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SATYAGRAHA

Tribune has stated more than once that the satyagraha which has been launched by the UNP is a futile political exercise in the absence of a concrete and constructive plan of action and a programme of development to tell people of Sri Lanka how the UNP proposed to pull the country out of the present mess and set it on the road to progress. Satyagraha by itself is a negative operation which can only mobilise hardcore oldguard supporters of the UNP. And, apart from appeasing the emotional frustrations of those who suffer hardships owing to food and other shortages, it cannot win the direct political support of uncommitted voters or the dissatisfied and disillusioned supporters of the United Front. But whilst *Tribune* does not regard satyagraha as a serious political action which will swing the national electorate, *Tribune* is of the view that the UNP has the democratic right to perform satyagraha in a peaceful manner wherever it may choose and whenever it likes. The Police, no doubt, have the right to interfere if they fear a genuine breach of the peace, but this should not be used as a cover to assist the opponents of the UNP to threaten or indulge in unlawful activities to further partisan party policies. But what happened at Attanagalla last weekend throws serious doubts on the moral authority the Police can exert in the future on occasions like this. The Police have a primary duty to prevent "people", even of an important electorate like Attanagalla, from taking the law into their own hands to block public highways and resort to thuggery to prevent other citizens of Sri Lanka from exercising their rights of political freedom. And hundreds of others not involved in the Satyagraha were also greatly inconvenienced. As Sherlock Holmes has pointed out in his column on the last page, the people of Jaffna, or any other part of Sri Lanka, will now have the "democratic right" to block roads, use thuggery and resort to stone-throwing, to protest against Ministers and others who wish to visit the Jaffna area to discharge or perform legitimate political functions. Whether it is satyagraha or a ministerial tamasha, the "people" of any area cannot be said to have a "democratic" right to take the law into their hands to suppress the rights of others. If this is permitted without check, it will undermine law and order and open the path to civil strife stemming from parochial separatist tendencies.

● PROMISE & FULFILMENT

● OIL SQUEEZE & THE U.S.A.

● INANIA

● CHRONICLE

● POLLUTION

● ATTANAGALLA

Tribunania

Promise And Fulfilment

THE COMMITTEE STAGE of the Debate on the Budget, which is still going on, like the debate on the Second Reading, was characterised by banalities, trivialities and inconsequential details that did not matter in the multi-dimensional urgent crisis which has overtaken this country. Government spokesmen, sure of their steamroller majority, spoke with an air of arrogant cocksureness reminiscent of the style and manner of Sir John Kotawala's braggadocio before the Great Fall. Opposition spokesmen were equally far removed from reality and were buried in parish pump parochialism which the Government was easily able to dispose of. Speakers on both sides of the House had their minds and eyes fixed on the elections in 1976-77, and subordinated the realities of today to the possible imperatives of a distant General Elections. Most of the leading lights in the National Assembly today are old men—not only those old in years but also those who have reached senile dotage in political logic—and it is not likely that the young of today will want them at the helm of affairs again. A few shrewd members of the NSA seemed to have realised this and are making hay while the going is good, but the majority con-

tinue to live in a woolly world of make-believe and self-delusion and have also persuaded themselves to slip into the fond belief that if they and the Government succeeded in growing a few more bushels of paddy, they would be acclaimed as national heroes at the next elections.

It has often been said that Gods make people insane before they destroyed them. This is an over-simplification. Before destruction, in reality self-destruction, people in authority and power display arrogant self-righteous cocksureness in regard to the correctness of everything they do. They develop the feeling that they alone are infallibly clever and that all others are fools; they behave as if they alone have the monopoly of wisdom and that all others grovel in stupidity; they also think that they can get away with their corrupt practices, and that the unexplainable wealth they have suddenly acquired will go unnoticed—all these are symptoms of the delusions of grandeur which the mighty (even in Tom Thumb Land or in Alice's Wonderland) develop before they make the final mistake which takes them to the Great Fall (not of Hiawatha's Laughing Waters, or Milton's Paradise Lost, but Yama's Hell of Perpetual Agony).

It has also been said that Karma manifests itself in the thinking of and the thought processes of individuals. One's actions will lead one to greatness or to attain virtuous nobility if one had the good Karma which made one think along lines which result-

ed in correct decisions and actions. But, if one's Karmas were otherwise, it would be different. One would think wrong and therefore act wrong. A person's misfortunes can always be traced to wrong decisions and wrong actions. It is not intended in this note to survey the entire vista of human life, but to confine our attention to the great and mighty in Sri Lanka who are so cocksure of themselves that they do not seem to know that they are pushing this country into sterile pauperisation at all levels—intellectual, cultural, political, economic and social.

To illustrate this point it is enough to concern ourselves with the food situation in Sri Lanka. From 1970 onwards, that is ever since the United Front Government came to power, the appropriate Ministers (with Cabinet responsibility and backbencher approval) had taken a series of measures in regard to the cultivation, import and distribution of food which has landed the people of Sri Lanka into the present mess with worse to follow in spite of whatever that is attempted at this stage to remedy matters. The time and occasion to charge-sheet the Government and the officials who tendered advise to it, will come in the not-too-distant future, but in any other country where a parliamentary system of Government prevails, the Government would have long ago tendered its resignation to seek a fresh mandate or give the people an opportunity

to choosing another government that can get things done and produce the food.

The UF Government, ever since 1970, had proclaimed that bumper harvests of paddy and other food crops were round the corner. But month after month, and year after year, production has fallen in all sectors of agriculture. A wise man always plans, taking the worst into consideration, and the fact that monsoonal rains were subject to cyclic fluctuations is well known, and a Government which cannot produce food with a few natural odds against it cannot justify its existence. The kind of excuses which have been trotted out so far only confirm the view some Ministers and their officials consider the ordinary people of Sri Lanka to be such complete fools that they will swallow any lie, or a whole collection of lies, for all time—provided it was served out with the appropriate ideological flavouring tempered with the jargon of party polemics. People may take all this lying down for a time, either because they have not yet found out the truth, or because the alternatives offered by other political parties are not attractive or convincing enough, but the Day of Reckoning will come sooner than later.

It is also believed by some that the slogan of *socialism* does provide an excellent smokescreen to prevent mistakes being discovered, and if discovered to be ignored. In addition to this, scare stories about subversive activities and sabotage by reactionaries, UNPites and the

like were thought to be excellent excuses to explain failure. For some time now, slogans about socialism have failed to make any significant impact on public consciousness, and lamb-like cries of "wolf..wolf.." no longer evoke any response. The Government, has therefore had to fall back on new excuses to explain why they have failed to grow more food. Global food crisis, spiralling international inflation and monsoon failures in Sri Lanka, have now become the stock excuses for the sad default. What the local pundits fail to realise is that in spite of monsoon failures, Sri Lanka could easily have produced exportable quantities of food-stuffs to make large profits and earn foreign exchange, because of the global food shortages and inflation. Sri Lanka is an agricultural country that could have been well away, in a period like this, if the correct agricultural policies had been followed since 1948 (and before). And history will record that the policies and actions of the Government since 1970 had impoverished agriculture and undermined production, even more, not merely for a short time, but for a long time to come.

Land Reform, as we have often pointed out, is notionally attractive, but is no panacea applicable under all conditions. Whilst land reform which is purely politically motivated, as in Sri Lanka, will boomerang on production sooner or later, land reform necessitated by economic considerations can prove useful and generate increa-

sed production. In Sri Lanka, such pressing economic necessity, had not arisen in respect of lands to which Land Reform has been applied, and to make matters worse Land Reform has been implemented with a degree of political vindictiveness tinged with personal discrimination that

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has made the exercise self-defeating—it is the kind of action which will not only breed longstanding animosities but also bring, retribution in a swift and terrible manner.

Land Reform was expected to induce increased productive activity at a high level, but so far, it has not done so. It is argued that it is yet too early to witness the benefits of Land Reform, but it is difficult to explain why the global food shortage and the partial failure of the monsoons in Sri Lanka have resulted in poor food crops—in Sri Lanka which is blessed by Nature in a special way with good soil, excellent climate and plentiful supplies of water, especially ground water.

At a very late stage, the Prime Minister has stepped in to take over Food Production herself, and though marked improvement may be effected, it is difficult to make much headway in view of the many mistakes which have been perpetuated and which cannot be undone in a hurry. Shock propaganda about possible starvation and famine coupled with further threats to take over land which owners find difficult to cultivate owing to high costs of inputs and the virtual impossibility of getting suitable labour will not induce adequate production—and, the landless peasants and political favourites to whom land is being distributed in three, five and ten acre parcels, will not in the foreseeable future make this country self-sufficient in food. The threats to take over allegedly uncultivated land can easily become a cover for further vindictive

personal political vendetta, but more than this, people have begun to ask why owners of land (within ceiling limits) are threatened in this way, while highly paid officials in charge of State Farms are not publicly threatened, (or even taken to task) for neglecting to cultivate, large tracts of farm land—having first class equipment and a large labour force.

