

# TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

*John S. ...*  
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NEWSPRINT,  
TIMES'  
DIRTY-LINEN

REPUBLIC

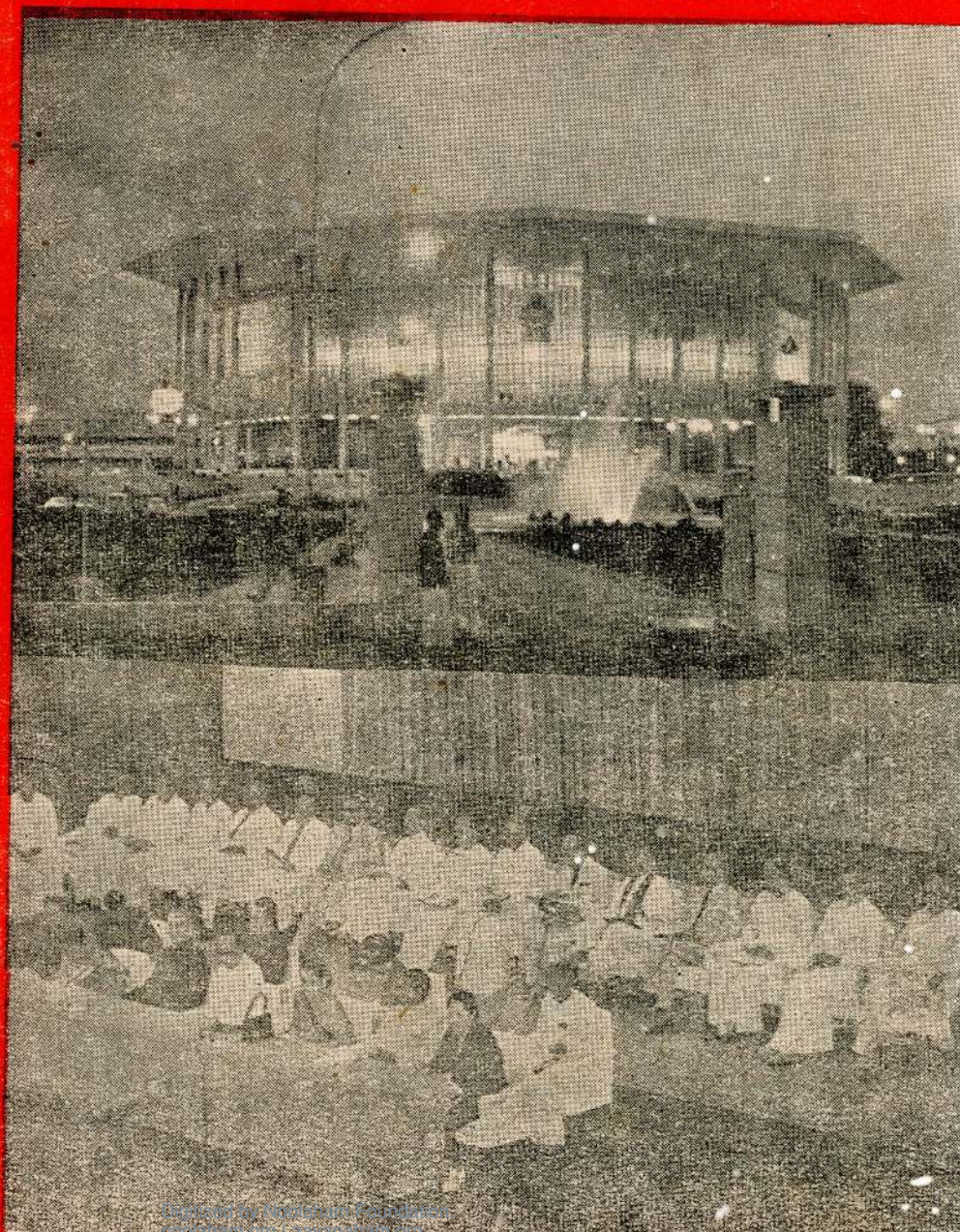
PLANTS-LIFE  
& DEATH

CHRONICLE

ISRAEL-  
QUESTIONS  
DIFFICULT TO  
ANSWER

GENERIC NAMES

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SERVICE



# Tribunania

## NEWSPRINT, TIMES' DIRTY-LINEN

AS ANTICIPATED for a long time a further cut in newsprint, particularly newsprint in reels, has been announced. According to a report in the *Observer*, 13/5/73, the big newspaper groups as from June 1 will get only 75% of the newsprint they had used in 1972 for their daily papers: hereafter no newsprint in reels would be available to them for magazines and periodicals.

There is very little anybody can do about this. The country has no foreign exchange to import even more essential items than newsprint in reels. That the Government is prepared to make a seventy five% allocation for the big daily newspapers is something to be commended. Truly the people of this country must be thankful for the small mercies extended to them by the Government which is beset by unsurmountable foreign exchange difficulties.

*Tribune*, several months ago, switched from imported newsprint and cover paper to locally-produced Valaichenai printing paper, and we now obtain our stocks and supplies by the grace and goodwill of the Eastern Paper Mills Corporation, on permit, from week to week.

The *Times of Ceylon* group, however, does not seem to

be concerned about the newsprint position. It is buried in the onerous task of washing dirty linen. The squabbles and fights among its Directors and its management has now surfaced into the open. Chairman Ranaweera and Deputy Chairman Ediriweera, with the support of Director Amarasuriya, had resisted the attempts of the majority shareholders to appoint additional Directors who would tilt the management back to the old gang who have ruled the roost in the *Times* for about twentyfive years.

On Sunday May 6, the *Times Weekender* had published some unsavory allegations made by a newly formed Union against the main shareholders and the Directors who represented them, and who had been outmanoeuvred by the Ranaweera-Ediriweera combine. Many of these allegations, if they cannot be substantiated in a court of law, can well be libel. In this memorandum the union threatened the old guard majority shareholders not to appoint additional shareholders, and when they did, the Ranaweera-Ediriweera combine promptly got an interim injunction restraining them from acting as Directors of the Company. As was to be expected, the additional directors promptly went to court to have the interim injunction dissolved.

The *Times* did not give publicity to the details of the application made by these directors—they only reported the fact that such an application had been made. But the *Daily News*, 11/5, publi-

shed a fuller version and some of the facts alleged make interesting reading:

"Mr. C. Thiagalingam, Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted to Court that Messrs. Donald J. Rana-weera and P. A. Ediriweera have obtained the interim injunction by the suppression and misrepresentation of material facts. He said Mr. K. Alvapillai, who for several years was Permanent Secretary to the Ministries of various governments and also Chairman of several Corporations, was a member of the Board of Times of Ceylon Limited from about 1962 and was also Deputy Chairman

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and by special resolution of the Board was assigned the duties and responsibilities of General Manager. He said that his services were considered invaluable not only by the board but by the staff.

"He said that Mr. Ediriweera was appointed a Director in about May 1972 at the instance of Mr. Donald Ranaweera and Mr. Ediriweera at the date of appointment had only 100 shares in the Times of Ceylon. In or about November 1972 both Mr. Ranaweera and Mr. Ediriweera sought to take over the entirety of the shares belonging to the estate of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sangarapillai. The Executors were ready and willing to transfer the shares to them provided the terms of the transaction as agreed upon were complied with on or before a certain date. Mr. Ediriweera was unable to pay the agreed sum of Rs. 240,000 on the due date and thus they were unable to implement the terms of the transaction.

"Mr. Thiagalingam further submitted that thereafter Mr. Donald J. Ranaweera who depended heavily on Mr. Alvapillai for the administration and Management of the Times changed his attitude towards him. This change, Mr. Thiagalingam submitted was manifested by various directives which either evoked Alvapillai's orders or were directed at harrasing him.

"He said that Mr. Alvapillai had consequently tendered his resignation on several occasions but was persuaded to stay on particularly by the shareholders at the Annual


General Meeting held in or about December 1972. Mr. Ranaweera however continued to harass Mr. Alvapillai. Mr. Alvapillai subsequently tendered his resignation with effect from May 1, 1973, which was accepted by the Board of Directors, and the Directors resolved that Mr. Ediriweera be appointed Deputy Chairman with effect from May 1, 1973 but did not assign any executive functions to him. It was at the instance of Mr. Ranaweera, Mr. Ediriweera was appointed Deputy Chairman.

"He further submitted that Mr. R. L. Michael has been the Editor of the Daily Mirror since 1963 and the Editor in Chief of the Times Group of Newspapers since 1970. At the time Mr. Michael was appointed the Editor the sales of the paper were around 7000 but within a period of one year the circulation shot up to 15,000 and continued to rise till it reached nearly 23,000 this year. From all accounts the popularity was due to an editorial column entitled 'Opinion' which was written by Mr. Michael.

"Mr. Thiagalingam submitted that on May 3, 1973 in the issue of the Daily Mirror there appeared an article Sorry, No Opinion. The Opinion will not appear in this column till arrangements are made for its reappearance in keeping with national aspirations and the highest standards of Journalism. Till such time we shall publish views of our readers titled 'What our readers think'. Mr. Thiagalingam further submitted that this notice was published on orders given by

Mr. Ediriweera without authority or reference to the Board of Directors.

"Mr. Thiagalingam further submitted that on May 3, 1973 Mrs. C. Wilson, Mrs. K. S. Goolamhussein, Mrs. H. K. Adamally Messrs. P. Navaratnarajah, N. S. O. Mendis and Mackwoods Limited who are the registered owners of more than fifty percent of the shares of the Company sent requisitions to the Directors and the Company that Messrs. V. L. Wirasinghe, V. P. Vittachchi and N. Sivagnanasunderam have been appointed additional Directors of the Company. He further submitted that the Board of Directors had not appointed Mr. Ediriweera as Managing Editor of the Times Group of Newspapers, but in fact Mr. Ediriweera had appointed himself as Managing Editor by a newspaper notification.



