



# The SEARCHLIGHT

39th YEAR OF  
ESTABLISHMENT

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VOL 39 NO. 17

COLOMBO

SEPTEMBER 15th 1960

## NO PUBLIC CONSCIENCE ABOUT BRIBERY

**T**HERE must be strange reason why there is no public conscience about bribery in Ceylon for such an attitude would be tantamount to the Ceylonese being a peculiar people. But it is unlikely that the Ceylonese people as a whole would condone bribery once they are educated rightly on the matter. Bribery and corruption has existed in European countries during periods of national decadence but it has nevertheless been eradicated with national resurgence and social progress. It is never possible to eradicate bribery by concentrating on isolated cases only while turning a blind eye on general corruption.

Before bribery is eliminated the country and the nation need to be united and a proper sense of nationalism has to be cultivated by the people so that the different groups and sections of the nation would feel and act as one nation. Bribery and corruption amount to cheating and is the first stage of treason and cheating is gene-



By

A. E. Gunawardena



rally resorted to only by hypocrites and unfriendly persons. In a community where real comradeship and fellow-feeling exists bribery and corruption would be rare and disdainful. In Britain, for instance we find that bribery and corruption hardly exists because of strong patriotism. The British have also attained that eminent position after several wars that imperilled the nation and through competition in all fields of activity with other nations and in the long process traitorous and corrupt dealers have been given short shrift. In Ceylon, of course, such purges are not possible but it would not be impossible for corrupt leaders and those in authority to examine their own consciences and retire so as to give way for a new order.

In Ceylon the average man is against bribery and corruption and very often takes punishment cheerfully if he is guilty in any way. Bribery and corruption on the other hand is promoted by middle-class officials with the get rich quick mentality. Bribery and corruption is set apace by superiors by providing bad examples. India where bribery and corruption is

(Continued on page 20)

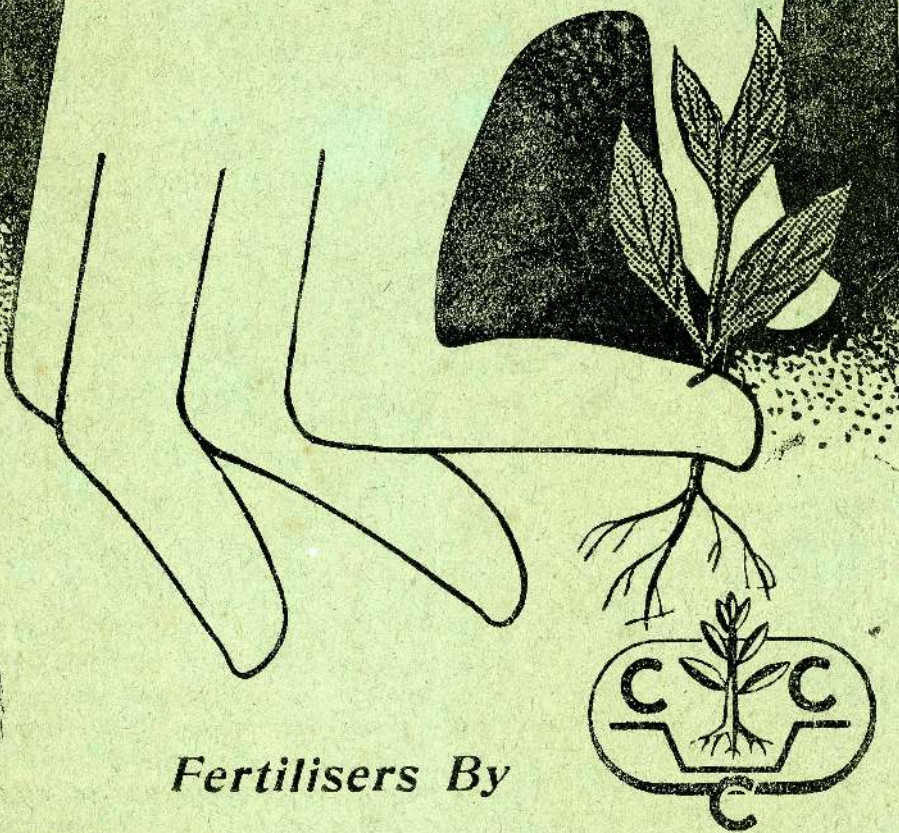
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VOL 39 NO. 17

COLOMBO

SEPTEMBER 15th 1960

## Letters From Our Readers

# ON SUBJECTS THAT MATTER

## National Anthem

**W**HY is it that in this country where Nationalism finds a honoured place, the National Anthem is neither played nor sung at public functions, at School prize-givings, after Cinema Shows, Theatre and Concert performances etc? The National Anthem is not like a secret to be kept hidden. If it is inauspicious as some aver, and others say it is unlucky for the country as a whole, if this view is accepted, then let it be scrapped. If it is OK then why not use it?

During the old Colonial days when the Legislative Council was functioning, every public function and entertainment ended with the British National Anthem. Even a band performance on Galle Face had as its last item the British National Anthem. During State Council days the British National Anthem did not find much favour and after the grant of Independence it was replaced by our *Namo Namu Matha*. It is very curious and sad to note that this National Anthem of ours is treated with such scant courtesy as to be cast aside. why?

A NON-SINHALESE

## II

**S**OME say this. Some say that. But I say. "Scrap the National Anthem" and have another in its place if it is considered inauspi-

cious to play and sing it A Venerable Nayaka Thero of a modern University has laughed at the idea of this being inauspicious and has added that if it was so the author would have been the first victim. Mr. Ananda Samarakoon, the author, has supported the above view by adding that he is not dead as yet! What is the meaning in keeping the National Anthem in cold storage? Play and sing it or scrap it.

Kadalana.

STANLEY FONSEKA

## III

**Y**OU cannot eat the cake and have it at the same time. This is a feat which only Gogia Pasha can perform. A Minister of State, however versatile and clever he may be, cannot do this. Ceylon is the only place in the whole world where the National Anthem is not played and sung. I believe that at the opening of Parliament an event of great national significance and importance, the large crowds that had gathered there was denied the opportunity of

(Continued over)

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singing the National Anthem and generating a national spirit in those who lacked it, and increasing it in those who had it. What is the use of a National Anthem if it only serves as a museum piece?  
 Angulana.                      ROBERT FERNANDO

**The Schools Take-over**

**T**HIS move by Government may find support from a section of the people, but there is no denying it is going to cause dissatisfaction to another section of the people who's goodwill means so very much for the Government.