Once again, this Maha, a partial northeast monsoon, which **Tribune** had anticipated many months ago on the basis of known scientific data, will be made the excuse for poor crops, and this will effectively hide, for yet another year, the mistakes, made by those in charge of food production for over 45 months. The Gods, if there are any still left willing to bestow favours on Sri Lanka and view what goes on here with a kindly eye, do not seem anxious to bring the misery and agony in the island to an early end. For one more year, many people will be fooled into thinking that food shortages are inevitable in the country owing to the failure of the monsoons and the difficulty of importing food.

The co-operatives which have been endowed with special privileges in order to distribute foodstuffs and other essentials have created more evils than they have remedied. Earlier we had *private mudalalis* to cheat and exploit consumers during times of crisis and shortages, but now we have a far worse breed of *co-op mudalalis*, who with official imprimatur have learnt to fatten on consumers at all levels. The *co-op mudala-*

lis are a sole monopoly and they have the protection and patronage of the MP, the Ministers and the Government whilst they make the system of distribution a nightmare for the ordinary person. The *private mudalali* is an angel compared to the bumptious overbearing person the *co-op mudalali* has turned out to be. The *private mudalali*, no doubt was able to cheat some people who came his way, for a little time, but competitive private trade cast severe limitations on such exploitation; but the *co-op mudalali* has no competitor.

He has the people, the consumers in his grip and at his mercy, and to fight the corruption of the *co-op mudalali* one has to fight the local MP and the Ministerial patrons of the MP. No one dares to make any complaints against a *co-op mudalali*, because even before one gets an acknowledgement for the written complaint from the higher authorities, the *co-op mudalali* will successfully wreak his vengeance on the complainant by delaying, withholding and subverting his weekly supplies without which he and his family cannot exist.

For this reason nobody dares to make any complaint against a *co-op mudalali*. He can delay your rice, refuse your flour, deny he has any sugar, and tell you to go ten miles to get your kerosene from a big depot—and there is nothing anybody can do about it. If an obstinate and obstreperous consumer does succeed in getting his complaint heard, and even if he succeeds in pro-

ving a grave charge, the local MP will intervene and get the justifiable dismissal turned into a transfer. Thereafter, the successor *co-op mudalali* will make life hell for the consumer-complainant. Such is the co-op movement this government has proliferated, and, blinded by self-righteous infallibility, stemming from their all-powerful majority in Parliament, Ministers and MPs insanely refuse to understand the sufferings of ordinary people in their day to day attempt to buy essentials they need from their co-op to keep body and soul together.

ALL IS GLORY HALLELUJAH to Ministers and MPs. They still manage to give away free rice—and, only a small number of income tax payers do not get this now. The amount of rice given free is less now and the subsidies have been taken out of many commodities, but free land is being distributed to all and sundry who pretend they will grow food crops provided such allottees wear a shirt or blouse of the right colour and wave the correct flag. Education is still free and more and more English is being taught in village schools. The hospitals are still free to all, except a few, and medicines continue to be free when they are available.

In spite of all this, what do people do in return for the money they get from the state coffers—especially those who get remuneration for work they are supposed to do. The Nation is a weekly paper which is all the way with the

United Front Government. In its issue of November 30, it had a frontpage box entitled **INDUSTRIOUS MINISTRY**, and the report read: *“Open offices are justified by the fact that they encourage the promotion of work because the actions of everybody are obvious to all. J. C. Denyer who wrote the above lines in his ‘Office Management’ has obviously never visited the ‘open office,’ that is situated at Sri Jinaratna Mawata.*

“In this ‘open office’ we counted sixty desks, of which at no given time were more than thirty occupied by the clerical hands. Of the thirty who were ‘in their seats’ —to use the Ceylonese term—not more than fifteen were engaged in anything like work. The rest pass their time staring at the cobweb-ridden ceiling, reading paperback novels, gossiping with other clerks, powdering their noses, conversing over the telephone with their lovers anything in fact other than what they are paid and kept there for.

“A staff officer, who was blissfully enclosed in his cubicle, kept haminering away at his bell for a good five minutes before a peon bothered to look in. All the officer wanted was a cup of tea, but even that took time. We were amused to see that, at least, the public are not unsympathetic to the trials of our bureaucrats. The staff officer’s frantic bell ringing did at least result in a sweep ticket vendor peep-

ing in offering him a ‘panahe chance’ to win a lakh.”

If after three and a half years of United Front rule, a pro-government weekly discovers such a distressing situation in a leading government office in Colombo, then it is time to do some quick thinking. The government has economically pampered its employees, has given them full trade union and political rights, has endeavoured to bring them into top management of the administration through Employees’ councils, and has also subordinated the rights of other sections of the community to the interests of the trade-union organised public

Bhutto’s Warning

Karachi Nov. 25,

The Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Z. A. Bhutto, launched a tirade against Afghan leader Sardar Mohammed Daud and his Government during his recent tour of tribal areas in North-West Frontier Province. According to reports in Pakistani press, Mr. Bhutto threatened to offer asylum in Pakistan to the deposed King Mohammed Zahir Shah and “use” him against the Daud regime. Mr. Bhutto sought to blame what he called the propaganda of Kabul radio for the current anti Islamabad movement in the Frontier. In every one of his several speeches in the tribal areas, Mr. Bhutto “warned” Afghanistan that show of “force” or interference in Pakistan’s internal affairs would only harm itself.

sector employees, but all this seems to have been of little avail. Something is wrong somewhere, and unless something is done soon, the stagnation in the administration will grow worse and worse.

It is well to remember that the story is not confined to one "INDUSTRIOUS OFFICE" in Sri Jinaratna Road in Colombo. It is the same story in the co-operative movement in the co-operative farms and in practically every sector of government undertaking. The exceptions are few and far between. And administrators who seek to get work done are getting fed up, if they are not fed up already. Many have quit and many others are on the verge of quitting.

Ministers and MPs, living in ivory towers, fail to see the realities around them. They feel that somehow the government would be able to pull through.

But now, when they find that this country is not able to produce even one half of a measure of rice for every adult person each week, they must wake up. Whether it is through the system of Political Authority, or through some other means, the Government must transform the administration and bureaucratic machine if it hopes to survive. But with Ministers, and MPs so arrogantly cocksure of themselves, in their insane desire to cling to power at all costs, there is little hope of any fundamental change. **Optimists like ourselves have turned pessimists, and everybody would do well to be prepared for all eventualities.**

INTERNATIONAL-AFFAIRS BY ARIEL

Oil Squeeze and U.S.A.

THERE IS NO DOUBT that the Arab oil-producing countries have shown a great deal of sophistication in their oil squeeze. One unchanging rule to make a person come round to one's way of thinking is to apply the squeeze slowly, and not to kill or knock the person out with a stunning blow. The Arabs are now subjecting the advanced industrialised nations of the world to a slow squeeze to make them to compel Israel to surrender the territory occupied in 1967. The Arab oil-producing nations did shut off the oil, all of a sudden, as this might have probably provoked a combined military counter-attack from the developed world. And the Arabs have also been showing subtlety in the degree of the squeeze, as applied to different countries, depending on the extent of pro-Israeli sentiments shown by the countries concerned. There has been a complete shut down of export to the USA and Holland which is a supplier of refined oil products to the United States. The cut has been partial in the case of other industrialised countries, in some cases 25% to start with and a further 5% added every month.

The Arab strategy has paid dividends. The nine nations

of the European Economic Community have issued a statement asking Israel to vacate the Arab occupied territory. Japan has taken an even more positive pro-Arab and anti-Israeli stand. As every day passes and as the industrialised nations see their crude oil reserves going down, pressure on Israel to give up occupied territory will mount.

New York and London stock markets have reached the lowest in many years in anticipation of an economic recession as a result of the oil shortage. The bottom has dropped out of the Tokyo stock market and the yen faces, an uncertain future. Already European and Japanese industries have felt the pinch and have cancelled many outstanding orders. This will no doubt trigger a recessionary spiral of tremendous dimensions and it will shake the very foundations of the entire world, and more particularly the capitalist world.

Certain European and American strategists have suggested retaliatory measures against the Arabs by withholding food and other consumer goods. Nothing more foolish than this impractical suggestion could be thought of. The Arab countries which produce oil are very sparsely populated and all of them put together do not import more than five million tons of foodstuffs. This the Arabs can easily buy with hard currency from countries which are today surplus in food—Canada, Australia and Argentina. Moreover the Soviet Union has had a good harvest this year

and may be able to loan the required food to tide over immediate requirements. An embargo on consumer goods to Arab countries will only make the Arabs apply the squeeze more tightly and compel them to look for alternative sources for such imports. Japan will be only too glad to supply all these needs for oil.

