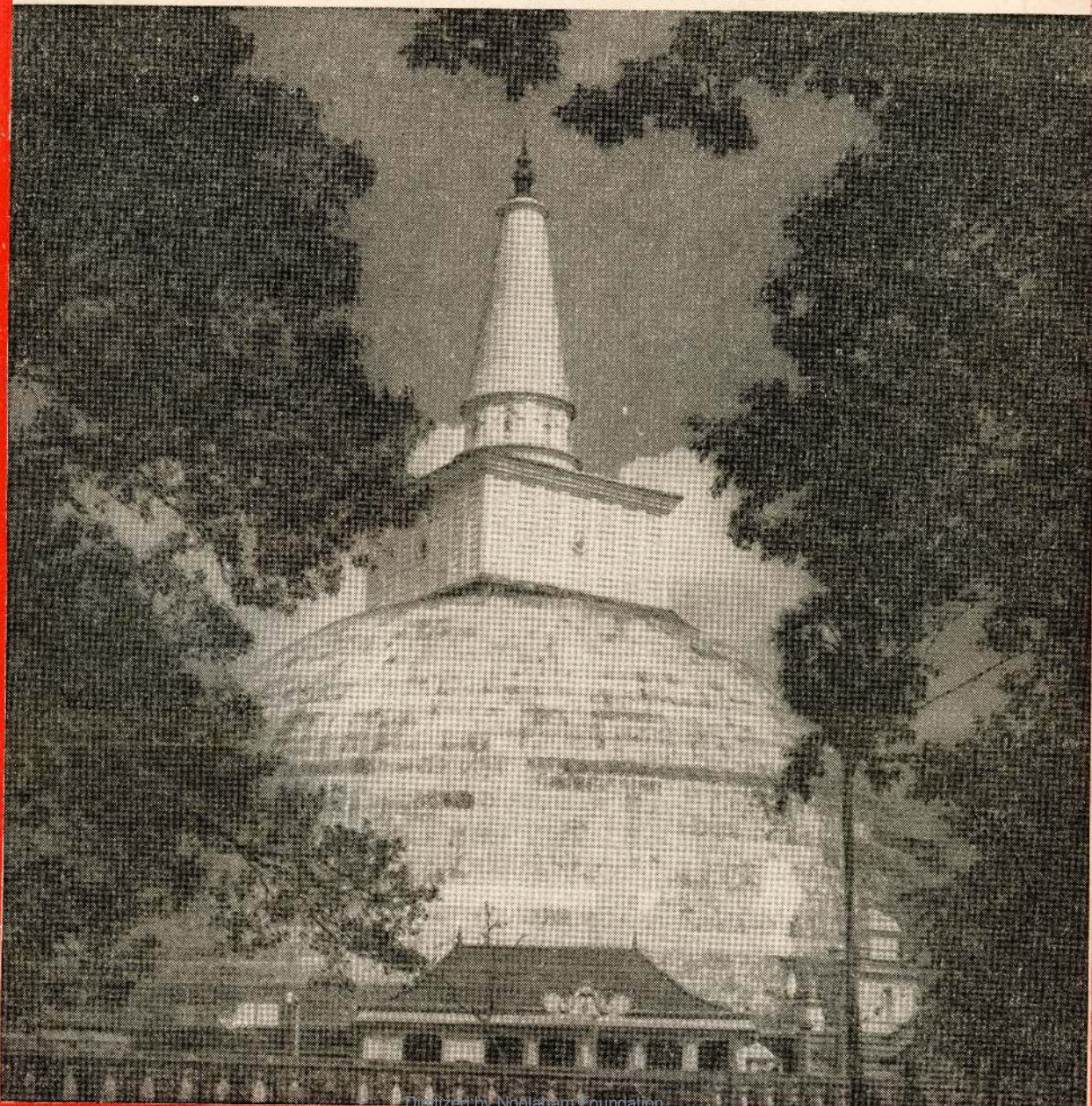


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Letter From The Editor

IN A LITTLE OVER A MONTH it will be three years since the UNP came to power. In another three years the country will go to the polls to elect a new government. One is tempted at this juncture, to take stock of the situation and ask the question (as many are asking already) "what are the chances of the UNP being returned to power in 1983?" There are certain basics which must be taken into consideration. The UNP is well organised and is sensibly and competently led by J. R. Jayewardene. He has an able assistant in the field in R. Premadasa, and a supreme *maestro* in public relations and the media in Anandatissa de Alwis. The Party also has a powerful team of younger intellectuals turned professional 'politicians'—Ronnie de Mel, Lalith Athulathmudali, Gamini Dissanayake, Festus Perera and Ranil Wickremasinghe, among others. The UNP has also captured the imagination of large sections of the youth by policies that have enabled them to indulge in consumerist extravagance through employment abroad and remunerative work at home. The UNP is clear about the policy it wants to pursue behind persuasive populist slogans and hallelujahs about socialism, viz., the determination to rely on private enterprise and the creation of a capitalist order in collaboration with international finance capital. The UNP has also succeeded in maintaining a non-aligned stance in foreign affairs with negative self-effacing policies that equates the capitalist camp with the socialist and by pretending that imperialism no longer exists and that neo-colonialism is a figment of marxist imagination. What Sri Lanka's increasing dependence on the world capitalist system will bring in the coming years is yet to be seen. Further the UNP, in spite of the spiralling costs of living and inflation, still retains its support among the voters as evidenced by the results of Gal'e and Anamaduwa and the last Municipal and Urban Council Elections. Finally, the UNP has strong support among the Tamil-speaking Muslim community; and although the TULF has not yet formally abandoned its Eelam demand, the UNP has substantial support among the Indian Tamils and among Ceylon Tamils outside the Jaffna peninsula. To the credit of the UNP it must be said that it has established the framework for the rule of law and concretely permitted the democratic freedoms and civil liberties to every citizen—with the limitations that a capitalist society imposes on the non-affluent classes and groups of the community. In the circumstances, on a system of proportional representation, district-wise, the UNP is well placed to win a majority in 1983—unless its popularity is unduly corroded by dangerous maladies that have manifested themselves—rising costs of living (far outstripping incomes), dizzy inflation (making a mockery of savings), corruption (eating into the administration), smuggling (robbing the Treasury of billions), thuggery (replacing the rule of law) and cocksure arrogance coupled with the abuse of power among a few top and a large number of middle and district level UNPers (inviting the kind of defeat suffered by Sir John Kotelawela in 1956). But a great deal will also depend on whether UNP's economic policies and strategies will yield dividends. Such are the perspectives before the UNP. ● Next week—**THE OPPOSITION**

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ON CHANGE

ON THE COVER we have one of the most famous of our ancient dagobas—in a restored state. There are a number of equally ancient or even more ancient dagobas that need restoration. The work of restoration of the Jetavanarama Dagoba has been undertaken by the UNESCO. Such restoration will not bring the **ancient regime** back in all its glory, and whatever its virtues will not suit the present. Feudalism, however beneficent, cannot establish or sustain an egalitarian society in the era of capitalist and socialist competition—and confrontation. We can glory in the past; but it is the present that matters.

And the present is one of tremendous change. In Sri Lanka, we have adult franchise and parliamentary democracy with an executive presidential type of government. We have the rule of law and the guarantees of fundamental rights. When the mighty dagobas were built, kings ruled, the dhamma prevailed—but at the sole discretion of the kings and the chieftains. Such an order of society is unthinkable in the world of today which is still in the process of vast upheavals and mighty changes.

Can we be satisfied with the changes that have either overtaken this country or have been thrust upon it. Is the system of parliamentary government based on the Westminster model, which Sri Lanka (and India) have adopted, the best under the circumstances? In this connection the **Hindu** recently published an article from a Special Correspondent in Calcutta entitled **THE WARNING THAT STILL HOLDS GOOD**, which will provide material for a great deal of serious thinking for people in Sri Lanka. We reproduce the article with acknowledgements:

The dangers threatening us are: (1) the separatist spirit of every province, linguistic group and even caste.....(2) financial collapse which gives rise to the inflation..... hence follow popular suffering through hunger, unemployment.....half fed labourers cannot fill their stomachs with political speeches etc.....”

India 1980?

No; these comments were published in the December 1953 issue of the *Modern Review* (now sadly defunct) by the late Sir Jadunath

Sarkar, eminent historian and scholar, whose own M. A. examination paper reportedly carried the observation (after it was evaluated): ‘The examinee is better than the examiner.’ This correspondent came across a few yellowing copies of the *Modern Review* at a friend’s house. Sir Jadunath’s article was entitled **HISTORY’S WARNING TO INDIA** and it took off with a historian’s comparison between newly independent India and Italy in 1862. ‘The maladies of that enfranchised nation have an ominous likeness to those of free India today,’ wrote Sir Jadunath and listed the parallels. First, Parliamentary Government could not work among a people accustomed to autocratic rule for six centuries; Ministries broke up every now and then because there was ‘no union on political principles but only groups or factions formed by selfish political and greedy of power and gain.’ Secondly, in the frantic attempt to secure votes, large numbers of posts were unnecessarily created. ‘The administration’s pay bill was doubled or trebled, by giving posts to an army of political underlings.’

Pointing to the West Bengal Government’s decision to add 30 Deputy Ministers to an already bloated Ministry, Jadunath Sarkar observed: ‘Dr. B. C. Roy is the greatest political physician of India, and his discovery—the infallible vigor pill for anaemic Ministries—has been taken with success also by New Delhi, the Delhi State and Madras, not to speak of the lesser territorial fry.’

The third malady was administrative slackness, inefficiency and corruption. ‘Like the new Italy we seem to have gone back to the middle ages and the reigns of our Nawabs have come back.’ The fourth parallel offered by Sir Jadunath was ‘the rupture between domineering North and the neglected South of the Peninsula. There was widespread rebellion in the Naples province against the insolent, selfish and negligent rule of the federal Government.....the evil has been intensified in India, because the Italians had the same religion, language and social system (i.e., freedom from caste) all over that great Peninsula. But what can the Dravid Kazhagam find to its taste in what Nehru has aptly called ‘the imperialism of the Hindi language?’

The fifth historical parallel was ‘the megalomania that has seized our supreme

rulers. New power like new wine is heady. On being suddenly raised to the supreme Government of 350 millions of men and a revenue of Rs. 400 crores every year, they are trying to do everything in the grand style and to rub shoulders with the first-rate powers of the world.'

Sir Jadunath was annoyed with the economic and financial policies being drawn up and warned against an insolvent India that would break up or be sold. Most significant and sinister is the conduct of the Madras Government. It advertised for a loan of Rs. 5½ crores at four per cent, about one and a half crores of which was required for repaying an over debt bearing three per cent interest, that is to say, the Madras Government will henceforth have to pay every year Rs. 6 lakhs as interest where it was paying only Rs. 4½ lakhs before. 'Thus the debtor's credit has suddenly slumped by 33 1/3 per cent.'

In a brief lapse into guarded magnanimity which lasted one paragraph, Sir Jadunath looked at the bright side: '(1) the political unification of India has been secured by the integration of 700 and odd native States and small independent authorities, (2) peace, within and outside, has been maintained (3) social reform has been actively undertaken, feudalism is being everywhere abolished by law. The land is being assured to the tiller, the equality of all the people under the law has been proclaimed in the Constitution, and it has been openly declared that the avowed policy of our leaders is to make India a welfare state in every respect.' While all this was undoubtedly to the good, the historian gently reminded his readers that the stress generated in dissolving the feudal social system, a thousand years old was so immense that even the best governments could be convulsed by it. But such reforms cannot be brought about by a mere vote of the legislature or a proclamation in the Government gazette. Feudalism could be abolished in France only after the streets of Paris had been deluged with blood, and a long and murderous war had raged.'

Fully aware of the hazards of lectures on history, he apologetically started his article with an anecdote. At an annual Congress session in Calcutta many years ago, feelings were running high between the moderates and the younger extremists. Motilal Nehru,

as an elder statesman, was trying to introduce calm by reading from a history book how a European nation had acted in similar circumstances, Bipin Pal bellowed to the Pandit. 'Motilal don't read history, Make history!' Sir Jadunath wrote of this as 'an idiotic interruption' although the audience 'cheered it to the echo.' Motilal Nehru shut his book and sat down, 'feeling that it was useless to cast pearls of human wisdom before the callow youths of Calcutta.'

The article concluded with the historian's observation on Motilal's son Jawaharlal's proclamation at Patna that the Congress government would abolish poverty and unemployment. 'What a charming promise this! It looks like the twin brother of a promise to extinguish poverty in France made by another ex-political detainee (from the fortress of Ham) a century before our political detainee from Ahmednagar Fort. His pamphlet, *L'extinction due Pauvrisme*, proved a best seller and brought all France to his feet. The promise was realised 23 years later at Sedan,' concluded Sir Jadunath. He was obviously referring to Napoleon III's celebrated pamphlet written in 1844 some ideas of which the emperor had tried to implement by decree in 1853. Napoleon III surrendered at Sedan to the German army in 1871 and that was the distance his promise to end poverty went.

A hundred years after 1871, Jawaharlal's daughter, like her father and Napoleon III also promised to end poverty.

What Sir Jadunath Sarkar said about India in 1953 can be repeated with even greater emphasis today. And much of what he said of India and its leaders can be applied with equal or greater validity to Sri Lanka today.

The maladies that afflict this island of ours are many. One that has however begun to worry many thinking people is the growing indiscipline and thuggery at all levels of society. The thug and the rowdy have become the masters of the village and the smaller urban areas. Police action is futile, because the thug and the rowdy have the patronage of the MP, who is beholden to them for the canvassing they did during the election campaign.