The Sinhala Only Bill has created lasting discontent among the Tamils. And now the Christian, Muslim and Hindu educationists, who had devoted themselves for scores of years imparting education to the children belonging to their respective faiths, will no longer be able to educate them as they have a right to do—with a religious background. If the present system of education needed any change (for national reasons) why not introduce a new system. Why take over the denominational schools? The S.L.F.P. is doing a positive harm to the country. Time will show, that the good it thinks it can do will be out-weighed by the harm the take-over is bound to do. **YOU WAIT AND SEE!**

A NON-CHRISTIAN PARENT

**Low-standard of Honesty**

**I** was much taken up with our Finance Minister's condemnation of Bribery and Corruption in the higher circles and welcome the determined attempt he proposes adopting to combat the evil. When he said in his Budget speech that the low standard of honesty of our Politicians was responsible for many things not done for the general good, I felt he spoke the truth. I hope and trust what he said will go home to many of our so called 'Big-Guns'. I agree with the Finance Minister that Ceylon needs men of character today—and very badly too.

Colombo 7

STRAIGHT BAT

**Housing Loans**

—x—

**H**OW is it, Sir, that M. P.'s, M. M. C's and their friends, or friends of top men, easily get housing loans and we humble folk are unable even to get Rs. 5000/- on properties worth

five or six times that amount? I do not blame the Commissioner of Housing in the least. I believe the fault lies elsewhere. Anyway it is a down-right shame that the people for whom the housing loans scheme was intended to help are left out in the cold and Government servants and 'big-wigs' get preference. How does this happen?

Colpetty

A HOUSE-OWNER

**II**

**W**ILL the Hon the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister be so good as to call for a list of those who borrowed large sums of money from the National Housing Scheme and see how over 50 per cent of them have defaulted.

Poor middle-class folk who want a small loan to re-build or enlarge their houses to accommodate their married children, have to wait for years to get such a loan, because the Commissioner for Housing says there is no money available as those who borrowed large sums of money are not paying up. If this is so, why not enforce the law according to the agreement entered into between the borrower and the lender and sell up their holdings?

Wellawatte

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VIET NAM PRESS FEATURE

# THE LITTLE DRAGON ON THE MARCH

**A** PING each other is a common feature among Communist countries. Soviet Russia has her quinquennial plans of economic expansion and Party Chief Khrushchey never misses an opportunity to remind the hard pressed Russians that fairly soon their country will overtake and even surpass the United States in consumer goods output.

Likewise, Red China's Mao Tse Tung initiated the Great Leap Forward of his 640 million people, which, he repeatedly emphasised, would in the near future catch up with the productive capacity of the United Kingdom. Unfortunately for Mao and fortunately for the West, it backfired.

Likewise again, Red controlled North Viet Nam last year boasted of a bumper rice harvest. Yet, rice rationing in Hanoi was recently confirmed by Hanoi's Viet Nam News Agency (VNA), thus giving the lie to this bold announcement.

On the south side of the 17th Parallel, Free Viet Nam also talks of economic planning which is a kind of LEAP FORWARD, but unlike grandiose Communist claims, it seeks more modest and realistic targets.

The problem may be stated as simply as this: Viet Nam's programme aims at striking a balance between agricultural production and industrial advancement with a view to producing not only for her twelve million people but also basic consumer goods to meet the requirements of a rising standard of living.

From 1955, when the republican regime came into existence until 1958, it was evident that Viet Nam struggled hard to subsist. Here leaders' immediate task was to stimulate agricultural production, which had been crippled by eight years of costly civil war. Then came the no less pressing problem of the resettlement of the million odd refugees who made the trek to freedom from the North. Finally, the most trying ordeal a newly born state has ever experienced was the revolt of the armed

sects, the Binh Xuyen, Cao Dai and Hoa Hae, a legacy from the colonial regime. Their suppression created a new problem: to provide surrendered dissidents with a means of livelihood.

Having overcome most of these initial obstacles, Viet Nam started late in 1957 to consolidate her gains by implementing a "flexible" five year economic plan.

The keynote of the drive to shift from an economy of survival to one of development was set by President Ngo Dinh Diem on March 5, 1957, in a Presidential declaration which underlined the principle of free enterprise and the guiding role of the State in national reconstruction and progress.

The task of laying the foundations of an industrial economy is entrusted to the High Council of Economic Affairs and its technical adjuncts, the Economic Planning Bureau, the

(Continued over)

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Industrial Development Centre and the Commissariat General for Agricultural Development.

The most important of the three is the Industrial Development Centre, which has the primary function of promoting new enterprises, providing them with financial assistance largely in the form of loans through the commercial banks, supplying technical aid and advice and conducting research into foreign and local sources of materials as well as the improvement of industrial methods.

However, as a result of an acute shortage of private funds, government investments must figure prominently at the outset. Viet Nam is practically starting from scratch in the field of industrialisation.

Under French rule, French firms enjoyed an almost undisputed monopoly, reaping colossal returns, multiplying their investments ten-fold.

South Viet Nam, traditionally called the "granary" not only of all of Viet Nam but of the Indo-Chinese peninsula, is mainly devoted to rubber and rice cultivation. It is therefore significant that agricultural production has been diversified to include industrial crops capable of feeding factories.

The main problem confronting Viet Nam, like other newly independent countries, is to decrease imports and to increase exports. So far the budget has been balanced because of substantial injections of American aid.

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Viet Nam's efforts at improving her trade balance have reaped tangible results. In 1959, she imported 1,421,486 tons of commodities worth 7,861 million piastres compared with 1,257,556 tons of good worth 8,125 million piastres in 1958. On the other hand, she exported 441,710 tons of local products worth 2,627 million piastres in 1959 compared with 243,632 tons worth 1,932 million piastres in 1958. This shows that although Viet Nam's imports are still high, her balance of payments has definitely taken a turn for the better.

Although textiles constitute 19 per cent of Viet Nam's imports there was a notable decrease in 1959: 1,260 million piastres compared with 1,664 million piastres in 1958. This was due to the establishment of a few textile plants



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as part of an ambitious project to set up an integrated textile industry featuring small mills scattering throughout the country.

Also important is a 192 million piastre pulp and paper mill near Bien Hoa, about 30 kilometres from Saigon, with a 9,000 ton annual capacity to supplement part of 25,000 tons of paper the country imports a year.

The large scale building and public works development schemes are making headway; three cement factories will be completed soon. The one near Hue, about 1,000 kilometres north of Saigon, has a productive capacity of 20,000 tons of cement. A second plant near Baria is expected to produce 15,000 tons of mortar type cement annually.

