

# TRIBUNE

## CONSPIRACY To Smash MEP

"Tribune" is in a position to state that "Lake House" as the cornerstone of reaction in this country has decided that the time is ripe to launch a campaign to disintegrate the MEP government from within and without. The acts of commission and omission of the new Government and those authoritatively associated with it have contributed more to the creation of such a situation than the activities of all the political opponents.

Unless Prime Minister Bandaranaike and his sane-minded colleagues in the Cabinet assert themselves, fight the racial chauvinists and religious faddists within the MEP, and direct the Government along a Middle Path of tolerance and justice (particularly to all minorities how-

ever small in numbers), there is no doubt that the MEP Cabinet will run into stormy weather, from which it would find it difficult to extricate itself, at no distant date.

### Mettananda

In its campaign to discredit the MEP, *Lake House* has taken unto its bosom Mettananda who had been the chief campaigner against this newspaper combine for a long time. *Lake House*, on its part, had blacked out Mettananda as far as possible in its columns. On the crucial day last week when the *ad hoc* Committee on Language met, *Lake House* publicised the Mettananda Language Bill in an attempt to sabotage even the rather inadequate Bill drafted by the Cabinet. It did not stop there. At the meeting, a compromise was arrived at — a most unsatisfactory compromise — with Mettananda agreeing, but three days later, *Lake House* once again had Mettananda complaining that even the new "concessions" amounted to "parity". Two days later Mettananda was again on the first page of *Lake House* suggesting measures which amounted to the linguistic genocide of the Tamil community.

*In fact that Bandaranaike and his saner colleagues have not thought fit to fight this racial chauvinism has created the most widespread disillusionment among all sections of the minorities, racial and linguistic, and has thereby strengthened the hands of the communal reactionaries of the North, the Tamil Arasu.*

### Faddists

*Lake House* has endeavoured to discredit the MEP in another way. It gave the widest publicity to the

faddists in the Cabinet and their near-ridiculous antics. Marikkar's progress like the proverbial Bull in the China Shop had the front page of *Lake House*. Jayaweera Kuruppu's religious edicts were played up, and Dahanayake's provocative pronouncements on education were put across with vehemence and vigour. All the stories of taboos on eating meat, eggs, fish and other silly prohibitions were seriously put out by *Lake House* as concrete measures of reform. In thus playing up to the worst elements among religious extremists, *Lake House* rightly hoped to put entire sections of even good Buddhists against the MEP and also cause further disillusionment among the minorities, particularly religious minorities. There is no doubt that *Lake House* has succeeded in this to some extent.

In this situation, *Lake House* spotlights a statement by Sir John Kotelawela stating that there is widespread disillusionment in the country with the MEP Government. It has even the courage to print a "speech" by J. R. Jayawardene, said to have been made in a private house in his former electorate, in which he ridicules the religious faddism of MEP stalwarts and also puts out a new line of American propaganda which is likely to come up in a big way soon.

Said this former Minister that we should continue to keep Britain at Trincomalee for fear of an Indian in asion. America has been more keen about the imperialist retention of bases in Ceylon than Britain itself: and, in Ceylon, American-inspired sources have begun to echo it. In the South,

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## TRIBUNE

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# I L L E G A L

I was asked by the Editor to furnish a report on the North Western Blue Line, and in the short time at my disposal I have been able to gather a certain amount of information which throws revealing light into the deplorable situation that seems to have enveloped the affairs of this company.

The Sansoni Report spotlighted the affairs of this company. That report was published in a past number of *Tribune* and it showed that though it was one unit so far as the Companies Act and the Commissioner of Motor Traffic was concerned, in actual fact it was operated as two units by two rival factions. This *de facto* division, known as territory A and territory B, is really a private arrangement. Though there has been a territorial division in the area of operations, the routes overlap between Ja-ela and Colombo. The understanding that one group should not pick passengers on the Ja-ela to Colombo run is observed in the breach, and I found that cut-throat competition which is so inconvenient to passengers prevalent on this line. This compulsory formation of large companies with monopoly route licenses was intended to prevent such competition, but in the North-Western Blue Line area of operations, the internecine warfare between territory A and territory B makes a mockery of the entire basis of the Motor Traffic Act.

## Permit

Whether due to this quarrel or for some other reason, the North Western Blue line is an object lesson in what a Transport Company should not be.

*This has probably been recognised by the Commissioner of Motor Transport and my inquiries reveal that the Stage Carrier Permit of the Company has not been renewed as from April 1, 1956. The permit expired on March 30, and the application for renewal has not been disposed of. I also hear that three other Companies have applied for the same routes.*

By  
A Special Investigator

Under the Motor Traffic Act, the Commissioner is entitled to grant the stage carrier permit to other operators if the service provided by a particular company is bad. In this, preference at the discretion of the Commissioner may be given to operators who provide a service in a contiguous area. One of the applicants is Wijaya Bus Company which now operates the route Negombo to Anuradhapura. If this Company were given the route, there could be a through run from Colombo to Puttalam.

It is difficult to understand why the Commissioner has not taken any action. The real position is that the North Western Blue Line is now operating on an illegal basis without a valid stage carrier permit. It is no wonder then that things

are in such a deplorable state! Further, though the Company needs about a hundred buses to operate a satisfactory service, at the moment they appear to have only about sixty. Half of them are so old and rickety that they are unlicensed — for no Motor Examiner would dare certify them as roadworthy.