With the next general elections coming close, the thug and the rowdy are becoming more of a menace in Sri Lanka today. If the police

take them in on the complaint of an ordinary citizen who has been harassed, thrashed or bullied, an MP or some other powerful VIP usually rushes to the rescue of the thug.

Has the time not come for the President to ask for a list of all such interference by MPs in the enforcement of law and order? The information should be called for from the police as well as the members of the general public many of whom are today at the receiving end of thuggery. *Tribune* receives complaints of thuggery every day. Only recently we heard of a case where a jeep driver was thrashed at a rural village fair because he had said that the price demanded for a pineapple was too high. As he had offered no provocation for the assault, the Police had taken the thug in. A MP, a Minister at that, rushed ten miles to the Police Station to order the sergeant to release the man and forget the matter. And most MPs seek to justify the actions of the thug by saying that the aggrieved person was "SLFP". When the SLFP was in power, the excuse was that the person concerned deserved the beating because he was "UNP." The fact that SLFP had indulged in such vindictive actions is no excuse for UNP's to tolerate the rule of the thug (which threatens to replace the rule of law).

Something must be done to stop this menace in our midst. The same thugs, who have this immunity from political patronage, are today's kasippu dealers, the narcotics distributors, the masked highway robbers and strong arm of the smuggler kings.

Will we continue to sink more and more into the morass of perpetual thuggery or is there a way out? Must ordinary people learn to live with thuggery paying kappan money for a little peace, or can we hope for a better society where the thug is kept in his place?

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

BIO-GAS & ENERGY

Colombo, June 6,

The Secretary of the Ministry of Power and Energy, Mr. J. H. Lanerolle sent a letter to the Editor on June 4, 1980 which read as follows: "The issue of the *Tribune* of May 24, 1980 is supposed to have carried a comment

with regard to the possibility of constructing Bio-gas Plants which could be much cheaper than those already established by the Ceylon Electricity Board on an experimental basis. The cover picture in this issue is supposed to have displayed one of those cheaper plants. This is a matter of considerable interest to the Ceylon Electricity Board and to the Government, and I should be grateful if you could let me know where the plant which is displayed on your cover picture is situated, so that our engineers could have a look at it. The bearer of the letter is Mr. B. P. Sepalage who is in charge of the Pattiypola Project. Would it be possible for you to let him know where this plant is situated and assist him if necessary to have a look at the plant."

It is a happy augury that the Secretary, J. H. Lanerolle, has thought it fit to initiate a dialogue on the question of bio-gas. As we mentioned in this column last, Secretary Lanerolle is doing a heroic job trying to salvage the mess (and worse) in the CEB on the electric power front. Whether the mafia entrenched in the CEB will let him do his job of cleansing the Augean Stables is yet to be seen, but there are indications that he is often led up the garden path by the CEB operators. For instance, Mr. Lanerolle has been persuaded to call the recent drought the "drought of the century" (no doubt to justify the power cuts). If he had read the *Tribune*, or if he had looked into rainfall statistics for "the century", he would have known that this year was certainly not the worst drought year by a long shot. The public will have greater confidence in the Ministry of Power and Energy if it got off the "Drought" Fantasia and came down to real brass tacks as to why we have had the power cuts and how hard we have to work to set matters right.

In our issue last week we took up the position that the present power crisis was CEB-made. If Secretary Lanerolle or any other CEB official wants to controvert what we have said we will be willing to publish their statements. And we will comment on them thereafter. We will also invite our readers to send us their comments or views on this matter. This week we publish a comment by Mr. R. Knhawita on "Power Cuts—Why?"

To come back to biogas, we have given Mr. Sepalage—(vide Mr. Lanerolle's letter) who seems to be genuinely enthusiastic his work—all the information that has come our way. In the absence of official publications and statistics about the work of the CEB in biogas we have had to go on second hand information. And all others interested in biogas in this country also have to go on guesses and drawing room chatter. People have also had to rely on casual newspaper articles and badly reported speeches of politicians to know about biogas. We hope the CEB will not promptly resort to expensive supplements in favoured newspapers—which do not approach these problems critically—in order to beat the big drum about the great and glorious work they are doing. They should, however, issue booklets and down-to-earth radio and TV talks in all three languages about how biogas plants can be constructed without highly trained engineers (probably requiring high consultancy fees) to do the job.

Tribune has published a great deal about biogas (or gobar gas) in the last ten to fifteen years. We were the first in this country to draw attention to its advantages (and also its disadvantages). We had begun the campaign to popularise biogas long before the fuel crisis in 1973 and we have continued thereafter with an even greater sense of urgency.

A great deal has been written about biogas in many countries, in China, India and elsewhere. We have not seen anything new or recent about biogas from China, but from India there has been a great deal. Even prestigious highly rated magazines like *The Economic & Political Weekly* published in Bombay, recently had an article entitled **GOBAR GAS PLANTS: HOW APPROPRIATE ARE THEY?** by Hemalata Dandekar: "The technology of producing methane gas from cow-dung and other wastes and using it as fuel for various purposes has received considerable attention in India during the last decade. In the light of the growing energy shortage that the country faces gobar gas is being cited as having great potential for answering the energy needs of rural areas. In this climate it is relevant to explore the desirability of gobar gas technology from the village perspective since, after all, it is the farmer in the countryside who ultimately decides whether or not to invest in a gobar gas plant.

"This paper, based on the responses of residents of a village in Satara district called 'Sugao' attempts some general statements regarding the constraints on the adoption of gobar gas technology in rural areas. Its findings are that social, spatial, cultural and attitudinal criteria are as important as technical ones in the assimilation (or rejection) of new technology. During the past decade, Indian government agencies such as the Khadi and Village Industries Board and private voluntary groups have promoted gobar gas plants as an important component of their rural development strategy. Indian planners consider this to be a technology which, if disseminated widely enough, has the potential to deliver major benefits and improve rural living conditions. The advantages cited can conveniently be listed under four heads."

Then the writer lists the benefits under the four heads: (a) simplicity and utility; (b) optional allocation of resources; (c) improved health; (d) and savings to villagers. Then the article goes on to say: "Not all of the advantages that have been claimed for gobar gas technology bear up under scrutiny." For one thing the design of the original Indian prototype has been drastically changed by adopting the Chinese masonry dome instead of the metallic Indian. Then the author points to the constraints which has so far prevented the Indian villager from adopting biogas with enthusiasm: "If the majority of villagers do not use the gobar gas plant some of the social benefits that are claimed to accrue from it and for which the technology is being actively propagated—such as reduced deforestation and generally improved sanitation and health—cannot in fact be actualised. *If the gobar gas technology is to improve rural conditions in any dramatic way a more widespread adoption which benefits the small and marginal as well as the affluent farmers is essential at the village level.*"

It is this point that *Tribune* has been stressing recently—biogas must be made cheap enough for the marginal farmer whose income is just above subsistence level. Instead of raising a mighty shout about a biogas plant at the UNDP headquarters, publicity should have been given to the few plants built in villages especially those built for the less affluent and not for the highly subsidised "model village" housing schemes).

The article goes on to describe a survey carried out in the village of 'Sugao' "a small predominantly farming community in the Deccan region of Maharashtra. Reading this survey one gets an insight into the life in the Indian village. Very little has been done in Sri Lanka on these lines. Not so long ago, a group of academics led by Prof. Barrie Morrison had conducted surveys in six villages in Sri Lanka and their findings have been published in a book entitled "The Disintegrating Village". Prof. Gas Gupta in the mid thirties (or forties) had carried a survey in one village and the findings were also published as a paper entitled *The Disintegrating Village*. But the recent study does not pay special attention to biogas.

Biogas development in India have attracted world-wide action. In the April 1980 issue of *Soft Energy Notes* there is an article by Peter Hayes and Paul Daccker on *Community Biogas In India*". They point out that: "Energy researchers and planners generally view the community biogas system as a major component in rural third world energy strategies, if not a virtual panacea. A word of caution, however, comes from the detailed benefit cost analysis of a community-scale biogas project in the Indian village of Fatehsingh-ka-Purwa. This study, conducted by Ramesh Bhatia of the Institute of Economic Growth in Delhi, and Mariam Niamir of the Department of City and Regional Planning at Harvard University, shows that, at least in this village, the economic benefits of a community biogas plant do not outweigh its costs," and go on to say: "The community biogas system has been proposed as an efficient and equitable way to meet the energy needs of entire villages. Large plants do more than just provide both village rich and poor with cooking and lighting fuels. They cost less than many smaller units with the same total output (Ghate 1979: 1134): they are more efficient and easier to control than family-size systems; they generate employment in the collection of animal wastes and in the distribution of digestive residues as fertilizer; and they produce enough gas to run agricultural machinery; along with tubewell engines that draw water for drinking and irrigation."

Although biogas as a source of energy is now being widely used in India, China and other countries, in Sri Lanka it is still in an

"experimental stage". The CEB unit claim they have built about twenty or thirty of them in various parts of the country, but apart from big publicity for the UNDP outfit and one in a model village, nobody in the island knows what is being done. If biogas as an energy source had been popularised, there should have been at least ten thousand in the island already.

Mr. Lanerolle's letter refers to the issue of *Tribune* of May 24. In fact, the main story of the Galpokuna biogas plant published in the *Tribune* of May 3—and there must be at least half a dozen or more copies in the last six months with references to biogas power, windpower and the like. In this connection, we publish excerpts from a letter we received from Mr. R. G. Wijetunga, Superintendent, Galpokuna Estate, Udabaddawa Kuliypitiya, in regard to the biogas plant we had written about in our issue of May 3 "I was rather delighted to read in the *Tribune* published on May 3, about the Bio-Gas Unit on Galapokuna. In fact this was the first *Tribune* that came into my hands on my return to Sri Lanka at the end of the training programme which I underwent in the Philippines and India. Before I proceed further I am indeed constrained to bring to your kind notice about a correction that I wish to be made in your article under the caption 'Power & Energy'. It was really the guidance of Mr. Upawansa of the Inservice Training Centre, of the Department of Agriculture at Gannoruwa, which made this bio-gas unit on Galpokuna a success. Due credit should therefore go to Mr. Upawansa who has also been instrumental in establishing such low cost units in various parts of the country. Mr. Upwansa is indeed an enthusiastic personality whom you should meet to get to know about his creative ideas, particularly in regard to his own systems of integrated crop and stock farming. As such I shall only be very grateful to you if due credit is given to Mr. Upawansa in one of your future publications please." The country needs more people like Mr. Upawansa .

The NLDB is now in the process of building more plants of this kind and if the CEB is not equal to the task of helping the less affluent farmers to build bio-gas plants, the Government must persuade other organisations to enter the field. Every biogas plant set up means so much less crude oil imported.

Govt.



Notices

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) As Amended By The Land (Amendment) Act, No. 28 Of 1964.

Reference No:- 11/7/5/37

The Government intends to acquire the land described in the Schedule below, for a public purpose, for particulars, please see part III of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 93 of

Schedule

District: Anuradhapura

D. R. O.'s Division: Kekirawa

G.A.'s Division: Tulana No. 52

Name of land: Kongahayaya, Divulgahayaya, Dewalawatte, Palugahahena, Gangoda-Idama, Akkarawelakumbura. etc.

Plan No.: F.V.P. 1105 (Sup. No. 1)

Lot No.: From No. 65 to 110

Name of the village: Unagollewa

C. H. J. Fernando

Acquiring Officer and.

Anuradhapura District Land Officer

The Kachcheri,

Anuradhapura. 27/05/1980.

The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, No. 28 of 1964.
Notice Under Section 7.

Ref. No. 3/62/446/68
J. 74 A. 537

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No. 93 (Part III) of 13-06-1980.

Schedule

Name of Village etc.: Udubaddawa Ihalagama village I Katugampola Korale South, Kuliyaipitiya D.R.O.'s Division, Kuru egala District, North Western Province.

Name of Land: Millagahamula Watta

Plan and Lot No.: Lot Nos. 357 and 358 in Supplement No. 6 in F.V.P. 996

H. M. W. Chandraratne
District Land Officer,
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri, Kurunegala.
21st May 1980

SWEETNESS

Sweetness is closer to bitterness than it is to decay, no matter how sweetish its smell.

The essence of everything on earth, seen and unseen, is spiritual. On entering the invisible city my body is covered by my spirit. Who so seeks to cleave the body from the spirit, or the spirit from the body is turning his heart away from the truth. The flower and its fragrance are one; they are blind who deny the color and the image of the flower, saying that it possesses only a fragrance vibrating in the ether. They are like those, deficient in the sense of smell, to whom flowers are nought but shapes and hues without fragrance.

Everything in creation exists within you, and everything in you exists in creation. You are in borderless touch with the closest things, and, what is more, distance is not sufficient to separate you from things far away. All things from the lowest to the loftiest, from the smallest to the greatest, exist within you as equal things. In one atom are found all the elements of the earth. One drop of water contains all the secrets of the oceans. In one motion of the mind are found all the motions of all the laws of existence.

CONTROVERSY ON

ASTROLOGY RESURRECTED

Astrological Twins And Their Parallel Careers

"There is still reason to believe that with a thousand children born in Sri Lanka every day, there would be—at least once in a while—two of them born near enough in time and space to be classified as astrological twins." (Fr. Daly in *Tribune* of 18.8.79).

"Once in a while" is certainly a big come down from Fr. Daly's dogmatically uttered previous statement—"a dozen astrological twins born in Sri Lanka within the same hour". The unsettled question now is how infrequent is "once in a while".

Even if Fr. Daly concedes that the birth of two children of different pairs of parents at the identical moment at the identical spot is a remote possibility, he would persist in arguing that such a phenomenon is none the less a possibility in Sri Lanka. Of course, we cannot deny such possibility, even though we cannot produce actual records of such an uncommon event.