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"He further submitted that after the grant of injunction the respondents broke open the cabinets and drawers, the keys of which were with Mr. Viswanathan, in which there were important company documents etc. Mr. Thiagalingam said that in all the circumstances, he was asking court to make an order Nisi in terms of section 377 of the Civil Procedure Code discharging the injunction already issued on the respondents failing to show sufficient cause against it at the next returnable date. The judge made order accordingly."

THIS REPORT of the court proceedings is worthy of record. These notes are being written before the summons returnable date on May 18, but it will be interesting to watch how the tussle develops.

In the meantime, the *Times Weekender* on May 13 had a frontpage barrage under the headline **ECONOMIC COUP IN THE OFFING?..JAMES BOND STYLE AND MYSTERY MAN BEHIND THE SCENES.** The report stated that: "Business circles in Colombo are perturbed over the growth of a secret organisation among top ranking businessmen which is being promoted in order to harass the Government and nullify the Five-Year-Plan through organised economic subversive activities ...."

Then followed various innuendos and hints about impounded passports, secret meetings and what not—but all in all it was a swipe at some of the majority shareholders of the *Times* who were resisting the coup which was being

staged by the Ranaweera-Ediriweera group. This *Weekender* report also merited reproduction *in extenso*—as a supreme example of dirty-linen-washing as well as character assassination at its worst.

"The passport of one of the big names in this organisation has already been impounded by the authorities because his presence is required as a vital witness in another case connected with exchange malpractices. The organisation is conducted in 'James Bond' style and very few of the followers know the identity of the chief man behind the scenes.

"One of the tactics of this group is to enlist the support of top disgruntled Government servants who have got the velvet boot due to reactionary activities. These people are immediately found lucrative employment in various companies. Their connections with underlings in government departments are being exploited for their own purposes.

"Recent Government investigations have revealed that even a statement made by the Prime Minister for all parties to co-operate in the funeral of the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake has been misconstrued and wrong information conveyed to Government Agents and other government officials in the provinces. Mysterious cars carrying white flags had arrived at these government offices and conveyed information that the Prime Minister had given permission to use all Government vehicles free of charge to send people to attend the

funeral. Even pro-Government officials have been duped in this connection.

"Another Plan of this Group is to send their trusted officials on the pretext of trade promotion to dissuade foreign investors from investing in the economic development of Sri Lanka. In fact, there is evidence to the effect that they have persuaded them to organise undertakings in Malaysia and Indonesia, where the investment climate, they say, is better. These business circles are also astonished at the fact that the so-called directors' meetings are being held in the house of a well-known businessman in Colombo 7. It is also stated that these 'meetings' are in the nature of lessons of economic insurrection.

"A Group of Ceylonese Businessmen, it is understood, are now getting ready a deputation to interview the proper government authorities to apprise them of this situation in order to take necessary steps to stem the movement, which is fast spreading. Most of the middle class businessmen are wary because of the powerful nature of the group, who have a stranglehold on the shipping, tourism, import and export trades of the Island."

*It is ironic to think that dirty linen could be washed at such a level by people who are said to be "Important people."*

MEANWHILE, the *Weekender* also announced that the Editorial column would be resumed in the *Daily Mirror* on Monday, May 14, and sure enough there was a ponderous piece in the frontpage space which had been the sole

monopoly of the *OPINION* column. Those who had looked forward to good journalism exuding the highest ethics of journalism were disappointed. It was a heavy-handed didactic outburst on the virtues of civil liberties and the rule of law, and the excuse for this was the fact that the TUF were on the eve of staging a silent protest against the continued detention of the 36 young men from the North: no detention without a trial or even charges being framed was the theme song of this exercise in writing grammatical queen's english.

It was really a dissertation in law, and there was not the slightest doubt that the editorial was impregnated with legal learning. The style, idiom and manner bore the hallmark of a legal pundit who had suddenly fancied himself as a writer with a flair for journalism.

No journalist would have written on this topic. It was untimely. No journalist would have wanted to tire the readers of the *Daily Mirror* with a sermon-like harangue on the evils of detention. The motive for the essay was transparent: it was to show that the *Mirror* was in a mood to criticise the government and take an independent stance: it was willing to espouse an unpopular cause—the TUF in protest. The paper was also for the minority. But, the editorial did not cut much ice, and if the first editorial was anything to go by, nobody will bother one hoot about the future editorials in the *Mirror*.

## FIRST BIRTHDAY

# Of The Republic of Sri Lanka

BY SPARTACUS

**May 22nd this year marks the first birthday of the Republic of Sri Lanka which was proclaimed last year. It was the proclamation of the Republic which substantially completed our political freedom, the fight for which had been waged unceasingly for many years.**

It took us longer than most of the other former British colonies in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean to sever all our constitutional ties that bound us to our former rulers. This was due to a number of reasons. But the main reason, perhaps, is that the struggle for our freedom was, till recently, led by moderate reformists who sought to win political independence in cooperation with our masters rather than through head-on struggle with them.

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**EVEN WITH *Tribune* becoming a weekly, the pressure on space is greater. One would have thought that with one issue more every month we would have had more space for the articles which reach us and which never appear in print. Last week we had to skip a large number of our regular features including *Shamba* and *Safari*. With paper shortage and other austerities, it is not likely that we will be able to increase the number of pages per issue. But we will print what is urgent and topical.**

Their struggle resulted in independence coming to Sri Lanka in stages, concessions being granted by the British, so to say, in instalments, often after deliberations by Royal Commissions appointed for the purpose.

By 1931, Sri Lanka had succeeded in obtaining what came to be known as "sevenths freedom". Seven of the ten comprising the Board of Ministers were Ceylonese elected to the State Council. Real power and control rested with the Chief Secretary (who was *ipso facto* the Chairman of the Board of Ministers), the Legal Secretary and the Financial Secretary who were dubbed by the late Mr. E. W. Perera as "three policemen in civil clothes."

The 1930's also witnessed the birth and growth of the Left movement which considerably quickened the pace of our march to freedom. Raising the demand for full political independence for the first time, the LSSP and later the Communist Party, brought the organised working class to the political scene to take part in the fight for the fulfilment of this demand. There can be no doubt that this, in a great measure, hastened the Soulbury reforms which brought us almost to the verge of Dominion Status.

The 1947 General Strike which shocked the British

rulers and the results of the General Election that followed that same year probably convinced the British that even the Soulbury constitution was insufficient. Hence the proclamation of "fully responsible status" in 1948—hailed by D. S. Senanayake and his supporters as the culmination of their fight for independence.

WITH the late Mr. Bandaranaike quitting the UNP on various issues—one of which was the very meaning of our freedom under the 1948 dispensation—the Left parties found a new ally to carry on the fight for a fuller freedom than envisaged under the Ceylon Independence Act of 1948. But, it was only 24 years later that this found fulfilment in the creation of a new constitution and the proclamation of the Republic whose first birthday we now celebrate.

The promulgation of the Republic brought us new prestige in the world, especially in the Afro-Asian world. Our pursuance of the foreign policy of non-alignment and active opposition to all forms of imperialism and colonialism, old and new, added to our stature in the Third World countries. Our ties with the newly-independent states of Asia and Africa as well with the socialist countries became closer and firmer. The recent visit of Mrs. Indira Gandhi to our shores and the agreement reached then will further cement our ties with our great neighbour.

All this concerning our relations with countries near and far are very satisfactory. But what of our own internal affairs? After all, it is on this

record that our Republican status will be judged by our own people.

THE NEW constitution was held out by some to be the last word in perfection. But the very first Bill to be referred under the terms of the constitution to the Constitutional Court led to a minor crisis of sorts which was in no way made easy of solution by the attitude adopted by some within the Government's own ranks. Ultimately, it was the wisdom and good sense of the Prime Minister that saved the day and prevented a rift in her own camp.

The new constitution pledged itself to protect the fundamental rights and freedom of all citizens, subject of course to the over-riding necessities of state policy and national security. It was hoped, in particular, that it would open a new era in the history of relations between our main communities.

*How far has this objective been realised? To what extent have suspicions as between the different linguistic communities and religious groups been allayed and their mutual faith and trust cemented? Without apportioning praise or blame to one party or the other, Government or Opposition, it must be admitted that much remains to be done in this sphere if we are to be the free, sovereign, independent and unitary state that our new constitution proclaimed us to be.*

The people were promised a new deal with regard to the work of government administration. They were promised all opportunities to

participate at all levels in the work of running the state (echoes of Lenin's "Every cook must learn to run the state"). To this end, Janata Committees, Advisory Committees etc. were set up at Government departments and within certain parliamentary constituencies.

*To what extent has all this succeeded? How have these measures helped to end the old bureaucratism and bring about a state of things nearer to our heart's desires? Has nepotism and corruption diminished as a result? These are important questions that should engage our attention as we celebrate our first Republican birthday.*

The Republic of Sri Lanka, when it was proclaimed last year, inherited numerous difficulties which were the legacies bequeathed by colonialism. To these difficulties were added the immense burden of debt incurred by the previous government and the colossal damage to the economy of the country caused by the 1971 rebellion.

THE YEAR since the proclamation of the Republic has shown how vulnerable we still are to the vagaries of international trade—ever-decreasing prices for our exports, ever-increasing prices for our imports, arbitrary and unconscionable price hikes in freight rates etc. etc. Little wonder that we have been unable to make rapid progress in solving the vexing problems of the people like providing more employment to the jobless, bringing down the cost of living etc.