## Public

*It is really pointless to get into the game of hide and seek that goes on in the North Western Blue Line. What is important is to have an answer to the question as to the inactivity of the Commissioner. Why is he permitting the North Western Blue Line to operate on an illegal basis? Why has he not cancelled the routes now held by this Company and granted the Stage Carrier Permit to one of the three other operators who have applied.*

The Commissioner would do well to remember that it is the interests of travelling public he has to safeguard and his inexplicable in-

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From Swami Sivananda

# JAYANTI

*The Gospel of Lord Buddha  
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From far away Himalayas *Tribune* has received this message from Swami Sivananda, the founder of the Divine Life Society with headquarters at Sivananda Nagar, Rishikesh, U.P., India. Swami Sivananda has been to Ceylon and is a reader of *Tribune*.

### *Buddham Saranam Gachchami*

Salutations, crores of prostrations at the Divine, Radiant, Glorious Lotus-Foot of Lord Buddha, which are the refuge of all mankind, which are the fountain-source of peace, bliss, love, light and wisdom.

Two thousand and five hundred years ago, Lord Buddha descended on this earth. Even today he lives in our hearts. He lives as Love. The awe-inspiring grandeur of His life and the celestial radiance of his

serene face, inscribed indelibly on the tablet of our heart, remind us of the Great Truths that He illustrated in His Enlightened Life, viz., that Love is the Law of Divine Life, that true Love is absolutely egoless and selfless, self-sacrificing, sublime and serene, and that absolute truthfulness, harmlessness and purity, ethical perfection and a spirit of renunciation are the invariable counterparts of cosmic love.

### Immortal

Lord Buddha lived twenty-five centuries ago, but He lived for our sake. At no time did mankind need His Guidance as now, but, would humanity heed His Flaming Words of Wisdom now? If man is not to degenerate into beast and if civilisation is not to revert to barbarism, humanity has to heed to the Immortal Teachings of the Buddha. Man has wilfully blinded himself with selfishness, lust, greed

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# Jayanti Message

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and egoism, and holding the staff of materialism and armed with weapons of self-destruction, he is marching fast towards his doom. Lord ! Thou art an Ocean of Compassion ! Pray, save mankind today, as You did reform and transform the murderer and made him desist from the evil ways.

Has not mankind learnt yet that hatred ceaseth not by hatred but by love alone ? Did the Lord sacrifice His Life, renounce the kingdom and undergo terrible hardships, did He become a monk and meditate day and night, did He realise Truth and broadcast it, going from door to door — all in vain ? Did He not enlighten Bimbisara, the King; did not His Message of Ahimsa, move the heart of Emperor Asoka to abandon warfare altogether ? Lord ! Pray enter the hearts of the leaders of mankind today. Let the Light of Thy Love dispel the darkness of ill-will, disharmony, hatred and lust from the heart of Man.

## Renunciation

Materialistic civilisation has gone far enough to prove its worthlessness. Study the life of Lord Buddha. Even the multi-millionaire today cannot command the material enjoyments that were offered to the Lord, before His Renunciation. But He knew that the sense-objects only gave pain and not pleasure. Deluded man ! Are you wiser than He was, that you are ceaselessly engaged in producing newer and newer gadgets to titillate your senses ? In renunciation is supreme joy, in the cultivation of Cosmic Love is supreme joy, in selfless, self-sacrificing service of

of humanity is supreme joy, in self-realisation is supreme joy. Supreme joy is Nirvana. Lord Buddha lived, renounced all kingly pleasures, practised intense penance, attained illumination, and propounded the Four Great Truths and laid out the Noble Eightfold Path, in order that YOU — for whom He had, has and will ever have the greatest love and compassion — might enjoy bliss and peace. What foolishness, and what great loss it is that while the Light shines brightly, you blindfold yourself and wilfully march towards your own destruction !

Awake, arise ! It is not too late, yet. On this supremely blessed and auspicious occasion of the 2500th Birth Anniversary of Lord Buddha, let there be a world-wide revival of the Spirit of Love and Goodwill that Lord Buddha embodied in Himself. On this blessed day, may every man and woman resolve to tread the Noble Eightfold Path and attain Nirvana ! Let all the leaders of all the nations of the world humbly bow down at the lotus-feet

of this Supreme Monarch Who even today reigns over the hearts of the entire mankind, nay the entire creation, and pray for Enlightenment; and thus, may they loyally follow the glorious example He has set before them.

The Life and Teaching of Lord Buddha must be studied by everyone, every day. This is the best way to conquer Mara, Maya or Satan. Meditate upon His Life and Teachings. Then, try to mould your own life on the pattern of His. Scrupulously adhere to the Noble Eightfold Path. Be good and do good. Let your heart be filled with compassion for all beings. And, let this compassion flow out in the form of goodwill for all beings and service of all. Thus and thus alone is it possible for man to attain to Supreme Bliss and the world to enjoy peace and prosperity.

May His blessings be upon you all on this auspicious day ! *Om Buddham Saranam Gachchami !*



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# SUB-POSTMASTERS

It is deplorable to note that the present conditions of the Sub-Postmasters in the island has not been reformed till now.

The other Public Servants have been granted various rights and privileges at least. It is therefore very essential to examine the deplorable situation of the Sub-Postmasters and see why any rights or privileges that are being enjoyed by the other Public Servants are not granted to them.

During the period of the Imperialists, the Sub-Postmasters were so appointed to each Town and Village on a scheme based as appointing Headmanships, but they never considered the services nor the future of the Sub-Postmasters. They bestowed the Sub-Postmaster-ship as if they were offering an Imperial honour on a local citizen, leaving behind risky and heavy responsibilities on the so called Sub-Postmasters.

### Contractor

Like most of the other Public Servants a Sub-Postmaster too has to be in his office from 8 a. m. in the morning to 5 p. m. in the evening on week days including a few hours on Sundays for telephone, telegraph and mail work, but this service is considered to be that of an ordinary contractor.

