

# TRIBUNE

## IMPORTERS' RING to kill ceramic factory

*With photographs and inspiring Ministerial statements the public was this week assured that the Ceylon Ceramic Factory were turning out products of high quality and that very soon people in this country would have the pleasure of eating in plates and drinking in cup made in this country. This is no doubt a comforting thought, and there is also no doubt either that products of our Ceramic Factory in Negombo are of high quality. But, "Tribune" warns the Government that unless immediate steps are taken to curb the activities of certain traders in the Pettah, the Ceramic Factory will soon be running at a loss.*

Importers of crockery, ceramic wares and glassware, it is reliably learnt, are determined to kill the Negombo Factory as they have in the past "killed" the Government Glass Factory at Nattandiya and the Swadesi Factory at Kandana. The Industrial Products Act by itself is totally incapable of rendering

any protection. Quotas are circumvented by importing goods of slightly different specifications and furthermore (through a process of "dumping" foreign goods are sold at ridiculously low prices until the products of our factories are disposed off on the pavements at give away prices as "unsaleable".

### Incognito

The products of the Negombo Factory are now being subject to this same treatment. A *Tribune* representative went *incognito* to one of the bigger establishments in the Pettah. A salesman endeavoured to sell him some crockery (foreign) but refused to show him the Negombo ware saying "the stuff is hopeless". When our representative insisted he took him to a dark and dingy corner of the shop and showed him a heap of horrible looking articles (probably specially imported for the purpose) and stated "these are things made at the Government Factory" and refused to sell our representatives the alleged Negombo ware. Our representative thereupon inspected some of the products of Negombo in the Industries Department showrooms and found that none of these things were being exhibited or sold in the



The only inference to be drawn is that the importers who are called upon to buy a quota of ceramic ware from Negombo to qualify for import licences find it profitable to destroy the stuff and sell only the imported articles. It must be remembered that three or four traders in the Pettah have for generations now controlled the import and distribution of crockery, ceramic ware and glassware in the island. Moreover practically all the wholesale and retail dealers all over the country are connected with these big importers through ties of business relationship built on easy credit. Through this machinery, of distribution, these importers can "kill" the products of the Negombo Factory unless more drastic import and protective restrictions are imposed.

Apart from increased advertising with an accent on using national produced articles, the importers must be kept well under control. Dumping must be checked — for foreign manufacturers would not mind losing a few thousand or even hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling in order to see that the Negombo Factory is not a success. To create popular resistance to local products, foreign products are not only sold at ridiculously low prices but Ceylon products bought on quota are sold at even more fantastically low prices (far lower than the prices paid for by the wholesalers) on the plea that the stuff is "poor". Unless the Government meet these with tactics of the foreign manufactures and their local agents, with really drastic measures the Negombo Factory will be faced with a bleak prospect. Its excellent products will never reach the consumer.

## TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW  
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**The Lieutenant Wore Skirts**

Tom Ewell and Sheree North  
English at THE NEW OLYMBIA

The Lootenant wore skirts is the kind of comedy Hollywood does well. But unhappily not often enough. It is a comedy of errors, more or less. Gregory (his wife tells us that he is no Peck in case we had any doubts). An ex air hero of the Second World War, now an author had ecstatically happily married, is suddenly recalled for service with the American Air Force. There is a national emergency of some kind. (Nothing to do with the Suez Canal). Incidentally Americans refer to the Second World War as we refer to the Crimean War. Their *piece de resistance* is the Korean War. However domestic contentment and married bliss are completely ruined by this unexpected call to the colours. But the happy couple are determined to let nothing but death do them part. The wife, herself an ex WAAF offers her services too, in the hope that both can serve and die if necessary together. She succeeds, but he fails to make the grade and returns home triumphantly to celebrate his release from the burdens of patriotism, only to find that his wife is due to leave for Hawaii on dooty. Nothing he can do can stop her. Even Washington is helpless. Gregory accepts his fate like a man and sees her off at the airport.

Left to his own designs in the salacious environs of Beverly Hills, Gregory's mind becomes somewhat overwrought by suggestions that the romantic atmosphere of a tropical island is wellcalculated to undermine the most resolute marriage vows of the most devoted of wives, especially when he is authoritatively informed that the ratio of males to females in that other Eden is in the Region of forty to one. The arithmetical force of this revelation, if nothing else, compels him to take a very serious view of the situation and off he flies to Hawaii determined to re cue his wife from the clutches of the U. S. A. F. and the arms of at last forty other man. But once arrived he discovers that she is out of bounds for civilians. He tries every trick in the bag to make his wife break the Air Force regulations. And this is where the film starts to be really funny. He simulates lunacy. Endeavours (with remarkable suc-