The importunate querist will then pounce on us triumphantly with this query: "If such an event is admitted to be a possibility—no matter how infrequent the occurrence—how is it that not even one case of parallel careers has been reported in Sri Lanka?"

Our reply to this is that the two members of such a hard-to-find pair of persons may well be leading uneventful and unspectacular lives separate from each other, and may never be in sufficient proximity to arouse people's attention. The cases that have been reported outside Sri Lanka have come to light as a result of a chance meeting of the two members of a pair, who were then found to bear a remarkable resemblance to each other in their appearance and in their behaviour. From that time their lives were compared, and were then found to have run in parallel. Had they never met, they might never have attracted people's attention, and therefore never have been recognised as astrological twins.

The chances of such 'twins' being born are greatest in a densely populated city such as those in Europe and America. Also, it is in a large crowded city that the members of such a pair can be somewhat near each other and yet with sufficient separating-distance between them that makes it possible for the two to proceed along the 'noiseless tenor of their way' unknown to each other and unnoticed by others.

What Fr. Daly appears to maintain in his last-ditch stand is this. If there have been no reports of parallel careers in Sri Lanka, one is justified in inferring that at no time were there any such cases in this country. In other words, if some event (or situation) is not reported, one can be certain it did not occur (or arise)! How much longer have we to put up with such asinine arguments?

Like the proverbial desert flower that is 'born to blush unseen' astrological twins in Sri Lanka might have been born to pursue their separate lives in parallel—unnoticed and unrecorded. The lack of reports on this matter is no proof that there was no such occurrence. If it could have happened in some of the large crowded cities in America, it could also have happened here—but of course with far less likelihood in our less populated towns.

The venerable priests's reluctance to admit defeat, and his persistence in arguing a hopeless case, remind one of the lovable parson whom Goldsmith beautifully portrayed in his poem, *The Deserted Village*:

"In arguing too, the parson own'd his skill,
For e'en though vanquish'd, he could
argue still."

If Fr. Daly continues in the manner of that stubbornly argumentative village parson, he will sink deeper and deeper into a morass from which he cannot extricate himself. Even his staunch supporter, Mr. Seemanpillai, will not be able to help him out of his difficulties with another rhetorical outburst against us. But if at this stage the disputatious Jesuit retires gracefully, he will at least save himself from ridicule, and will spare his loyal friends further disappointment.

Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz

22, De Vos Avenue,
Colombo 4.
3rd June 1980.

Do The Heavenly Bodies Influence Human Affairs?

by Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz

Former Associate Professor of Physiology,
University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya

IT IS COMMONLY ASSERTED that astrologers are guilty of the fallacious reasoning *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* ('after this, therefore because of this'). This is how the critics would illustrate their point. If at the moment of the rising of the sun the farmyard cock lustily crows, does it necessarily follow that there is a causal connexion between sunrise and cockcrow?

The critics of astrology argue that when certain terrestrial events follow certain celestial phenomena, this is not evidence of causal nexus between the succeeding event and the preceding one. In their opinion the association of one with the other is purely fortuitous and is no proof that the heavenly bodies influence earthly affairs. However they stoutly maintain that there are some notable exceptions. They say that *sometimes* the heavenly bodies do influence earthly events. The connexion between the moon and the ocean tides, and between the sun and the synthesis of carbohydrate food material by plant cells, is held by them to be not fortuitous, but causal. It is the association between certain 'evil' planetary positions and configurations on the one hand and human misfortunes on the other that is asserted by them to be purely fortuitous. Astrological tenets, the critics say, are traditional beliefs—just like ecclesiastical dogmas—for which the support of empirical evidence is totally lacking.

Haven't these critics heard that regularity of coincidence, or of sequence, of certain natural phenomena does not necessarily signify causal connexion between them? Do we not meet with numerous instances of orderly succession in Nature where the succeeding event is the 'invariable subsequent'—but not the 'invariable consequent'—of the 'invariable antecedent'?

Consider for example the following invariable sequences—spring follows winter, night follows day, death follows life. In each of these

three instances one phenomenon (or series of phenomena) invariably follows another, but is not caused by it. Owing to this invariable succession, we are able to predict with justifiable confidence that the occurrence of the one will be followed unflinchingly by the occurrence of the other.

PREDICTIONS made by scientists are based on the well-known fact that in Nature history generally repeats itself, and on the confident expectation that what has been repeatedly observed to occur in the past will continue to do so in the future. In the world of Nature, because such and such has happened time and again in the past, we reasonably expect that—given identical preceding conditions—such and such will recur.

That is the reasoning of men of science, and that indeed is the position taken up by the astrologer. In respect of human affairs he makes his forecast in the light of previous experience—previous experience, that is to say, of the coincidences that have been repeatedly observed from time immemorial between certain striking celestial phenomena and certain noteworthy terrestrial events. Western astrologers of the present day define astrology, not as the study of the occult influence of the heavenly bodies on human affairs, but rather as the scientific study of the correlation or correspondence that has been found to exist between celestial phenomena and terrestrial events.

Planetary positions in the heavens are held to indicate, rather than cause, earthly events—to *portend*, rather than *produce* them. By no stretch of imagination can it be said that the untimely death of an infant's mother was caused by the unfavourable testimony of the infant's birth horoscope. Western astrologers would assert that the infant's irreparable loss, that was destined to occur in the form of the mother's early demise, was indicated by certain reliable pointers in the horoscopes both of the infant and of the mother, as well as by certain postnatal celestial movements in relation to the positions in the zodiac that were held by the planets, the luminaries, and the two points in the ecliptic that were (1) ascending on the eastern horizon and (2) culminating on the upper meridian, at the time and place of (a) the infant's birth, and (b) the mother's birth.

MANY UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE are what Shakespeare's Cassius called 'underlings' because the fault lies in them and not in their stars. What the stars do in this matter is that they unfailingly indicate that some people are born to be hewers of wood and drawers of water, and that others are destined to be leaders of men. In some cases of outstanding success it is traceable to certain splendid qualities of head and heart, but in other cases, where petty men have been raised to high places, their so-called success is simply their good fortune—something which is quite out of proportion to merit. A man's success or failure in life, his good fortune or misfortune, whether deserved or undeserved—which an astrologer can forecast—is not held by astrologers to be caused by the stars, but to be reliably presignified by them.

Finally, if some people appear to be unfortunate through no fault of their own—as in the case of infants who have lost their parents—where does the fault really lie, if the stars which presignify this misfortune are not to be blamed? Astrologers, both Eastern and Western have no option but to accept the ancient doctrine of *Karma* as the best explanation.

x x x

GRAMA SASTRA—19

—Scribblings On Uva Villages

Sudu Banda Story (I)

by Gamiya

SUDU BANDA'S CHENA was 18 miles away. It was 1976. He stayed in his *pela* (watch-hut) at night with his two young sons and came back every week-end, to see his infant daughter, his wife and eleven-year old girl. In fact, he cooked up any reason to come home for the week-end with some fruit, cereal, and the invariable bunch of bananas. He loved his baby daughter. Punchi Menike was reticent, but welcoming, when we (a group of three: two ladies and myself) stumbled on to this pathway, having missed the final bus to Mg.... that day and having taken a wrong turning at the road. Punchi Menike, the girl, had

cooked for the evening, just a 'little something, until mother comes back', and was caring for the infant sister. Soon she was romping about with her brother (cousin brother, she said) after having cooed and sung the baby to sleep. I recall our first chat with her:

"Is it possible for us to stay here. We have lost our way.

"I can't say yes, I can say no. Mother is not in. Can you wait?"

"We could pay a little and get some food from a nearby shop....."

"We don't need money. Besides, we won't take it from you. We have enough food. No need to go to the shop to buy rice.

(A visiting old lady addressed as 'aunt' strayed in and said: "If there is no room here, I will take you into our house. I too live with a family I know. They will surely give you some small place to bed down for the night, and some little food. It is not a big thing to help one like that)

In a few minutes, the mother came in and said she had seen us walking up and down the road, in search of some place (she had guessed) The daughter then described our situation, and the mother strangely, repeated it all:

"I can't ask you to go, can't ask you to stay. My husband is absent. He is in the chena. He came a few days ago. Might not come today, but I'll explain when he does come. Yet, I cannot say, he loves the baby so much, he might find an excuse to come again today. You never know. You stay on....."

RAN MENIKE, for that was her name, she of the golden heart, then apologized for her simple mud house and though they had some means, they spent recently on an illness, what they had put by for years. But the house was neat. Bintenne houses had homey interiors, a 'cowdung' finish for the floor, and for the walls. Neat verandah walls, and the 'dung' floor sloped slightly towards the outer door. A few trees in the garden, a cleared, sandy pathway to the *kadulla* (stile). While we were contemplating the quiet of the home and the simplicity of the gate, a smiling Ran Menike ran slowly towards the gate to greet her husband.

Ran Menike explained about us: "Oh, certainly, You did the right thing in keeping them". Come in, he said. He then narrated

a little about himself in casual conversation: "I like people. They like me. I am good to everyone and I'm trying to be good to them all the time". True enough, the pathway seemed wellworn. People had made a beaten-track to the door of wisdom of a simple man.

	1978	1979
(a) Offences against Persons	621	507
(b) Offences against Property	1,753	1,621
Total	2,374	2,128

Sudu Banda said he "slaved night and day", watching and working. He stayed up, helped by his sons, night-watching for marauding bear and elephant that took away the fruit of his labour. He worked "to educate his children and giving them a chance of choosing their own life of the future. They are free to work on the land or do some other work. My two boys stopped early from school. This is what I feel. They were too eager to join me on the chena". Soon the meal was made ready: Menike said: we will have karola malu and vattakka malu—we will have dried fish and pumpkin.".....

Next: SUDU BANDA — 2

X X X

JAFFNA

Crime And Policing

by Kingsley Wickremasuriya

A Seminar was held in Jaffna on Police-Public Relations on May 27, 1980. It was opened by Mr. P. Mahendran, D.I.G., Northern Range and was addressed among others by the District Minister, Mr. U. B. Wijekoon, M.P. and the Leader of the Opposition and the M.P. for Kankesanthurai, Mr. A. Amirthalingham. A report on the *State of Crime and Policing in the Jaffna Division* was read by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Mr. Kingsley Wickremasuriya. Below we publish the first part of the report and the concluding part will appear next week.

GRAVE CRIME: In 1979 there were 2,128 Grave Crimes whereas in 1978 there were 2,374. Categorized into offences against Persons and offences against Property there were:—

Taken the over-all picture of crime in the Division, there has been a significant drop in crime in 1979, particularly in offences against persons. Grievous hurt has dropped by 43 cases and hurt by knife by 55 cases. However, the number of murders have remained more or less the same, being around 45 for both years.

In property crimes, there has been a sharp decrease in arson and mischief. In 1978 whilst there were 198 complaints received in 1979 this has dropped to 88. Robberies have dropped from 184 to 120, thefts of property valued at Rs. 100/- from 510 to 405 and cattle and goat thefts from 44 to 33. However, whilst the number of burglaries have remained more or less the same in both years, bicycle thefts have increased slightly in 1979.

SERIOUS CRIME: Of these Grave crimes, there were 110 serious crimes in 1979 whereas in 1978, there were only 90. The increase is shown in offences against property, whilst offences against persons have remained constant statistically in both years.

The value of property stolen in the property offences in 1978 amounts nearly to 2 1/2 million rupees whilst in 1979 this is a little over to million rupees.

INVESTIGATIONS: As regards offences against persons, 95% of cases reported have been successfully solved, in both years. However, in property offences the rate of successful investigations has dropped to about 30% to 35%. This is because in a very large number of cases the offenders were unknown. With no clues to work on, the Police have not been able to solve many of these cases. Yet we have been able to recover stolen property valued close upon 6 lakhs in 1978 and a well nigh 7 lakhs of rupees worth of property in 1979.

CRIME TRENDS: Although a downward trend in crime has been observed in 1979 as compared with the statistics in 1978, statistics in 1980 for the first quarter shown an appre-

ciable increase in crime when compared with the same period in 1979. This trend could perhaps be explained in the increase in the number of complaints being received at the Police Stations in the Division. With more confidence being placed by the public now in the Police, the climate of Police-Public Relations having changed for the better more crime is being reported at Police Stations. Besides, the inflationary trends in the country have sent up the prices of goods tremendously, particularly that of gold; so much so that it has made serious inroads into our statistics soaring them up completely distorting the real picture.

On the other hand, although an increase in trend in crime has been shown in the last quarter of 1980, other significant trends too have emerged during this period. There have been several crime free days in the Division in that not a single crime had been reported at any of the 13 Police Stations in the Division on these days. Of all these crime free days, the most significant was the New Year day where there was not a single crime reported in the whole Division. Besides this, 2 days in March, one day in April and two more days in May were completely free of crime. At Jaffna Headquarter Station from 10th to 16th April, no crime was reported. Furthermore, there were 13 other days up to the end of April where the Jaffna Police Station area was free of crime. Jaffna was a station where on an average of at least 5 Grave crimes were received each day, in the past. Therefore, for Jaffna Police Station to register so many crime free days is an all-time record. It is a record for any Headquarter Station in the Island for that matter indeed.

Besides this, in April there were 13 days which could be considered as lean days for crime in the Division with not more than 3 grave crimes per day being reported for the whole Division.

Bicycle thefts was the biggest problem, particularly at the Jaffna Headquarters Station. They were reported at such frequency that in Jaffna Headquarters Station alone 5 bicycle thefts for a day being reported was a common occurrence. We have now been able to tackle this problem so effectively with good preventive action, that bicycle thefts have now become a rare occurrence in the Division and particularly at Jaffna Headquarter Station.