*What have we done to free ourselves from this deadly*

stranglehold? What progress have we made on the march to achieve real economic independence?

The UF Government has sought to extend the state sector in the national economy by setting up a number of public corporations. But how many of such corporations today fulfil the purpose for which they were established? How many of them add to the coffers of the state rather than being a liability to it? Have these new corporations, reduced nepotism and corruption or raised them to new heights? Have they increased efficiency or promoted new types of graft? These questions too must be considered by the Government and the people alike as we celebrate Republic Day.

The Government, in its much-vaunted Five Year Plan has pledged to promote a mixed economy in which the private sector (especially in spheres like housing investment) will have a large and significant role to play.

*But how have Government actions matched its promises? Is the Government getting the best it can from those who have the capital to invest to join hands with the state in increasing our national wealth?*

The Government has enacted the Land Reform Act and the Agricultural Productivity Act. But have these two Acts actually led to an increase in agricultural productivity or rather the reverse? When will the problem of landlessness solved and incentives provided for

SHAMBA

## On The Life and Death of Plants

MARCH 31 — APRIL 9

BY ANATORY BUKOBA

March 31. Another of the water-melon plants, I transplanted seems to have died. The other two are doing well, although one of them seems "moth-eaten, when I transplanted it. Another four are of a size ready to be removed from the nursery, and I hope they escape whatever worm it is that eats them.

More rain this evening, thank goodness, and enough of it to last the plants both tonight and tomorrow. It is strange now that one can often see things, notice things, more by night than

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our farmers to make a real success of the production drive and achieve self-sufficiency in food?

In short, how far has the UF Government, during the first year of our new Republic, fulfilled that clause in the constitution which pledged to carry forward the progressive advancement towards the advancement in Sri Lanka of a socialist democracy, the objectives of which include, *inter alia*, the rapid development of the whole country and the distribution of the social product equitably among citizens.

Let us repeat:— It is on this record that the Republic will be judged—by the people in whom sovereignty came to be vested last year in May.

by day—dusk, very often, for instance. Anyway, I noticed with a shock tonight, how very unsafe our room is from thieves and robbers. I noticed come cadjans in the walls loose, and I noticed, too, how very badly the walls seem to have been made. The loose cadjans I promptly tied up. The whole house has been made much too low, and this was obvious as soon as it was finished. In fact the father of our church has commented on it. Anyway, none of the house leaks now, and any tendency to leak has soon been stopped in the traditional way of just pulling the cadjans up. Without understanding the mechanism of the thing I just do it, and it works. That is one advantage of a low roof, I can get at it anywhere.

April 3. Only one of the pannikumbutu or water-melon plants I transplanted, has survived, and I replaced the other three with new one just before it rained. At the bottom of each hole I put a piece of well-dried cow-dung. At the bottom of one hole was a rock, and the whole of that place where this hole was, rocky. I took a chance and used the same place again.

The jak plant in the coconut shell has grown quite tall. I am wondering where to put it. The original jak plant, the mango, and the *lavulu* of all things, all show

distinct signs of surviving. The *laulu*, which I was quite sure was dead, I decided about a week ago to treat like the "dead" flower plant that I had watered at all hours of the day, even in the blazing hot sun, by the easy expedient of washing my hands over the plant whenever I washed them. It took a long time to work, but it did in the end, because the plant now has leaves. The *lavulu* has in its turn shown distinct signs of being supple and green, but it has still, like the *jak* and the mango plants, to show a leap.

The *koli kuttu* tree, which had the upper part of its trunk cut away a few days ago, is now unfurling half a plantain leaf, half, because the other half seems to have been cut away with the trunk. This leaf was tightly curled up right in the middle of the trunk of the tree, rather like marrow in a bone.

It looks as if my attempt to grow lettuce and tomato has failed. Both the beds showed a beautiful of grass which I removed today. The carrot, however, has come up in about three places, where the seed must have sown rather thickly to judge from the plants. I have realised for a few days now that I had failed to appreciate the necessity of smoothing the top of each bed, a thing easily done with the flat part of a mamoty, before I sowed the seed. In the rough uneven, surface of the bed, the seed was probably washed deep when I watered the beds twice a day. I had sowed two rows each of lettuce and tomato. The

carrot bed, too, showed a fine crop of grass, which I weeded today, and it is only in one of these lines, in about two places that the carrot has appeared, the little plants cannot be but a day or two old.

A disaster has occurred. The only one of my seven vines to show any leaves, in fact, it never lost them, has "died". It was all right yesterday, and was so, too, this morning. It could have been trampled on by a person or an animal, or have been eaten by a slug under the earth. This morning it looked so fine, a few hours later it had wilted, and I found that the plant was no longer attached to its roots! It was one of the three vines I had bought in polythene bags. I went on to investigate the other two. They also, I think, have no roots. Two seem to have just withered away, although I have been watering them twice a day. One of them seems to show a bud.

This evening, just before the rain, I extended the fence or hedge with cuttings of the same kind of plant that I had started it with.

Twenty-two of the first lot of thirty manioc I planted now have leaves. When these plants get a little bigger, I shall have to protect them at much inconvenience from monkeys.

For the second time I bought some potatoes of seed size for sowing. In England, each crop of potatoes, before it was disposed of, was always sorted out into three sizes or lots, potatoes, seed and pig. The seed

was the middle size, all well shaped with no blemishes. The pig was those not fit to sell or eat and the very small ones. The pig was fed to the farm animals, usually the sow, or the pig that was being kept back for slaughter on the farm. The first lot of potatoes I bought were never sown. I hope I have more luck with these.

April 4. The potatoes have been sown. I sowed them down the middle of the tomato bed, between the two rows where the tomatoes ought to be. If the tomatoes do not come up, it will be alright; if they do, it is going to be a little troublesome. The tomatoes have been better in the lettuce bed.

The *jak* has been transplanted at least, just when the second *jak* that I sowed at the same time as this one, has germinated. It must be a month and a half, or close on it, since I sowed them. The plant was over six inches high in the coconut shell, and I put it on the top side of the manioc and the five vines. I put little cow-dung round it, but not too close.

The water melon that I planted yesterday among rock does not look as healthy as the other two, which are doing all right so far. I put a small *cadjan* lean-to round each this morning. It is raining again thank heavens.

The hedge has been completed. It lies between the road and the line of *murunga*, or *lady's finger*, or *drum-stick* trees, at the top of the bank, leaving room for a small car to turn round I think, whilst the *murunga* are at the bottom of the



bank. The potatoes were sowed in very clayey soil, heavy soil, which the earth that makes up the bank, and where the hedge has been planted, is very light, fine soil, very easy to dig with a mamoty.

There is no sign of the papaw seeds having germinated yet. Only a few of the water melon seeds have germinated, there were quite a number put in the attili, there may be more to come. The laulu seed has hardly had time to germinate. The olives appear to have been a complete failure. I shall probably concentrate the vines in one place, now that my best vine has been damaged and nearly destroyed, and do it by moving the three vines by the house to vacancies among the five vines beyond the manioc. The rain has stopped after raining enough to wet the soil thoroughly. The dihul or wood-apple trees, which always grew here wild, are beginning to show fruit.

April 5. A friend came along this morning with five mackerel plants, two water melon creepers and a small cadju sapling. Mackerel, of course, is a bean, and I dug five holes for the plants at the far end of the small plot which holds the nine manioc. As one of the five had mysteriously disappeared when it came to planting them, I put the two water melon in the last hole at either end of the hole. The line of five, rather six, was covered with two long cadjans propped up against each other for support. By the evening, the two water

melon had faded, but the man who brought them thinks they will be all right. With the rain we have had today, he may be right. The bean looked no worse for their removal to their new home. I put the young cadju between the foot path and the plot of thirty manioc and covered it up too with a bent cadjan.

The young jak transplanted yesterday is looking alright. I had no time today to work out the new plants with stones and I had better do it before they are trampled on. The hedge looks all right, but somebody has been rummaging in it already.

April 6. The three vegetable beds are like a sheet of grass again, or, I should say, an army of grass stalks well out. The cadjans over the new plants went up again in the morning and, to a large extent, had kept the earth on the surface moist until they were removed again in the evening. There was certainly no need to do any watering in the morning, but I was amiss about doing it in the evening. It is long after dark and it has not rained yet, although there is thunder. What I thought was a red sky betokens a dry tomorrow, but I am hoping it will rain before that. The water melon and the jak that I had transplanted earlier are all doing well, all except the one sown in the rocky ground over the rock. The friend who had brought the other plants yesterday had done his own sowing, rather strangely I thought with the plants trail-

ing along the ground, but they were, of course, bigger than the ones I had transplanted.

Twenty-six of the manioc are showing leaves now, but not one of the nine that were planted later. The laulu is really showing signs of life, and so are the jak and the mango, which were among the first to be planted. The jak goes under water every time it rains, which cannot be doing it any good. I shall have it to lift it bodily with some earth under it, and set it down again. All this should have been done this evening but I was rather remiss as I have said.

April 7. The original jak plant was reset today. I lifted it and the earth around it up several inches. Then I went on to reset the laulu. As there was just a vestige of root showing, I trusted the luck and replanted it in the same place. The two thorn plants that I had left over from the original fourteen that I had brought here showed no root at all, so I threw them away. As the mango, though still devoid of leaves, looked firmly rooted, and is a tall plant, I just shoved it up with earth all round. I re-arranged the flower bed, made it one big bed, instead of three, and cleaned it up generally by using a mamoty and shoving up the three plants up too with earth.