cess I thought) to induce near lunacy in his wife. Tries to make her jealous by ostensibly living with a most curvacious Hawaiian hip waggler, or playing a little platonic bridge with the wives the boys have left behind. But nothing doing. She cannot be dislodged. In the end a very old trick does it. The oldest trick in the world. She is going to have a baby. And to judge from their surprise, one is almost led to believe that neither of them could possibly have had anything to do with it. But paternity is something that we all accept on trust and Gregory asks no question even if that forty to one ratio worried him now and then. The good news is brought through a medical report which is handed to her on the gangway of a plane which is taking her away on transfer to Wisbaden. Meanwhile Giegory is embarking on another plane bound for the States, on repatriation, I should have thought, for undermining the morale and the morals of the entire U.S. Air Force stationed in Hawaii. But I was wrong. He has been rather mysteriously reinstated as a Major and is flying home presumably for higher promotion for his wonderful work in Hawaii. The news comes in the nick of time and propels The Love Birds towards each other on the tarmac. The film ends with their delirious sobbing drowned by the drone of high powered aero engines. And alls well that ends well.



I think Tom Ewell must rank as one of the finest comedians in Hollywood. He is really much more. He is a fine actor. One of these days he will be making a film we shall all remember him by. There is a homliness about him that is reassuring. He might well be the chap across the way or the fellow you met at the Pub. Here he makes a fine job of satirising the luxurious American husband. And nobody grimaces and uses his eyes to better purpose than Tom Ewell. I havent seen Sheree North before. But that is my fault. No doubt she must be a very famous actress. Her part in this film was by no means easy, but she copes with each situation in the manner born. Altogether a good evening's fun and entertainment. And what more can you expect! N.

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# PAUL ROBESON

It is a sad and bitter commentary on the state of civil liberties in America that the very forces of reaction, typified by Representative Francis Walter and his Senate counterparts, who have denied me access to the lecture podium, the concert hall, the opera house, and the dramatic stage, now hale me before a committee of inquisition in order to hear what I have to say. It is obvious that those who are trying to gag me here and abroad will scarcely grant me the freedom to express myself fully in a hearing controlled by them.

It would be more fitting for me to question Walter, Eastland and Dulles than for them to question me, for it is they who should be called to account for their conduct, not I. Why does Walter not investigate the truly "un-American" activities of Eastland and his gang, to whom the Constitution is a scrap of paper when invoked by the Negro people and to whom defiance of the Supreme Court is a racial duty? And how can Eastland pretend concern over the internal security of our country while he supports the most brutal assaults on fifteen million Americans by the white citizens councils and the Klu Klux Klan? When will Dulles explain his reckless irresponsible "brink of war" policy by which the world might have been destroyed.

And specifically, why is Dulles afraid to let me have a passport, to let me travel abroad to sing, to act, to speak my mind? This question has been partially answered by State Department lawyers who have asserted in court that the State Department claims the right to deny me a passport because of what they called my "recognized status as a spokesman for large sections of Negro Americans" and because I have "been for years extremely active in behalf of independence of colonial peoples of Africa." The State Department has also bared its denial of a passport to me on the fact that I sent a message of greeting to the Bandung Conference, convened by Nehru, Sukarno and other great leaders of the colored peoples of the world. Principally,

however, Dulles objects to speeches I have made abroad against the oppression suffered by my people in the United States.

I am proud that those statements can be made about me. It is my firm intention to continue to speak out against injustices to the Negro people, and I shall continue to do all within my power in behalf of independence of colonial peoples of Africa. It is for Dulles to explain why a Negro who opposes colonialism and supports the aspirations of Negro Americans should for those reasons be denied a passport.

My fight for a passport is a struggle for freedom, — freedom to travel, freedom to earn a livelihood, freedom to speak, freedom to express myself artistically and culturally. I have been denied these freedoms because Dulles, Eastland, Walter and their like oppose my views on colonial liberation, my resistance to oppression of Negro Americans, and my burning desire for peace with all nations. But these are views which I shall proclaim whenever given the op-

This is the full text of the statement made by Paul Robeson to the Committee on Un-American activities in Washington on June 12, 1956 when he was summoned for questioning by this red and negro-baiting inquisitorial body.

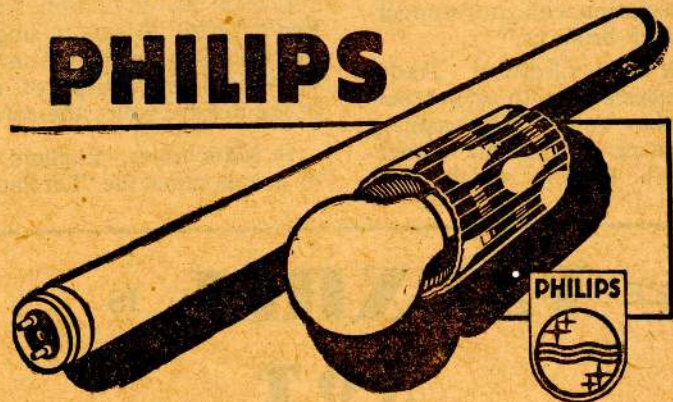
portunity, whether before this committee or any other body.