Of all the crimes reported in the Division during this period we had 5 rather alarming incidents, all being major serious crimes. There were 3 major robberies and 2 gruesome murders. The robber of Rs. 48,000 from Hindu College, Chavakachcheri was something that posed a big challenge to the law enforcement authorities. So were the robberies of cars at Chankanai and once again in Chavakachcheri Police Station area. We have now solved the robbery at the Hindu College and also the car robbery at Chavakachcheri. The car robbery at Chankanai is as good as having been solved with the offenders in the other 2 robberies now being in remand. The murder of Mr. I. G. Aloysius was a mystery and the offenders were at large with no clues being available to the Police as to the murderers. We have now unravelled this mystery and the alleged murderers have been caught. The murder of Miss Kamalam Ramachandran of Thampalai in Point Pedro was the other gruesome murder which shocked the public conscience in Point Pedro. Here too the alleged offenders are now before courts. These are only a few of the major achievements of the Police in their incessant battle against crime.

In the course of successful investigations conducted into these major crimes, we have been able to apprehend the major criminal gangs that have been operating in these parts and their arrests have put the organised crime into disarray. We have been able to strike confusion amidst their ranks, shatter their morale and disorganize them completely. This we have been able to do due to tremendous public co-operation we have received and the investigative ability of our own rank and file. With a sustained tempo and continued public co-operation, it would not be difficult to maintain the statusquo and prevent the criminals from fathering forces in the months to come. Thanks to the response from members of the public and the high morale of Police in the Division, we have contained organized crime effectively and have brought about a situation where the law abiding citizens can live without fear. In the past the people lived in fear of the criminals. Now these criminals live in fear of the people and the Police.

The rest of the crime is incidental. Even here, incidence of crime can be minimized

with people learning to be more careful with their belongings. Criminals are now reluctant to take unnecessary risks knowing that they are being watched all the time by the public as well as the Police. They are aware that it is difficult for them to escape having committed a crime because they will be caught either by the Police or by the public. In such an atmosphere with a little more care and education in crime prevention methods, it should be possible to narrow even this margin of incidental crimes.

PREVENTIVE ACTION: The success we have achieved particularly in Jaffna, Analcottai, Chunnakam and V.V.T. in solving major crimes has contributed in large measures in preventing organised crime. With the main criminal gangs in remand, we have now got a "breather" making it possible for us to concentrate on our preventive measures.

The assistance rendered by members of the public in the prevention and detection of crime has played a major role in our achievements. Since last August the members of the public have magnificently risen to our call for assistance and in 22 instances they have apprehended criminals on their own and also have recovered property to the value of Rs. 50,225/- out of a total of Rs. 58,000/-; this being the value of property stolen in cases detected by the members of the public. Apart from this, the Police have been able to recover property to the value of Rs. 147,529/- on information provided by members of the public. This has acted as a powerful deterrent against crime and criminals. Thus the people's power against crime has come to stay as a force to be reckoned with within this short period of nine months.

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

Official Exchange Rates of Commercial Banks to their customers for Telegraphic Transfers fixed on Tuesday this week were as follows:—

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 1600.50	Rs. 1603.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3750.45	Rs. 3756.45
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 909.65	Rs. 911.25
French Franc	Rs. 990.15	Rs. 390.85
Japanese Yen	Rs. 7.4075	Rs. 7.4225
Indian Rupees	Rs. 204.55	Rs. 204.95

A COMMENT

Power-Cuts—Why?

by R. Kahawita

Sir,

I am sending a comment on a statement issued by the Chairman C.E.B. on 3.4.80 on the current power cut. It is true today also. My contention is that we are not thinking far ahead to tackle the problem and we may have to live with it for ever. We are far too engrossed with the new metropolis, Greater Colombo Economic Plan and the Free Trade Zone and the Mahaweli—all these are very good in their own way. But there are certain basic needs to make them successes. What is the use of F.T.Z. if there is no power to operate the machines? When we accepted a F.T.Z. idea, the first thing that should have been done was to set up a 50 MW Thermal plant in the F.T.Z. to cater for the needs and charge a special tariff for power from the users. This power plant would finance itself. I had suggested this in an article in the **Tribune**. If we did this, then, today it would be in operation and at least the F.T.Z. would have its power. By and large we are far too slow to take decisions. This has been the record of the UNP all along—slow moving. I hope you will find space for this article in the **Tribune** early.

R. Kahawita

286, R. A. de Mel Mawatha,
Colombo 3.
29.5.80

THERE WAS an interesting article in the *Ceylon Daily News* of 3.4.80 by Mr. James Lanerolle, Secretary to the Minister for Power and Energy. He is also the Chairman, C.E.B. It is strange that an administrator had to explain to the power consumers why power cuts are necessary periodically. I wish our Engineers and experts gave some thought and study to a very vital national problem—particularly today, in the midst of Global power problems.

Mr. Lanerolle deals with the management aspects of supply and distribution and he

has done so very lucidly and brilliantly, However, the problem will be there unless we find a permanent solution. Before I go into the technical aspects of the problem, it may be useful to reiterate the weak points in the national power system as picked out by him. "Why there would be periodical power cuts?" Mr. Lanerolle says: "Eight five percent of power supply is from hydro-power; generating 327 KW of which Kelaniganga system accounts for 275 MW, Ukuwela (Polgolla contributes 38 M.W. Walawe and Gal Oya 14 M.W.—(Walawe and Gal Oya power supply are subordinate to irrigation requirements and their priority is to conserve the water to meet the irrigation demands). Thus the 14 MW available at these two points may not be able to meet an emergency as described by Mr. Lanerolle. Therefore, at present, Kelani Basin dominates the hydro power picture. Thermal generation is from Kelanitissa power plant located in Co'ombo with an undependable capacity around 50 MW due to age, may be able to contribute around 40 MW in an emergency.

THE TIME LAG between projection of power requirements and the development to meet that demand is anything between six to twelve years. The reasons for this lag Mr. Lanerolle has explained very clearly and the present problem will continue until such time this problem is understood and steps taken to curtail the time lag from conception to implementation. There are the partly completed power generation points at Bowatenne and Canyon dam. The former is in the Mahaweli and the latter in the Kelaniya system. Between the two they can supply 70 MW. However they have been taken off the schedule time table; they should have been in operation, Bowatenne in 1976, and Canyon in 1980. (As designed Bowatenne is capable of generating power only when Ambanganga is in spate. This could have been avoided if the capacity of the turbine were to be split in to two units so that irrigation discharges could also generate power. After further studies of the current problem, it has been decided to install a 60 MW Gas Turbine generating and orders have been placed for stage I of the Gas turbines.

Mr. Lanerolle also says that rainfall is very undependable as experienced up to now. "In the current year the recharges to the

reservoirs have been even smaller than previous years....." (At the time of writing, that is 26.5.80 the situation has worsened and longer periods of power cuts have become necessary to conserve the water in the reservoirs).....The night peak loads went up from 291 MW in January 79 to 325 MW in January 80—highest on 19.2.80 registering 332,700 MW—much beyond the capacity of the existing Hydro power system." How much of this power is used up to maintain city fountains and "sonne et lumiere" of Public buildings in an abandoned city after dark is also a pertinent question.

"Experience shows how integrally important Laxapana is in the entire power complex of the country" etc.....Mr. Lanerolle goes on to explain. "In case monsoon rains get delayed beyond the middle of April and more on to May (as it is happening today) then the country will be in deep trouble. Even in some previous years the monsoons had got delayed and in 1976 it came in August. We cannot work in hope that there will be rain." "In 1979 there was a similar situation where the levels of the reservoirs fell dangerously low."

I HAVE REPEATED OR EXTRACTED some of the points raised by Mr. Lanerolle, to explain why there should be a power cut. He has understood the problem very clearly, much more than our experts. Problems of Hydro-power generation depending solely on monsoon rains are many. I have been saying this all along. And where industrial development is geared to Hydro-power, the outcome is disastrous as now experienced in Madras. Monsoon rains are seasonal and vary very widely in timing and intensity. We cannot forecast or predict either of the two phenomena. If we have to depend on over monsoon only and gear our industrial development to that source of energy only, nothing can take off. Nevertheless, this is what we have been doing and we are going to do with emphasis on Mahaweli for Power generation.

HYDRO - POWER GENERATION in the wet zone rivers and dry zone rivers has two basic requirements. To state these in general terms: In the West Zone the basic principle is *Low storage and high head*. In the dry zone *high storage and low heads*. The latter is more expensive compared to the former. Also

less reliable than the former. So on these principles, the prudent thing to do is to develop the wet zone rivers for hydro-power, big or small and the dry zone rivers for stand by power with emphasis on irrigation. We have reversed this to push through Mahaweli—from a power production point of view Kotmale is better than Victoria. To use Victoria mainly for power is expensive and requires high storage as now being planned. Any way these two projects will not come into the National grid in time to meet the power requirements growth. The alternative is thermal generation.

As explained by me in an earlier article, power from monsoon rains has to be supplemented by thermal generation to keep the wheels of industry moving. A factory cannot be shut down on and off but a household can, without serious consequences. This is a common problem in Bombay, Madras and Mysore. These industrial centres are in a single monsoon region, so they also have the same problem.

Here in Sri Lanka we are fortunate—the western water sheds receive both the monsoons, so the river flow is more regular compared to the single monsoon regions. This is a natural feature we must exploit to the maximum. If this is accepted, then Canyon dam Samanawewa and the other hydro-generation points in the Kelaniya system should be given priority and exploited to the maximum. The advantage in this system is that storage at one point can be reused lower down the system. The terrain and the drops in the river beds lend themselves admirably for reuse, before entering the flat plains. In such a system, the development in the upper reaches should be low storage and high heads gradually getting down to high storage and low heads according to the site condition.

IN THIS REGION compensatory storage required to take care of dry spells is small. Even if there were no rainfall, there is a sizeable residual flow in most of the wet zone streams as observed by Mr. Lanerolle. Quite often in such situations high heads with low storage may be available. This is an area of investigations and studies yet to be made. The importance of medium size hydro-stations in series,

we have lost sight of in our eagerness to undertake billion dollar schemes. However this will be the class that will come to meet the power gap. Laxapana belong to this class, though old, it can still hold its own, and if we continued to develop this system we might not have experienced the present situation.

When Mahaweli and the adjoining regions are fully settled, primary consideration in water management will be irrigation. There may be a situation where power generation may have to be suspended altogether to conserve the water for irrigation. This happens quite often at Gal Oya and Uda-Walawe, as confirmed by Mr. Lanerolle.

So while we are embarking on massive projects under Mahaweli, power potential and reuse potentials should be investigated and studied in the Wet zone river systems. Except for Kelaniya, a study of this nature was never undertaken in the past. With the Free Trade Zone, Greater Colombo Economic Plan and the impetus given to industrial development, a separate power development plan outside the Mahaweli should be formulated and studies started. This is all the more important today because in the very near future, Fuel oil burning generation may be prohibitive particularly to supply power to medium size industrial units to render when viable. Let Mahaweli Development be the programme today and if our wishes are fulfilled as planned then by 1984 we will have to look for other sources of power as Mahaweli water will have to be conserved to save the economic life of about half a million people depending on a million acres of two crops a year, the solution to the problem is more storage in the Mahaweli system.



NGUYU—I

Unfinished Saga

by Bwana Rafiki

THIS IS AN UNFINISHED SAGA in another time and setting. It has also to do with a shamba. In April in 1961, the author got the surprise of his life when he saw some Friesian cows, big, healthy ones, suddenly materialize in a field near Beni in the Congo which is now

called Zaire, in Kivu Province to be precise. To find that shamba the cows came from he suffered imprisonment and time in a mental hospital, and he is still looking for that shamba. This tale, we hope, will be a continuation of his attempt to find it. The cows were in charge of a boy who knew neither French nor Swahili, a big active lad, who about an hour later in Beni town itself held out his hand to the author for a handshake, gesticulating and talking briefly in his unknown *patois* to indicate who he was, and then promptly disappearing when the author's back was turned. The only clue to the shamba is the torn part of a receipt which the author still has. He is now in Ceylon trying to unshackle himself of the responsibilities which he has acquired to be free to pursue his venture.

Nguvu is the Swahili word for strength. Here it is being used more in the sense of the Sinhalese word *punna*, which means life rather than strength, the life that is found in a human being, the strength that constitutes life. *Rafiki* means friends and *Bwans* can mean either Sir or Mr. The Swahili language book, which this author has, was bought by him in a shop in Tabora, the Tanzanian town where the explorer and journalist, Stanley, said to a missionary, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume!", when he found him. They stayed together a little time, and then Stanley left and Dr. Livingstone was not seen again by white men until his dead body arrived at the Indian Ocean after being carried all the way by two faithful Black Africans, his servants. The Swahili book was lent by this writer to a friend, who after breaking up the shamba he then lived on, a few years later took his life on his second attempt in two days. The book was returned to the owner by the man's father. It was a shock to this writer that the man had died in this way in a park not far from the house where the writer lives when in Colombo, and where he was at the time of the suicide.

THE NEWSPAPERS yesterday carried the news that Dr. Milton Obote was back in Uganda. The author of this article was in Uganda when the election campaign was on which carried Dr. Obote's opponents, I believe the Uganda National Party, with Kuwanuka at its head, whose brother was a bishop, to power in Uganda's first govern-

ment. The Europeans feared Dr. Obote's Ugandan National Congress, which in time supplemented the other party. Earlier on Dr. Julius Nyerere's party won every seat in the Tanzanian National Assembly, and Nyerere was much loved by the colonial power. I remember Mr. Kawalya-Kagwa telling me that Dr. Nyerere was a dictator, and Nyerere went on to declare Tanzania a one-party state. Kawalya-Kagwa was an old Trinitian and my mother remembers both him and his brother at the time they were in school in Kandy. He became Buganda's Prime Minister. A relative of mine was in London when Dr. Obote, then in China, was overthrown by Idi Amin, and he remembers how a right-wing Sunday newspaper rejoiced about this. Amin had an Englishman at his elbow right through his reign and Amin has quite conveniently disappeared. Obote, the newspapers said yesterday, has offered to eschew Socialism. Thank heavens.