The services of a Sub-Postmaster is not permanent nor pensionable and he has no right whatsoever to apply for any other appointment in the department. His services could be terminated without a notice or without calling a defence on the instructions of a staff or a senior officer in the department.

Leave facilities granted to Sub-Postmasters are in a alarming state and the Sub-Postmasters are tortured in the manner how they are granted and the conditions on which they accept leave facilities.

If a Sub-Postmaster be compelled to take leave on a medical Certificate issued by the Medical Department, a departmental relief will be provided if the Sub-Postmaster concerned undertakes to pay Ten Rupees (Rs. 10) per day from his

A Sub-Postmaster, who is a regular reader of *Tribune*, has sent us this article which makes a concrete case for immediate redress. The authorities should inquire into the grievances of Sub-Postmasters who undoubtedly perform important functions in the postal services of this Country.

salary to the relief mentioned above. In addition to this amount a departmental relief is entitled to claim for food and lodging, and subsistence too, which amount will total to about Rupees Twenty (20) per day.

### Difficult

A Sub-Postmaster finds it very difficult to attend a funeral or a wedding, as he has to entrust his duties to a suitable substitute who should have been approved by the department beforehand and whose duties should be on the responsibility of the Sub-Postmaster concerned. This substitute has also to be paid, by the Sub-Postmaster providing him with food and lodging. Most of the Sub-Postmasters do not have approved substitutes as because they find it very difficult

to find trustworthy, reliable persons for suitable training and most of them dislike to work as substitutes in Sub-Post Offices as they carry no prospects for their future by serving as substitutes in Sub-Post Offices.

We are aware that there is a rule to say that a Sub-Postmaster is allowed to do any other part-time or a business provided that he does not neglect the work of the Sub-Post Office.

On the other hand he is compelled to devote his precious time from 8. a. m. in the morning to 5. p. in the evening at the Sub-Post Office, so how could a Sub-Postmaster engage himself in some other part-time job or a business? Could he do business or a part-time job in the night? Does not the Sub-Postmaster have a family? A house? or at least a rest after the days work? It appears very necessary to look into this special rule granted to Sub-Postmasters. There are a few Sub-Postmasters who are benefited by the above rule and are engaged in business, contracts etc; but this is only limited to the so called Sub-Postmasters. They do not care how

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# Sub - Postmasters

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the other brother officers are nor they pay heed to the sufferings of the other brother officers in the island today.

## Honour

They regard the Sub-Postmaster ship as an Imperial Honour bestowed upon them and act accordingly.

Let us also examine carefully who are been punished most and why, by the department? The Sub-Postmasters because of the poor salary they received at present. If not for this reason the Sub-Postmasters are not Criminals, misappropriators or culprits.

The Sub-Postmasters are also bound to deposit a sum of Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3000/- at the time of their selections, these large sums of deposits or securities are only meant for the Sub-Postmasters but not for any other employee in the Department not even to Postmaster. With deposits of this nature a Sub-Postmaster is only given in charge of postal articles to a value of Rs. 400/- or Rs. 500/- to be responsible of. As a rule we know that an interest would be added every year towards the security deposit of each sub-postmaster but so far no Sub-Post-

master has heard of any interest being added to the security deposit.

It is also very important to investigate as to who brings most of the revenue to the department. Also the number of Sub-Post Offices in the Island, their income and expenditure, this will not only reveal the facts but also various other important problems in the department.

Most of the Sub-Postmasters are from educated middle class families having dependants behind them but they have no future prospects as because their services are considered to be that of an ordinary contractor and he a Sub-Postmaster for ever.

## Service

With odds and ends of this nature the Sub-Post masters are rendering a valuable service to each and every citizen of Ceylon irrespective of their caste and creeds which fact must be admitted without any hesitation by every right thinking man and woman of this Island.

There is no difference between a Postmaster and a Sub-Postmaster: a Sub-Postmaster too has to serve similarly with the same scope of a Post-master.

It was also announced sometime ago by a high ranker in the department "Sub-Postmaster are the backbone of the Postal Service", but today his position is worse than that of a postman who works under him and his present and the future is also very gloomy.

The Sub-Postmasters Union on several occasions have brought forward and explained these deplorable conditions to the authorities concerned to solve them to the satisfaction of the Sub-Postmasters. But they fell on deaf ears.

In a period where the country is fast developing, it is high time now at least of every citizen and Sub-Postmaster to make up, agitate, and demand for the rights and future prospects of the Sub-Postmasters.

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SWADESHI PRODUCT

The language question has dominated the political scene this week. The draft *Sinhalese Only* Bill was referred by the Cabinet to a larger Committee consisting of supporters of the MEP. This Committee was scheduled to meet for the final sitting on Wednesday evening May 16. On the morning of that eventful day, the *Ceylon Daily News*, which had played such a sinister role in the last days of the UNP to use the language question as a lever to "liquidate" the Left, once again resorted to mischief. On the front page of that morning's paper, was a picture of L. H. Mettananda and a statement by him on the language Bill that was being sponsored by the Prime Minister. Mettananda also proclaimed a *Sinhalese Only* Bill of his own.

Mettananda was a gentleman who had been "blacked out" in the *Lake House* for a long time: ever since the time that Mettananda and his organisation of Bikshus publicly attacked *Lake House* and its editorial boss Esmond Wickremasinghe as agents and spokesmen of Christendom in Ceylon.

### Proviso

Mettananda objected to a statutory proviso which enabled a minority person to use Tamil or English to transact his business with Government although Sinhalese was declared to be the official language. Mettananda declared in his statement that granting of such a right to the Tamils would mean in practice "parity".