THE UNITED STATES had no doubt foreseen the possibility of this development over two years ago. It is known that the US has contingency plans, ready for any eventuality, some of which might have entailed the seizure of certain oilfields by its allies like Israel or Iran. The Shah has more than once in recent times declared that Iran would ensure a continuous flow of oil from the Persian Gulf to the industrial countries. Though hard-nosed and peppery US strategists may have entertained notions about seizing Saudi Arabian oilfields, wiser counsel seems to have prevailed in Washington. Seizing these oilfields, is a risky game because it would have led to pipelines, storage tanks and other installations being blown up.

The Nixon administration was uncertain about what it should do in the first three weeks of November. At one point Nixon had stated that with the Kissinger ceasefire the embargo would be lifted soon. However, in his press conference on November 21, Dr. Kissinger warned the Arab countries of retaliatory measures if they persisted with their blackmail. This did not de-

ter the Arabs. On the other hand, the staunch US ally Saudi Arabia took over the US owned Aramco's oilfields. Kuwait followed suit.

So far, the Arabs continue to maintain the initiative while holding all the trumps. Japan and Western Europe have already been hit very hard and it is only a matter of time before the USA feels the increasing pressure of the cutback. In the meantime, Dr. Kissinger is doing his best to relieve the pressure mounting against the USA. He has promised President Sadat that the US would persuade Israel to vacate occupied territories and as proof of US bona fides he has undertaken to make Israel agree to non-lethal supplies reaching the beleaguered Egyptian Third Army. Kissinger has also undertaken to see that Israel gets back to the October 22 lines. Withdrawal to the lines as they stood on October 22 would remove the encirclement around the Egyptian Third Army, and it would also make the Israeli position more vulnerable on the Suez front.

Israel's game however seems to be to drag this matter until after the Israeli general elections scheduled for December 31. If the Israelis persist in this tactic, further tension along the ceasefire lines and increased Arab oil cutbacks are inevitable. If the Israeli elections produce a more hardline hawkish government in Tel Aviv, the USA will find itself in a very difficult position. What repercussions a hawkish Israeli government will have in the

USA is difficult to envisage, but with the amount of influence the Jews have in the USA, many observers are tempted to think that there might be return to brinkmanship in Middle Eastern affairs. The Arab Summit in Algiers which met in the last week of November also adopted a tough hawkish line—a far cry from the rather conciliatory and soft line which had been pursued by President Sadat. But if the unity which seemed have to prevailed in Algiers can hold out for another three or four months—in spite of dissidents like Libya, Iraq and Jordan—Israel and the USA would be in a really difficult situation. The industrialised nations cannot withstand the oil squeeze for a really long spell. Western European nations are not, any longer, completely with the USA on the Arab-Israeli conflict. In fact, the USA stands isolated in this matter, and that is why Dr. Kissinger has gone to Europe—to bridge the gap between US and ECM thinking on the Middle East question. Furthermore, the entire world of western capitalism is faced with a severe recession, if not a total economic depression, and unless the US is able to come to terms with its former Atlantic Allies, the prospects for 1974 are gloomy.

IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT that one must examine the efforts being made by the Nixon Administration to meet the oil (or energy) crisis by emergency save-fuel measures on a short-term basis and by plans to make the USA self-sufficient in fuel on a long term basis.

On November 25, President Nixon, in a nationwide telecast, announced a series of emergency measures aimed at helping the United States to meet the current energy shortage. These are to be undertaken on a voluntary basis for the time being, and they would become mandatory however with the passage of emergency energy legislation, now pending before Congress, and which has been promised near unanimous bi-partisan support.

President Nixon's emergency proposals include: a 15 percent reduction in the amount of gasoline distributed by the refiners to wholesale and retail outlets; a ban on the Sunday sale of Gasoline, beginning December 1; a nationwide speed limit of 50 miles per hour (80 Kilometers per hour); an additional 15 percent phased cut-back in jet fuel consumption for passenger flights; bringing the total reduction to about 25 percent by January 7; curtailment of outdoor ornament-

al lighting for homes and businesses.

Mr. Nixon also announced final mandatory plans for allocating reduced quantities of heating oil beginning from January first. They call for cut-backs of 10 percent for industrial use, 15 percent for home use and 25 percent for commercial use.

The following are excerpts from a fact sheet issued by the White House to accompany President Nixon's energy message:

"Petroleum accounts for 46 percent of the nation's energy supplies. The remainder is, supplied by coal—17 percent; natural Gas—32 percent; hydro power—4 percent; and, nuclear—1 percent. A reduction of 10 percent to 17 percent in petroleum supplies will involve a reduction in total energy supplies of 5-8 percent. If the supply of petroleum were not constrained, current estimates are that U. S. demand would reach 19.7 million barrels per day in the first quarter of 1974. Current estimates of petroleum supplies are 16.5 million barrels per day in the first quarter of 1974. The deficits, if actions to reduce demands are not taken, will amount to 3.5 million barrels per day in the second quarter of 1974. Stocks of petroleum could be used to supply demands for a limited period (28 to 40 days, depending upon the type of fuels), but the use of stocks only postpones the time when a more permanent solution to the problem becomes necessary."

"The alternative actions that must be taken to bring

demand into line with supplies include reducing demand, substituting one fuel for another, and changing the mix of petroleum products from refineries to meet highest priority needs, i.e. to distillates, jet fuel and residual from gasoline. These actions are designed to spread the impact of shortages as equitably as possible, and to minimize the impact of the shortages on our economic activity.

"Jet fuel: the projected first quarter shortage is 32.2 percent of demand. Half of that shortage can be made up by shifting refinery production; the remainder will be realized through reductions in airline flights.

"Expected shortages will be 1,400,000 barrels per day, during the first quarter of 1974 (21.4 percent of demand). Fifteen percent reduction in use by business and government will yield a 300,000 barrels per day saving, reductions in passenger car use of 24 percent could provide 1,100,000 barrels per day savings.

"Middle distillates (heating, diesel oil): Current shortages of 900,000 barrels per day (17.5 percent of demand) can be reduced by a refinery of 400,000 barrels per day. Reduction of residential and commercial heating by a few degrees saves 490,000 barrels per day. Fifty percent reduction in the use of distillates for "peak power" production by electric utilities on a selective basis yields 150,000 barrels per day.

"These and other reductions will provide approximate-

Kissinger's Assurance to China

The U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger, has assured China of his country's continued friendship "whatever happens in the future and whatever be the administration."

Proposing the toast at a dinner for Prime Minister Chou En-lai, he promised that "the normalisation of our relationship will proceed continuously."

ly 200,000 barrels per day as a hedge against a colder than normal winter. Residual oil "Current shortages of 1,050,000 barrels per day (29.4 percent) can be made up through refinery shift of 200,000 barrels per day; the conversion of oil burning electrical generation; plants to coal (250,000 barrels per day); a 15 percent reduction in heating uses of residual oil (90,000 barrels per day); a 3 percent cut in electricity (300,000 barrels per day); a 10 percent reduction in the industrial use of residual oil (60,000 barrels per day); reducing residential consumption of natural gas so that electric utilities can use it instead of residual oil for power generation (100,000 barrels per day)."

TO UNDERSTAND the mood which prevails in the USA at the moment it would be useful to refer to some excerpts from a speech made by President Nixon at the Convention of the Seafarers International Union in Washington on November 26.

"..The problem is: how can the United States get into the position where we are self-sufficient in energy? Because, you all know, we import oil; we import other products which help us meet our energy needs, because there are only seven percent of the people of the world living in the United States, and we use 30 percent of all the energy—in the United States. That isn't bad; that is good. That means that we are the richest, strongest people in the world, and that we have the highest standard

of living in the world. That is why we need so much energy, and may it always be that way.

"But as we consider that fact, let us remember that we should set as a goal—and this is the goal that I set three weeks ago and repeated again last night—independence and self-sufficiency for the United States in energy.

"Let me tell you that it is. By the year 1980, if we go forward in the development of our coal resources, of our shale oil resources, of our nuclear power resources, of our natural gas resources, and, of course, of our available oil resources in Alaska and in the continental United States, if we go forward as we can and should go forward, by the year 1980, then the United States, if it wishes, and if it becomes necessary, can provide all the energy we need to provide our jobs, to heat our homes, to light our homes, and to provide our transportation. Project Independence-1980, that is what I ask the Americans in this audience who believe so much in independence for your particular group, and what you are doing, to enlist in today.

Let me say that on that particular project, it can be very exciting, because there will be a fallout from it. As we develop our nuclear power and our new uses for coal and all the rest, we are going to find that it is going to provide more jobs, it is going to provide more opportunities, it is going to provide breakthroughs in science that we had never thought

were possible before, just as was the case when we made the breakthrough in terms of the Manhattan Project, when we made the breakthrough in space.