My great concern now is to get a companion so that I can work on with fewer interruptions and hold-ups. This sometimes means going away and fetching the man. Very few are prepared to trust

themselves to a new venture-some way of life, which means really, being a new kind of *entrepreneur*. The old types of *entrepreneur* raised money for new ventures. My new type commits himself together with what he has got or can make. The old *entrepreneur* used other people's money, and they received shares for what they lent, or at least interest. We do not borrow or raise money, unless we earn it.

April 8. A good shower of rain today, and the old jak bed was under water, but not the jak, which for the first time in these conditions could continue to breathe. Hitherto it was completely submerged, sometimes even all night. I am beginning to think that where this jak plant is, might be an ideal place for a well. I was going to put the well a few feet from this spot and in front of the house. If I am right,

a few feet can make a lot of difference sometimes. There are springs under the soil, as you discovered when you are digging a well and I should imagine that the next best thing to hitting this spring directly is to be digging on the side that the water flows; or does it make no difference?

The mango plant looks taller to me, and if this is so, then it must have been growing, this last six weeks after shedding all its leaves and putting forth no new ones, for it looks just a bare stalk.

The laulu, as I have said, looks green and supple. It has three stalks growing out of one base root, and this root has one tiny "hair" which, I hope, will be enough for the plant to suck up what moisture it needs to set all its "work" going properly. I realised with a shock this evening that my biggest

plantain tree is taller than me, a fact not appreciable by daylight, for of these things show up best at night by torchlight, like dust as I have had occasion to mention before.

April 9. I was, up, fairly early this morning, as is usually the case, and I did my usual inspection of everything planted. The softness of the vegetable plots was too alluring, soft from yesterday's rain, and I set myself at once to weed the potato bed, where once the tomato seed had been sown. By evening these beds were too hard to draw a hand-rake over, the soil, I found, feeling like very hard clay ideal, I should imagine, for making chatty pots. By evening too, the few carrot plants, that have appeared, were beginning to form themselves like carrots. I transplanted one water melon plant from the chatty pot to the place where two rather larger water melon plants were put the other day. These have died off.

Only four of the first lot of thirty manioc plants have not put out leaves, and two of the second lot of nine have done so. Two of five vine cuttings I planted, are putting out leaves. I moved the three that I had bought in polythene bags over to this lot; none of the three had roots, although they all had leaves when I bought them.

On a walk out today I collected six cotton seeds from a pod of cotton I picked off a tree. I left the cotton pod somewhere on the tree. I now have the seeds of two

(Continued on page 15)



The Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall was ceremonially opened on May 17 by a special envoy from China and Ceylon's Prime Minister.

## CHRONICLE

April 30 – May 7

A diary of events in Sri Lanka and the world compiled from English language dailies published in Colombo.

**MONDAY, APRIL 30:** All daily papers published reports about the departure of the Indian PM, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, yesterday afternoon, with details about the Press Conference held before she left and the text of the communique issued by the two governments. The *Daily News* emphasised in its headlines that the rate of repatriation would be increased by 10% every year and that feasible areas for joint economic co-operation would be discussed soon; and that on matters of international significance there was similarity of views. The *Sun* made much of a statement Indira Gandhi made that: "For Small Developing Countries—A Sound Economy Was the Best Security" and made it its main frontpage headline. The *Daily Mirror* turned sentimental with a frontpage entitled MOVING SCENE AS INDIRA LEAVES... A WARM KISS AND A 'GOOD-BYE' TO PM; and also stressed the fact that Mrs. Gandhi had stated that she believed in a "mixed economy" and that Indians here should be loyal to Sri Lanka. The *Observer* drew special attention on its frontpage to the Indian PM's statement that "Kachchativu is just a rock and not even an island and is of no strategic value to India." The *Times of Ceylon* pointed out that the Stateless would become a subject for discussion soon. All papers had long reports about the preparations being made by the Government to hold a massive May Day rally tomorrow. The Watergate scandal had snowballed into the biggest scandal in US political history. The appointment of a junior judge bypassing three seniors as the Chief Justice of India has led to the resignation of the three judges as well as caused a first class crisis in the judiciary.

**TUESDAY, MAY 1:** The Associated News Papers of Ceylon Ltd. (Special Provisions) Bill was gazetted last night: the Department of Information issued a communique yesterday afternoon which set out the procedure

which would be adopted to broaden the ownership and management of Lake House. The *Sun* reported that *Lake House* was to become a public company. The morning dailies stated that a very big crowd was expected for May Day rally today. A four-man team of Soviet fishing experts had arrived in Sri Lanka to discuss with the Ministry of Fisheries how to implement the fisheries aid agreement signed last year between the two countries. The Land Reform Commission issued a special May Day supplement today in the *Daily News* only. The *Sun* pointed out that May Day celebrations were being held after two years and that huge crowds were being expected for the Government rally. In her May Day message, the PM appealed to workers not to ask what the government can give them, but to do what they can for the Government and the country. She also called for united effort to build the nation. The *Daily Mirror* carried a frontpage announcement that P. A. Ediriweera had assumed duties as Deputy Chairman of the *Times of Ceylon* group of newspapers as from today. As red troops closed in on Phnom Penh in Cambodia, the US increased the bombing with B-52s. US Vice-President Agnew, commenting on the Watergate scandal had stated: "clear it quickly..." Public opinion polls yesterday showed a significant drop in President Nixon's popularity and credibility as the Watergate bugging scandal confronted him with the biggest crisis of his political life.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2:** The *Daily News* frontpage banner headline about yesterday's Government May Day Rally was SACRIFICE FOR PROGRESS THE THEME—WORKERS' MAY DAY SLOGANS—MASSIVE PROCESSION TO GALLE FACE: LARGEST CROWD EVER HEARS PM, LEFT LEADERS. The *Daily Mirror* said that it was a mammoth crowd. The *Sun* reported that the Galle Face was a Sea of Heads. In her May Day speech at the rally the PM appealed to the workers to do the full 8 hour work a day to increase production. The PM also stated that the size of the crowd was a vote of confidence in the Government and the UF. Dr. N. M. Perera in his speech stated that capitalist stooges were trying to sabotage the work of Government. President Nixon had accepted responsibility for the bugging of the Democratic Party headquarters last June: he had stated

that "in any organisation the man at the top must bear the responsibility. That responsibility therefore belongs here to this office. I accept it." He however said that he had no prior knowledge of it. Three of Nixon's top aides resigned yesterday owing to disclosures made in the Watergate affair.

**THURSDAY, MAY 3:** The Prime Minister, it was reported in all papers, had called for a full report about the incidents which had taken place on May 1 during the rally: in these incidents one had been killed and several had been seriously injured. The Regulations under the Press Council Law were tabled in the NSA yesterday. The sessions of the NSA yesterday had terminated abruptly for a want of a quorum: it was private members motion day and the question under discussion was the KKS by-election which had been postponed *sine die*. The National State Assembly was scheduled to discuss the vote of condolence on Dudley Senanayake today. Senator George McGovern, the defeated 1972 Democratic candidate, yesterday praised President Nixon for admitting a mistake on the Watergate affair but criticised him for suggesting that espionage was typical of American politics. Presidential Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler yesterday publicly apologised for remarks that the *Washington Post* had been guilty of the shoddiest type of journalism in reports of the probe of the Watergate bugging scandal. Agency reports have commented on the fact that in May Day statements both Moscow and Peking had avoided all references to "imperialism": the emphasis was on east-west *detente*.

**FRIDAY, MAY 4:** In the course of his speech seconding the vote of condolence on Dudley Senanayake in the National State Assembly yesterday, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene stated that he was sorry that even a small incident had occurred to mar the great service the Prime Minister had done when Mr. Dudley Senanayake had died last month: he paid a tribute to the PM's gesture but he did not know who caused the "unseemly" incident. No body seemed to know. If the Police knew, their report should be tabled in the House. He said: "If they are from our party we will take action. Whoever they are I cannot more deeply regret the way they treated the Prime Minister. But nobody can say that our dead leader was the cause..." The *Daily News*

reported that Minister T. B. Illangaratne had called for the overhaul of the CWE: that he wanted an efficient, corruption-free, setup to ensure equal distribution of consumer goods. The emergency regulations prohibiting the transport and hoarding of chillies have been rescinded by Gazette notification yesterday. The *Sun* reported that the Ceylon Transport Board has sustained an overall loss of Rs. 10 million last year notwithstanding the increase in bus fares: though the revenue had increased by Rs. 46 million last year, the wage bill had increased by over Rs. 23 millions: the work force increased by over 3161 over the previous year—the number of employees per bus on the available fleet increased from eight to ten during the same period.

The *Times of Ceylon* announced that the new Deputy Chairman of the Group, Mr. P. A. Ediriweera, "has assumed duties as Managing Editor of all newspapers of the Times of Ceylon Ltd. as from today." The *Observer* announced that a "high Chinese dignitary" would come from China to open the Bandaranaike Hall on May 17 and that the Government had planned four days of celebrations. A curfew was declared in Lebanon as clashes between the Army and the Palestine commandos led to a bloodbath in Beirut and other places. Former Texas Governor John B. Connally announced his long expected switch from the Democratic to the Republican Party Yesterday. Lawyers picketed the Indian Chief Justice's Court in New Delhi protesting that he had been appointed over heads of senior judges.