When my father left Ceylon, I believe he just handed his estates to a company who looked after them until his return. This is not so easy now. I cannot but regard an estate as a place where first of all people live. When there are cattle, it becomes very complicated. Where there are teak trees it becomes even more so. Exploitation and good husbandry are two very different things. The one conserves, the other just regards a place as a means of income. If you build up a place, your income is assured, your income is bound up with your place, and you have a living. I am writing about matters that cannot be defined in precise terms. It is like writing a book about an idea, and even then the subject is not exhausted. I am the owner of an estate. I can only write this because I know that while I am sitting here doing this, the cattle are being looked after, the cows will be milked at the right time, and the milk taken to the Milk Board Collecting Centre; the grass for the cattle cut, and that those that are ill or have sores will be treated; and also that the coconuts are not being robbed. We recently had four hundred coconuts stolen off the trees on a day when I was not on the estate. Then there is the money that has to be paid to the people here, and other expenditure. These I attend to myself.

IT WOULD SEEM that I spoke too soon about the cattle. I wrote my stint yesterday morning and then went round the cattle-sheds. Neither of the hulls or pens where the calves are kept at night had been cleaned. In the one with the cement floor, water had been thrown down but the floor had not been scrubbed. I spoke to one of the cattlemen about this and imagine my surprise when going round again in the evening after the calves had been put in their pens, I found that they were as dirty as I had seen them last. I climbed in and asked for an ekel broom, and I asked someone else for water and scrubbed the floor myself. It was not easy with the calves inside. One of the milkmen cleaned the other pen. The milking cows were running about as they were loose while they were being given their poonac, instead of being tethered first and then fed. In the end there was uncertainty as to whether they had all had their poonac, although one of the men was sure they had. Finally, when they had all been tied up and given their cut grass, I noticed that much of the grass was being wasted by the grass being put down on what was not clean ground, as cows are fussy. So today I gave instructions that the dung round each tree was to be put in a single heap at each tree.

This, I discovered in the evening had not been done. It is a task which will take a little time as there is an accumulation of cow-dung half way round each tree and there are quite a number of trees to be done. My expenditure for last month has been over Rs. 8,000/-, which at that rate would make nearly a lakh in a year, an enormous amount for a small estate. So I broke it down. We pay over Rs. 500 a week in advance alone, and the balance wages for the previous month came to around Rs. 1,750/-. Over Rs. 500/- a week was spent on cattle food, I found in the end, after breaking the figures up, that there was not really much money spent on things on which expenditure could have been controlled. By European standards, of course, the figures I have given amount to very little, and yet the value of our currency, *visa-a-vis* foreign currency, is deteriorating. Still, I am against any controls. It can only make matters worse. We must be more subtle in our approach. There is quite a flurry of activity in the evening when

the cattle are tied up. There are quite a number of head of them. If I were to sell them off, most would go to the butcher.

* * *

REPORTAGE

Afghan Professor

INTERVIEW WITH DR. MAJAWER AHMED ZYAR, PROF. OF LINGUISTICS OF KABUL UNIVERSITY, HEAD OF AFGHANISTAN'S DELEGATION TO COLOMBO AAPSO CONFERENCE TO COMMEMORATE SILVER JUBILEE OF HISTORIC BANDUNG CONFERENCE

—By *Tribune Correspondent.*

Question: Prof. How do you assess the significance of Bandung?

Answer: The Bandung Conference proved to the world that the poor and enfeebled nations who recently achieved their independence are also able to play their decisive role in the arena of international politics in conjunction with the progressive and peace loving communities of the world. The imperialist powers which found themselves on the verge of total decadence, frantically endeavoured to seize the newly independent nations in their clutches by proposing to them economic aid and on this pretext they expected to prolong their exploitation.....in the 50's, those who considered themselves monarchs of lands and oceans, considered Bandung to be awfully ominous to them.

Question: And since then, the achievements?

Answer: The Afro-Asian Nations were bound to complete its evolutionary phases, whereas the subsequent evolutionary stage was the creation of the nucleus of the first gathering of all these nations which repudiated the military blocs and declared their bi-lateral military treaties null and void.....this anti-imperialist nucleus was founded in Belgrade this nucleus dealt a heavy political blow to in 1961, as you are aware. The creation of aggressive military pacts such as NATO, CENTO, SEATO, ANZUS and others. This nucleus was created at a time when the Uni-

ted States maintained its military force in more than 42 countries of the world. Divided Korea had recently been disengaged from the destructive war of 1950, the body of Imperialism was torn and revolutionary Cuba shouted the slogan of freedom and liberation only a few kilometers away from the territory of the United States, the world had been turned into a field of imperialist aggression and onslaught. On the basis of the well-known thesis, every political phenomenon produces its opposition. So the Non-aligned Movement emerged due to this very notion which has, of course, a natural reaction in the face of the prevalent situation of the time. The enemies of this movement from its very inception came out against it and tried to intercept its development because they know its importance and creativity, and they applied various intrigues and hatched varied plots and they still continue to do so, but their toils and efforts have hitherto been frustrated. If we cast a glance in the history of this movement we come to know that the intrigues and conspiracies of imperialism had been launched shortly after the very end of the Conference of Belgrade.

Question: Could you briefly describe some of the socio-economic measures adopted by the Afghan Government?

Answer: The new government in Afghanistan, under the leadership of the Democratic Party of Afghanistan, has begun wide-ranging socio-economic programme for the betterment of the Afghan people. First, it must be stressed that all prisoners have been released. While the government is going ahead earnestly with the task of reconstruction, Pakistan, with the collaboration of the US and China, are training rebels in Peshawar, Pakistan, and they are being used against this new stage of the April Revolution. We are today faced with an undeclared war and at the same time dealing with subversive activities, sabotage, terrorism and military threats and provocations. Our sole guilt is that we, in a national uprising toppled the remnant of the feudal system in Afghanistan. If the wiping out of despotism and feudalism as well as CIA agents is a crime, then, we take pride in such a crime.

Question: You too were imprisoned during the previous regime?

Answer: Yes, I was in prison during the time of the Amin regime—I was in jail for eleven months, from February to December, last year, until December 27th.....this was the date of the victory of the Afghan nation, against the agent of US imperialism, Hafizullah Amin. As to the conditions..... they were terribly repressive. I wasn't even given pen or paper. I managed to jot down a few poems, on cigarette paper and toilet paper.....I have got them now in the form of a collection of poems—They are poems about the repressive, fascist Amin regime, titled "Prisoners songs"—I hope I could get them translated into English someday....

Question: Earlier you referred to the "undeclared war" against Afghanistan and subversive activities.....would you clarify?

Answer: The imperialist agents mercilessly assassinate our intelligentsia, teachers, engineers, professors and even children and infants. Local reactionaries are being trained, some of them in Pakistani camps, with the training provided by Pakistan, Egypt, Israel, China, under the leadership of the USA through the CIA—They make frequent scurries across the Afghan border, loot, rape, plunder and kill.....There was also a fascist band of Amin's, they still continue to live among the people.....But you see, they are not in jail, they are free and they are carrying out underground activity against the Revolution.....Despite these barbarous acts by the enemy, the broad masses of our country have firmly stood behind our revolution and valiantly defended its gains. The landless and small-holding farmers in our country, which constitute the majority of the population are well arrayed in the farmer's organizations and co-operatives and cultivate the arable lands which they have got recently from the popular government.

Question: There is an AAPSO proposal to send a delegation of mediation to Islamabad and Kabul—Would you comment?

Answer: Our Foreign Minister participated at the recent Islamic Conference and he showed and enlightened the participants about the REAL Afghan situation, about imperialist and American acts of aggression, along with Pakistan and China, against our Revolution..... ANY MOVE which is designed to accelerate the socio-economic progress of my people, is most certainly appreciated.

by Rambler

Carter Mania-2

—Cuban Refugees—

President Carter has endeavoured to show that human rights exist only in capitalist society and that socialism was slavery—for the individual. Neither he nor Brzezinski believe in the policy of letting each country exist and develop in the way history has ordained. They encouraged dissidents to revolt in the USSR and in every country they didn't like. They utilised the detente and the relaxation in diplomatic and travel facilities in a country like Cuba to stir up a new wave of dissidence. Reactionary governments like those in Peru and Venezuela used their diplomatic missions in Havana to promise a haven to Cuban dissidents in "free countries."

Castro, instead of reacting in the way Carter and Brzezinski had expected (that is, by starting a repressive wave against dissidents) had asked all those who wanted to quit Cuba to do so. He was willing to do a little blood-letting of lumpen elements to purify the social structure of socialist Cuba. Some of the relations and friends of Cuban "refugees" who had been given asylum in the USA from 1960 onwards (after the Revolution) had been prompted to invite a few of those in Cuba to come over—to denigrate the image of Fidel Castro in the Non-aligned Movement and Third World.

But this has turned out to be a mighty boomerang. Cuba is rid of people who did not accept the changes the Revolution had brought. At every major change in any country there are such people who want to escape—to what seems greater pastures elsewhere. And the USA is now settled with a 100,000 or more additional "refugees"

Daily papers in Sri Lanka have published lengthy and gruesome reports about these Cuban refugees to suggest that Fidel Castro's Cuba was a horrible country where people wanted to escape to the haven presided over by Carter and Brzezinski. The USA probably wanted only a few hundred, maybe a thousand or two, of such refugees for propagandist

purposes. But the flood tide from Cuba wanting the easy pickings of the riches of the US has caused consternation in Washington. Peru and Venezuela have also been hoist on their own petard—they had only wanted a few of the refugees to keep the anti-Cuba pot boiling.

This article is an attempt to reconstruct one important aspect of the current Cuban refugee problem, (previously there were similar ones in 1960, 1961 and 1965), from AFP reports from Washington and the comments of the *Granma* (the Cuban Communist Party paper).

AN AFP REPORT from Washington dated April 24 had stated: "A State Department spokesman said here today that the illegal flow of Cuban refugees to the United States was prompted by the Cuban Government's unilateral action seeking to distract attention from its domestic problems. Tom Reston, the spokesman in question, left open the possibility of organising an airlift to put an end to the crisis of thousands of Cubans who are taking their chances putting to sea in all kinds of craft, headed for the United States. But the spokesman made clear that such a possibility was subject to prior consultations involving the US government, the other countries concerned in the problem—including Cuba—and various international agencies. Reston said it would be best if the Cuban Government were to allow the international community to handle this problem in a rational and orderly manner..... The Cuban daily *Granma* denied this spokesman's statement of a day earlier, charging the Cuban Government, with having violated its own commitments on announcing it would allow the refugees in the Peruvian embassy in Havana to leave for the countries willing to admit them. Asked about this denial, Reston said that on the basis of what the Cuban authorities have said publicly and privately, the US understood that the authorities had said they were willing to co-operate in arranging for a rational evacuation of the refugees. 'This problem originated in Cuba, is a Cuban problem and stems from the country's domestic problems.' Reston said, Well-informed sources said that the Cuban Government's decision to authorize people to leave the country by means of the

illegal Cuba-Florida seelift prompted the 'boat people' crisis, a highly embarrassing one for the Carter administration. In effect, the US government is in a position of being forced to open its doors to a new invasion of Cuban exiles whose number has swollen to nearly a million in the United States, or else strictly apply the laws barring illegal entries.....
...President Carter's spokesman, Jody Powell, reiterated in the White House that this was a constantly changing situation that involved not only the fate of the 10,000 Cubans that sought refuge in the Peruvian embassy but also that of tens of thousands of others ready to take to the sea in their bid to travel to the United States. Faced with a similar crisis in 1965, the United States then set up an airlift that brought 250,000 Cubans into the country. The State Department left open here today the possibility of an airlift as a means of putting a stop to the illegal flow of Cuban refugees. The crisis, it was said, stemmed from the Cuban Government's unilateral action to draw attention away from its own domestic problems. State Department spokesman Tom Reston said that the feasibility of setting up an airlift called for prior discussions. It would be best, he added, if the Cuban Government would let the international community tackle this problem in a rational and orderly fashion."

THE *Granma* on April 25, commented: "The United States is again barefacedly lying in saying that the Mariell-Florida seelift is Cuba's unilateral action. It was simply an intelligent response on the part of Cubans residing in the United States to counter that country's hypocritical policy. Why do they admit people who go by force, hijacking Cuban vessels and holding their crews as hostages, and yet refuse to receive those who go about it peacefully? One real domestic problem that Cuba indeed has is how to event the people from finishing off the lumpen elements involved. Cuba has simply confined itself to withdrawing its custody over the Florida peninsula. The much-touted airlift as an alleged solution has come a little too late to solve the problem. The US government is exclusively to blame for the disorders it is currently compaining about. Over here in Cuba everything is transpiring in an orderly manner."