In the tense atmosphere that was prevalent, this bombshell in the *Lake House* papers, with great prominence in its Sinhalese and Tamil papers, created an electrifying situation. With one shot, *Lake House* endeavoured to kill many birds. For a member of the MEP Language Committee to by-pass the other members and seek public support for his views was unpardonable, and it created a rift in the Committee itself. By this, an attempt was made to show the Prime Minister as one who was betraying the *Sinhalese Only* policy by

trying to create "parity" through a subterfuge. Further, attention was also focussed once again on the language policy of Communists and Leftists and that it was no different from the policy advocated by the communalists of the North. Finally, *Lake House* also succeeded in arousing the already disappointed and discontented Tamil minority into thinking that there was a major conspiracy to practice *apartheid* and *genocide* on the Tamil community through language.

The master-minds of *Lake House* must congratulate themselves in having been able to use Mettananda to embarrass the MEP Government, particularly the Prime Minister.

### Trouble

In the circumstances, it is reported that the meeting of the Sub-Committee was a stormy one. Bandaranaike is said to have first upbraided Mettananda for rushing to *Lake House* on a matter which he should have raised and settled in the Committee itself.

Whatever it was, as a result of this *Lake House* stunt, the statutory proviso providing a legal safeguard for minorities was dropped by the Committee, and instead verbal assurances by the Prime Minister that he would protect the interests of the Tamils were given at the Press Conference the next morning. An attempt was also made to create confidence in the minorities by placing the Language Department under the Prime Minister, particularly when it was known that he had fought hard for the statutory proviso protecting minority interests in language. *Lake House* promptly countered this by openly calling for (in the name of unnamed MEP spokesman) a new Portfolio of Languages and a new Minister to implement the *Sinhalese Only* policy.

More than the other inadequacies of the rather unimaginative and unrealistic language Bill, the fact that an attempt to provide a

statutory safeguard for the minorities was defeated created the greatest consternation among the Tamil and English-speaking minorities. The circumstances and the manner in which the discussion about the Bill took place, particularly as reported in the still largely read *Lake House* papers, created a feeling among the minorities that the *Sinhalese Only* Bill was not an honest attempt to implement the election promise of the MEP, but that it also went further and was the thin end of the wedge to discriminate, on an economic cultural and educational basis against the minorities.

### Lanerolle

As the days went by the situation on the language front became more and more tense with the *Lake House* papers becoming aggressively provocative. Whereas in the UNP days, it was the policy of this combine to play down communal differences (*Sinhalese Only* was conceived of only as a weapon against the Left), today *Lake House* papers are actively stirring up one community against the other. When communal riots broke out in Trincomalee some months ago, even *Lake House* quite correctly kept it out of its papers. But today, the Federal "March to Trincomalee" is being put across in the *Dinamina* and the *Thinakaran* so as to incite communal tension. This is part of the *Lake House* plan to smash the MEP.

In this rather difficult situation, Julius de Lanerolle, Editor in Chief of the Sinhalese Dictionary, made a statement assuring the public that the Bhikkus were not out to *Sinhalese* is the Tamils and that they were for recognition of Tamil as one of the national languages. This was a statement that should have been spread out in banner headlines across the front page of the papers, but in fact it was not. And at a time when the Bhikkus were spread around the country for the Jayanti celebrations Lanerolle took

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Bhikku Kassapa of Vajirarama, in a letter to the *Morning Times*, has strongly condemned a trend among certain Buddhist leaders to subvert "Ahimsa (non-injury) to the lower animals" to "Himsa (injury and harassment) to humans, poor humans who are not so well off as Cabinet Ministers." Pointedly Bhikku Kassapa, admittedly one of the most learned and venerable among all the bhikkus in the island, has chastised "the undemocratic lengths to which the Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs is going, in interfering with so personal and private a matter as what people consume as food, is becoming more than ridiculous. It is becoming tragic".

This tendency to reduce the sublime in Buddhism to ridiculous prohibitions with regard to the eating of meat, fish, eggs presently laid down by certain leaders of the neo-Buddhist intelligentsia is only part of the intolerance which this vocal and chauvinistic section seek to inflict on this country. Intolerance was something which the Lord Buddha fought at every turn and it can be said that tolerance is one of the corner-stones of the Buddhist way of life. Nowhere has this spirit of intolerance shown itself more ferociously than in the language controversy which is now threatening to throw this country into the biggest turmoil in recent times.

#### Sinhalese

Undoubtedly, the MEP government was returned on an election promise of making *Sinhalese Only* the official language, with, it must be remembered, a corollary that safeguards should be provided for ensuring the "reasonable use" of the Tamil language. Many had hoped that with the generally progressive character of the election manifesto of the MEP, a liberal and even generous interpretation of the language policy would manifest itself in actual implementation, and thus create a basis of unity among all sections of the people in the

country for the larger task of working for the economic regeneration of the country. Unfortunately, this intolerant section of neo-Buddhist pseudo intellectuals, entrenched in and out of the MEP, seem determined to shape the course of affairs in such a way as to create chaos and confusion in the country.

The "Sinhalese Only" Bill, as it stands today, has many unsatisfactory features. It does not merely seek to make Sinhalese the major and more important language by making it the sole official language. It goes further and imposes conditions which tend to discriminate against non-Sinhalese minorities not only during a transitional period but also ultimately at the end of a ten year period.

The MEP Cabinet and the special Sub-Committee had innumerable examples before it as to how in a multi-linguistic state one national language can be made the sole official language consistent with democratic practice and without causing any dislocation in the administration. There is the wonderful example of India which has provided in its Constitution measures intended to secure the making of Hindi the sole official language of the country. This has been done by providing a long period for the transition with English, and also according official recognition to the different provincial languages for particular purposes.