**SATURDAY, MAY 5:** The *Daily News* made the speech made by the Finance Minister at Manila the lead story on the front page: Dr. Perera had told the Asian Development Bank that external factors had brought the external payments position of developing countries like Sri Lanka to almost breaking point: and because of falling export earnings Sri Lanka was about to make the fourth drawing under the Compensatory Finance Scheme of the IMF. When the Regulations governing the Press Council Law was taken up for discussion in the NSA yesterday, the Member for Habaraduwa, Prins Gunsekera, raised the question that the Regulations were useless without a Code of Ethics for Journalists being first formulated. The NSA adjourned for want of a quorum before Mr. Gunsekera

could conclude his speech. A new Livestock Board was set up by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands. The *Sun* reported that the passports of 125 influential persons in the North and the telephone facilities of 14 persons were cut because it was suspected that they were involved in smuggling activities. Lebanon jets, tanks and artillery went into action against the Commandos for the second day of widespread fighting between the army and Fatah commandos. President Nixon made a foreign policy statement on Thursday: he laid down six aims in foreign policy; and warned that the peace and stability sought in global relationships could be jeopardised by economic conflicts. Referring to Sri Lanka, President Nixon in his report hoped to maintain and expand co-operation to assist Sri Lanka's progress: he said... "Sri Lanka has strengthened its internal stability... We welcome the improvement in our relations with Sri Lanka in the past few years..." Court work all over India came to a virtual standstill yesterday as lawyers stayed away protesting against the appointment of the new Chief Justice of India over three seniors. No Russian newspapers have so far published any news about the Watergate affair.

**SUNDAY, MAY 6:** The *Observer's* main frontpage lead was based on a Memorandum submitted to the adviser of the Indian Prime Minister by the TUF on the question of S-S Pact: the report also set out how the appointment arranged for the TUF leader, Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, to see Mrs. Indira Gandhi was cancelled. The Paddy Marketing Board has issued a statement that packeted off-ration rice was available in plenty: parboiled non-samba, Rs. 1.65 a measure; raw rice and or kekul hal at Rs. 1.55, while Samba was Rs. 1.90. The *Weekend* stated that a kanakapulle on an estate at Haputale had received a letter-bomb but that no one was seriously injured as the letter was most cautiously opened. The *Times Weekender* had a sensational banner headlines (printed in red) stating 'IT'S TIME TO RESCUE THE 'TIMES'—STARTLING REVELATIONS BY SRI LANKA JOURNALISTS' UNION. With this headline, the paper published a memorandum by the Union which charged the management of the *Times* (before Mr. Ediriweera was made Deputy Chairman with malpractices and alleged that person

interests had been placed above the interest of the company and the institution. President Nixon has declared that Watergate represented a series of illegal acts and bad judgement by a number of individuals. And he had added: "It was the system that has brought the facts to light and that will bring those guilty to justice. A system that in this case included a determined grand jury, honest prosecutors, a courageous judge—John Sirica—and a vigorous free Press." Pakistan stated that it strongly supported Uganda President Amin's "economic war" although several Pakistanis were adversely affected by it. There was an uneasy calm and lull in Lebanon yesterday as the commandos prepared to take a tougher stand than earlier.

**MONDAY, MAY 7:** As the Government has still not received any official advice on how much flour it will get under PL 480 from the United States for the current year, the Food Department had called for tenders for 20,000 tons closing on May 10: the average world price for wheat is now around £ 60 a ton, nearly double the price prevailing a year ago. Pulses had also doubled in price during the last one year, and it is unlikely that Government will import masoor dhal, gram dhal, etc, this year. There were pre-Monsoon showers yesterday ending the hot humid days of April. The Minister of Education has announced that an "open university" would be set up for workers so that they could seek higher education in their off-hours. A world conference of rubber research scientists will be held in Colombo on June 21 and 22 and the meeting will be held at the Bandaranaike Memorial Hall. Former White House Council John Dean has told investigators that President Nixon had congratulated him on keeping "the lid on" in preventing blame in the Watergate scandal touching top White House officials, according to the latest issue of *Newsweek*: it was also reported that John Dean's statement indirectly implicated Nixon in the cover up attempt. Pakistani police had begun rounding up thousands of Bengalis in Islamabad in massive security operation. Peace talks were continued in Lebanon, but the shooting continued. Israeli Premier Golda Meir wanted President Sadat to send someone to talk peace.

HUNDRED YEARS OLD

## Coming Clean — With Dirty Linen

BY CANAX

THE *Times* blazed a new journalistic trail the other day with its decision, doubtless made after much agonised soul-searching, to "air" its own dirty linen in public rather than "wash" it, which is the method generally preferred for such public performances. Not having a century of tradition behind me (or in front or anywhere else) like the *Times* has, I wouldn't know if this pioneering method makes the whites whiter and, possibly, the blacks blacker. If not, at least it seems to be in keeping with national aspirations—and, oh yes, the highest standards of journalism. That, I may assure you, is not just my own *Opinion*.

If washing dirty linen in public is manifestly anti-social and a health-hazard, airing it is, if anything, only worse. It merely lets loose the big stink and achieves little else, so there must be a law somewhere against people thus polluting the atmosphere with impunity. Besides, dirty linen doesn't get any less dirty after a mere airing, so what's the big idea?

What, indeed? That, as someone said somewhere, is the question. Many answers suggest themselves in response, but I'll pass on only the one which appears, to me, the most likely.

Imagine the scene. Better still, let me do it or you.

(Yes, the things I do!) It's past noon on Saturday, and the editorial bedtime for the Sunday paper is fast approaching. (Remember, when a paper goes to bed, it goes alone and stays there till morning.)

Tom, the News Editor (let's call him that), a hardened newspaperman as cynical as they come, sits at his desk, a picture of fearful concentration as he flips through the pile of copy from staff reporters and outstation correspondents. Head held erect and with his glasses perched not on the bridge of his nose, where they rightly should be, but way down it, he appears to be literally looking down his nose, thus giving rise to the rumour which he will neither confirm nor deny that he can not only see a good story, but also smell it. Finally he picks up one piece of paper for what seems to be a closer scrutiny. Or sniff.

"Just — one — miserable — story," he growls with appropriate pauses for effect between each word. What he growls immediately after is not uncharacteristic of the man, only unprintable. He has also by now whipped off his glasses from off the brink of his nose. "Heavens!" he bawls as though trying hard to be heard up there, "a whole damn page one to fill and just one lousy story to fill it with."

THE NEWSROOM, not unaccustomed over the years to such raucous and often profane outbursts from Tom, takes it all in its stride, the sole exception being a young cub reporter, who, though having been at the hearing end of such tantrums for virtually every day of his two-week stay, is still capable of being overawed. Tom, to be sure, is aware of this, deriving from it a degree of pleasure that can only be described as perverse, even pathological, and would have considered himself a spent force had any cub ceased to be terrified in the short space of two weeks.

Tom realises he's certainly not over the hill yet when he spies the youngster approach his desk in a tentative sort of way, not having learned as yet to approach anything, dead or alive, in any other way.

"Hey, you!" he yells, glowering at the cub who by now is just a few paces away from the guillotine that is Tom's desk. The booming, accusatory tone of the call directed at the novice—who's coming meekly like a lamb to slaughter, anyway—stops the poor chap dead in his tracks almost at arm's length from his executioner. Pointing almost reluctantly at the piece of paper in Tom's hands he says in a hoarse whisper, "That's my story."

That also happens to be the type of line Tom relishes for it helps bring out the best of the bully in him. Giving the newcomer a withering look, he tosses his half-smoked cigarette to the floor

and, with deliberation, grinds it out with his shoe. "This is just great!" he cries with mock admiration and raised eyebrows, "it's the hottest story I've ever handled next to the weather report."

JUST THEN a senior reporter strolls into the newsroom and Tom calls out anxiously, "Got anything?"

"No, chief," comes the reply. "I'm broke and am thinking of touching you for a loan!"

"I didn't mean that," snarls Tom. The cub has by now quietly retreated to a safe distance, leaving his senior colleague to confront the old sorehead.

"Why, what's the problem?" inquires the senior hand with the nonchalance of one quite used to such belligerence week after week.

Tom explodes, as usual. "A dozen staff men and all I can salvage is one third-rate story about a fifth-rate burglary to keep our readers spellbound! Sunday readers want to be served dirt, boy, lots and lots of it, so rake it in good and proper before I decide to kick the bunch of you in your \*! = + % bottoms!" (Funny how some commonly used words get mutilated beyond recognition the moment you capture them in print. That one you just came across, for instance, looks nowhere near what it generally sounds like).

The reporter hesitates a moment, then produces (presumably from out of his pocket, since he isn't wearing a hat) a couple of typed

sheets of foolscap and hands them over, saying, "If you're really stuck, boss, this is something you might like.."

Tom runs a quick eye through the copy then starts to growl "Who's the son of a—" but controls himself sufficiently to ask instead, "well, how long have you been sitting on this?"

"Is it okay?" the reporter wants to know.

"Boy, this will bring the house down!" cries Tom excitedly.

"If you think it's that good," adds the reporter, "maybe you'd like some pix to go with the story?"

Tom's excitement is hard to conceal as he grabs eagerly at the photographs. "You mean you got some shots too?"

"Nothing much," the reporter says, trying not to sound too enthusiastic. "Just a few, rare candid shots of the great never-to-be-repeated moment recorded for history by a camera-buff who happened to pass by the Board Room. After all, what's it you keep telling us, boss—that one good picture is worth a thousand words? Or ten?"

BY NOW the newspaperman in Tom has taken over. "You sure of the story, ah?" he asks sounding skeptical.

"Sure I'm sure," snaps the reporter.

"Well, how sure?" persists Tom.

"What do you want me to say—that I got it from the horse's mouth?"

"That's close enough."

"I stand by my story," says the reporter firmly, "but I absolutely refuse to reveal the source of my information."