Let me put it quite bluntly: going to the moon was a great project, the Manhattan project, was a great project, becoming self-sufficient in energy is a great project. It is a great goal. It can be achieved, and with your help—with your help we can achieve it.

"You believe in independence. You believe in a strong, self-sufficient America. Now let me just put this in perspective for one moment. After I had made my talk last night, I had a conversation with one individual who said, 'you know, what you said sounded a little isolationist. We are going to be self-sufficient in energy, so you are going to be self-sufficient in other areas as well, and that means we are not going to deal with other parts of the world.....'"

..I don't mean that at all. The United States will always continue to play its part in the world, but the United States will never be dependant on any other part of the world whenever there is a crisis. That is all there is to it. So we are going to play our part in the world. It will mean we will continue as times go on, to trade with other nations and that will expand. We will continue to use their energy sources whenever they are at the right price, and so forth, and that will expand. But we want to be in a position that no.

body can cut our lifeline.. That is what we are talking about. Nobody can cut America's lifeline.

To evaluate the current mood in the USA it would be also relevant to cite extracts from two statements; the first by Herbert Stein, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to the President, and the second by Congressman William L. Armstrong, after his recent visit to Israel and Egypt as part of a Middle East Fact-Finding Sub-Committee.

While dealing with the economic consequences of the Arab oil embargo, Mr. Stein stated before the Economic Club of Detroit on December 3. "...The embargo of oil shipments to the U. S. from Arab countries is visiting pain upon the American economy and the American people, and we are promised relief from that pain if we will alter a policy that the U. S. Government has determined to be in its national interest. The position of the U. S. Government is that it will not permit the fact of this pain and the promise of its conditional relief to dictate our foreign policy. The United States is surely willing to consider reasonable arguments for fair play and for accommodations consistent with our vital interests in peace and stability. But for other countries to try to make our citizens freeze is not a reasonable form of argument."

On November 26, Congressman Armstrong in a Report had pointed out that the United States faced a major dilemma in the Middle East,

and said: "If the U.S. stops supplying tanks, planes and other military hardware, Israel will be overrun and destroyed by its Arab neighbours. But ..by backing Israel, the U.S. has alienated Arab nations who have the power and determination to hand this country serious economic and diplomatic setbacks. This is the dilemma of U.S. policy in the Middle East."

In a seven page Report outlining his position, Mr. Armstrong, further said: "In my opinion it would be morally wrong and a diplomatic catastrophe for the U.S. to permit destruction of Israel. But this is exactly what will happen sooner or later if Congress refuses to restock Israel's arsenal. So I intend to support further shipments of military hardware to Israel at least enough to replace weapons and munitions lost during the October war —on some basis or another. **I expect such support will be the policy of our Government for the foreseeable future. But it will be a horrible mistake for our country to continue backing Israel without taking into account the legitimate concerns of the Arab world.**"

FINALLY, the United States is looking around for alternative sources of oil, and during the recent visit of the Romanian President Ceausescu to Washington, he had said that Romania would endeavour to supply the US with oil. A report from Washington on the attitude adopted by President Nixon

indicates the emphasis now being laid in Washington to relations with smaller nations. The point made by Nixon is clear: that the US detente with the USSR will not adversely affect US relations with small countries like Romania—which have many differences with its mighty Soviet neighbour.

President Nixon had pledged that U.S. efforts to achieve better relations with other Great Powers will never be made at the expense of the independence or sovereignty of other nations. In a toast to visiting Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu at a State Dinner in the White House on December 4, Mr. Nixon said U.S. initiatives to achieve detente with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China has produced "something very profound and something very positive." But, he added, while the Great Powers have special responsibilities, every nation, large and small, has the right to its independence and the right "not to have that independence infringed upon by any other power."

Mr. Nixon also reemphasized U.S. concern for the rights of smaller countries in a short statement on December 5, when he and President Ceausescu signed a statement of principles governing U.S.-Romanian relations. He said respect for "the sovereignty and the independence of smaller nations" is a "cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy".



Inania Of This, That and The Other

“And They Too Have Known ...”

By INNA

Louis Budenz was a communist who ardently desired to study christianity before he would totally condemn it. He couldn't, because at the end of his studies he changed his mind about going against Christ! There is no harm in learning about Christ if one is looking for the truth. It is by now common knowledge that after a deeper study of Christ and christianity, a great christian leader in Sri Lanka has given up his fabulously-sleek means of transport, and it is all to the good.

It is also known that as a sign and token, the present catholic Pope gave simple rings (looking like a brass band for the finger) and simple staves rather than gold staves for his bishops. This shows the deliberate trend towards poverty and towards a radical disavowal that religion is the opium!

In this issue and the next we hope to focus attention on a document called *Schema-14* issued at the close of their Vatican Council II, by them, some of the bishops of the Catholic Church:

“We bishops assembled at Vatican II, having been enlightened on the deficiencies of our life of poverty according to the gospel; encouraged by one another in a step whereby we could avoid singularity and presumption; counting on the grace of Christ; on the prayers of the faithful of our respective dioceses; placing ourselves before the trinity in thought and prayer and before the church of Christ; in all humility of conscience, in the consciousness of our own weakness but also with the determination and fortitude for which God grants us the grace, we undertake the following:

1. We will try to live according to the ordinary mode of life of our people in that which concerns our residence and our food, the means of transport and all that follows there from (Mt. 5:3; Mt. 6:33-34; Mt. 8:20)
2. We renounce forever the appearance and reality of riches, especially as regards our dress (rich material, bright colours), insignia, pectoral crosses of precious material. These signs must be evangelical (Mt. 6:9; Mt. 10:9-10, Acts 3:6)
3. We will not own either movable or immovable property, bank accounts, etc, in our own name; if we must needs have them, we place them all in the name of the diocese, or of social works or charitable works (Mt. 6:19; Lc. 12:33, 34)
4. We will entrust whenever it is possible, all material and financial trans-

sactions in our dioceses to a Committee of competent laymen, conscious of their apostolic role, so that we might be better pastors and apostles and less the administrators of our dioceses. (Mt. 10:8; Acts 6, 1 and 7)

5. We refuse to be called orally or in writing, by names that signify grandeur and power — Eminence, Excellency, Monseigneur. We prefer rather to be called by the gospel name of Father.
6. We will avoid, in our behaviour and social relationships, that which might savour of privilege, of priority, or even of preference towards the rich and the well-to-do and the powerful (e.g. banquets given and accepted; different categories in religious services), Lc. 13:12,14; 1 Cor, 9:14,19)
7. We will avoid any encouragement or flattery towards people in the hope of soliciting gifts, or for any other reason whatsoever. We will invite our faithful to regard their gifts as a normal participation in cult, in the apostolate and in social action (Mt. 6:2,4; Lc. 15:9, 13; 2 Cor, 12,14)

Next time: nos. 8-13: “A lot to learn” from them.



FACT OR FANCY-(2)

Children's Stories - For Adults Only

by Canax

A READER suggests that my last week's offering in this column could have been more appropriately titled 'Children's Stories—For Adults Only.' The more I think of it the more I concur with that view. I have chosen the title this week since what follows is a carry-on from where I left off.

The men at Marga, as I was saying the last time we met, seem to have somehow discovered what we in Sri Lanka have known all along. What came to us naturally required an exhaustive, well-oiled survey to come to them—that fiction is, by and large, the staple diet of our imaginative souls.

Fiction, in short, is top favourite with us from the womb (or thereabouts) to the tomb. Not only that, for we also seem to know quite early in life the difference between good fiction and bad. Let me show you what I mean.

When my daughter once asked to be told a story, I was too busy doing nothing to devote any of my precious time to her. So I said, absent-mindedly, "Go ask Mommy..she can tell a lot of stories."

Now Mommy happened to be in the vicinity during this brief exchange and was strangely jubilant to hear the child announce, "I don't like Mommy's stories..I want

Dadda's stories." It did seem strange, but not for long.

Mommy's interpretation was that the child had provided unsolicited proof of her truthfulness, a trait she's been at pains to show she possessed for some time. The child's dislike of her stories was, in her view, conclusive testimony that she simply couldn't lie.

Dadda's conclusion, however, happened to be somewhat different from Mommy's interpretation, and a whole lot less favourable. It was not that Mommy couldn't or didn't, lie, but that she was a pretty bad liar. Since conning is a way of life, one must either learn to con plausibly or not at all. Even to children.

Mommy, as always, had the last word. All right, she said, just suppose she dropped out of the race as a lousy liar, that still left someone who was incomparably good at it, and going strong too. The upshot of it all is that Mommy now suspects everything Dadda says, which seems hardly fair.