The third and largest plant at Ha Tien requires a capital investment of over 350 million piastres. This project will be able to supply 200,000 tons of cement a year.

However, Viet Nam's crucial handicap to industrial development remains a paucity of developed power to run all these factories and mills. Although the Nong Son anthracite beds

located 50 kilometres from Da Nang (in central Viet Nam) have a confirmed potential of 600,000 tons, the country has to import 30,000 to 40,000 tons of coal annually to run her budding plants and factories.

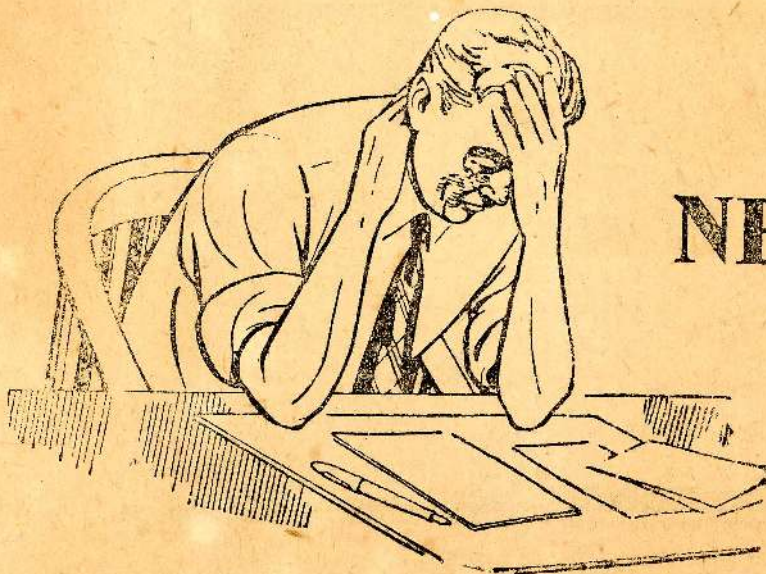
These problems will be solved when the projected Danhim dam is completed under the Japanese Reparation agreement. Surveying work has started. The dam is expected to provide a power of 160,000 kw.

Experts agree that Viet Nam should concentrate on small and medium industries; here lies her future. Her industrial tomorrow will dawn if she can live up to the principle of free enterprise set by her leader. Unlike the Red North where the economy is tied to the strings of the Communist Party run groups, Free Viet Nam cannot afford to let any group or party dominate industry.

Viet Nam must tackle the problems of economic freedom in the same dedicated way as she has conquered the problems of political liberty. Only then will she become fully self-supporting.

J. F. SAMARANAYAKE

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# CEYLON'S BUILDING TRADE & INDUSTRY

CEYLON'S Building Trade & Industry falls very short of the requirements that are essential for the progressive development that the Government proposes. Owing to lack of initiative and drive on the part of Government in the first instance, development is becoming costly and progress is thereby hindered or delayed. Here are a few matters that call for immediate attention to help improve matters.

The manufacture and supply of the basic building materials essential for all classes of constructional work are not properly organised. The Government must take the blame for this.

The Cement locally manufactured is not available as it should be. The demand far exceeds the supply, hence large sums of money go out of the Island. This could be stopped if Government wants to prevent the outflow of capital. The Brick Industry is outmoded and primitive. It is in the hands of the villager, who is invariably financially controlled by middlemen who hoard up stocks to blow up the price and thus creating artificial scarcity. Government must look into this matter at once. It has been allowed to go on too long. Lime is another material that is essential. This commodity is not regularly forthcoming. At times there's scarcity of this too. This happens fairly often. Owners of Kilns complain that they get no assistance from Government to obtain the coral. If this is so then it is a matter to be regretted.

The Plywood Industry must be developed to a larger extent to avoid the importation of Burma Teak which takes away a lot of our money. Plywood can meet most of our requirements for door and window sashes, and the Government should see to it that Plywood is specified for all public constructional work in place of Burma Teak. Why is this not being done? The price of the latter commodity has shot up considerably during the past few years and if Plywood is specified for public buildings the cost of construction could be reduced materially.

The timber required for constructional works has become a big problem today. Government must not delay in handling this matter. The Forest Department is not of any help or assistance to the Building Industry or Trade. The practice and procedure in regard to Sales and Disposals of Government timber, is hindering the work of Private Contractors as the Department does not seem to be prepared or too willing to supply the requirements of Contractors or Timber Dealers.

What the Department has to say is that Government timber is reserved for Government Departments such as the Gal Oya Board the Railway and the Port Cargo Corporation etc. In these circumstances contractors who handle big building schemes get hardly any assistance. The Forest Department is following what seems to be a 'dog in the manger' policy. It is generally known that stocks of

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logs and scantlings at the various Government Depots especially in the dry areas, are fast deteriorating while work on Government Buildings is impeded for want of sound and seasoned timber. Very soon we shall hear that Ceylon has no timber for constructional works and thus the country is being compelled to import timber. It is also known that valuable timber goes waste in our Crown forests due to neglect in not being felled in due time. No wonder therefore that there is a big demand for Burma Teak.

Ceylon imports large quantities of Sanitary Fittings. Surely the Government can see to stop our having to import these fittings? The Ceramic Factory is functioning and ought to be able to manufacture these sanitary fittings, at least to supply the requirements of contractors engaged on Government Building Schemes and even in the private sector.

The Hard Board Industry could also be developed with the materials now going to waste such as coir dust straw and saw dust. If some

scheme could be devised and a project planned out the importation of hard woods can be dispensed with. The production of this commodity does not involve large outlay of capital. We have a sufficiency of the raw material that go into the manufacture of these products. Sometime back there was a proposal to make

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Hard Wood from Saw dust and Coir dust straw. What happened to that project? All told the initiative for the development of the above Industries lies in the

hands of Government but if for one reason or the other Government is unable to initiate pilot projects, why shouldn't it call upon those in the Private Sector to come forward and undertake these projects and promise to give them every facility and encouragement.

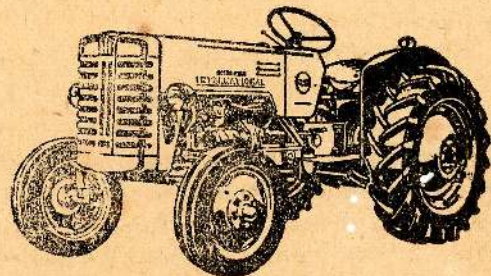
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## Religion & Schools

INFRINGEMENT OF ORDER-IN-COUNCIL  
AND CONSTITUTION

THE Minister of Education has announced that where at least 51 per cent. of the pupils of a school belong to the same religion the Principal shall be a member of that religion.