#### Lake House

The refusal of the MEP Cabinet under pressure from the chauvinistic elements, to formulate a just and fair one official language policy as in India is not only distressing but it plays straight into the hands of the most reactionary elements in the country: the hysteric language fanatics like Mettananda and the

equally communal Tamil Arasu. By not wanting to stand up against the chauvinism of the Mettananda caucus, the MEP is driving the entire Tamil community into the hands of the Tamil Arasu separatists.

Without national unity, there is no progress in this country, particularly at this time when every man, woman and child should concentrate on the business of nation building and economic development. The Tamil and English speaking minority which constitutes about a third of the population of the country, has a large and important part to play in the task of building a new Ceylon. To throw this section of the people into discontent, distress and resentment is to detract from the all important task of economic development which alone can solve the urgent problems before the country. That the entire Tamil and English speaking minorities are in a mood of utter frustration, that they are angry and indignant, is no secret.

*Only the rejection of the chauvinistic slogans and policies suggested by Mettananda and put across provocatively by Lake House can save the situation. In fact, the MEP can never hope to put across its progressive economic programme unless it is strong enough to fight the reaction within it howling aloud for chauvinistic policies in language. In the period of the Jayanti, in this commemoration of the great teacher of tolerance, justice and fairplay, it is inconceivable that there should be absent sufficient strength and determination in the saner elements of the MEP to fight for those principles which has made Buddhism one of the greatest religions of all times.*



Certain friends of mine in the outstations, mentioned to me that for about three or four days last week the Lake House papers were late in arriving. In fact, during these days even the evening papers were about one to two hours behind their normal times in appearing in the streets in Colombo.

I put Sherlock Holmes on the job, and he had an interesting tale after snooping around a little. It seems that the workers in the printing section of *Lake House* staged a slow down strike because Jayanti advances were not forthcoming. This slow down resulted in the newspapers being late. The slow down was confined to the composing and setting sections, but these can hold up the entire printery. After about three days of the slow down, it would seem, that the management of *Lake House* climbed down and granted the workers the advances they had wanted.

And the papers have been on time ever since!

## Strike

This is the first time, after the famous *Lake House* strike led by Goonesinha, many years ago that the workers in *Lake House* have shown some trade union solidarity in the matter of backing some of their claims. After the Goonesinha strike was broken, the management of *Lake House* is alleged to have introduced a Henry Ford system of spies, informers and agents in the printery with such success that not only was there no trade union among the workers but any move to organise any trend towards unionisation was also nipped in the bud.

The coming to power of the MEP has undoubtedly released dormant forces. Encouragement should be given for workers in the printing trade to organise — for in spite of the Wages Board, the printing trade is one of the sweated industries where the wages earned by the workers do not have a reasonable relationship to the profits earned;

## Mettananda

The Slow Down Strike is not the only phenomenon which has thrown *Lake House* into the limelight. The Mettananda episode must rank as a miracle of the first degree. Mettananda has been a sworn enemy of *Lake House* — for not being Buddhist Sinhalese enough: Mettananda and his friends had openly attacked Esmond Wickremasinghe in speeches and in publications as a Christian who was ruining a national institution like *Lake House*.

Ever since Mettananda had started on this campaign, he had been "blacked out" in all *Lake House* newspapers. If one searches through its pages during the last two years, Mettananda was blacked out except in regard to Official Committees where the name was mentioned in an insignificant manner. I have been told on good authority that there was standing order to all top editorial executives that Mettananda's name should be kept out of the columns of *Lake House* as far as possible.

But last week there was a dramatic change. He was put on the front page. To break the MEP, *Lake House* was willing to surrender to its arch-enemy, Mettananda. The two parties had been brought together by the efforts of a University Don who was once prominent in the Tri Sinhala and who has been associated with every political movement and trend this country has known in the last one and a half decades. This gentleman was seen at *Lake House* two days before the Mettananda bombshell on language appeared in the *Daily News*, *Dinamina* and *Thinakaran*.

The other person responsible for the rapprochement was no less a worthy than the contemporary *Daily News* Political Correspondent. It was he, it is said, who sought Mettananda in his lair and persuaded him to issue a statement which made the work of the Language sub Committee more difficult

## Sermons

The new Political Correspondent of *Daily News* has at last got into his stride. He seems to serve no other purpose except what the old one had chalked out. In cloth and banian garb, (he has worked it only once so far) with a kiribath flavour in his idiom, the new political guru of *Lake House* seems to be wooing the most reactionary forces which can be effective with the government in power. The old Political Correspondent sought the most reactionary, McCarthyite sections, of the UNP in order to stampede the UNP into politically undemocratic and socially retrograde measures. The new Political Correspondent seeks the most reactionary in the MEP, even though they are elements who had carried on a vicious below-the-belt campaign against *Lake House*, in order to promote the current *Lake House* campaign to discredit the MEP. Like his predecessor's no article of his is complete without some provocative reference to the Left and some irritating remarks about the minorities. His pronouncement last week advising the Tamils to swallow the *Sinhalese Only* Bill probably serves no other purpose than to rouse the Tamils to attack the MEP.



# Language

continued from page 23

the initiative in getting their permission to make this statement. It is believed that the Bhikkus would very soon make their position clear and that they are not behind Mettananda in his linguistic fascism. The Lanerolle statement came on the morning when the Parliamentary Party was meeting, and poured a little oil on very troubled waters.

At the meeting, the Prime Minister obtained sanction to carry on discussions with the minority opinion but many at the meeting wanted "concessions" to Tamils deleted. It is reported that the Member for Welimada, Rajaratne, who is even more "extreme" than Mettananda had declared that the MEP mandate was to *Sinhalesise* the country and that if they did not do so they would "lose their seats." Bandaranaike is said to have cracked back that losing seats was not a major question at a time when they were in danger of losing the country through communal bitterness.