"Don't give me that crap," shouts Tom. "Remember, I was the one who taught you that."

"Look, boss," says the reporter, changing his tone if not the topic, "I thought you liked the story!"

"I still do," says Tom thoughtfully, "I still do."

"What's bothering you, then?"

"It's just that the damn thing looks suspiciously like our own dirty linen...."

"It is our own dirty linen, I swear," replies the reporter quickly, pressing home what he imagines to be his advantage. "Now are you satisfied?"

TOM takes his time replying. "I suppose it's all right, then," he says slowly, speaking as if to himself. "The trouble with this job is you get far too suspicious for your own good. I keep thinking everyone has an axe to grind.."

"How silly!" exclaims the reporter, interrupting Tom's troubled trend of thought. "Only the public have axes to grind, but we—we only have a sacred duty by our readers, our country, and our conscience..."

"...to come clean," whispers Tom absentmindedly, "but are you sure we want to only 'air' our dirty linen?"

"That's good enough, boss," the reporter assures him. "You never know when we'll need it next, and washing it means we have to start accumulating another set of dirty linen, and that'll take ages. This way we save ourselves the trouble, and are always armed with dirty linen for any emergency."

"You've sold me, boy," says Tom quietly. Then calling out to the Chief Sub he drawls, "Take it away, man, and give it the works—all eight columns. And make that banner in red, just for the heck of it."

So there you have my answer to the question, what's the big idea? If you have an answer that's different, I don't want to hear it. Tell it to de judge, okay?

*Continued from page 9*

**Shamba... ..**

different kinds of oranges to plant, none of them very good oranges; the seeds of three lemons; the seeds of numerous lime and of about six papaws. There are still some water melon seeds left over and not yet planted, and the seeds of thirteen kinds of vegetables, seeds that I had brought over from Colombo, but I do not know if they will be of any good. I am in the course of preparing seed beds from these vegetables, but the soil is very clayey, heavy and matted with grass. I bought some more potatoes today to plant, and also some red onions.

## INTERNATIONAL-AFFAIRS

BY ARIEL

### \* Israel \* Questions Difficult to Answer

ON MAY 14, Israel celebrated the 25th anniversary of its declaration of independence. Though the Israelis are among the world's most militant nationalists, the event was celebrated on a low key. There is a growing maturity among Israelis which makes them approach chauvinistic bombast with "a sensible yawn". An even larger number of Israelis are perturbed that after 25 years, Israel has to protect itself by using the same kind of "terrorist tactics" that helped to win its independence.

It was also disturbing to many Israelis that on the eve of the anniversary, they were condemned for using the same tactics by the UN Security Council—for the latest raids on Beirut. The resolution, sponsored by Britain and France, that the council passed on April 21, condemned Israel for its forays into Lebanon, but omitted the warning contained in the original draft, that if Israel went on attacking Lebanon the council would have to consider "further steps and more effective steps"—interpreted by everybody as a hint about sanctions. The resolution also took a swipe at the other side and condemned all acts of terrorism that endangered or took

innocent lives. In the debate, however, a distinction was made between terrorism as an act of government policy and terrorism by non-governmental groups. However, the sponsors were not able to formulate a resolution "even-handed enough for the United States or critical enough Russia, China: all three abstained."

*What next in West Asia?  
What will Israel do next?*

It is clear that the Israelis are determined to crush the guerilla movement by all means at their disposal, except by adopting a political course which will cut the ground from under the movement. The avowed aim of the guerilla movement is the total liquidation of the Jewish state, but such ambitions cannot survive a fair political deal acceptable to the majority of Palestinians. But the chances of a fair deal for those whom Golda Meir describes as "those Arabs who seek for a Palestinian identity" are now shrinking along with the amount of West Bank territory that Israel's leaders seem willing to return.

It is known that there is serious disagreement among senior Israeli politicians "about which bits, if any, of the occupied territories



should eventually be returned to Arab control." The declared policy of Israel has so far been that with the exception of Jerusalem, they would "negotiate" about the rest of the territory occupied in the 1967 war. But different politicians and groups seem to have different ideas as to what should be retained and what may be given back. Mr. Moshe Dayan has gone on record to say that Israel was on the West Bank to stay. He wants individual Israelis to have the right to buy land from the Arab owners: he wants larger Jewish settlements, larger Jewish towns and a decisive increase in Jewish investment—to knit the West Bank closely into the fabric of Israel. Mr. Pinhas Sapir, the Finance Minister, has sharply criticised Dayan for this statement and has declared that "our stay (in the occupied territories) is of a temporary nature." According to his estimates, if Israel remains in the occupied territories for another 25 years or so, its population will still be 45% Arab. He asked: "What kind of Israel will that be?" Golda Meir is very close to Pinhas Sapir—it was he who had engineered him into the Premiership. But she does not publicly say the things he says.

ONE OF THE ORGANISATIONS which has so far helped to run Israel is the *Histadrut*, the General Federation of Labour. It is one of the modern world's first attempts at workers' control, and became a backbone of the state of Israel controlling, among other things, the

national insurance fund and the ownership of practically all nationalised industries. The *Histadrut*, like many organisations in Israel is today at a crossroad. It is a state-within-a-state, closely bound up with the government. Two groups have polarised within the *Histadrut*: one faction wants to stick with the ruling party, and the worker's state idealists want to break away from politics while retaining the ideological commitment to socialism through a workers' democratically-owned organisation. But both groups are today confronted with a total apathy from the young who now seem to join the *Histadrut* for convenience, not conviction, and because it was the done thing.

The trade unions affiliated to the *Histadrut* represent about 90% of the labour force. In spite of this, Israel has recently had a run of unofficial strikes. *Histadrut* is also the biggest public sector employer and this has caused serious difficulties. "The *Histadrut* is finding it increasingly hard to keep a foot in the labour, industry and government camps all at the same time, and it will find it harder still if the economy ever comes off its present war footing in which national unity is paramount. The original idea behind the *Histadrut* was to establish a worker's state in Israel. This meant workers' control over enterprises, and was one reason for the *Histadrut*'s industrial expansion, together with the need to provide work for immigrants. But

the principle of workers' control as practised in the *kibbutzim* and *moshavim* is more difficult to apply to industrial plant. Sheer lack of management skill can make workers' control a facade. Management still has different interests (eg labour-saving devices) from workers, and one worker's wage increase is still another's price increase even with workers' control. With prices going up by 13% and wages by 17% a year, the *Histadrut*'s spilt personality is becoming increasingly embarrassing. Its industrial sectors are already separated from the others for management purposes; it may become necessary to cut them off completely, developing ownership either directly to the workers (as with *kibbutzim*, *moshavim* and transport co-operatives) or to the general membership of the *Histadrut*."

ISRAEL is now the most crucial problem in West Asia. The Arabs still regard it as an "imperialist dagger" aimed straight at the heart of Arabland. To the Israelis and many others, it is the reality born of a prophetic Biblical vision.

The *Newsweek*, 7/5/73, had a rather emotionally enthusiastic account of Israel on its 25th anniversary. "Muslims have Mecca and Medina. Christians have Bethlehem and Rome. But for the Jews there is only *Yerushaleym*—Jerusalem—the spiritual capital of the Jewish soul. For nearly two millenia, Jews of the Diaspora celebrated the feast of the Passover with the plaintive prayer: 'Next

Year in Jerusalem'. It was more than a hope—it was a promise the Jews made to themselves to reclaim their ancient homeland. And on the sixth of Iyar, 5708—the fifteenth day of May 1948—the prophetic vision came to pass. The state of Israel was born. Today, a mere 25 years later, a new breed of tough resourceful Jews has forged an amazing success story in the Biblical desert. Yet as the tiny nation prepared to celebrate its silver jubilee next week, the Zionist dream that Israel would become *or la goyim*—‘a light unto the nations’—already seemed a fading vision. . . . Israel's coming of age is not just a historic event for the children of Zion. Its very survival and its stunning martial triumphs have transformed the centuries-old image of the passive Jew—for both Gentiles and Jew alike. The Jewish state—barely larger than New Jersey, populated by a scant 3 million people, possessing few vital resources—has become a modern Sparta. And because it is poised at a crucial crossroads in the midst of a great and bitter rivalry, it commands the constant attention of the world. In the United Nations, the subject of Israel divides the US from its oldest European allies. In Washington, it unites an otherwise fractious Senate. And in the arena of big-power diplomacy, it threatens to block detente between the US and the Soviet Union."

The world has watched with a mixture of awe and anxiety as the Israeli military machine obliterates the entire Arab

air force within a matter of hours, snatches up and carries home an Egyptian radar station, slashes into Lebanon to execute three leaders of the Palestinian terrorist movement. But it is not by such exploits that Israel itself wants to be remembered. 'Israelis are not satisfied,' says author Amos Oz, 'with just being a powerful Honduras. In a very Jewish way, we aimed at perfection, at paradise on earth, at redemption of the world....'

THE ZIONIST DREAM was born of the idealism of Jews who yearned for a homeland that would serve as a haven for all Jews. They envisioned an "egalitarian agricultural utopia where once displaced and wandering people would till their own soil with their own hands." The Israelis have now learnt that this was only an unrealistic dream. Acute social, religious and political problems have sprung up among people long persecuted by others. The problems of inflation, of poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth have not been solved by the socialist-oriented state. The Jews, who were an oppressed minority, have a minority problem of their own — the vast numbers of Arabs in their midst. But the greatest torment is ever continuing absence of a peace settlement. Israelis live in a perpetual atmosphere of tension and uncertainty.