Is not this discriminatory legislation of the most blatant type? Is it not a fact that except in the Northern Province, and parts of the Eastern Province, practically every school in Ceylon has a majority of Buddhist pupils? It means, therefore, that no Sinhalese Christian teacher, no Burgher, no Tamil, no Hindu (except as stated above), no Tamil Christian, or Muslim (except in a very few isolated areas) can ever hope to become a principal.

It is an elementary but basic principle of justice and equity that every citizen of a country should have the unrestricted right to fill any post in the Public Service for which he is qualified on his merits, irrespective of his caste, community and religion. Here is a proposal to deprive a large number of teachers of their right to promotion and preferment merely on the ground of their religion.

The right not to be discriminated against in the public service of one's country is self-evident, but it also has the backing of law. Our Constitution (section 29 (2) of the Order-in-Council) unequivocally states that no law shall be made which renders persons of any community or religion liable to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of other communities or religions are not liable, or which confers on persons of any privilege or advantage which is not conferred on persons of other communities or religions.

Whatever may be the reasons given, there can be no doubt at all that the proposed legislation will give to Buddhist teachers (and in a lesser degree to Hindu teachers) privileges and advantages not conferred on Ceylonese teachers of other religions; or to put it in another way, non-Buddhist teachers are restricted and have disabilities placed in the way of achieving their proper and lawful ambitions by being barred from the top post of their profession.

Wellawatte

LLOYD JIVERS

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## 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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# A CRITICISM OF THE BUDGET

**A**T the risk of being taken over and nationalised as an individual for criticizing the Government, it is my opinion that the Budget has failed to reach its objective ends and as such failed in its purpose.

The people of this country have been through a lot recently and it is hardly fair to put forward a Budget which might be supplemented shortly by a further additional set of increases when it is realised that the aims of the Budget will fall far short of its plan. This unsettled condition should be removed as an unsettled condition creates an unsettled Market and in an unsettled Market chaos can prevail.

x                      x                      x

The Budget by no means sets out to indicate any clear cut policy of the Government in regard to Trade, Commerce, Agriculture or Industry. It is true that an incentive to foreign capital has been provided but when one reads between the lines of Hansard and the views of the participants of the "No Contest" Pact Groups one is constrained to ask whether the invitations and safeguards offered foreign capital is for the period of one year only. If it is so then the invitation may be treated as rejected already. If it is not then a clearer and a more definite policy statement on the matter should be issued without delay.

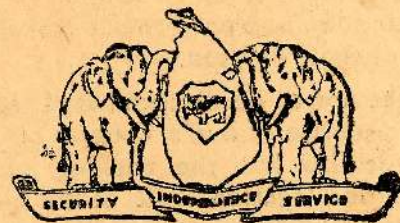
For this purpose it is necessary that all the Parties get together and work on a MAJORITY decision basis in regard to the future policy covering Trade, Commerce, Agriculture, and Industry. This is very necessary as all aspects in these fields are long term matters which people will be hesitant to enter into unless a long term uninterrupted policy is laid down which will not be subject to change either by the present Government or future Governments to come.

x                      x                      x

The Government has already indicated that it is a Centre Socialist Party and as such a Socialist Policy of Taxation should have been adopted without discrimination so that the burden of taxation would have fallen on the

shoulders of those most able to bear it. It is evident that the so-called Capitalist Class should be called upon to bear the brunt of these taxes but the word 'Capitalism' itself is ambiguous in relation to the explanation offered by the Minister of Finance, as to the quality of 'necessity' between the habitual cigarette smoker who finds the price of his luxury gone up by two cents and the non smoker in terms of his plate of rice. While both may come from the same social strata, one is indulging in a luxury and the other in a necessity.

As such the first call on taxes should have been in the nature of a "Purchase Tax" on luxurious items such as Fans, Frigidaires, Air Conditioners, Radios, Cars, Electric and Gas Cookers, Electric Kettles, Washing Machines, etc. Of course this would have been like trying to close the Barn Door after the Horses had fled,



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in view of the heavy buying recently, but nevertheless over the period of this year would yield some income which would not be felt by the masses.

The tax of Rs. 15 on an acre over the 100 acre mark smacks of Capitalism. Why not a tax of Rs. 5 an acre over the 10 acre mark for on a Socialist pattern why should any one person own more than 10 acres and if he did he should cultivate it in such a way so as to make his holding profitable to the country instead of holding it as so much waste land.

If the tax on T.R.P. Holders was for the purpose of evicting them and not necessarily the collection of funds then a tax of Rs. 50 a month should have been made so as to make their stay in Ceylon as inconvenient as possible. However, special provision should have been made for the exemption of those T.R.P. Holders working in Ceylon in Technical capacities specially in those fields where Ceylonese are unavailable. They should be exempt from such taxes.

Why have Dentists been privileged to be left out when other Professional men have been singled out? Secondly why should an Architect



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pay a higher tax than an Accountant when the latter has a fixed clientele and the former a floating one? Why should the Specialist Doctor get preferential treatment as against the Specialist Lawyer namely a Q.C.?

The Government is woefully short of its Building Programme, yet no incentive to Building has been provided for. A special tax on those owning houses above the number of their personal family could have been introduced.

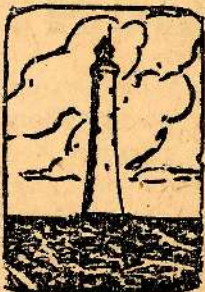
There also appears to be some kind of a persecution against Public and Private Companies when the taxation applicable to them is studied. It has been an accepted practice throughout the world to encourage the formation of public companies but in Ceylon it appears to be a crime against the State to organise a Public Company for partnerships are given better Tax Reliefs in comparison to companies. It is idle, unused capital that should have been subject to tax above a certain point and not Nominal Capital in companies many of which have not been physically collected.

All Trade Unions should have been taxed on their membership figures for they should have been permitted to come to the rescue of the Government which gave them so much of power and freedom. Some tax should have been devised to bring in all the small Hotels and Tea Kiosks who escape the normal tax and yet earn such a lot especially by giving half a cup of tea and charging for a full cup.

I am sure the Opposition will deal with the other aspects of the Budget already touched upon in the Daily Press such as anticipated increase in expenditure, etc, for which no provision whatsoever has been made.