## Recognition

Though the way Premier Bandaranaike handled the language question, created much tension, there was nothing but praise for the manner in which he effected a settlement in the strike that had developed in estates last week.

The troubles on the plantations arose owing to a split which occurred in the Ceylon Workers Congress towards the end of last year. Following the rupture, the Thondaman faction continued in the *de facto* and *de jure* control of the Ceylon Workers Congress. The Aziz group, which had "seized" the headquarters in Colombo, in a dramatic *coup*, lay claim to be the "successors" to the CWC, but at the same time registered another union called the Democratic Workers Congress. The CWC objected to the registration of the DWC on the ground that the name was so similar to its own that it might mislead the workers, and also disputed the legal validity of the registration of the Aziz faction union. Aziz and his friends, whilst operating the DWC, claimed to be the real CWC and started litigation to establish that Thondaman and others were "usurpers".

All this led to a merry mix-up, and the Estate Employers Federation made the confusion more con-

founded by refusing to recognise the DWC. Apparently, the reason suggested was that whilst the position of the DWC was nebulous (its registration questioned and its sponsors claiming to be the real office-bearers of the CWC) the employers maintained they were correct in not according recognition. The legal disputes between the CWC and DWC would have taken long to determine, and the DWC precipitated matters by launching strike action.

Supporters of the D.W.C. in the Talawakelle and Badulla area went on strike and, in an unfortunate incident, worker Abraham Singho was shot dead by the police. The Prime Minister there upon took the initiative and called a conference where he effected a common sense settlement. He persuaded all parties to recognise the duly registered unions, without prejudice to the legal battles pending. For the moment, Aziz has to be content with the DWC alone and recognised the CWC and its Thondaman faction office-bearers. The CWC recognised the DWC as a registered union, and the Employers Federation accorded recognition to it also.

It is a pity that this mutual recognition of duly registered unions by the different parties was not established earlier. If it were, there would have been no need for the strike, and the life of an innocent worker, Abraham Singho, need not have been sacrificed at the altar of inter-union rivalry.

## Split

Much has been said about the split in the CWC. It was undoubtedly the strongest and best organised trade union in the island. Though there had been rumblings of two factions in the organisation, the split which occurred at the end of last year came as a surprise to the public. It is still difficult to see why the split arose at all. The Aziz group allege that the split was engineered by the ICFTU which wanted to "discard" all leaders who were not likely to toe the ICFTU line. Statements to this effect have been made by spokesmen of the Aziz group. Whatever the truth of the allegation, it was the Aziz faction that fired the first shot, expelled the Thondaman group office-bearers and captured the headquarters and took over the files, books and the like.

The Thondaman group have maintained from the start that the split was caused owing to the fact that certain persons in the Aziz group had played ducks and drakes with the finances of the Union amounting to several thousands of rupees and that the split was precipitated in order to stifle a proper inquiry into this matter. A signed statement by Rajalingam, as President of the Ceylon Workers Congress, alleges among other things, that the basic cause of the split was the mishandling of funds in a Co-op Thrift Society in Badulla organised under the aegis of the C.W.C. The amounts involved are large and the story seems to be tied up with some printing press set up by certain persons in the group.

It is not possible to know whether there is any truth in the allegations, but the fact that such a statement has been issued by a responsible official has caused serious public disquiet. Aziz, as head of the D.W.C. must investigate these allegations and take the necessary action to dispel public suspicion. If the allegations are untrue Rajalingam has laid himself open to a libel action, but if there be any truth in them, only the severest purge in the DWC will help to build public confidence in the organisation. The easiest way of clearing the air is for Aziz to ask for an open inquiry by the Co-operative Department into the affairs of this Thrift Society about which there has been so much talk among all people interested in the trade union movement.

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# Under Socialism

I see by the papers that the experts predict everything from a 5% rise in production to a 20% decline for the U.S. Here things are quite different. The year 1956 started with the Second Five-Year Plan, a step-by-step blueprint of what will happen to the economy for the next half decade. The plan says "We will increase agricultural production 30% by 1960; we will increase industrial production by 50%", etc.

The plan tells in shorthand style how the entire country is developing and how the whole process, from investment to market, is geared to one end — raising the cultural level and the standard of living.

## Why the Emphasis

A commonly repeated fallacy about Czechoslovakia is that it "neglects" consumer goods industries for the benefit of heavy industry. The facts are that heavy industry has been emphasised because that is the most efficient way of expanding consumption. The First Five-Year Plan emphasized steel works, electric power plants, coal mining, chemical, and heavy engineering and machine tools. The result today is that Czechoslovakia can turn out, with increasing efficiency, entire plants of different types for its own economy and for export.

As one example, the Czechs are constructing in Egypt — and training Egyptians to run them — a complete shoe factory, a large cement mill, a porcelain works and several pumping and power stations. The porcelain works will be large enough to supply all of Egypt's needs with enough left over for export. In return, Czechoslovakia gets fine Egyptian cotton which its mills need both for the rapidly expanding consumption of textiles in Czechoslovakia and for its exports of textiles.

## Coming and Going

Czechoslovakia planners calculated correctly that there would be an extraordinary demand for engineering products. These now form nearly 50% of all Czech exports. Sugar refineries are made in Cze-

choslovakia and set up in Indonesia; in return come quinine, copra, rubber and spices. Czechoslovakia trades factories and finished products to Latin America for coffee, meat, hides. Pineapple comes from China, sea fish from Iceland, cheeses from a dozen countries; Czechoslovakia is now the largest single buyer of citrus fruit from Lebanon. The list could go on for nearly all countries — except the U.S.