She refuses to believe it, though it is true; I don't con all the time, but only when I have to, and what could be fairer than that? Why, I know of friends who con all the time, and their wives are none the wiser. Some people have all the luck.

I STARTED up a conversation with one such friend and he had a lot to say on the subject, all of it printable for once. So I have decided to put it down in black & white.

"We are supposed to move from childhood to adulthood, but, whether we complete the journey or not, we nevertheless continue to be children at heart," he said. "We don't believe the same things, of course, but that's not unusual."

I guessed the point he was making, so I asked him, "Do you agree with me, then, that our fondness for fiction, developed in infancy, stays with us all through life?"

"Of course I do," he replied emphatically. "Why else would we go to such extraordinary lengths to keep so many myths alive?"

"You mean cons?"

"I didn't know they were different," he said. "A con is a myth, and vice versa. The two fit neatly into fiction. And vice versa."

"Can you think of any myths off-hand?"

"Certainly," he said with an engaging smile. "You may not have suspected this, but I'm a great lover of Democracy."

"Who isn't?" I countered.

"That's just the point," he went on. "But I wouldn't be shocked to hear that we no longer have Democracy around here."

"That's a shocking thing to say."

"No it isn't", he insisted. "When you grow up on fiction you learn to take such things in your stride."

"Oh, oh, I can see what you're getting at," I said. "Are you trying to say that Democracy is an example of adult fiction?"

"The best we've had for ages," he said, "and it has stood the test of time."

"You obviously don't believe in Democracy," I suggested cuttingly.

"Who does?" he shot back. "So you love something you don't even believe in?"

"We do it all the time," he cried. "Take my wife. I love her, sure, but you don't suppose I believe her, do you?"

"Give me another example," I pleaded, wishing to get off the subject of wives, for they make bad examples anyway.

HE SNAPPED his fingers to signal a thought flashing through his mind. "Do you love Santa Claus?" he demanded, holding me with his gaze.

"Who doesn't?" I snapped.

"Do you believe in him, too?"

"Why, yes," I said honestly.

He just stared at me.

"My wife believes in him, too," I added in earnest.

He went on staring at me.

"My little daughter's another," I said somewhat desperately.

"That I can understand," said my friend at last, "but you, I cannot. Why can't you be like the rest of us?"

"What do you do?"

"Just love Santa and leave it at that. Time you grew up."

"That's not fair," I cried. "I believe in him."

"It's pure fiction," he cried, "and you know it."

So I decided to confess. "I'm afraid," I said.

My friend began to laugh. "You afraid of Santa?"

"No, not like that," I said quickly, trying to hide my embarrassment.

"I'm afraid that if I stop believing in Santa he'll stop bringing me presents on X'mas Eve."

"Santa doesn't bring anybody presents," he said. "not even you."

"Then who does.?"

"Your wife, man, that's obvious," he exclaimed.

I shook my head vigorously, so he demanded, "Why not?"

"You don't know my wife," I said.

My friend nearly had a fit laughing, and I couldn't figure out what was so funny. I tried to change the subject. "Tell me some more myths," I begged.

"You should know them by now," he said. "Try guessing a few."

I THOUGHT and thought but my mind was a blank. The very thought that all those presents weren't from Santa unbalanced me. If they were from my wife, then they were no longer presents, but purchases, made, alas, with my money. My whole world seemed to cave in and I was hardly in a fit condition to try guessing myths. I couldn't have cared less.

How about Socialism?" I asked recklessly.

"Bingo!" he cried.

"You're saying that just to cheer me up," I complained.

"Nonsense," he snapped. "That's a very good myth. I like it a lot."

"As good as the Democracy myth?"

"Oh yes, just as good," he assured me.

"Then how about Democratic Socialism?"

"An up and coming myth, my friend said." "You know what happened when Adam and Eve were allowed to move freely in the Garden?"

I didn't know what he was thinking of; all I could think of was the obvious. "They had little Adams and Eves," I ventured.

"Ditto with Democracy and Socialism," he said. "It had to happen, I suppose."

One sure way of keeping myths alive, according to my friend, is to marry one myth to another. And hope for the best. Or expect the worst.

For News Behind

the News

read

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regularly

CHRONICLE

Oct. 8 – Nov. 10

A Diary of Events in Sri Lanka and the World compiled from English-language dailies published in Colombo.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9: Food Production Committees are to be set up this week in all twenty two districts of the island. Colombo North goes to polls tomorrow. Israel claimed that it has put out of action Syrian missile batteries: Arabs claimed that they have destroyed 27 Israeli planes and 60 tanks along the Suez Canal: West Germany and Britain has called for a urgent meeting to discuss the Middle East hostilities.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10: The United National Party retained the Colombo North with a thumping majority of 17,138 votes. Mr. Vincent Perera polled 26,956 votes while his closest rival, Mr. Ananda Premasinghe of the LSSP, polled 9,818 votes. Two independent candidates, Messrs Upasena Akmeemana and T. Julius Perera, polled a mere 147 and 380 respectively. Egyptian and Israeli forces claimed massive gains into the opponents territory on the 4 th day of war: meanwhile, Soviet leader Brezhnev said that Egypt and Syria should not be left alone to fight the Israelis and he blamed Israel for the present situation in the Middle East.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11: The joint Opposition headed by the UNP, launched its first protest against the Government's rice, flour, sugar cuts with a rally in Colombo today. The Paddy Marketing Board has pruned down by one-third the quota of rice issued to hotels. The 1967 ceasefire line on the Golan Heights has been crossed by the Israeli forces.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12: Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Leader of the Opposition, extended a public invitation to the Prime Minister to come to Galle Face Green on October 19 and participate in the "Satyagraha" campaign: police service has been geared to meet any

situation that might arise on the proposed "Satyagraha" day. Egypt is reported to have thrust deeper into the Sinai desert inflicting heavy losses on retreating Israeli forces: Israel claimed that it had completely recaptured the Golan heights. Mr. Spiro Agnew, Vice President of America, resigned on charges of bribery and corruption levelled against him.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13: The Opposition is trying to mislead the masses, said the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, commenting on the proposed Satyagraha. The Ceylon Mercantile Union, in a letter sent to the Leader of the Opposition, had refused to extend its support to the "Satyagraha". Israeli forces are reported to have advanced to a point 12 miles from Damascus: Egypt claimed that it has destroyed half of the Israeli air force.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14: The Canadian Government has gifted Sri Lanka with 3,000 tons of flour under the Canadian Aid programme. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, has issued a stern warning to persons who under cover of the Production War grab land, destroy, damage or steal food crops. Egypt has imposed a "Holy War" tax to raise finances to fight Israel. American President has nominated 60-year old Congressman, Gerald Ford, for the post of Vice President.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15: The All-Ceylon Tamil Congress, at an Executive meeting chaired by Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, extending its co-operation to the Government's Food Drive, invited the Government for a round table conference to solve the other problems confronting the Tamils. According to the Appropriation Bill gazetted by the Finance Minister, Government expenditure for 1974 is estimated at Rs. 4,612 million. Egyptian troops launched a general offensive along the Suez Canal while on the Northern front Israeli long-range artillery bombarded the Damascus region.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16: A high powered West German delegation which arrived in

the island yesterday will announce two loans amounting to Rs. 80 million to Sri Lanka. Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr. Kewal Singh, arrived in Colombo this morning. The United States has begun resupplying Israel with arms, the State Department announced yesterday.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17: The Mahanayakes of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters yesterday appealed to the Maha Sangha to extend their fullest support to the food production effort. Sri Lanka, yesterday, signed an agreement with Canada to obtain two interest-free 50-year development loans totalling over seven million Canadian dollars. President Anwar Sadat said that Egypt was ready to accept a ceasefire in the Middle East.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18: "The Opposition move for a Satyagraha could be interpreted as one of attempting to attack a Government which had taken serious measures to restructure the economy of the country" said the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, in a letter to Mr. J. R. Jayewardene. The Gulf oil states announced a 17% increase in prices. Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat's peace offer in the Middle East was welcomed in Washington.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19: The Government imposed a ban on the proposed Satyagraha of the UNP scheduled to be held in the Galle Face Green today: the leader of the Opposition, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, has said that the proposed Satyagraha will take place as planned. Fierce tank battles are reported in the Sinai front: Arab states are likely to impose a 5% oil cut to pro-Israeli countries.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20: A former Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, is reported to have issued a statement calling the people to rally round the Prime Minister at this time of national crisis: he is said to have shown disapproval of the Satyagraha. Three massive processions led by leaders of the Opposition were stopped from entering the Galle Face Green, by the armed forces. According to Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, the Satyagraha was a complete success. Heavy fighting continued in the Middle East.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21: More than 100 cases of suspected cholera have been detected in the Jaffna peninsula: the death toll so far is 18. The Prime Minister had a meeting on Friday with the leader of the Tamil Congress, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, on matters concerning the Tamil minority. The United States and the Soviet Union embarked on an effort to produce joint proposals to end the war in West Asia.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22: Every ration book holder will be provided with an extra half measure of rice at the rate of one rupee each week for the two weeks beginning October 29 and November 5. An urgent meeting of the Security Council on the Middle East crisis was scheduled for last night: the Security Council intends to bring about a ceasefire within 12 hours of the adoption of the resolution.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23: The Opposition will launch its next Satyagraha at Nuwara Eliya on November 11. Israel and Egypt last night agreed to a UN Security Council call for a ceasefire, on condition that both sides observe it. The time fixed by the Security Council was 10.22 p.m. Ceylon Time.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24: Opposition parties will conduct Satyagraha campaigns in every part of the country. The Ministry of Health warned the public to keep off Jaffna District until the cholera outbreak is brought under control. The Middle East war flared up again despite the United Nations ceasefire call.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25: Government servants whose services will be required for food production are to be released to the political authorities now functioning in various parts of the island. Fighting has stopped in the Middle East after the UN's call for a ceasefire. North Vietnamese Worker's Party First Secretary, Le Tho, has rejected the Nobel peace prize awarded to him along with Dr. Henry Kissinger, US Secretary of State.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26: Seventy one cholera suspects have been quarantined and