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# FOOD ADDITIVES

IN RECENT months many food shoppers have been looking at the foods on market shelves with a quizzical eye. Since the American cranberry scare in the fall of 1959, when they were jolted by the news that some cranberry crops had been sprayed with a cancer-causing weed killer, they have been repeatedly disturbed by recurring reports about food additives. The question in their minds as they stand in the vegetable and fruit department of a market or before shelves of packaged and canned foods or before a display of backed goods is, How safe are the chemicals that are either on or in these foods?

Since few persons today are able to produce food for themselves, most people are wholly dependent upon the foods that are distributed through the regular commercial channels. This fact causes those who are disturbed about chemical additives to feel as if they are in a dilemma. They do not relish the thought of eating chemically doctored food, yet they appear to have no alternative that is within their budget. Their feelings were expressed by a

housewife to a government committee that was investigating the food additives situation. She said that it was virtually impossible to find a "plain food, with nothing added or taken away"

## Why Used

The reasons why more than seven hundred chemicals are used as food additives in the United States may not be entirely satisfying to many consumers. While some are used as preservatives that make possible a wide distribution of foods in great variety, others are for enhancing the sale of food products or for cheapening their production. It is questionable whether consumers appreciate having chemicals added to their diet merely because food producers want to increase their sales.

Of course, the modern method of marketing would be severely crippled without chemical additives. Prepared food mixes and many packaged foods would be impossible, as would many other food products that are now available. Chemicals solve the problem of keeping food in a salable condition during its period of distribution and while it sits on market shelves. Foods made from grains, for example, would become moldy and insect infested unless chemicals were added to them.

While some chemicals are used to pre-serve, soften, maintain moistness, prevent caking or separating of ingredients, deodorize, prevent oxidation, thicken, stabilize, prevent foaming, emulsify, and bleach, others are used to make the product attractive or to cheapen production costs. Complaints have been made that chemicals are often used to reduce the amount of milk and number of eggs used in bread so that the product might be cheapened for competitive purposes.

Dyes are often used to improve the appearance of a product, and other chemicals are added to give it flavor. Strawberry ice cream, for example, may have its strawberry flavor strengthened by the addition of benzyl acetate. Synthetic dyes are added to soft drinks, baked goods, oranges, ice cream, puddings, candies, sausage casings, maraschino cherries, margarine, butter, processed cheese and a great number of other products.

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**Insecticides in Food**

Besides chemicals that are directly added to foods for various reasons, there are some used by farmers that may leave residues. The weed killer that brought on the cranberry scare last fall is a famous example. Many powerful insecticides are used on fruits and other farm crops, but it is generally contended that no harmful residues are on the produce when it reaches the consumer. Whether any of it actually soaks through the skin of fruit is a question over which there are conflicting opinions.

**D. D. T. in Milk**

Pesticides used in dairies can reach the tables of consumers through milk. Out of 801 samples of market milk gathered by investigators in a nationwide survey during 1955, it was found that over 60 percent contained traces of DDT or similar pesticides. When the United States Public Health Service found traces of DDT in the food of many restaurants three years ago, it stated: "Few, if any, foods can be relied upon to be entirely free of DDT."

Some antibiotics used by farmers also show up in the foods we buy. Penicillin for

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example, is used in the treatment of mastitis of cows, and it has been found in about 10 percent of tested milk samples. Although the amount that reaches the consumer may be small, it can be very dangerous for those who are allergic to it. Chickens are dipped in another antibiotic, but the claim is made that it disappears during cooking.

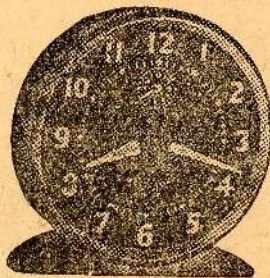
**Are Food Additives Injurious?**

The effect food additives have upon health is undoubtedly the biggest point of concern with those who are disturbed about them. They feel that their fears are justified by the fact that some chemicals that were declared harmless by chemical manufacturers and food producers have been found to be toxic. One of these is a flouring compound that was used for many years. It was finally banned when tests proved that it threw dogs into fits. But what effect did it have upon the health of the people who ate it during those years? Apparently that was never learned.

Food dyes are used extensively by food producers to improve the appearance and sale of their products. It does not necessarily hold true that a certified dye is harmless. This was evident in 1950 when an approved orange color caused many children to become sick after eating Halloween candy that had a high concentration of it. On another occasion one hundred children in Massachusetts were sickened by the dye in some colored popcorn. As food dyes are retested by modern methods, it seems certain that a number of dyes that have been in use a long time will be banned. At present coal-tar colors in particular are under suspicion as some have been found to cause cancer.

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## Chemicals in Food

There are dyes that have been used for many years in candies, icings, pie fillings, cakes, cookies, carbonated beverages and other foods that are now considered to be unsafe. Also of questionable safety are some of the dyes used in processed cereals and colored straws.

What is known as polyoxyethylene sorbitan is used in emulsifiers in the making of candies, soft drinks, dill pickles, multivitamin drops, ice-cream, cream whips, cakes, cake mixes, sweet rolls and doughnuts and is of questionable safety. Regarding such chemicals the magazine *CONSUMER REPORTS* stated: "The amount of sorbitan chemicals in any one food may not be dangerous, but when it is added up in the many foods in which they appear, there is good reason to believe that consumers are receiving more than is good for them."

Caution in the use of these emulsifiers was urged by an expert committee of the International Union Against Cancer. At a meeting in Rome it stated: "The recent observation of co-carcinogenic and cancer-promoting effects exerted by.....surface active agents calls for caution in the use of such chemicals in foodstuffs." The same can be said for other chemicals used in foods. Small amounts may not be harmful, but what about the cumulative effect of small amounts in practically every food that is marketed? Doctor Paul L. Day, scientific director of the Food and Drug Administration, is reported by the *New York TIMES* as saying: "Long-term chronic toxicity from chemicals is more to be feared than acute illness, since the effects are not immediately apparent."

## Chemicals Produce Cancer

Since 1947 the synthetic hormone stilbestro has been used on chickens to stimulate growth. Recently it was banned by the Food and Drug Administration for use in chickens because it has been found to produce cancer in test animals. Small residues of it were found in the liver, kidneys and skin fat of marketed chickens. The pharmaceutical industry objected to this action and asked Congress to modify the law that rules out of food all chemicals that produce cancer. One of their leading men claimed that stilbestrol is a harmless chemical. He pointed out that it is being fed to cattle on 75 per cent of America's feed lots. Its purpose is to fatten the animals. It may be of interest to note that this spokesman is Vice-President of a company that manufactures more than half of the country's supply of stilbestrol. The reason the government permits this hormone to be used on cattle after banning its use on chickens appears to be lack of evidence that it leaves residues in beef.