This expanding foreign trade reflects the increasing productive capacity of Czechoslovakia's heavy and light industries. It means that Czechoslovak consumers are enjoying a steadily widening variety which, unlike that enjoyed by U.S. consumers, must depend primarily upon imports. The Second Five-Year Plan will continue this program of expanding consumption through expansion of investment. By the end of 1960 these investments will make possible industrial production nearly four times that of 1937.

Each year's investment makes next year's output higher and makes possible both a further increase in consumption and even greater investments. This cumulative process is taking place with a balanced budget and a sharp deflation that takes the form of price cuts for consumer goods and raw materials. There is no element of crisis in the economy.

## Cultural Riches

The Czech and Slovak people have made good use of the decade since their liberation. It has been the greatest period of development of their economy and culture in their long history. Much skill and money have been spent in restoring cultural monuments churches, theatres and museums, as well as new permanent orchestras, schools of music and arts.

Americans had just a sample of the rich quality of cultural life here when Gilels and Oistrakh played in major U.S. cities. For years now Oistrakh, Gilels and other great Soviet artists have played all over Cze-

By courtesy of the *National Guardian*, New York, we publish an article on developing economic life in Czechoslovakia under socialism. Ceylon is interested in the socialist form of economy and it is necessary to examine its growth in different places to see what particular form would suit Ceylon.

choslovakia. We have had the Soviet ballet; Chinese opera, theater, magicians and acrobats; Bulgarian song and dance groups — an overwhelming series of breath-taking performances. This is in addition to fine Czech and Slovak artists, such as the Smrtana quartet which has gone through Europe from one concert triumph to another.

What we do miss here are concerts by American artists such as Paul Robeson and Marian Anderson. What a warm welcome awaits them!

## Two Fields Lacking

Opportunities for all young people to engage in sports at little or no

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# Under Socialism

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cost are expanding. The 1955 Spár-takiade was a tremendous demonstration of Czechoslovak zest for physical culture. This is only one phase of a complete health, welfare and recreation program. The per capita amount spent by the government this year for these programs will equal an average month's wages.

There is complaint in two main fields: the low productivity of labour in agriculture and the shortage of housing. The agriculture problems are being tackled with two goals in mind (1) a higher level of technology and (2) more personnel to work on the farms. Despite the deficiencies crops reached new peaks in 1955 — and farmers got premium prices for the extra production.

In housing there is a recent spurt in building — especially in Slovakia.

But rents are so low, and the population is increasing so rapidly, that there is still a long waiting list for new apartments. Again new methods are being applied. With prefabrication, for example, a construction team erected a 40-family apartment building in Prague in 12 days, with a tremendous saving in man-power and costs.

## The "Liberation" Message

Czechoslovakia is entering the age of automation and atomic energy with confidence and great resources. During 1955 new schools were set up to train atomic scientists and practical workers. Within a few months the first atomic reactor, built with the aid of the Soviet Union, will start operation.

One can understand, from all this, the scorn with which Czechs of all classes greeted Washington's "Christmas message" renewing the pledge of "liberation". Even those who were better off under capitalism — and they are a small percentage — are repelled by "liberation" talk because they know it means war.



If more ordinary Americans could come to Czechoslovakia and see for themselves, the cold war would die an early death.

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# OBJECTS and WORK

We conclude this week the article by a correspondent in defence of Asia Foundation. Last week, this correspondent, as one who claims to know the work of the Foundation, explained the background of this organisation. This week he sets out the objects of the Foundation as contained in the official "manifesto" and also gives the names of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

We have received a number of letters from readers on the Asia Foundation. Some of these will be published in coming issues.

The Asia Foundation is a non-political, non-profit organisation incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Its main office is located in San Francisco, with a branch office in New York City. Representatives are maintained in a number of Asian Countries.

The Foundation was organized in March 1951, by a group of San Francisco citizens as the Committee for Free Asia. In October, 1954, its Articles of Incorporation were revised and its name was changed to reflect the organisation's development and the Trustees' conviction that there exists a continuing need for the type of activities in which it engages.

## Objects

The Foundation therefore invites the continued support of Asians and Americans in the promotion of its purposes as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation:

- a. To make private American support available to individuals and groups in Asia who are working for the attainment of peace, independence, personal liberty, and social progress.
- b. To encourage and strengthen active cooperation founded on mutual respect and un-

derstanding, among voluntary organizations — Asian, American, and international — with similar aims and ideals.

- c. To work with other American individuals and organizations for a better understanding in the United States of the peoples of Asia, their histories, cultures and values.

The Foundation thus offers to help those groups and individuals who are promoting the manifold aspects — spiritual, civic, economic, artistic, social and educational — of the Asian renaissance. Its aid is private. It seeks to encourage voluntary activity, believing that action by individuals working as private citizens is a fundamental requisite of democratic societies.

Its programs are developed in response to the needs of the countries of Asia based on requests made to the Foundation's representatives in these countries.

## Education

As education is a principal concern of these countries, the

Foundation cooperates with Asian educational institutions and organizations in the development of specific educational program which are of national value. Such programs might include, for example, assistance toward the diffusion of modern educational theory and practice, approximately adapted to local conditions.

While encouraging the development of efforts to eliminate illiteracy the Foundation also helps to stimulate the development of Asian Arts. It assists organisations in doing this through prize awards for outstanding works; advance royalty guarantees, fellowships, travel grants and other means

Also given support are publishing programs which encourage the writing, publication and distribution of Asian books. In assisting publishing programs in Asia, the Foundation subscribes to the Asian belief that these programs help generate the exchange of ideas and experiences within Asia.