the Northern Province is cordoned off with eight checkpoints. The Communist Party yesterday pledged to support the Government's food drive but warned the Government that drastic measures adopted in the issue of essential foodstuffs might make the suffering masses to join the reactionary moves of the United National Party. Egypt called the US and the USSR to intervene to ensure the implementation of the truce.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27: The number of cholera contacts has reached an alarming 82 with 31 of them declared positive: University students were asked to produce a valid vaccination certificate to gain entry to any of the campuses. The first contingent of 900 troops was ordered to proceed to Egypt as the advance guard of a new UN emergency force to police the West Asia ceasefire.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28: The Medical Research Institute has stepped up its production of cholera vaccines, and another 80,000 doses of vaccine from the World Health Organisation are expected. The US Agriculture Department forecast a record world rice crop of 300 million metric tons in the 1973-74. President Nixon, at a Press conference accused the American Television Network of broadcasting vicious and outrageous lies about him and his policies.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29: The death toll in the cholera epidemic in the Northern Province went up to 24 yesterday: the whole of Jaffna district has been declared a diseased area by the health authorities: it is likely that the train services to Jaffna might be suspended. Direct Egypt-Israel talks got underway to end the hostilities in the Middle East crisis.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30: Campuses of the University will remain closed on account of the cholera outbreak. A US Naval Task Force has been dispatched to the Indian Ocean in response to the continued build-up of Soviet ships in the Mediterranean. USSR threatened to destroy Israel if it violated the ceasefire, according to the *Time* magazine.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31: The Minister of Finance, Dr. N. M. Perera will present the United Front's fourth Budget tomorrow in the National State Assembly. Government is to requisition tractors in the private sector for use in the current 'Maha' season. American President, Nixon, will confer with Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir, in an effort to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East. India is studying the situation which has now arisen on account of the continued build-up of US naval forces in the Indian Ocean.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1: Transport of food items from cholera infected northern province has been banned immediately. Flour quotas to bakeries have been cut by further ten percent. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt announced the terms for West Asia peace talks. The White House denied knowledge of any tapes of a crucial conversation between President Nixon and John Dean.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2: "The Government has no reason to be sanguine about the future"; said Dr. N. M. Perera, Minister of Finance, introducing the United Front Government's Fourth Budget in the National State Assembly yesterday. The Budget has a surplus of Rs. 179 million; Business Turn Over tax on textiles and the excise duty on tobacco have been reduced. The health authorities have confirmed a cholera fatality in the Matara hospital.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3: Government Agents are empowered to spend money on their own discretion for Government's Food Drive. Several Trade Unions in the island called it 'Relief Budget', when contacted to express views on the Fourth Budget of the United Front Government. Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir, continued to resist US pressure for a pull back of troops from the west bank of Suez.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4: Foreign aid has been rushed to Sri Lanka to combat the largescale outbreak of cholera in the island. Opposition Leader, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, has, in his reply to the Prime Minister's letter

on the Satyagraha campaign, called upon her to stand in a bread queue without the presence of armed guards to know what the people feel about the new economic measures. American officials along with the representatives of Israel and Arab states continued the peace talks.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5: Control measures against cholera are to be launched in the city of Colombo immediately. Widespread rains were experienced in most parts of the country over the weekend. Egypt charged Israel with violating the ceasefire four times at the Suez Canal front. *Time* magazine, in its first editorial in its fifty years of publication, called on President Nixon to resign.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6: In spite of heavy rains in most part of the island, the water cut in Colombo was not likely to be restored. Demands mounted for President Nixon to resign, but White House officials adamantly insisted that he was giving no thought to stepping down.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, The water cut in the city will be eased only if this will not effect the conservation of water for next year. Several examinations scheduled to be held this month were postponed owing to the cholera out-break. President Nixon, firmly resisting pressure on him to resign over the Watergate scandal, tackled the growing fuel crisis.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8: The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, who opened the Budget debate in the NSA yesterday, assured the Government of the co-operation of the Opposition to the food drive. A senior Republican Senator, George Aiken, called for impeachment proceedings against President Nixon over the Watergate controversy.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9: The Government has been assured of a shipment of 20,000 tons of wheat flour from the United States under PL 480 arrangements. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, yesterday declined to table in the NSA a letter she wrote to the

American President seeking assistance under PL 480, because she did not want to create a precedent in the House. President Nixon has told the nation that he will not resign.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, has given her consent for setting up an Export Processing Zone in Trincomalee —to attract foreign investment into the country. The UNP-led Joint Opposition holds its second satyagraha campaign, at Nuwara Eliya tomorrow. The US has reached agreement with Egypt and Israel on a ceasefire formula which is expected to be announced shortly.

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EXCERPTS FROM

U. S. Energy Chief's Statement

Washington Dec. 4,

Following are excerpts from a statement by William Simon, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, who was appointed by President Nixon on December 4 to be Administrator of the newly formed Federal Energy Office.

Traditionally, energy policy has been narrowly defined as a national security issue. However, I view it as much more than that. Our security rests on our economic well-being and our economic well-being rests in a significant way on the availability of plentiful supplies of energy at reasonable cost. Seen in this way, energy policy bears a direct relation to economic conditions and is essential to understanding how our economy functions.

The demand for energy has been increasing continually while our supply has not. With six percent of the world's population, we are consuming 33 percent of the world's energy. Furthermore, the demand for energy in this country is growing at an annual rate of about four percent and by 1990, our energy needs will have doubled that of 1973. Much of this increase in demand will be reflected in an increase in the demand for oil, which has grown, in part, because there has been a shift away, from coal to oil and, in part, because of the inability to obtain natural gas, another

alternative to oil. Domestic demand for oil has increased from 15.1 million barrels a day in 1971 to 18 million this year and will increase to about 21 million in 1975 and to approximately 25 million in 1980. (One barrel contains 159 liters). Oil and gas now account for about 65 percent of the world energy consumption and 78 percent of U.S. energy consumption.

In the face of this increasing demand, however, our domestic petroleum industry has not been expanding. Domestic production last year began a slow decline to which no early end was foreseen, even though virtually all of our wells were producing at 100 percent of capacity for the first time in history.

U.S. refining capacity actually decreased by 11,000 barrels per day in 1972 even though the demand grew by over one million barrels per day. Prior to the President's energy message on April 18, no new refineries were under construction. Furthermore, expansion of existing refineries had nearly ceased. Growth in the capacity of the industry had come to an end for a number of reasons, including environmental restrictions which made it difficult to find acceptable sites for new refineries; oil import restrictions which created uncertainty about supplies of crude oil; and tax and other econ-

omic benefits which made it more profitable to invest abroad than in the United States.

As a result of these developments, oil imports rose dramatically in order to meet growing U.S. demand, and much of the new import supply came from the Middle East. Now it is estimated that imports of foreign oil will increase from 27 percent of total U.S. consumption in 1972 to about 33 percent in 1973, to over 50 percent by 1980. It is for this reason that we are vulnerable to an Arab Nations' boycott, but let's briefly review some facts about the current shortage.

We have both short-term and long-term action that must and will be taken. In addition to steps already taken, we will take whatever actions that are necessary including:

(1) Gasoline consumption must be decreased. This may require some combination of gasoline price increases, taxes and rationing, as well as voluntary and mandatory conservation measures.

(2) We must reduce residential and commercial energy use. Large fuel reductions can be made in these areas without causing job reductions or loss in industrial output. This will require some price increases or taxes on natural gas and electricity, in addition to the allocation program on home heating fuel.