While some chemicals have proved to be injurious and others are questionable, the consumer need not be frightened into imagining

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that every item on the grocery shelf is loaded with dangerous chemicals. Most have been tested and proclaimed harmless. However, fewer chemicals in foods and better testing of those used would be a wise course for the food industry to take.

## How Protected

The food shopper should not feel that he is at the mercy of food producers that may think more of profits than of his health. Generally, governments are watchful of what goes into foods and into markets. They will ban the sale of any food in which they may find dangerous chemicals. This was done in England last year with a shipment of apples from another country. While on the trees these apples had been heavily sprayed with an insecticide that contained arsenic. It left a poisonous coating on the apples that alert inspectors in England spotted. Their quick action prevented the fruit from getting into the homes of the people.

In the United States a shipment of frozen peaches was seized a few years ago because a drug that was used to prevent them from turning brown proved fatal to laboratory animals. Early this year 700 pounds of lettuce was seized in Saint Louis because a pesticide that is unsafe for human consumption was on the lettuce.

*Continued on opposite page*



# The Searchlight

(ESTABLISHED 1921)

For the wrongs that need resistance  
 For the cause that needs assistance  
 For the future in the distance  
 For the good that we can do.

15th Sept. 1960

## The P. W. D. Bribery Probe

WHEN the S.L.F.P. came into office one of the first things it promised and undertook to do, was to eliminate irregular practices and procedure especially in regard to the giving out of Government Building Contracts which constitute a prolific source for the practice of Bribery and Corruption. The revelations made at the P.W.D. Bribery Inquiry, are fresh in the public mind. The Commissioner appointed for the purpose, after exhaustive investigations, found a large number of P.W.D. officers guilty of accepting bribes from Government Contractors. Accordingly he submitted his Report to the Governor-General who forwarded the Report of the Commissioner to the Public Services Commission to review the Commissioner's findings.

When the Commission was issued to the Chairman of the Bribery Probe, it was not sti-

culated in the terms of reference that his decisions or findings would be reviewed by another body. His commission was a legally constituted tribunal and had the full authority of the law. The Commissioner's verdict, therefore should be considered final and no appeal of any kind from such a verdict was necessary or desirable. The action therefore of referring the Report with its many findings to the Public Service Commission seems understandable.

There is another phase of this matter we should like to refer to. The suppression of the report from the public, who were entitled to know the verdict arrived at by the Commissioner, is inexplicable. For such action gives rise to suspicion that an attempt is being made to protect those guilty obviously because they were Government servants. This was contrary to the purpose of the commission. We are prepared to grant that those found guilty had the right of appeal not in regard to the fact of their guilt in having accepted illegal gratifications but only in so far as it concerned the punishment involved in such guilt. If by chance the Public Services Commission reversed the Commissioner's findings that would amount to something in the nature of a slap administered to him since he was asked to report whether those against whom the charge of accepting illegal gratifications were alleged had been established. After all the Commission was a fact finding commission and nothing more. And the punishments involved was nothing short of dismissal from the Public Service.

## FOOD ADDITIVES GET THE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 14

For many years the United States Food and Drug Administration has been keeping a sharp eye on foods that go to the American public. It has been testing food additives and banning those that proved dangerous. It has done a remarkable job considering the great number of additives that are used in food stuffs and the thousands of chemicals that have been proposed for use in foods by chemical manufacturers.

Until a food additives law was signed by the President of the United States of September

6, 1958, the Food and Drug Administration was handicapped by being required to prove that a chemical was harmful before being able to ban its use in food. Since the testing of a chemical could require several years, the task became impossible. Twenty years would be required for it to test the more than one hundred coal-tar colours alone. While a possibly dangerous chemical was being tested, it could be fed to the public in their food. The additives law changed this by placing the burden of food additives. As might be expected, the food industry was not very happy about this; it meant greater expense to them.

That industry cannot be relied upon to use unquestionably harmless additives voluntarily is seen from the occasions in times past

when the Food and Drug Administration forced it to stop using chemicals that proved to be dangerous. Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, said: "No one knows how much or how little of a substance that induces cancer in an animal when included in diet is necessary to induce cancer in man.... I think it is perfectly all right for scientists and people in the medical profession to argue about that question. But our point is that, while the argument is going on, the consumer should not, in effect, be asked to serve as a guinea pig." The new law may not be favourable to the food industry, but it is favourable to the men, women and children who must eat what the industry produces.

**Avoid Coloured Food**

In the January 2, 1960, issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, the editor failed to give encouragement to the Food and Drug Administration in an article on the subject of food additives. He tended to justify the use of aminotriazole on cranberries, carbon black in jelly beans and stilbestrol in chickens. In angry response Doctor Martin D. Kushner said in a letter to the *New York Times*: "When a government agency tries to

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solve the puzzling phenomenon of the highest incidence of cancer on earth in a country such as ours, which sells more vitamins, refrigerators, bathtubs, expensive antibiotics and tinkered-with foods than any other country or random group of countries it ill-behoves the editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.....in a specious and sneering way to laugh off these attempts of the department. It would be hard to refute the common sense conclusion that all the different chemicals and additives put into our foods, all the bleaches, coloring matter and substitutions do not help to keep our food supply natural and wholesome."

**Select Wholesome Food**

Since the food a person eats has a direct bearing on his health, it should not be surprising that many food shoppers are upset about the vast number of food additives they must eat. It is true that chemicals make for convenient foods, but they prefer fewer chemicals at the cost of convenience.

Although they may have some misgivings about foods they buy, they can find some consolation in the fact that government agencies are working diligently to protect them from harmful additives. They should not allow fear of additives to make them overtly concerned about what they eat. By using common sense and good judgment, they should be able to select wholesome foods that are best for their households.

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## Astrological Predictions at Election Time

IT was stated the other day that the Government intends to introduce legislation to prevent astrologers from predicting or publishing election forecasts on the ground that such a course will tend to mislead the public in voting for a particular candidate or party.

Although such legislation is a poor compliment to the general voter as if he or she will be influenced by such predictions it will be a good move if ALL publications of predictions are prohibited and heavy penalties are provided for in the event of those predictions turning out to be washouts. Even without special legislation the Board of Control proposed to be set up when the two large newspaper groups of Ceylon are taken over, such a Board will be in a position to ban all similar publications in those two groups or in other newspapers or kavi-kola if the last named two are also included in the proposed take-over.