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# OBJECTS and WORK

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In the United States, the Foundation works increasingly with other institutions and groups interested in Asia. This cooperation stems from the belief that Asian - American understanding is a two-way affair in which the Foundation can be a helpful intermediary. This role has led to different types of activities, including the obtaining of grants or technical advisers for Asian organizations and the providing to the National Association of educational Broadcasters of a series of radio programs, made in Asia and featuring Asia leaders, for its some sixty member radio stations.

The Foundation has also worked with other American organisations in organising conferences and seminars on Asian and in encouraging the exchange of educational publications on a personal basis between American professors and students and their counterparts in Asian universities.

The local beneficiaries of the Foundation include the Youth Councils in the Western Province, Uva Province, Central Province, Jaffna, North Central Province and the Southern Province; the Boys Scout and the Girl Guide movements, Young Farmers' Group, Lanka Mahila Samithi, All Ceylon Women's Buddhist Association, the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association, All Ceylon Women's Conference, the Muslim Cultural Centre, the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A. and the Ceylon Social Services League. It has also assisted with scholarships to deserving Ceylonese to visit and study conditions abroad. It has given grants to prominent Buddhist educationalists to visit Europe and the United States for cultural contacts.

It has assisted some prominent Ceylonese to establish a Printing Press to produce Sinhalese literature at a price which will be within the pocket of the ordinary man. In the cultural sphere the Foundation has contributed extensively to the development of a theatre for cultural performances and to groups promoting Sinhalese dance, music and drama.

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# CONSPIRACY

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the line is that Anglo-America should remain in Trincomalee in order to prevent an Indian invasion. In the North, the line is that Britain and America should hold Trincomalee in order to protect the Tamils against the onslaught of Sinhalese communalism. In June, when the Commonwealth Premiers Conference will take place in London, this line of propaganda, according to plans now afoot, will reach a crescendo in "Lake House" papers.

By all these means, Lake House as the mouthpiece of reaction in this country, will endeavour to execute a new conspiracy that is being hatched to smash the MEP Government. With supreme unconcern, Prime Minister Bandaranaike and his colleagues are playing into the hands of this reaction, which had left no stone unturned during the elections to defeat the MEP, and which is today doing everything it can to cause the disintegration and downfall of the new government.

The extent of disillusionment in the new Government can be gauged by an editorial in the *Morning Times* of May 22, 1956 entitled "The Threat of Tyranny".

"The MEP Government," stated the editorial, "started off with an immense fund of public goodwill because the country was tired of the empty promises of the UNP, and feared increasing encroachments on the civil liberties of citizens by a regime which had already adopted wiretapping, the impounding of passports and snoopers as legitimate methods of dealing with their opponents. But Mr. Bandaranaike must be aware that this fund of goodwill has already begun to evaporate because extremists in his following seem to believe that interference with the lives of others is the best way of showing their power and authority....."

Premier Bandaranaike should heed the words of the *Morning Times* which has extended an ample measure of support to his Government and not walk into the trap that is being laid out for him by Lake House.

# ILLEGAL

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activity in this matter has given rise to the most anxious curiosity in the minds of many who are aware of the facts. It is probably open to any member of the public, who is affected by this service, to move the Supreme Court to issue a Mandamus on the Commissioners requiring him to perform a statutory duty: that of making a determination in regard to the stage carrier permit held before March 30, 1956 by the North Western Blue Line.

The Minister of Transport must step in and find out why the Commissioner has let things slide. If he has any reason for permitting this illegality, it seems to be some mysterious reason which no reasonable person can conceive of as being adequate to justify his allowing to operate without a Stage Carrier Permit as required by law.

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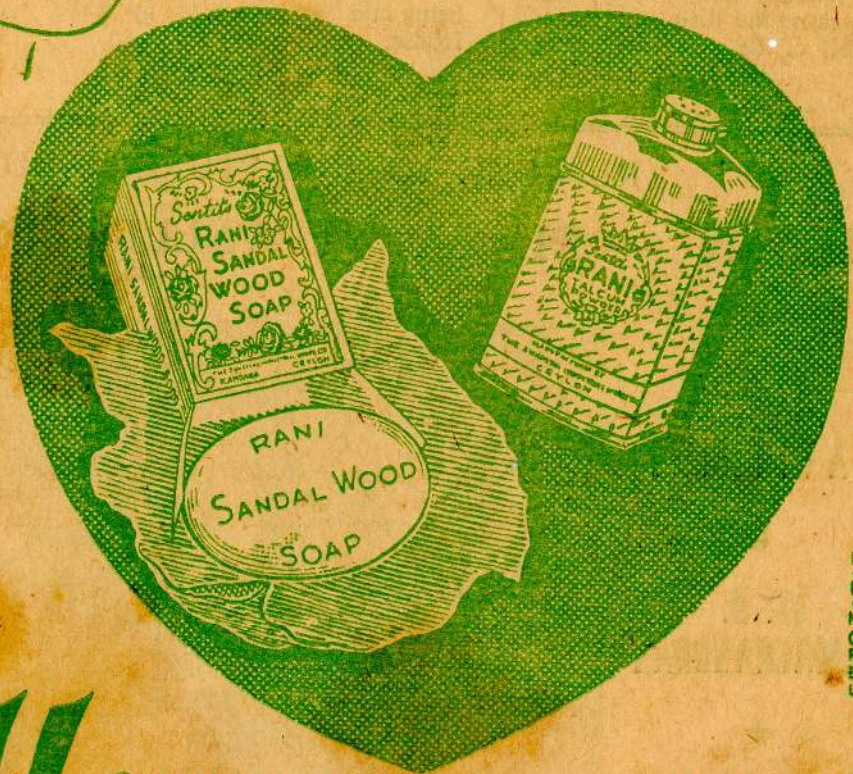


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