THEN ON APRIL 26, AFP reported from

Washington that: "The United States will modify its traditional policy of indiscriminate admission of Cuban refugees which has been in effect for 21 years now and is ready to stop the wildcat shuttle of boats to the shores of Florida, said a top State Department official here today. The United States urged the international community to respond to the suffering created by the ruthless actions of the Cuban government, the official said, speaking off the record. It seems President Fidel Castro thinks he can dictate the immigration and admission policy of refugees into the United States and that we will accept whom he deems fit to send to our country, was his comment.....Stressing that the United States cannot tolerate the violation of its laws by a foreign government, the official warned 'we trust that the Cuban Government will quickly understand that an orderly process, which does not threaten the lives of the refugees, is in the interest of all.' He said that it was not a question of returning them but rather of strengthening a long-term policy which will bring order and halt the illegal flow. The official said the authorities will carefully review those who entered because there may be Castro agents or people who do not need political asylum among them. He called for understanding and co-operation from the Cuban community in Miami which, by encouraging the wildcat shuttle, can be playing into the hands of Fidel Castro and falling into a dangerous trap violating our laws.' He said refugees would be subject to case by case inspection and admission would depend on their meeting the standards set by the law. To this end, their relations with the Cuban Government, job situation in Cuba and whether or not they have relatives in the United States would be taken into account. The official said the situation had become even more serious due to adverse weather conditions in the area between Mariell and the Florida shore. He declared that the US Coast Guard and Navy had been alerted to aid any boats in trouble. He stressed that this was due to Cuba's having broken the agreements reached with Peru and Costa Rica to evacuate by means of an airlift the 10,000 refugees who had crowded into the Peruvian embassy in Havana. The shuttle is leading to big business for boat

owners, and the government says it will rigorously enforce the announced fines of 1000 dollars per refugee. It was also said that stricter measures were to be taken and would be implemented first and foremost against the worst violators of the law, added the official, plus that in the next few days boats would be confiscated and severe legal action taken against owners and masters. Meanwhile, the government has initiated an offensive to get the co-operation of Cubans in Miami in the operation to halt the shuttle. The smaller boats were having a hard time due to gales in the Florida Straits. It was reported that leaders of the Cuban US community were received in the State Department and White House with the objective of having them fall in line with the government's stand."

ON APRIL 27, *Granma* had commented: "The Yankees are once again lying shamelessly when they talk about an alleged agreement between Cuba, Peru and Costa Rica. They are vulgar liars and moreover, hardened offenders, like many of the lumpen elements they will be taking in, Cuba never reached any agreement with the governments of Peru and Costa Rica. Those governments can say whether or not this is so. The idea of a re-distribution center in Costa Rica was 100 per cent Yankee. Like Pinochet, they wanted a selection. But this was foiled by our country's firm stand. Cuba never took the Yankee hook with Costa Rica bait. They still have hopes of being able to pick and choose but, they will have to swallow the sword whole, like good circus performers. How are they going to select among the 'dissidents'? That is just not fair. It is a violation of 'human rights'. They also speak of asylum for those with political problems. None of these lumpen elements has ever had political problems. Their problems are of a social nature. Now they have invented new terms nobody understands; 'wildcat shuttle' to refer to the peaceful and orderly trips from Mariel to Florida organised by Cuban residents in the United States. If anything, as Nuez says, its a scum shuttle. These are Goebbels type tricks on the part of the imperialists. What has been really something has been the humiliation inflicted by Cuban residents in the United States on the imperialists and their hypocritical

policy by ignoring their dire warnings. Those who seize a boat by force of arms or leave in rafts were called heroes, while those who travel in tourist yachts are now referred to as wildcats. Those who went by force were honored. Those going peacefully are now threatened with reprisals. And now they claim the United States is practically poorer and more underdeveloped than Peru. The United States has not fulfilled Carter's solemn public promise to take in the counter-revolutionary prisoners we pardoned and their families and the thousands of former prisoners of this type whose departure we authorized, along with their family. The United States is largely responsible for these people, since it used them in its plans against Cuba. Now it leaves them holding the bag. We even know these people want to organise demonstrations in front of the US interests Section in Havana. The United States encouraged illegal departures with the hijacking of boats and holding of hostages, and we repeatedly warned of the inevitable consequences of such a policy. Now, we won't help them solve the problem; their threats will be to no avail....

ON THE NEXT DAY, April 27, AFP from Washington reported, "According to well-informed sources, Cuban President Fidel Castro has succeeded in causing alarm in Carter's government and creating an unprecedented confrontation with the Cuban-US community by opening the doors to a massive wildcat shuttle to the United States. Everything seems to indicate that President Castro is thus out for a three-fold objective; to erase the impact made three weeks ago by some 11,000 Cubans who sought refuge in the Peruvian embassy in Havana; to carry out a "peaceful purge" of dissidents by encouraging them to "take to sea"; and to turn the issue into a bilateral crisis with the United States. The US alarm over the illegal flow of refugees became evident yesterday when a top US State Department official announced that his government would tighten immigration laws, for the first time in 21 years warning Cubans arriving in the United States illegally that they are liable to be deported. The radical change in the traditional policy of granting asylum indiscriminately to Cuban dissidents brought about an immediate irate response from the leaders of the Cuban.

US community. A meeting held on Saturday between Under Secretary of State Warren Christopher and some of the community leaders ended in violent discussion. Half of the leaders attending the meeting got up and walked out on the No. 2 man in US diplomacy and marched down the State Department halls shouting "We're not the police!" Christopher who had already informed several reporters as to the purpose of the meeting, had asked the Cuban exile to co-operate in putting an end to the wildcat shuttle between the port of Mariel and Florida coast. The meeting that was to be held later in the White House between Vice-President Walter Mondale and community leaders was called off and replaced by what amounted to a crisis committee composed of Mondale, 'Christopher and Minister of Justice (attorney general) Benjamin Civiletti. Today it was made known that Victor Palmeiri, State Department co-ordinator for refugee affairs, had left for Miami to try to re-establish the dialogue with the Cuban community. Top governmental circles openly admit that without the community's co-operation it will be practically impossible to stop the wildcat shuttle. Internal policy reasons, which include voters' pressure and questions of popular feelings and international prestige, prevent the United States from 'ending back to sea' or deporting to Cuba the thousands of refugees leaving for the United States on all kinds of craft. The crisis took on an even more dramatic aspect when it was learned that two of those vessels, with hundreds of persons aboard, were sinking as a result of the storm hitting the Florida Straits. The wildcat shuttle, encouraged and financed by the Cuban-US community to such an extent that the top US State Department official warned on Saturday that 'it was playing into Castro's hands' threatens to blow into thin air the United States' willingness to face the problem with the co-operation of the other Latin American countries."

ON THIS *Granma* had promptly commented on April 28 as follows: "The above dispatch reflects the bewilderment and confusion that reign in the US Government. In spite of the poison, it recognized the embarrassment and the political showdown for imperialism. Actually, the only response to the acts of provocation

in the Peruvian embassy was to withdraw the sentries. The response to the lumpen elements and their alliance with imperialism, however, was the March of the Fighting People, which turned out to be the most militant and impressive demonstration of our people in these 21 years of Revolution. From an ideological standpoint, our enemies both in and outside Cuba, were crushed. And our response to the US military threats and the United States instigating criminals and illegal departures from our country was our Mariel policy and the mobilization of our people on a nationwide scale. The hurricane's backlash hit what, inevitably, it was bound to hit; the United States. The Yankees had bought every single ticket in this lottery. They'd been doing it for 21 years, beginning with La Coubre, and following with the Escambray, Giron, sabotage, subversion, the plans to assassinate Cuban leaders, CIA espionage, Barbados, the assassination of Cuban diplomatic representatives, the bombs in the UN Cuban mission in New York and in the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, the SR-71 spy flights, the provocation and threat entailed in the military manoeuvres announced for May, the naval base in Guantanamo, the economic blockade and the countless criminal acts against our country. Of course they had to win! Cuba's position is unquestionable: unrestricted freedom of emigration. It is logical that anti-social elements should want to go to the United States. That's where the encouragement and the awards have always come from for those who did anything against Cuba. All those who passed themselves off as enemies of the revolution and socialism, whether or not they were real counter-revolutionaries; were always welcomed by the United States. There, lumpen elements were cloaked as 'dissidents'. None of them want to emigrate to Haiti, Costa Rica or Peru. They don't want to go to an underdeveloped country. They all want to settle in the United States, a rich country, the exploiters of the world's underdeveloped peoples. The United States always wanted to rob the best brains of our people. Let them take the lumpen elements too! He who sows shall reap."

ON APRIL 27, the *AFP* had reported that: "US vice-President Walter Mondale charged Cuban President Fidel Castro here today with

displaying cynical efforts to play with the feelings of the Cuba-US community that is helping the refugees come to Florida. In a White House communique published today, Mondale proposed that Cuba release the prisoners being held in Santiago de Cuba's Boniato Jail. Once this is done, he said, we will have the planes ready to take them to freedom. In the communique apparently addressed to both the Cuban authorities and the Cuban-US community in the United States (very much upset at the moment due to the immigration restrictions), Mondale charged Castro with having broken with the assurances he gave for the evacuation of refugees from the Peruvian embassy in Havana. The world will hold Castro responsible for the fate of the Cubans illegally shipped to Florida, said Mondale. He added that President Carter had ordered the Navy and Coast Guard in the region to render all necessary assistance to whoever might need it. "A top State Department official said that Washington's decision was that illegal refugees could be deported or arrested by the Coast Guard, and that a revision of immigration laws had been ordered. This is the first time in 21 years that the US executive has modified its policy regarding Cuban refugees. The White House has so far received them with open arms and pampered them. But to follow through this policy, the US administration needs the co-operation of Cubans residing in the United States, whose representatives on Saturday slammed the doors on the talks with top State Department officials."

REGARDING MONDALE'S STATEMENT, *Granma* stated: "Mondale favours sending planes to Cuba to pick up a group of counter-revolutionary prisoners, of the few still left here. But it so happens that roaming our streets are thousands of pardoned prisoners of this category they haven't picked up yet, in spite of US promises to do so, plus many thousands of others who did time for having served the United States Government against Cuba. What's keeping the US from picking them up? But it seems to us that something still more humane and fair could be done: now in Baracoa, there are hundreds of Haitians shipwrecked on our shores while trying to emigrate to the United States. Will Mondale kindly send planes for them as quickly as possible? Or would he rather have us send them over via Mariel?"

This is how the Cuban refugee crisis looks when one reads the despatches of the *AFP* and the comments of *Granma*.

Carter wanted to teach Cuba and Castro a lesson by making a hue and cry about refugees, but who has had the last laugh?



PUBLIC SERVICE—2

New Blood

by Outsider

ANOTHER MINISTRY OF IMPORTANCE is the Agricultural Development and Research, which has the following Units under it:—

- (a) Department of Agriculture (except Animal Production and Health Division);
- (b) Department of Minor Export Crops;
- (c) Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation; (d) Sri Lanka Fertilizer Corporation; (e) Agrarian Research and Training Institute; (f) National Freedom from Hunger Campaign Board; (g) Land Reforms Commission; (h) Paddy Marketing Board; (i) Fruit Board; (j) Agricultural Development Authority; (k) Janawasa Commission; (l) Agrarian Services; (m) Agriculture Insurance Board (n) National Agricultural Diversification and Settlement Authority.

It will be observed that agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and a vast field of unmanageable development activities have taken place. The development of agriculture depends on the vagaries of weather. Further, various inputs such as fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides, tractors and tillers and other agricultural implements have escalated in price due to the petroleum price hike. In spite of all these obstacles, institutional arrangements in supplying the necessary inputs have been made by this Ministry.

The implementation of the Agrarian Services Act has already begun. The fertiliser subsidy scheme had to be amended, especially in respect of urea in order to implement the government policy of substituting urea for ammonium sulphate. The fertiliser factory is expected to go into production of urea very soon. The District Fertiliser Stores

(Maho Ware housing complex) has been completed. Action has been taken to establish tractor units by the private sector in order to provide tillage and other facilities to the farmers. Private organisations have been permitted to operate tractor units. The Paddy Marketing Board has changed the specifications for the quality of rice mills so that there is an immediate improvement in the quality of rice produced.

Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation is going ahead with a vast expansion programme, although the recent cyclone had caused widespread damage to the sugar cane plantations, both at Hingurana and Kantalai. Small holders are being encouraged to start work in cultivations. An Agricultural Insurance Board has been set up. The minor export crops continue to make a very big impact on our foreign exchange earnings. The Land Reform Commission is examining the possibility of granting redress to persons who have suffered injustice and hardships in the implementation of Land Reform Law.

As indicated earlier this is a very difficult Ministry to manage in the context of accelerated development. The Secretary of this Ministry is **Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne** who left his lucrative job in the Private Sector as the Director of a number of Estate Agencies and a very senior Superintendent and took up this arduous task as a Development Secretary of this Ministry. His achievements are well known as has been indicated in the performance of this Sector.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY is the Ministry of Fisheries. Though a separate Ministry was created for the development of the Fisheries Sector, not much development took place during the recent past. The Ministry of Fisheries which was recently re-organised comprises of the following Divisions:

(a) Administration including Finance; (b) Programming & Planning including Statistics; (c) Development (Implementation); (d) Inland Fisheries; (e) Extension and Regulation; (ff) Research; (g) Institute of Fish Technology (h) Welfare; (i) Publicity and Propaganda; (j) Education and Training; (k) Coast Conservation; (l) Ceylon Fisheries Corporation; (m) Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation. The main functions of the Ministry consist of:—

In our issue of May 10, 1980 (Vol. 24 No. 43) we published an article entitled **BUREAUCRACY RE-EXAMINED**. The author used the nome-de-plume XYZ because he was "a public servant of long standing" and could not reveal his identity at this juncture. In that article, the writer has disapproved the recruitment for the post of Secretaries and for other high appointments from outside the public service and had given a number of reasons as to why such appointments tended to denigrate the entire administrative system. This week we publish the second of a two-part rejoinder by one who also chooses to be anonymous and calls himself **Outsider**. He makes a spirited plea for infusion of new blood from outside the Public Service. He refers to three Secretaries from outside the Public Service who are, according to him, doing a good job of work—viz., the Secretary to the Ministry of Plan Implementation, Dr. Wickreme Weerasooriya, Mr. Ranjan Wijeyeratne, Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Research and Development and Mr. Anura Weeraratne, Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries—and says that they are discharging their functions efficiently and with acceptance.