In the proposed Act of Prohibition it will be a wise policy to exclude the publications at any time of all predictions political or other-

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wise. It was reported in one of the daily papers the other day, that a Cabinet Minister who has been a Senator in four governments including the present government, stated at a public meeting that the SLFP government will govern this country for at least another 25 years. I am not sure whether that is an astrological prediction or wishful thinking. In any event and if that Minister was right with regard to the number of years, he would be a fixture in the Cabinet without spending a cent at the next 4 or 5 general elections.

Publication of predictions of floods, famines, the end of the World or the death of an important politico should also be banned as predictions of that nature are liable to disturb the peace of mind of the public and of every MP or Senator who thinks that he or she is an important personage.

I hope the framers of the proposed legislation will consider these aspects before issuing instructions to the Legal Draughtsman,

Wellawatte.

D. L. WELIKALA

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## Time to Reduce Big Salaries



**M**R. W. DAHANAYAKE, M.P. for Galle, speaking at a reception meeting said the unemployment problem is one of the foremost things Mrs. Bandaranaike government has to solve and if it cannot be done he was definite that this question will give place to bloodshed and other disturbances. He was making this statement not as a simple utterance but as a worthy and grave statement done with twenty five years of matured political life. It would not be useful to pick two or three persons once in a way and give them employment. It has to be done with judgment and on a well planned and systematic structure.

He was surprised to see high salaries are being paid to Ceylon Transport Board Officials and the Chairman of the C.T.B. gets a salary as that of the Prime Minister and is second to that of the Governor-General alone.

Time has come to reduce the salaries of the officials. To cover the high salaries of the

high officials of the CTB poor travellers are to be burdened with high fares and it is not the rich who travel in buses but the poor and this is also a scheme not to hit the richer but the poor.

Mr. Dahanayake further said he would appeal to the government not to hit the poor man below the belt under the guise of the capitalist by raising the prices of everyday useful articles. They have already hit the poor man by increasing the price of cigarettes and government will continue further injury to the masses when they declare their budget proposals.

## Is the Food Drive a Failure ?

**C**EYLON is still very far from self-sufficiency in regard to her food supplies. The great attempts made to grow more food, started by the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake and sustained by those who came after him appear to have proved failures. Our Food Bill is now in the neighbourhood of 500 millions and still we are where we were in 1900, that is fifty years ago when it was that Ceylon began to realize the seriousness of the problem.

Although the bulk of the three hundred and twenty million rupees Rice Subsidy is spent on the Guaranteed Price Scheme it is doubtful whether the poor farmer is assisted in any appreciable degree."

This is what the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. K. Alvapillai told a conference of delegates from the Co operative Unions of the Mannar District recently.

He said that it was very unfortunate that we still imported much of our food. "We buy fifty per cent of our rice from Burma and China under an agreement. Very often the agreement is not adhered to. This causes much inconvenience.

"All types of governments are agreed that the condition of the people must be improved by means of economic development.

The present Government is socialist in its programmes and hopes to improve the conditions of people by Co operative methods. This will help solve many problems in the country.

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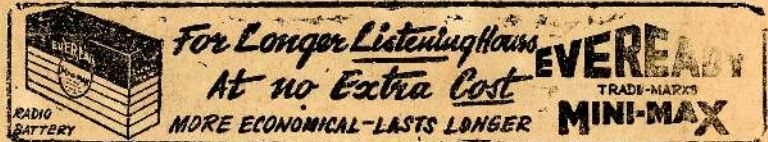
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"We import 40 million rupees worth of fish annually. Foreign assets have sunk low and we can improve only by producing whatever could be produced here."

He stressed the importance of the role of Co operative Societies in the production and distribution of paddy. For this he said: "honesty is very essential."

## Professional Tax in 1960-61 Budget

**I**N the professions the Government has left out Free of taxation a few important and money-making branches. Whilst western medical practitioners including specialists and advocates including Q.C's are taxed. Eastern medical practitioners go Soct free. There are many practitioners in the last-named category who advertise to say that they are specialists in



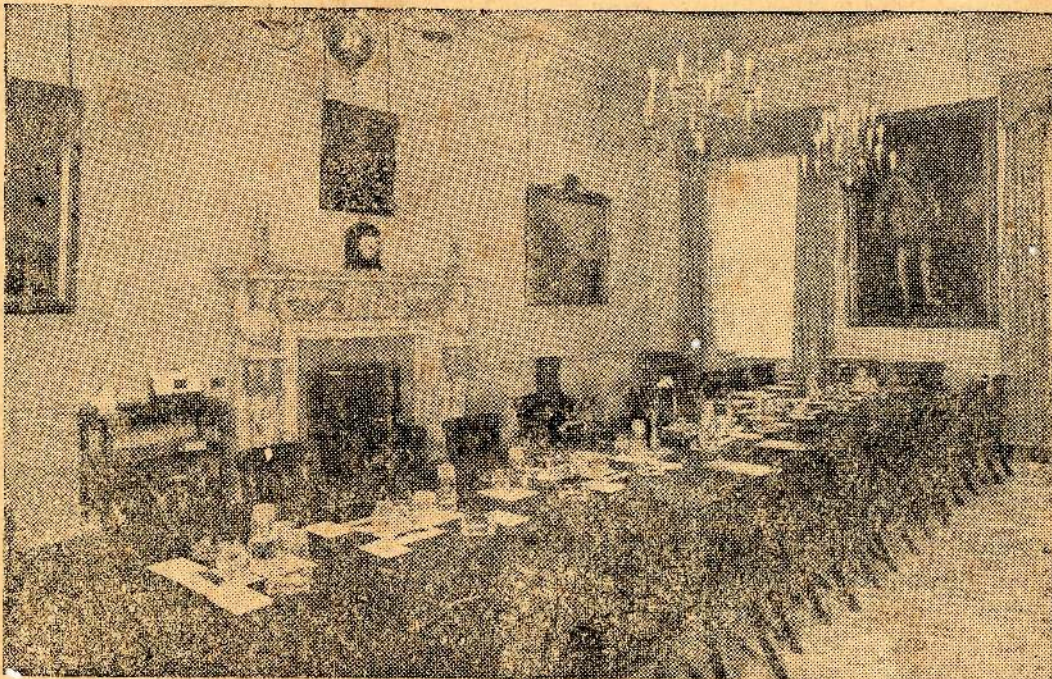
dysentery, mental disorders, skin, lung and heart diseases, carbuncles, rabies etc. besides those who guarantee to cure all incurable diseases.