(3) We will shift refinery output to increase supplies of fuel oils and vital petrochemical feedstocks. Later this week we will be announ-

cing price increases to stimulate refinery shifts.

(4) We are exploring plans to convert commercial airlines from kerosene to naphtha-based jet fuel. This will increase the supplies of critically short distillate stocks.

(5) We are strengthening the mandatory allocation program....

(6) We are pressing forward to switch 26 utility plants from oil to coal.

(7) We are urging states to increase the maximum efficient rate on production.

(1) Roughly, 85 percent of the energy consumed in the U.S. is available from domestic sources.

(2) About half of U.S. energy requirements come from oil.

(3) The impact of the Arab boycott is expected to be a shortfall of about 7.5 percent of total U.S. oil requirements for the fourth quarter of 1973 and about 17.3 percent for the first quarter of 1974.

This magnitude of shortage need not lead to despair concerning its impact on the economy as timely conservation and other measures are put into place. I do recognize that the impact of the shortage would differ throughout the economy..

However, our studies show that conservation measures affecting gasoline, heating oil and electricity could meet much of this deficit. Along these lines, the President recently announced a number

of conservation steps.. I believe these actions will produce results....

We have been a nation of great energy wastrels. That day has ended. We must change our lifestyles and be more thoughtful. Simply put, this country now faces the choice between comfort and convenience, or jobs....

We could save three million barrels per day with limited economic dislocation. Thus, conservation measures can offset the potential shortfall. For this reason, I do accept dire forecast that industry will bear the full burden of the shortfall. There's no question that industries will have to improve the efficiency of their energy utilization; but our main thrust will be to get the consumer to save, so that there will be the least possible effect in industrial production and employment....

It is essential that these immediate actions be consistent with our long-term policy. We will take actions which will work towards giving us the ability to be self-sufficient in energy. This goal has two equally important components. First, we must reduce the rate of growth in our energy demand. Second, we must increase our domestic supply of energy. In so doing, we must reach a compatibility between our energy needs and environmental requirements. However, we can no longer delay development of our domestic energy resources. For example, we will push for the

development of naval Petroleum reserve number 4 (in Alaska), the building of a second Alaska pipeline, speeding construction of nuclear plants, and other energy facilities, including coal supplies

I would emphasize the importance of Federal Energy Administration which the President has created today. It will provide us with the necessary framework to take needed actions. A major problem in dealing with energy matters has been the fact that too many energy-related responsibilities have been dispersed throughout the Government. The Federal Energy Administration will pull all those elements together in one unified body, thus enabling us to act on energy policy immediately. We will be pursuing a number of interrelated goals:

(1) We will seek to minimize the economic impact of the energy shortage through conservation of energy by the consumer and more efficient utilization of energy by industry.

(2) We will maintain a flexible approach. We must put sound long-range policies into place but we must also be able to adjust to short-term needs.

(3) We will actively seek the advice and cooperation of the Congress, State and Local Governments, Industry and the consumer..

(4) Finally, we will act. Energy policy now calls for action and we will do whatever is needed to put this

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

THE EM PEE

by George L. de Silva, Kurunegala.

THIS ARTICLE is entirely imaginary and is written purely for the amusement of those who are blessed with a deep sense of humour. It does not refer to any of our MPs in Sri Lanka, past or present.

Good day folks! Is it not worthwhile trying a shot at

country on the road to self-sufficiency.

I certainly don't want to play down the current situation. Although I feel that we will create the proper programs for increased domestic exploration and development as well as increased construction of domestic refineries, an energy crisis does exist today. However, crisis often acts as a catalyst for change—change that can bring us a sufficient supply of clean energy which is so essential if we are to sustain healthy economic growth and improve the quality of our national life. Clearly, we are facing a vitally important energy challenge that will require Government leadership and strength to put into place the kind of policies that are needed to assure that the United States never again in a position of having to rely on foreign supply to satisfy its domestic needs. We have the capacity and the resources to meet our energy needs if only we take the proper steps—and take them now.

becoming an MP? You don't need to have any educational qualifications or wealth. All you need is a healthy GAB.

My friend did it and here are his experiences and advantages he derived, which even in his wildest dreams he had not anticipated. My friend's name is Mahatthanthirige Brumpy Singho of Polthel watte. He was the most popular man in his village because he moved freely with the hoi-polo, played "baby" enjoyed unadulterated toddy and occasionally adulterated "Pol" and "Hitta-pan-machan".

WHEN HE reached the zenith of his popularity, his friends, and wife, Seedeve, forced him to contest a seat at the parliamentary elections. He was poor—always in debt, so instead of being just a puppet at the end of the string of fate he ventured forth head-on and mortgaged his wife's half acre of land and pawned her rolled-gold jewellery.

His loyal friends went round with a subscription list. Fortified with these wind-fairs he went head over heels and started his election campaign with fortitude. For the first time in his life he wore a clean national dress and went round imploring in all humility, for votes, promising to give jobs to the unemployed, open more taverns and the usual sun and moon.

As the distant dawn came within hand's reach, it was a neck and neck fight between him and his opponent, Rabandige Gabriel Appu, the son of an IRC, kassippu mudalali, but Brumpy Singho won the seat comfortably by two votes beating his opponent just above the neck. His supporters got cock-a-hoop. His wife just could'n't believe her eyes and started rubbing them and nearly got blind.

WHEN THE DAY arrived for the swearing-in, he did not have a clean suit to wear on his trip to the Queen's House, (now President's) so he bought a cloth and a pillow case type of shirt for credit. The guileful shop-keeper made a present of it in anticipation of favours. His uncle's brother, the illegitimate son of a kassippu king, presented him with a silk sash.

Brumpy was sworn in as MP and he attended the first parliamentary meeting travelling in a borrowed car which unfortunately broke down. A stranger noticing his national kit and the sash around his neck gave him a lift to parliament. As he entered the portals of the House of Representatives (now NSA) a cop stood at attention and threw a Royal salute. He took his seat with trepidation and carried out all the functions to the letter, imitating the other MP's—laughing, making grimaces, nodding this way, that way, but never uttered a single syllable.

AFTER THE MEETING he returned home in all his

glory and with the fan-fare of trumpets—the cynosure of all eyes. This was followed with an unending number of speeches extolling the virtues of Brumpy Singho though he had no virtues.

He then had to perform the tedious job of visiting his electorate promising things that he could not give though paved with pious expression of hope. His supporters were highly elevated by his speeches and chiefly his gesticulations. He sometimes used unrefined language. The crowd was spell bound and silent as a corpse when he shouted in a belligerent mood exposing all his 32. At one stage intoxicated with sentiment he raised his cloth a bit too high.

This MP was a much sought after man—a man who jumped from the frying pan into the lime-light. He walked with an air of importance—not so humble but one good quality of Brumpy as MP was that he saluted every Dick, Tom and Harry. At every wedding in his electorate he was the attesting witness and at every funeral he gave the orations too. He was an adept in this latter assignment, often extolling the virtues of even a die-hard criminal, who might have rolled in his grave.

So Brumpy lived a parsimonious life, saved enough money out of his "allowances" and redeemed his wife's property and rolled-gold jewellery, although now she never wore anything but sovereign gold.

Brumpy acquired a piece of land in Pol-thel-watte, built a house and christened it

POLLUTION-2

ATMOSPHERIC AND NUCLEAR

by Jepharis

Bishop Abeynaike, once writing about Pollution in one of his letters to the "Ceylon Churchman", referred to the atmosphere as "*a natural canopy of vapours covering the entire globe*"—and stressed that this ought to be looked after by Man and preserved in stewardship as a sacred trust for posterity.

The atmosphere and the stratosphere for the uninitiated, are the earth's outer covering and canopy, or extra-terrestrial pericarpial shell, the former extending some 50 miles out in space and containing air in ever more rarified layers as we go upwards; and the latter extending a further 35 miles, or some 85 miles from the earth, within which there is no air, but the earth's gravitational pull is still felt. Beyond this is ether, or a vacuum, or "virgin space": no air, no gravitation, no nothing!

Industrial and Nuclear Pollution is a prime cause of Atmospheric Pollution. There is no such thing as Stratospheric or Ethereal Pollution, for there is nothing in the Stratosphere or Ether to pollute, not even from the trail of a space-ship!

WE STUDIED something about Industrial Pollution from a lay, non-scientific angle,

in his daughter's name "Nalini Walauwa" and within a month of Brumpy's escalation to fame and power his 29 plus old daughter who was on the shelf got engaged to a graduate, CAC, the pride of the family.

Mahathanthirige Brumpy Singho, MP, par excellency, and his family enjoyed the happiest life which no astrologer could have predicted.

So folks, try your luck at the next elections or by-elections, I am too old. (Names in this article are fictitious)

in our last instalment. We did not mention Industrial, as well as Nuclear Pollution to be a contributory factor to Atmospheric Pollution, but so it is! In fact, Industrial Pollution IS Atmospheric Pollution.