Though the people in Israel "have escaped the *shtetls* of Poland and Russia and overcome the holocaust of Nazi Germany, they are today penned into another sort of ghetto — surrounded by implacable

enemies and haunted by memories of an ancient Gott-erdammerung called Mosada. Kibbutzniks continue to build air raid shelters alongside their schools and fields...."

However, "if Israel has not become the peaceable kingdom its founding fathers hoped for, it is nonetheless a nation of extraordinary vitality and surprising self-sufficiency. Since its creation, it has absorbed 1.5 million immigrants from all over the world. The Israelis have cultivated the fertile valleys of Galilee and brought sections of the vast Negev Desert into bloom, and they have also built a flourishing industrial capacity in the land of milk and honey. In the last five years, Israel's industrial output has more than doubled, and its currency reserves have hit an all-time high of \$1.2 billion. This expansion has resulted in the creation of a powerful military-industrial complex that produces a rich catalog of sophisticated weapons. Not all Israel's military output is for home consumption. The government exports arms to 50 nations and expects to earn \$210 million this year from such sales."

Israel, however, has had to pay a heavy price for this kind of military spending, which is now roughly half the total national budget, and is growing every year. Its currency has become fragile and has been repeatedly devalued since the state was founded: the Israeli pound has fallen from \$2.80 to 23 cents. And prices have soared. Last year, while the cost of living in the US and Europe went up between 3 and 8 percent,

in Israel it leapt up 14%. There are even more serious problems besetting the Government, but there is no doubt that Israel is a land of great vitality and productive potential.

SRI LANKA also became independent twenty five years ago, but it would be odious to make comparisons. Sri Lanka is today being pushed into the backwaters of economic stagnation with a total incapacity to generate productive enterprise. The only thing Sri Lanka has in common with Israel is the 25 years of independence.

What is the future of Israel? Will the Arabs succeed in wiping Israel off the political map of the Middle East? Will the Jews have another era of the Diaspora? Or will the Jews and the Arabs find a way of resolving their differences and establish a detente in the Middle East by which Israel can live in peace with its Arab neighbours?

These are difficult questions to answer. These are as difficult to answer as questions about every other country in the world today. Can anybody venture an answer about developments in the USA after Watergate? Much has been written and much more will be written but what is the future of the Nixon administration after the many changes which have become inevitable after Watergate?

What about China? The changes there seem to be vast and far-reaching. There seems to be a definite trend

to reverse many of the unfortunate consequences of the Cultural Revolution. Rivers cannot flow backwards, but many who had been cast aside from the mainstream are being brought back into it. And rivers are being pushed back into their old courses. About these changes, there is much speculative, even wishful writing, but what is the truth?

There is even less known and even less written about the changes in the ruling hierarchy of the Soviet Union. Sometime ago there were sweeping changes in the administration of agriculture, but now there have been important changes in the Politbureau. Two of the oldest stalwarts, Shelest and Voronov, have been dropped, and four new persons have come in. Gromyko from Foreign Affairs, Grechkov from the Armed Services, Andropov from the Police, and Romanov from the Party. These changes are supposed to strengthen Brezhnev's hands before he sets out for his visits to West Germany and the USA in quest of the golden fleece expected to stem from Brezhnevian detente. It is one thing to speculate, it is another thing to know, but about these changes the world knows little.

What is the future of the peace agreement in Vietnam? What of Cambodia? What about peace on the subcontinent of Hindustan? Will Bhutto be able to have a detente with India or must another war take place be-

fore the problems of the South Asian sub-continent are resolved?

There is a question mark about the problems in every country in the world today, be it a big country or a small country, an important country or an unimportant country?

### WHITE TIGER CUB AT BRITISH ZOO

A three-month-old white tiger cub made its first public appearance at the Bristol Zoo recently. The cub—Salim-born and bred at the Bristol Zoo—joins the renowned white Indian tiger family there with a heavy responsibility on his tiny shoulders. His father—Akbar—king of the family, died earlier this year and now, apart from Salim, the Zoo has only one other male. It will need Salim for breeding if the family is to survive. Akbar was named after the illustrious Mogul emperor, and Salim carried on the family tradition being named after one of the emperor's sons. Bristol has an outstanding record among zoological gardens for the successful breeding of tigers.

## CONTEMPORARY NOTEBOOK

## Generic Names and Population Control

BY AGASTYA

THERE IS NOT the slightest doubt that we are now in the new era of United Front where so many changes have been effected. The Government beats the big drum that it has implemented its election pledges, but it is not very clear whether the people who voted UF in 1970 had been able at that time to envisage the kind of world the United Front would usher into the world.

And it is still not very clear whether the new world of the United Front is for the better or the worse—even in the long run. At the moment, everything is bleak and dismal, but we are told that it is usually darkest before dawn and that austerity, scarcity and sacrifice must precede any golden age of prosperity and plenty.

It is on this hope that many people are living from day to day, but they have still not seen any silver linings on the horizon. Dark clouds and storm signals continue to increase in every direction.

FOR ONE THING, a major revolution is being effected in the pharmaceutical world. We have a new gospel called *Bibile*, and he has succeeded in persuading a Committee which seems to have been given *carte blanche* authority by Government, to turn the medical world in Sri Lanka upside down, or really topsy turvy.

It was true that drug importers in Ceylon had made huge their profits and some had also made their millions. It is probably equally true that many drug importers had accumulated foreign exchange outside the island through loaded invoices. But practically all importers in Sri Lanka shared in this kind of malpractice.

It is correct that Government should check this kind of racketeering, and come down hard on such anti-social elements. There are many ways of checking or minimising the misdemeanours which stem from loaded invoices and high import profits and Government would have had the fullest support of everybody if the appropriate steps had been taken to check these malpractices. This was done only partially.

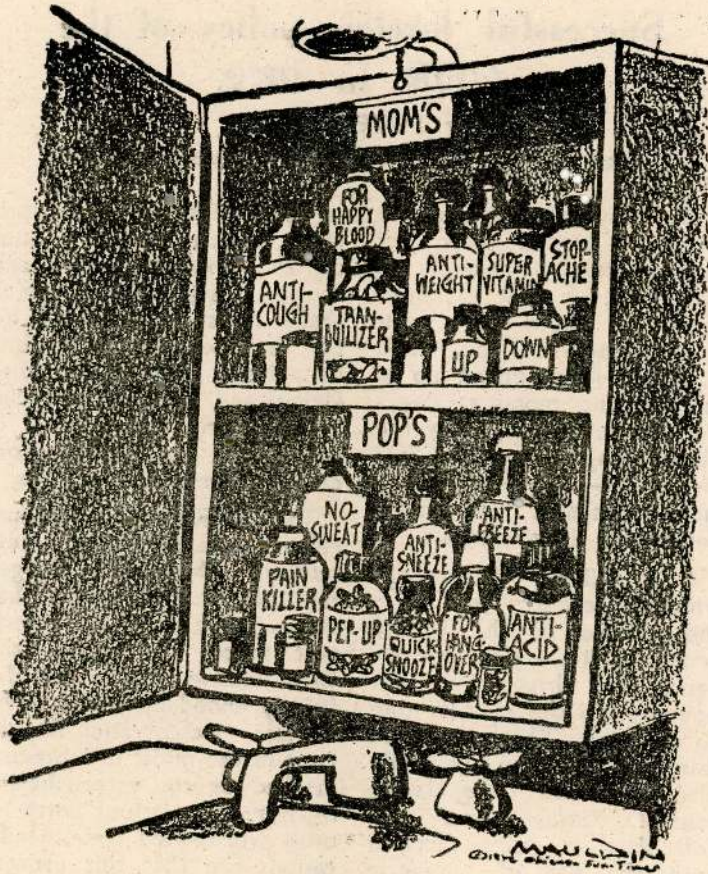
But the Special Bible Committee went in another direction. It suggested a State Pharmaceutical Corporation, and the Government has set up such a corporation which will in future do all the drug importing—now it imports very nearly the total amount. The Corporation will also manufacture drugs and it also hopes out to persuade or compel drug manufacturing firms existing in Ceylon to "manufacture" drugs from raw materials the Corporation will import. Whether these firms, which are only local branches of

gigantic multinational organisations, will want to do contract work for the Corporation is a problematic question. They will not be willing to furnish the Corporation with the know-how acquired by the parent firm through years of research and the expenditure of millions—for the contractor's fees the Corporation has in mind.

But this is one aspect of the matter.

THE CORPORATION is now importing drugs in bulk from a variety of sources. Some of them have already turned out to be sub-standard. Some of them had proved to be sub-standard when they were previously imported. The fact that some of these drugs were manufactured in a socialist bloc country is no guarantee of quality or high standards. The word socialism is no doubt a magic word, but many things produced in socialist countries are still sub-standard. It will be a long time before they attain international standards. It is one thing to have transistors or bicycles which do not attain top standards, but it is positively dangerous to have drugs which are not of international quality standards.

The total import bill may be cheaper the way the State Pharmaceutical Corporation will import its drugs, but the cost to the nation in the long run will be greater. But the Bible Committee has not stopped at this. In its anxiety to prove that Sri Lanka was marxist doctrine's dream island, the State Pharmaceutical Corporation refuses to have anything to do with the brand



Drug Culture

and proprietary names popularised by huge bourgeois imperialist multinational organisations which produce drugs (and make millions in profits).

This is probably the way Bibile Committee wants to fight drug imperialism. What is not realised that Sri Lanka cannot fight imperialism on its own. Nor is it going to hurt imperialism in any way by refusing to use the drugs produced by firms in the big capitalist countries. Even the big firms will not be hurt by any boycott by Sri Lanka. The

Ceylon market is only a tiny infinitesimal part of the world drug market. Many socialist countries now import drugs from these huge corporations.