There are also the astrologers, soothsayers and other stargazers, true light and horoscope readers, palmists, charmers and others of similar cults—some of them calling themselves 'professors'—and most of whom are making good money on the credulity of their clientele. Those self styled 'specialists' and 'professors' should be taxed in a class higher than the general practitioners.

If the Finance Minister has overlooked these two professions, will he introduce a supplementary budget before the debate?

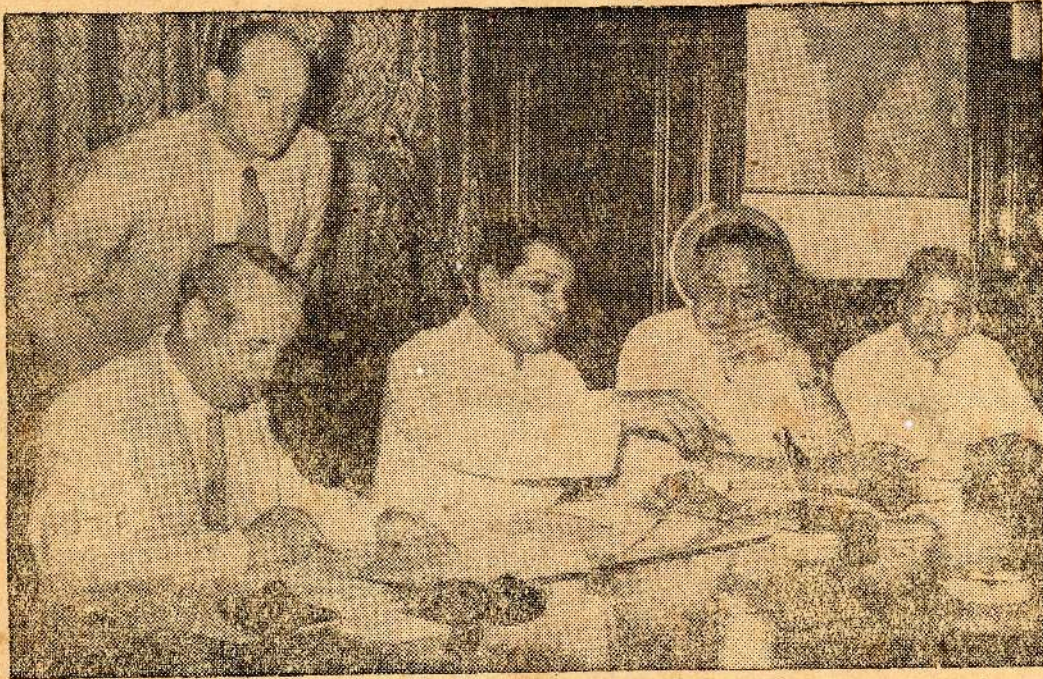
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## NEW VENUE FOR BRITAIN'S CABINET

The former South Drawing Room at Admiralty House, London, which will be used for Cabinet meetings during the restoration of 10, Downing Street, the Prime Minister's official residence. The Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Macmillan, and his staff recently moved to Admiralty House which will be his official residence and office during the two years which the restoration work at 10, Downing Street, is expected to take.



### Rs. 13-CRORE U. K. CREDIT FOR INDIA

An agreement for a credit of Rs. 13.33 crores from the U. K. Government to the Government of India was signed in New Delhi recently, bringing U. K. assistance to India's Second Five Year Plan to over Rs. 100 crores. The scene at the signing ceremony: From Left to Right: (Sitting) Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, U.K. High Commissioner; Mr. L. K. Jha, Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Mr. B. K. Nehru, Commissioner-General for Economic Affairs in America; Mr. T. Swaminathan, Commissioner-General for Economic Affairs in Europe. (Standing) Mr. G. B. Blaker, Financial Adviser to the U. K. High Commissioner.

## No Public Conscience about Bribery

Continued from cover page

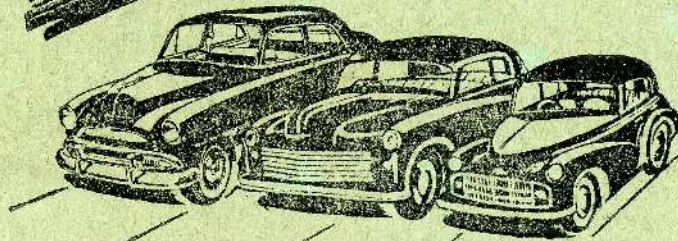
rife has also been a bad influence on Ceylon and many Indian Traders and Immigrants are nonchalant about offering bribes to Ceylonese officials. Some decades back an official's real income for general purpose as marriage was computed by adding probable bribes to normal earned income and certain types of jobs were very attractive to some for the prospects of bribes offered. However such irregularities were never frowned upon much during colonial rule because income opportunities were generally scarce.

The story that bribery has sprung from the old oriental habit of never going empty handed when meeting those in authority is an incorrect analogy to be considered. In ancient times when there were no systems of taxation and well organised administrative expenditure people did go openly and without any form of

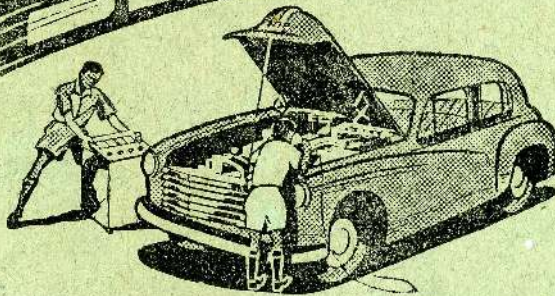
stealth laden with goods to officials and never with the intention of subverting procedure and authority. But today we all know that no bribe is given with a fanfare of trumpets and they are call closely guarded deals. If there is no public conscience about bribery it is because bribery and corruption are things taken for granted by the helpless people. The poor man gives a bribe because he knows that it is the only way to get away with the official who abuses his authority. The official who abuses his authority is often like a Sword of Damocles over the heads of those under his surveillance until he is paid his ransom or fee.

It is also very queer indeed that those who stood firmly against bribery and corruption never had the good fortune to go ahead. Sir John Kotalawala who was perhaps the only Prime Minister to attempt launching an anti-corruption campaign through posters and public education, found himself defeated before he could go very far and the posters he sent out to government departments were not all with much enthusiasm.

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