Whilst **Tribune** will agree that Dr. Wickreme Weerasooriya and Mr. Anura Weeraratne are doing an excellent job in their respective fields—subject to whatever criticisms we may have made in the past—we cannot say the same for Mr. Ranjan Wijeyeratne whose administrative strategy has reduced the Agricultural Sector to be the Achilles Heel of this government. Moreover, whilst Dr. Weerasooriya and Mr. Anura Weeraratne are willing to enter into a dialogue with critics, Mr. Ranjan Wijeyeratne seems to regard critics as enemies of the State who must be either wiped out if possible or ignored the same way the ostrich hides from any danger. **Outsider** should read the Performance Reports issued by the Ministry of Plan Implementation for 1979 and for the first quarter of 1980, together with the Report of the Central Bank for 1979, to know what a mess our agriculture is in today. The references to Mr. Ranjan Wijeyeratne appear in the concluding part that in our this week's issue—Editor.

(a) Administration of the Fisheries Ordinance and related Ordinances; (b) Provision of Welfare Services to fishermen; (i) Payment of Accident Compensation; (ii) initiating rescue operations for those lost at sea; (iii) Assistance during the off season; (iv) Construction of fisheries roads to assist marketing; (v) Subsidy for the construction of type plan houses; (vi) Alienation of crown or acquired private land for settlement; (vii) Provision of coastal navigational aids, such as beacon lights; (viii) Provision of fishing anchorages and dredging of lagoons; (ix) Establishment of Co-ordination Schemes especially for migrant fishermen;

(c) Training of fishermen and extension work (Establishment of Fishery Training Centres); (d) Development of Inland and Brackish water fisheries; (e) Assistance in the way of issue of loans, issue of mechanised boats, in-board and outboard engines and fishing gear; (f) Provision of Credit facilities to fishermen to obtain fishing requirements; (g) Fisheries Research, Coastal Survey and Experimental fishing; (h) Participation in fisheries exhibitions; (i) Preparation of District Fisheries Development plans

ORGANISATION FOR THIS PURPOSE is very extensive in that the Field Staff are located in the coastal areas and in the important fishing centres. The District Fisheries Extension Officers of Staff rank and Fisheries Inspectors are available for this purpose. The total production of fish has increased to about 168,000-tons. This was possible due to the number of mechanised fishing vessels and the free availability of fishing gear and engines. A streamline scheme for the issue of fishing boats was implemented with the introduction of the self employment credit scheme under which the mechanisation subsidy is paid in conjunction with the bank Credit. The Government also decided to transfer the ownership of boats issued to the Fisheries Co-operative Societies. As a result there was improvement in the maintenance of the fishing craft apart from higher production of fish. The Fisheries Ordinance is being amended to bring in line the requirements of modern fisheries. The Foreign Fishing Boat Act came into force this year.

The Welfare Programme for the fishermen mainly comprises of building houses, construction of wells and latrines and roads, Insurance Scheme to cover the lives as well as the

fishing vessels during all seasons have been finalised. The People's Bank has established a total of 14 Fisheries Banks. A separate Division has been created for the development of inland fisheries. A number of ponds and tanks are being constructed for the purpose of the development of inland water fisheries. In the Private Sector there are a number of ice plants, FRP boatyards, wooden boatyards, fish meal plants and fish net factories have been approved by the Ministry. Further there have been a number of foreign investments in the same field. Inadequacy in the supply of ice was felt and a number of ice plants have also been established in the Public Sector. Further a large investment has been made in the construction of fishery harbours. The Fisheries Corporation itself has procured a number of refrigerated trucks. The Harbour Corporation has imported dredgers and equipment required for the maintenance of the harbours and anchorages.

A MASTER PLAN for the development of fisheries during the period 1979-83 was published and implemented has already started. The Coast Conservation Division itself has started construction of protective structures against sea erosion in Trincomalee and Matara. Thus, the record of performance in the Fisheries Ministry more than justifies the choice of persons of high calibre to head the Fisheries Institute.

The choice of **Mr. Anura Weeraratne** as Secretary of an important Development Ministry which is of a multi disciplinary nature is another unique event in the history of our economic development. A choice outside the Public Service. He is a L.L.B., an Advocate who gave up his lucrative job as Secretary of Lever Brothers (Ceylon) Ltd., and joined the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation as Chairman and introduced so many innovations and motivated the entire labour and staff and successfully achieving the implementation of a number of factories within the Ceramics Corporation. This happened during the previous regime. Thereafter, in view of his intelligence, capabilities and far-sightedness, he was called upon to take up the post of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs where he pulled out of the filing cabinet a number of files in respect of numerous industrial projects which were lying dormant

unattended by those in authority at the time. It was left to him to implement all these industrial projects within the shortest possible time by introducing new procedures in the formulation, evaluation and implementation through the appointment of technical committees comprising of Technologists, Engineers, Accountants, Economists and Management Experts. It was an era which cannot be forgotten by a right thinking person in the history of industrial development.

He was selected as Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries where the activities were more or less static. It was left to Mr. Anura Weeraratne to motivate all the officers to put their maximum effort in the development of the fisheries industry. As already indicated earlier, the performance in the fisheries sector almost within one year of his assumption of duties was really meteoric. This is another case to support the principle that if there are capable intelligent persons of honesty, integrity and ability, they should be chosen irrespective of whether they are members of the Public Service or outsiders.

However, this does not mean that there are no suitable persons available within the Public Service to be appointed to the post of Secretaries hitherto regarded as the Pinnacle of Public Service.

An example of this is the choice of **Mr. G. V. P. Samarasinghe**, ex-C.C.S/C.A.S. A very intelligent, capable, honest and far-sighted officer, even though he had gone through the normal drilling and grilling through Administrative and Financial Regulations. It should be remembered that when he was Director of Rural Development and Cottage Industries, under the then Ministry of Home Affairs, he introduced a number of innovations in the production of handicraft, cottage crafts and textiles through handloom and powerloom. When he was called upon to Head the Ceylon Cement Corporation, here too, he introduced a number of new procedures and systems in the management, production, control, marketing and distribution of cement. Thereafter, he was appointed as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Industries, when the foreign exchange problem was very acute, here too, he introduced procedures for the evaluation of foreign exchange required and regulated the out flow of foreign exchange

through controls exercised within the Ministry in the issue of allocations for raw materials and machinery. This was under the previous regime. Thereafter, he was appointed as Secretary to the then Hon. Prime Minister late Mr. Dudley Senanayake and now he is the Secretary to the Cabinet, apart from performing other arduous duties as Chairman of various official Commissions and Committees.

Likewise, there are a number of members of the Public Service who have shown their efficiency and are examples that could be followed by members of the Public Service. Ever since this Government came into power, it is gratifying to note that the plans and programmes have progressed at the speed expected by the Government. An organisation is made up of individuals of varying personalities, capabilities, qualifications and background and progress in development has been achieved through the dynamism shown and ability with which each of the officers participated. This shows the satisfaction derived by these officers in the performance of their tasks. In fact, the Government has been very lucky to obtain the services of a number of persons from outside the Public Service who are efficient, honest, independent, and are of the highest calibre. These persons have within a very short period of time been able to perform their functions in an efficient manner. In fact the Public Service had been made more dynamic by the infusion of Private Sector Expertise.

o o o

FILM FOCUS

Bye Bye Raju

Not many trumpets have been blown, and even the blare of publicity has been on a comparative lower key, but mark you *Tribune* readers, that Sunil Ariyaratne's "Siribo Aiya" is bound to win acclaim and recognition at the Film Festivals next year. The film was also the State Film Corporation's first choice for the Berlin Festival in 1979. I have already reviewed this Sinhalese film in the column

last week, and to digress at this point, I have to commend the Odeon Theatre (Mount Lavinia) Management for preventing even the daily Power cut to interrupt the smooth flow of this film, as this cinema has had in hand for some time now, a stand-by generator being alert to the electrical aberrations in the Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Municipal area. It would be very pertinent at this stage to raise the question, as to why many of the bigger circuits in the Metropolis are not rushing in for generators, which could be purchased at a comparatively cheaper cost, considering their daily takings at the Box office. I am almost certain that the State Film Corporation could slice off a loan if necessary in the matter. It is evident now that a Universal shortage of hydro-power caused by an environmental imbalance is bound to project itself from time to time and even decide to stay on as an unwelcome visitor to spoil cinematic enjoyment. Only those who are caught unaware in the well of a cinema to a point of suffocation when the lights and air conditioners fail, and a harried management would realise that a permanent generator would not be much of a largesse, if they have the welfare of their patrons at heart.

BYE BYE RAJU (English Stage Play): Having been bitten once too often by the power cut at the cinemas, I switched on for a change to sit out this excellent play, which is dipped in humour to suit our times. It is produced by the Colombo Art Circle, whose live wire is its energetic General Secretary, K. Balachandran, who is bent on focussing the footlights on the contemporary scene, come what may. With that spontaneously effervescent and evergreen performer Eddie Jayamanne to help him on one hand, he also relies on his spouse and script writer Yoga Balachandran who is turning versatile with experience to spice his painstaking productions by her clever histrionics. This story which came in the wake of the uproarious "Never Mind Silva", skits around the eligible sounding charter flight birds who migrate homewards to Sri Lankan shores, to spirit away our well endowed females—financially and otherwise—under false pretences. In this instance, it was an "Underground Engineer" on the prowl to overtake the gullibility of parents whose priorities are enmeshed and entangled in their once past and proud heritage. Eddie and Yoga

get this message of our times very cleverly, while veteran Muthiah Ratnam clearly places the stethoscope on this endemic ailment prevalent mostly among Ceylon Tamils. Take this play on any day for a side-splitting evening. You will return home happy!

THE DEEP (English): This Columbia/EMI production which was a forerunner to the more famous JAWS—both stories coming off the pen of Peter Benchley—is drawing large crowds at the Majestic Cinema. It is filmed in colour off the Bermuda coast, where deep sea diving is considered a common holiday pastime. The story takes in that late actor Robert Shaw who assists Nicke Nolte and his partner, the physically well endowed actress Jacqueline Bisset to salvage the sunken treasure they stumble on, in one of their underwater dips. The operation however turns dangerous when sharks hover around and their human counterparts use the sunken trove as a hide-out cache for prohibited morphine ampules. It is the underwater scenes that are breathtaking, with the camera at great pains to capture the plot—which at times sags somewhat on the story proper. But then there is the beautiful Jacqueline to feast your eyes on, when the treasure hunt becomes heavily laden on your nerves. See it any any case with the kids who are bound to like it.

THE THIEF OF BAGHDAD (English): This Columbia production is a repeat of the film that was released in the early forties with a cast that boosted the Indian wander boy star Sabu of "Elephant Boy" fame and film stars John Hull and Maria Montez. This love story between Prince Taj and Princess Yasmin in its new version—which has nothing to do with the current controversial film, "The Story of a Princess" which is creating so much of bad blood between Saudi Arabia and UK still maintains an Indian connection, as the hero prince of this film is roled by Kabir Bedi, a Hindi actor reputed for his He-man roles at home. Well, as such stories from the "Arabian Nights" go, with magic carpets that fly and bottled genii that gather proportions when released, there is also the "Evil One" who stands hypnotically on the path of true love, till an all seeing eye releases his spell. Do not be a kill-joy, but take all your kids along, for this is primarily their film.

James N. Benedict

May 22 — 27

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE
WORLD COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLDP—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthaman; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

THURSDAY, MAY 22: President J. R. Jayewardene, addressing the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya branch representatives at Sri Kotha yesterday, said that some opposition political parties and trade unions affiliated to them were planning to launch a new campaign against the government next month; some sections of the press had carried news about it; it had been said that the move would take the form of picketing and protest rallies; Sri Lanka was a democratically governed country; the government was elected by the people at a general election for a specified period as laid down in the Constitution and it could be changed by the people only at the next election. Deputy Solicitor General Mr. Sunil de Silva yesterday told the Special Presidential Commission that former Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike had sought to revise the values of her lands in order to obtain a higher amount of compensation from the Land Reforms Commission. Nestlé's the world renowned Swiss milk and dairy products firm, has made a proposal for investment in Sri Lanka; if this proposal goes through it will be the largest foreign firm to invest in the country, since the present government came to power. The United States and Sri Lanka yesterday signed an amendment to the PL 480 loan agreement which will provide Sri Lanka an additional 38,000 tonnes of wheat valued at \$ 6.8 million (Rs. 105.4 million)—CDN. Persons who made false declarations under the Land Reform Law introduced by

the previous government will be brought to book; the government has discovered that a large number of persons had claimed ownership to more land than they possessed in order to claim more compensation than they were entitled to. People will shortly be able to obtain loans from foreign and local banks and other lending institutions on the value of trees in their gardens; this has been approved by the government on a recommendation made by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development. The Minister of Food and Co-operatives Mr. S. B. Herat yesterday scotched rumours of a flour price hike—CDM. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday called upon all Government affiliated trade unions to counter Opposition moves to stage protests on June 5; June 5 has been declared a day of protest against the government by members of the Joint Trade Union Action Committee which controls most Opposition trade unions. A secretariat for the South Asian co-operative environment programme will be set up in Colombo shortly to handle all aspects of environmental planning in the region, it was officially announced yesterday. The District Minister of Jaffna Mr. V. B. Wijekoon said that TULF MPs are co-operating with them and giving them help to implement development schemes; he further stated that goodwill between the North and South was growing and misunderstandings were disappearing and Sinhalese could live happily and freely in the North and vice versa—DP. Four oil-producing countries—Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela suddenly raised oil prices yesterday; with this increase, one barrel of OPEC oil will cost US \$ 31.50—VK. The Cabinet has allocated 420 lakhs of rupees for the proposed new University in Batticaloa. The police have arrested one person and recovered half the jewels which were stolen in the Navaly Bank robbery where Rs. 80,000 worth of jewellery was stolen—EN. The Communist Party which refused to join the united May Day rally of the SLFP and LSSP has now requested these two parties to join the day of protest against the government to be carried out on June 5—DV.