But Sri Lanka, under the United Front, and under the aegis of the Bibile Committee, is a pristinely pure land which will not be exploited by imperialist drug firms—even if they have life-saving drugs of high quality. It will be a long time before socialist countries in general, and the State Pharmaceutical Corporation of Sri Lanka in particular, can match the research done

by these multinational giants of the capitalist world.

There is not the slightest doubt that we gave to coexist with these firms and utilise the good things they have discovered and produced at commercially attractive prices. The kind of boycott Sri Lanka has launched will only hurt the people of this country. BUT AN even more disastrous revolution has been effected by the Bibile Committee. Drugs will in future be only known by their generic names. This is how the Observer of May 5, 1973 set out the position:

“Drugs should be called by their formulary or generic names. This was recommended at the recent sittings of the National Formulary Committee to all medical practitioners both in the state health service and in private practice. The Committee has stated that the practice of naming drugs by their patent names can lead to much confusion.

“The Committee has decided to eliminate all the unwanted obsolete drugs that are being imported into this country. The Committee has also discovered that the Government spends more than thirty million rupees in foreign exchange on the import of drugs both for the health department and private sectors. It was also found that more than 35 percent of the drugs prescribed to the outdoor patients are thrown away or not taken by them. Quite often at the end of the working day many packets of valuable

medicines, could be found around the drains of OPDs.

The State Pharmaceutical Corporation which will be the sole importer of drugs in future will make individual tablets and capsules for state medical institutions with a separate identifiable mark to discourage pilfering of drugs."

There are supposed to be over 40,000 generic names in the pharmacopia of western medicine, of which about 20,000 are in general and popular use. Even if the number is reduced to 4,000 or even 2,000 generic names, it will not be easy for people and even doctors to cope up with the situation. When the rest of the world uses brand proprietary names to describe various drugs, it will be ridiculous for a small country like Ceylon to fight a lone and single-handed battle against imperialist drug names. Socialist countries have their brand and proprietary names. Only Pakistan has endeavoured to service its medical system, with generic names and nobody is in a mood to follow the example of Pakistan. THERE ARE one hundred percent marxist pundits who think that once Sri Lanka showed the way with generic names even socialist giants like the Soviet Union would follow suit. According to the Bible enthusiasts, Sri Lanka will pave the way for a world revolution in drugs: that Sri Lanka will show an admiring world how world drug imperialism should be fought. No more *Dispirin*, or *Dettol*, *Aldomet*, or *Stresscaps*, *prispren* or *Hetrazan*, *Sucaryl* or *Diabinese*. No more *Enos*, no more *Phillips Magnesia*, no

## Successful foreign policy of the GDR in 1972.

By PETER LORF,

Press Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

IT IS convenient to pass in review a certain period of time at regular intervals to take stock of what has been achieved. This is also a common practice in the GDR. A balance-sheet drawn up at the present moment shows that the tasks defined by the VIIIth Congress of the SED

more nonsense...no more imperialist drug names.

It is difficult to envisage what this country will be in the fullness of the United Front - Bible era of generic names for drugs. It will however do the country one good thing. There will be less and less need for family planning and population control, because mortality will show a sharp increase with the use of generic names for drugs.

This is not a macabre joke. It is only a simple statement of fact.

People will not either have drugs to use or not know what drugs to use. And more often than not, by the time the doctors, pharmacists, dispensers and others get the correct generic name the patient would have passed to the kingdom come.

*Bible fanatics swear that it will not take long for all concerned to know generic names, but these are people who think that Sri Lanka will show the world how drug imperialism is to be fought.*

in June 1971 have been tackled without delay. Both on the domestic scene and in the international arena these tasks have proved to be realistic and attainable. In alliance with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries the GDR is successfully pursuing a coordinated foreign policy line.

The GDR's international relations are taking on a new quality. There is no longer the shadow of a doubt that the attempt made by imperialist forces to isolate the GDR internationally has definitely ended in failure. The German Democratic Republic is in the midst of a process marked by the establishment of normal relations with it on a world-wide scale. Indications are that this process will enter upon its final phase this year. It is a long-delayed process which is now taking a very rapid course after having been artificially obstructed by certain elements. It corresponds to the needs of our time and, apart from being beneficial to the GDR and the countries concerned, it is in the best interests of peace and security in Europe.

I have mentioned already the tasks which the SED Congress fixed for the foreign policy of the GDR, a state firmly entrenched in the socialist community. Let me deal here with each of the five points listed in the

peace concept which forms the German Democratic Republic's contribution to the peace moves of the socialist countries.

FIRST, the GDR set itself the aim of making an active contribution to the holding of a European security conference. This task has been accomplished in a constructive and energetic manner. Owing to the efforts undertaken by all socialist and a number of other states consultations have now gone ahead in Helsinki to engage in direct preparations for a European security conference. The GDR is taking part in these deliberations with equal rights as a sovereign European state.

SECONDLY, the GDR affirmed its preparedness to join the United Nations Organization and its specialized agencies. Its admission to UNESCO and the ECE and the observer status granted to the GDR at the UN Headquarters in New York are evidence that the artificial barrier maintained for years to deny the GDR cooperation on the basis of equality within the UN system has now been removed. The governments of the GDR and the Federal Republic are known to have reached agreement on the concrete steps to be taken with an eye to the admission of the two states to the world organization. Now that the governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and France have agreed to support the applications for membership to be filed by the two states,

their admission is due to take place in 1973.

THIRDLY, the GDR voiced its readiness to enter into normal diplomatic relations with all states. As everybody can see for himself, things are developing well in this respect.

FOURTHLY, the GDR underlined its willingness to establish normal relations governed by the principles of international law with the capitalist Federal Republic of Germany. The signing of the general relations treaty between the GDR and the Federal Republic marked a decisive step along this road. As soon as this treaty takes effect the relations between the two states will have been settled in principles on the basis of the tenets of peaceful coexistence as is possible between states with differing social systems. This treaty assumes special importance for the relaxation of tensions and for security in Europe, in fact it may well introduce a new phase in the cooperation between the peoples of our continent.

The principled, but flexible policy of the GDR has proved successful because it takes account of the existing correlation of forces and of the peoples' desires for peace and security in the face of the threat of a new war.

FIFTHLY, progress has also been achieved concerning the normalization of the GDR's relationship with West Berlin. On balance, we can state that the balance-sheet drawn up by the GDR in the foreign policy field is a positive one. People in the GDR have every reason to feel pride and confidence in view of this successful balance-sheet. But the successes achieved did not fall right into our laps. They were possible only because of a world-wide change in the constellation of forces. The foreign policy of the socialist community, which is coordinated at every stage, is the major reason behind the substantial progress registered for the policy of peaceful coexistence.

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# IS IT TRUE?

## Sherlock Holmes

### \* CATERING SERVICE IN THE C. G. R.

IS IT NOT A FACT that several months ago a "full-scale investigation" was started to ascertain what had happened to "crockery, silver ware cookers, cake mixers and the like worth over Rs. 100,000 issued to the CGR catering section? That when the catering service was "nationalised" during the 1965-70 UNP regime to teach *Three-Coins McCallum* U. K. Edmund a lesson for continuing to remain a loyal SLFP stalwart in the heyday of UNP euphoria by cancelling his catering contract, the CGR had ordered expensive and costly equipment to make the nationalised catering something to write home about? That an extra-large Kenwood mixer was specially imported? That it cost over half a lakh of rupees? That when the UF came to power, with a socialist-public-sector-minded LSSP Minister in charge of the CGR there was no going back to the Edmund era? That only the *de facto* ban on the Three Coins beer was removed and commuters were once again able to quaff the products of McCallum breweries in the buffet car?

That there was renewed UF enthusiasm for a national-

ised catering service? That in spite of this enthusiasm subversion seems to have corroded into the service? That within a reasonably short time equipment had begun to disappear at a fast rate? That one does not know from which sector these subversives turned up from to pinch public property? That the luxury maxi-size Kenwood mixer disappeared overnight —just like that?

That the *Observer*, reporting this "full-scale investigation" on December 12, 1972, had stated "CGR sources said yesterday that the investigation would expose all the corruption and mismanagement that had been going on in the catering service: that the railway authorities are also investigating the circulation of scurrilous pamphlets within the catering service staff, allegedly by certain persons to obstruct the investigations?" That the *Observer* trotted out the apologia of the CGR hierarchy by pleading that "railway authorities added that the objective behind the circulation was to divert attention of the Railway Top Brass and the public from the fraud by spotlighting non-existent shortcomings

in the present administration of the catering service and attacking the minor employees?

That although the "railway authorities" displayed such vigilant awareness of an attempt to deflect the investigation, is it not a fact that the investigations have not been concluded? That, if concluded, the findings are a secret? That the lost Kenwood mixer has not yet been traced? That there would not have been more than half a dozen such mixers in the Island at that time? That now with all the hysteria about tourism and catering for tourists a few more such mixers on a bigger scale, which are permanent fixtures, have been imported into the island?

That one has to travel by train with some regularity to know what a horrible mess the nationalised (public sector) catering service has really become? That the tables in the buffet car are permanently occupied by *regulars* who mix a shot of double Rockland with a pint of Three Coins or Lion Lager to get the "kick" to travel with that ease of mind necessary to survive aboard the CGR? That unless one is fortified by this kind of tranquillising painkiller (repeat double Rockland to a pint of Three Coins), it is hell to travel in the CGR? That if one depended on the catering service to snatch a snack on a long run it was worse than hell? That unless one joined the gin-cum-beer brigade one cannot expect to get any service at all in the buffet car?