblies that her sole pur-

pose in the S.L.F.P., is in order to carry out her late husband's policies, you should proceed to consider it with some minuteness. It would be prudent to question her pretensions to political power. Would you mind asking exactly what programme of work she is referring to, for the late Prime Minister created disorder in place of order and indiscipline in place of discipline.

If these are her objectives then you could imagine what the reactions of the intelligent voter would be in the forthcoming elections. There is also good reason for her to be reproved for having made many others weep from her emotion.



Mr. Dudley Senanayake  
Prime Minister

It may also be argued by the supporters of the S.L.F.P. that its Government was responsible for the nationalization of the Port and the Transport Services. Nationalization is not the proper word, for the more appropriate one is Appropriation, for no compensation of any kind has been paid so far. On a cursory examination of these two enterprises one may judge whether success of these two endeavours have been made in spite of the large amount of money spent on them. Can you then trust your future with such a Party which is dedicated to more such schemes of nationalisation the result of which has made your country go bankrupt.

The L.S.S.P. has at last come out in its true colours. POWER at ANY COST appears to

be their slogan. On the Party question they thought they would climb the Federal Party Band Waggon and romp home easy winners, but alas! they were rejected even by them. Vilifying the S.L.F.P. right through-out the previous elections as an offspring of the U.N.P., they are now planning a No Contest Agreement with them. Their ONLY aim is the destruction of the U.N.P. instead of the upliftment of the masses, for even though the masses may desire the U.N.P., they went to, by aligning themselves with the various minority groups to off set the decision of the masses. Yet they wish to say that they speak on behalf of the masses. And this is the Party which acted the role of preachers of Crime, tainted the minds of the ignorant citizens, did its utmost to make them base and venal and prepared them by its example to sell or betray democracy and that public interest for which they should have been ready to die. For a quarter century they were trying to get all power into their hands to degrade the poor children of Lanka into tools or brutes, forgetting that man is not the mere creature of the State.

By the S.L.F.P. accepting the support of the left parties and entering into tacit No Contest agreements with them, they are thus indicating that they themselves are a LEFT Party committed to the suppression of Civil and Individual rights.

The history of the L.S.S.P. has been only a history of Strikes, Riots, and Employer. Employee tension. In no sphere has it brought harmony, goodwill, peace or progress. The Party itself at the moment is split right down to its roots. Patch work, make-face arrangements are under way but how long will it last? As indicated by Mr. Dudley Senanayake an 'Acharu' Cabinet cannot last leave aside an 'Acharu' Government.

The unholy alliance between the M.E.P. and the D.S.P. has come to an end. What is more important is that after the country rejected the combination, they have ended up in rejecting each other. Truly a sad tale and a sorry spectacle. The blood and thunder speeches by the leader of this Party prior to the elections seemed so out of place with his plea for a National Government in Parliament. You should watch this Party carefully and follow with humour the new approach they propose making to you the Voter which they are confident you will swallow hook, line and sinker.

The fanatics led by Messrs S. D. Bandaranaike and K. M. P. Rajaratne represent such an

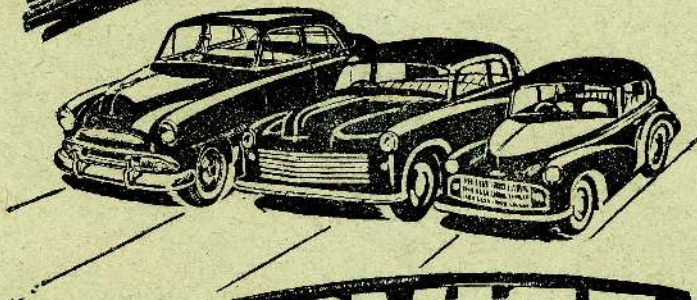
insignificant group of people who will sell you to the devil in order to terrorise and subjugate the country to their own selfish ends that you are fortunate that their group is isolated in their requests and demands.

The Independents represent neither fish, flesh nor fowl and usually enter the political field to grind their own personal axe. They have no policies other than that of whatever Government comes to power and their vote in Parliament will be either oppressive or progressive, again, depending on the Government in power. Surely, you do not wish to waste your valuable votes on individuals who are the rejects of all parties and who cannot subscribe to some definite programme of work for the country. Your real enemy in an election is the Independent Candidate who tries to bribe and bamboozle you into voting for him merely because he wants to get into Parliament by hook or by crook.

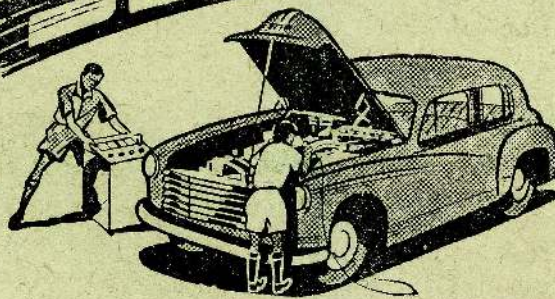
The Communist Party having seen the "Writing on the Wall" is trying some last ditch manoeuvres with the S.L.F.P. to bolster up their tottering edifice. To understand the Communist pattern of Government one only has to see the conditions prevailing in Russia, Red China, North Korea, Poland, Rumania Hungary, Latvia, Bulgaria, Mongolia, and a number of other Communist dominated countries where Freedom of Speech, expression, travel, movement, comfort, endeavour, work and action are restricted, cramped and immobilised to such an extent that man is reduced to serfdom and still worse in his bondage. Their respect for religion can best be gauged by their attack and devastation of Tibet and its temples, the imprisonment of the Catholic Cardinal of Poland, the enforcement of the law in China that Priests should compulsorily teach that the State comes before God, and the Communist doctrine that says "Religion is the opium of the masses in which they are lulled into a false sense of security."

You must then ask yourselves whether an alliance of the S.L.F.P. and the C.P. will not have far reaching effects on the administration of this country should they come into power for, in order to accommodate each other it will be necessary to make concessions of a far reaching nature which will be detrimental to the freedom loving instincts of the people of Ceylon.

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