FRIDAY, MAY 23: Some 2,530 schools throughout the island are to be developed and provided with the basic requirements

their students need under a Rs. 33.5 million program prepared by the Small Schools Development Unit of the Ministry of Education; under this program, funded by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Rs. 30 million will be spent to provide 2000 bicycles, 1000 radio sets 400 staff quarters, 500 school buildings, 1,250 carrom boards, 1000 equipment sets for pre-schools and 1000 libraries. Rural Industrial Minister S. Thondaman is starting sewing schools throughout the country; now there are only 39 such schools registered with the Department of Small Industries. Industries & Scientific Affairs Minister Cyril Mathew said that certain State corporations and boards had to be wound up, not due to the fault of the workers, but due to the inefficiency of their chairman and officers. A Combat Training School for the Army was opened at Amparai on Wednesday by Sri Lanka Army Chief Major-General Dennis Perera will provide advanced training in combat warfare—CDN. Steps are being taken to hand over the running of the internal airlines to an American multinational company—JD. The government is studying the possibility of handing over the Nylon—6 project to the private sector—DK. The Executive Committee of the UNP has appointed a three-member committee to investigate complaints of sabotage and massive wastage in Public corporations and ministries —DM.

SATURDAY, MAY 24: Dr. F. Schluter, leader of the visiting eight-member German investment mission, said yesterday that the conditions for German investment in Sri Lanka were relatively good when compared with other countries in the region; he told a press conference that a stable democratic system which was prevalent in Sri Lanka proved healthy for foreign investment; but during their one-week stay in the island they also discovered that there were limitations in the infrastructure for investment. Sri Lanka will now be in the world's congress and convention business; it is considered to be a very beneficial activity for a tourist-conscious country; Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis yesterday gave the assurance to a top delegation from the International Congress and Convention Association, with headquarters, in Amsterdam, that Sri Lanka would set up a

Congress and Convention Bureau in Colombo—CDN. The indifference shown by the police in West Asian countries to complaints made by Sri Lankans will be taken up by the Sri Lanka authorities with Interpol. Colombo will soon have a star-class, sophisticated Indian-style vegetarian restaurant and Italian restaurant with foreign collaboration; the Foreign Investment Advisory Committee has given approval to a proposal to set up these two restaurants—CDM. Government has banned picketing, processions and all forms of demonstrations on June 5, day of protest planned by the opposition trade unions. Foreign Minister, A. C. S. Hameed said yesterday that the Non-aligned Movement had found it very difficult to achieve consensus on very pressing issues due to various divisions within the movement. An anti-Sri Lanka resolution all'ging human rights violations, among other matters, has got into the records of the United States Congress in Washington D.C. The Ceylon Electricity Board yesterday decided to introduce a conservation scheme of "rolling" power cuts covering selected regions of the country in sequence—SU. The leader of the Opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam said yesterday that the hasty actions of some misguided people should not break up the hard won unity of the Tamils and make it the hunting grounds for others; referring to dissidents in the party who were speaking against party discipline, he said they had agreed with working committee and general committee decisions but were now opposing them—VK. A special committee has recommended to government that an Engineering Faculty should be opened in the Jaffna Campus and it could be done next year—DP. The People's Bank has allocated Rs. 10 million as agricultural loans for farmers for the "Yala" season—DM. The Government which has decided to increase petroleum has been unable to decide the items on which the prices are to be increased and what the price increase should be—ATH.

SUNDAY, MAY 25: There will be no prohibition of Sri Lankan women taking Middle Eastern jobs but every possible precaution will be taken to ensure their protection, authoritative governmental sources said yesterday. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali this week opens Sri Lanka's first Trade and Investment centre in Copen.

hagen and Dusseldorf. A high-powered Committee of Secretaries who recently considered reforms of Sri Lanka's administrative structure and procedures believes that political parties should beef-up their lists of candidates with quality administrators, technocrats, managers and professionals to strengthen future cabinets. The report in a newspaper (not Lake House group) under the heading "Government clamps down on the day of protest" appearing on Saturday 24 May is both false and misleading; picketing and all other forms of demonstrations on June 5 have not been banned. Chase Manhattan N.A. one of the world's best known banks, will open a Colombo office very shortly—SO. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, who is also Minister of Higher Education, has ruled that the Open University which he will inaugurate on June 19 should start on a modest scale, catering at the start to about 8,500 students; it will have 11,000 students by the end of 1980 and 50,000 students by 1983. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher will visit Sri Lanka in September and October next year; Her Majesty and Mrs. Thatcher will be attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Australia in September next year—ST. Sri Lanka will soon lead the South Asian nations in a regional community that will have a common economic, social and cultural framework in the initial stages, this Asian group was mooted by Bangladesh President Zia-ur Rahman who sent special emissaries recently to discuss the proposal with leaders in Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan. The Ceylon Electricity Board yesterday announced the new hours during which power cuts will be imposed in the country with effect from today. The possibility of pegging the Sri Lanka rupee to the "basket" of selected foreign currencies at a rate lower than the current exchange level is among several options the Government may consider shortly as a means of boosting the country's flagging export earnings—WK. A daily five-hour power cut comes into effect today and if the situation does not improve, it would be a ten-hour cut from Tuesday—CM. Sri Lanka's first Trade Centre will be opened in Denmark on the 3rd of June; the centre will be responsible for drawing foreign investments and broadening the market for local exports—SLDP.

MONDAY, MAY 26: The new requirements for admission to GCE (A/L) classes for 1980 will not apply to private schools, the Education Ministry has said; the Ministry gave this assurance to the All Ceylon Union of Teachers when a deputation of the union met Eric J. de Silva, Secretary Ministry of Education and Director General of Education last week to protest against the new requirements for admission to AL classes from 1980. The first Vocational Skills Development Centre in Sri Lanka was opened by the Labour Minister Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne at Ballapana in the Galigamuwa electorate on Saturday; the Minister who spoke at the ceremony said that Sri Lanka was handicapped in implementing its development programs due to the lack of adequate middle grade technicians like masons, carpenters and blacksmiths—CDN. The purchase by the public of bearer bonds introduced by the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, has been encouraging, according to Dr. Warnasena Rasaputram, Governor of the Central Bank. The government has decided to accept Tax Reserve Certificates in settlement of estate duty, wealth tax and gift tax—CDM. Government will today hear a proposal by experts to induce rain by artificial means as an emergency measure to overcome the present critical shortage of hydro-electric power; Power and Energy Ministry Secretary, James Lanerolle, who will submit a proposal to "seed" rain cloud with chemicals, said that this somewhat ecologically risky measure would be submitted after a top-level conference of engineers, meteorologists and other experts this morning. Government has decided to streamline the existing procedure for import duty rebate payments to exporters of non-traditional products. Three demonstration cum research centres on acoconut cultivation are to be set up shortly in the dry zone by the Coconut Industries Ministry—SU. Nearly 1000 errant motorists have been nabbed in the city and suburbs during the past two weeks, police sources disclosed yesterday; this follows the clamp down ordered by the D.I.G. of police (Traffic) Mr. Ernest Perera—CO. The TULF has decided to give full support to the "Day of National Protest" organised by Opposition Trade unions on June 5—VK. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Plan Implementation has revealed that the most amount of money has been allocated for high-

ways and education in the last two years from the decentralised budget—DM. All assets not used by District Development boards will be handed over to state corporations; the government will not pay any dividends for these assets—DV. The government is to launch a massive programme to cultivate sugar cane on a large scale to become self sufficient in sugar as soon as possible—LD. The State Trading Corporation has to bear a loss of Rs. 10 million on the import of cement in the last two months as 55% of the consignment cannot be used; this consignment of cement was imported without the normal tender proceedings—ATH. The National Committee of the SLFP has unanimously decided to launch a counter-attack to defeat the attempt to kill the political life of Mrs. Bandaranaike—DK.

TUESDAY, MAY 27: An official committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Power and Energy J. H. Lanerolle has recommended that the price of petrol should not be reduced; the Fuels Committee (Secretary-G. B. A. Fernando) which was asked to report on (1) reduction in the price of petrol and (2) proposals to counteract the loss in revenue by such reduction, has said that the major problem was not one caused by an excess of petrol but a problem caused by increasing consumption of middle distillate fuels. A portion of the three-storeyed century old Gaffoor Building, one of the important landmarks in the city, collapsed early yesterday morning, wrecking three government departments, four branches of the Insurance Corporation and two leading private firms. A body for the monitoring of garment exports from Sri Lanka is to be set up today; representatives of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission, the Textile Industry Ministry and the Department of Commerce will constitute the Board. Weekly gem auctions be conducted soon by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce at chosen locations in the country, to sell their cut and polished gems or rough stones in the open market an official spokesman said yesterday—CDN. Judicial Medical Officials have asked the authorities to restrict the sale of weedicides and pesticides in view of its serious abuse by people in rural areas. The decision of the Government to ban animal sacrifice in Hindu temples is being challenged in the Courts; this is the sequel to the refusal

by the Kankesanthurai Police to an application by a Trustee of a Hindu temple, to grant him the usual assistance in the performance of the normal festival in his temple—CDM. As Sri Lanka's worst ever power crisis continues to deepen, the government yesterday moved swiftly to adopt a series of measures to ensure the uninterrupted operation of services considered essential for the life of the community; the first major step in this direction was initiated yesterday by Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed, who asked seven Colombo based envoys—from the United States, the Soviet Union, West Germany, France, Japan, India and Britain—for assistance in obtaining diesel power generators. The inducement of rain through artificial means to ease the current power crisis is not possible, it was revealed at a conference held at the Ministry of Power and Energy yesterday—SU. Technicians of the Railway Department have warned that if the railway lines are not repaired immediately a major train disaster will take place in the near future—DV. Economic experts point out that electricity cuts will reduce the nation's production by 60% which will be a deadly blow to the country's economy—ATH. The prices of all goods will go up by 100% in the near future because of the economic policies of the Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel; the Sri Lanka rupee is steadily losing the value to a record level compared to other major currencies of the world—JD.



SNIPPETS

A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

To live without feeling or exciting sympathy, to be fortunate without adding to the felicity of others, or afflicted without tasting the balm of pity, is a state more gloomy than solitude; it is not retreat but exclusion from mankind. Marriage has many pains but celibacy has no pleasures.

—Samuel Johnson

Confidentially

UNP & Sugar—2

IS IT NOT AN ENCOURAGING SIGN that *The Journal* (UNP) has drawn the conclusion from the latest increases in the world sugar prices that Sri Lanka should do something about making itself self-sufficient in food crops that can be grown here? That in its issue of May 23, in a front page article it said: "Sri Lanka's vulnerability to world economic forces has been emphasised once more by the latest steep escalation of world sugar prices. This has compelled the Government to increase the price of sugar to the local consumer from Rs. 4.50 a lb. to Rs. 6/- a lb. This most recent development on the food front underlines, once more, the warning issued by President Jayewardene, sometime ago, that it was imperative to organise food production on a war footing.....Hardly three months, since the last increase in the price of sugar, forces completely beyond the control of the government have necessitated another sugar price hike. Today, it is an acute shortage in the world market which has sent its price soaring upwards. Tomorrow, it may well be once again, wheat flour. And so it can go on and on.....There is precious little that Sri Lanka can do to tame and control such international phenomena. But, there is certainly one thing which we can and must do in our own interests. That is to grow extensively and intensively all the food which can be cultivated locally. Hunger, it is said, is the best sauce, and necessity the mother of invention. World food shortages, which cause problems to local consumers, can well be the our and incentive for local agriculturists, farmers and the food agricultural agencies of the Government not to mention the unemployed, for intensified efforts."?

That this is exactly what *Tribune* has been urging for a long time—at a time when the UNP was satisfied that it was able to find the money to import everything the people needed? That *The Journal* has in its piece cited the Performance Report of the Ministry of

Plan Implementation for 1979 to say that the Sugar Corporation's production had been disrupted by the 1978 cyclone. That not satisfied with this the *Journal* went on to say: "Successive governments have been endeavouring to grow sugar cane and produce sugar locally for over 20 years now, but all that could be shown, for vast expenditure over the long years, at the end of 1979 was a negligible 15,509 tons. No doubt, as PERFORMANCE states, the cyclone of 1978 was partly responsible for this poor yield but even in the pre-cyclone era production of local sugar has lagged very far behind local consumption needs. It is, therefore, quite clearly a matter of national urgency, especially in the context of conserving foreign exchange for development purposes, that all possible steps be taken to substantially expand local sugar production.....The constraints which hamper maximum production at all stages, must be dispassionately examined and necessary corrective action taken with the least possible delay. In times of crisis, nations as well as individuals who hesitate are lost. Production and more production are the dire and urgent necessities of today for a better tomorrow."

That it is a happy thought that the UNP, which was lost in the euphoria that foreign exchange was something that one need not worry about now talks of the need to "conserve foreign exchange" and even the need to embark on increased food production—not merely lip service to it.

NEXT WEEK

- × THE NADESAN CASE
—from *New Statesman*
 - × CALF SALVAGE
—at Rosita
 - × BATTICALOA
—PM & A Bridge
 - × ANAMADUWA
—Another View
 - × WHAT IS THE MIND?
—Where Is It?
 - × LOVELY VENUS
—In Our Skies
-

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