Take the London "smog," for instance, a most glaring example of Industrial Pollution leading to Atmospheric Pollution. Of course, the "smog", a combination of smoke and fog which tends to stifle, if not quite asphyxiate or suffocate people, is found not only in London, but in every other crowded, industrial city in temperate climates where the air is sufficiently humid. How can "smog" be eliminated? As specified earlier, by eradicating the "steam-engine" principle in all factories and workshops and modes of transportation, and replacing it with a method which does not cause pollution—the "air-turbine" prin-

ciple, as also mentioned earlier, being perhaps the best, cheapest, most up-to-date, and easiest to operate.

It is said that on Halley's Comet's last appearance in 1909-10, the earth passed through its 200-million mile long tail, and that the earth has also passed through the "bridal train" of certain other celestial visitants from outer space (which perhaps accounted for the earth's passage through the POISON BELT in one of Conan Doyle's imaginery Professor Challenger romances); but one finds it difficult to believe that the earth has ever passed through the trail of any comet or meteor without any sort of disagreeable pollutory effects caused to its inhabitants to say the least!

THANK GOD Nuclear Experiments have been stopped, or at any rate appreciably reduced by common agreement among nations around conference tables. One refers of course to the Atom Bomb and Hydrogen Bomb Tests which went on unabated and unchecked throughout the nineteen-fifties and sixties, on isolated and uninhabited or evacuated islands in the Pacific, Atlantic and (e.g. Christmas Isle) Indian Oceans; the U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Great Britain, France, Australia and China being the offenders. Each of these countries in turn, and in that order, one by one joined the ranks of the Nuclear Powers, as scientific knowledge grew and progressed and caught on from one nation to another, from

year to year. Most of the scientists however were of Teuton blood, even though Germany did not conduct Nuclear Tests of her own, but nevertheless supplied most of the knowhow and personnel which made such tests possible.

It was thought that as more and more nations joined the Nuclear Race, and became full-scale Nuclear Powers, a proportionate Nuclear Deterrent would greatly reduce the threat of an Armageddon, or Third World War, fought with Nuclear Weapons. This may or may not be true—so long as fear is or is not a factor in the make-up of mass psychology. However, the Nuclear Tests caused enough damage in themselves, even if they did not lead to actual war. The presence of Strontium 90 in the atmosphere caused an increase in the incidence of cancer, leukemia and other diseases and disorders.

Disorders was also effected to the world weather pattern. The rain-drought cycle was disturbed. Irregular floods and droughts were caused, monsoons failed, or came too soon or late, and crops affected. Even now we are experiencing the adverse affects of the Nuclear Tests. Tidal waves, cyclones, geological disturbances, volcanic eruptions, and other subterranean activity, were an immediate result of the bomb blasts.

One of the ways of reducing nuclear pollution was to reduce the frequency of the blasts. Thank GOD this has been done in good time, and

the threat of world catastrophe which hung over our heads like a nuclear umbrella nipped in the bud. Man now seems to have turned his destructive energies and scientific resources to the comparatively peaceable pursuit of exploring the moon and the sicter planets of the Solar System.

Though this is considered to be a waste of money, time and effort in many quarters, may GOD BE PRAISED in all man's achievements, whether mundane, moondane, or on the spiritual plane!

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CHINA BUYS TRIDENTS**Largest Export Order For Jetliners**

by John F. Webb

London Dec. 5,

A £ 50 million order from China for 15 Trident jetliners, announced in London this week, is believed to be the largest value single export deal for British aircraft. The contract is the fourth placed by the Civil Aviation Administration of China for Tridents and will swell that country's fleet of these advanced trijets to 38.

China originally bought three second-hand Tridents from Pakistan and followed this with two orders for a total of 12 of the new Series Two-E Tridents from Hawker Siddeley. A year ago a third order for another eight aircraft was placed. Last year's contract included six Trident Twos and two of a new Super version that will be able to carry extra weight over a longer distance.

The latest contract is for further Trident Two aircraft and takes China's investment in new Tridents to a total value of more than £ 120 million. Deliveries will start in the autumn of 1975 and continue throughout the following year.

To date China has taken delivery of five of its new Tridents.

Powered by three rear-mounted Rolls-Royce Spey jets, the Trident is the

backbone of British Airways European Division operations with 70 series One, Two and Three Tridents in service. It has been flying with the airline for 10 years and has accumulated hundreds of millions of miles.

With British European Airways—now part of British Airways—the aircraft has built up a fine record of reliability and safety. BEA and Hawker Siddeley have

together developed an automatic flight control system that allows the plane to operate in visibility so poor that would ground other airliners. It is one of an elite band of aircraft cleared to operate in "Category Three-A" weather conditions.

Although it has been in service for a decade it is still one of the fastest jetliners. Its cruising speed of over 600 miles per hour is only just subsonic. The Trident One carries 103 passengers, the Trident Two 126, and the Series Three and Super versions 152. China has also signed a preliminary purchase order for two Anglo-French Concorde supersonic jetliners.

PRIME MINISTER'S EIGHT-POINT DIRECTIVE ON AUSTERITY DRIVE

Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has issued an eight-point directive to her Cabinet colleagues to enforce economy and help create a climate of austerity. In a recent communication based on the Union Cabinet's decision on slashing down wasteful expenditure, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, while asking the ministers to give a lead in regard to austerity, has made the following suggestions.

1. Official entertainment should be modest and restricted only to visiting foreign dignitaries of the rank of minister or above;
2. Use of staff cars should be confined to the minimum and to strictly official business and a ceiling set on the petrol allowed for this purpose;
3. STD facility should be barred on telephone except one or two telephones in direct use of ministers;
4. Travel on official account should be cut down to the barest minimum necessary for essential and unavoidable engagements;
5. Visits abroad should be heavily curtailed;
6. All ostentatious expenditure on renovation and repairs of building and furniture and furnishings should be avoided;
7. The expenditure on contingency should be reduced to the barest minimum and no purchases on government account made unless their essentiality is established after close scrutiny; and
8. Austerity should be observed in the consumption of electricity, both for normal use and for use on special occasions such as marriages.

IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

✻ ATTANAGALLA

IS IT NOT TRUE that the supporters of the Government are panicking too much about the satyagraha launched by the UNP? That in their anxiety to show that the "common people" are not with the satyagrahis, UF supporters are resorting to tactics which the UNP had adopted to suppress their opponents in the days they were in power? That this is no reason why the UF should do the same? That the methods adopted by the supporters of the Government to make it appear that satyagraha at Attanagalla last weekend was a failure have not generated or induced admiration or support from thinking people all over the island? That the Prime Minister, in declaring that the people of Attanagalla and the "democratic right" to block roads, was only unfortunately setting a precedent which may be followed by people in other areas? That any support given to people who take the law into their own hands will boomerang on the government itself?

That if "the people of Attanagalla" are said to have the "democratic right" to block roads and refuse to let other citizens of Sri

Lanka to use the public highways without let or hindrance, even if it were to perform satyagraha or go in demonstrations, then the right of the people in Jaffna to carry black flags and also block the roads to be used by visiting Ministers can also be said to be "a democratic right"? That what was even more unfortunate was that the Police had shut a blind eye to the totally unlawful activities of the "people of Attanagalla" to block roads and use force and thuggery on others who wanted to stage a lawful protest? That if Attanagalla is to be regarded as the private preserve of "the people" who reside there, then the same right cannot be denied to the people of Jaffna or any other part of Sri Lanka to regard the territory they occupy as special areas into which non-residents of the area cannot enter for any purposes whatsoever?

That what has happened in Attanagalla is something which the United Front government will live to regret unless immediate steps are taken to make amends and ensure that local "people" are not permitted by the Police and the authorities from

taking the law into their own hands to suppress the freedom of citizens even from other areas to stage lawful demonstrations? That if what took place in Attanagalla is not checked, that if the people who blocked roads and resorted to thuggery to oppose other "people" who wished to stage a protest are not reprimanded, and that if the Police are not told that they must not shut a blind eye to law-breaking from any quarter, then the Government will have only itself to blame if the spirit of fissiparous separatism and parochial chauvinism begins to get a foothold in the country? That the Government will not then have the moral right to suppress people of any areas who take the law into their hands in the same way the "people of Attanagalla" were permitted to do by the Police?

That the way the Government should deal with the UNP satyagraha is not how it was done at Attanagalla? That Government should concentrate on producing more food and eradicating the many evils which have begun to proliferate under its wings rather than adopt the "Attanagalla" way, if people are to be persuaded not to sympathise or support the UNP? That if what took place at Attanagalla is glorified or romanticised into a "popular reaction" then the path is being opened to incipient civil war? That before it is too late Government must do a great deal of re-thinking about Attanagalla?