## Cultural

President Eisenhower has strongly urged the desirability of international cultural exchanges. I agree with him. The American people would welcome artistic performances by the great singers, actors, ballet troupes, opera companies, symphony orchestras and virtuosos of South America, Europe, Africa and Asia, including the folk and classic art of the African peoples, the ancient culture of China, as well as the artistic works of the western world. I hope the day will come soon when Walter will consent to lowering the cruel bars which deny the American people the right to witness performances of many great foreign artists. It is certainly high time for him to drop the ridiculous

*continued on page 196*

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# PAUL ROBESON

*continued from page 195*

"Keystone Kop" antics of fingerprinting distinguished visitors.

I find no such restrictions placed upon me abroad as Walter has had placed upon foreign artists whose performances the American people wish to see and hear. I have been invited to perform all over the world, and only the arbitrary denial of a passport has prevented realization of this particular aspect of the cultural exchange which the President favours.

I have been invited by Leslie Linder Productions to play the title role in a production of "Othello" in England. British Actors' Equity Association has unanimously approved of my appearance and performance in England.

I have been invited by Workers' Music Association Ltd. to make a concert tour of England under its auspices. The invitation was signed by all of the vice-presidents, including Benjamin Britten, and was seconded by a personal invitation of R. Vaughn Williams.

I have been invited by Adam Holender, to make a concert tour of Israel, and he has tendered to me a proposed contract for that purpose.

"Mosfilm", a Soviet moving picture producing company, has invited me to play the title role in a film version of "Othello", assuring me "of the tremendous artistic joy which association with your wonderful talent will bring us."

The British Electrical Trades Union requested me to attend their annual policy conference, recalling my attendance at a similar conference held in 1949 at which, they

wrote me, "you sang and spoke so movingly."

The British Workers' Sport Association, erroneously crediting a false report that I would be permitted to travel, wrote me, "we view the news with great happiness". They invited me "to sing to our members in London, Glasgow, Manchester or Cardiff, or all four, under the auspices of our International Fund, and on a financial basis favourable to yourself, and to be mutually agreed." They suggested a choice of three different halls in London: seating, respectively 3,000, 4,500 and 7,000

The Australian Peace Council invited me to make a combined "singing and peace tour" of the dominion.

I have received an invitation from the Education Committee of the London Co-operative Society to sing at concerts in London under their auspices.

A Swedish youth organization called "Democratic Youth" has invited me to visit Sweden "to give some concerts here, to get to know our culture and our people." The letter of invitation added, "Your appearance here would be greeted with the greatest interest and pleasure, and a tour in Sweden can be arranged either by us or by our organization in cooperation with others, or by any of our cultural societies or artist's bureaux, whichever you may prefer."

I have an invitation from the South Wales Miners to sing at the Miners' Singing Festival on October 6, 1956 and in a series of concerts in the mining valley thereafter.

In Manchester, England a group of people called the "Let Paul Robe-

son Sing Committee" has asked me to give a concert at the Free Trade Hall in that city either preceding or following my engagement in Wales.

I have been requested by the Artistic and Literary Director of the Agence Litteraire et Artistique Parisienne Pour les Echanges Culturels to sign a contract with the great French concert organizer, M. Marcel de Valmalette, to sing in a series of concerts at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris.

There is no doubt that the governments of those countries and many others where I would be invited to sing if I could travel abroad, would have no fear of what I might sing or say while there, whether such governments be allies and friends of America or neutrals or those others whose friendship for the American people is obstructed by Dulles and Walter and like-minded reactionaries.

My travels abroad to sing and act and speak cannot possibly harm the American people. In the past I have won friends for the real America among the millions before whom I have performed,—not for Walter, not for Dulles, not for Eastland, not for the racists who disgrace our country's name, —but friends for the American Negro, our workers, our farmers, our artists.

By continuing the struggle at home and abroad for peace and friendship with all of the world's people, for an end to colonialism, for full citizenship for Negro Americans, for a world in which art and culture may abound, I intend to continue to win friends for the best in American life.

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# Bishop Peiris

I do not see why Mr. A. A. Fernando should not defend his Bishop; and I also do not see why my sense of being wronged by the accredited leaders of our Church should not get the better of a Catholic's natural and traditional display of team spirit and unanimity.

Since the year 1951, I have observed the ecclesiastical authorities of the Colombo and Chilaw Dioceses in a special manner keeping step with the racial, goose-step. We also have seen our children being driven to non catholic schools. We have also heard repeated invitations to rally round the Hierarchy in defence of our Catholic way of life. This contradiction between practice and preaching cannot but strain the loyalty of Catholics to their ecclesiastical Superiors. When every one in our country, every one who was vocal or just, was indicating his mind, the Catholic Hierarchy alone gave no indication of where it stood. But there is a limit to the length one should go for the preservation of apparent unanimity and unity for which we Catholics are well noted. But when liberties and rights of a section of the people are being curtailed by a new Democracy (which is a government of the people by a fraction of the people for a section of the people) the call to preserve the facade of unanimity and unity is futile. We cannot satisfy ourselves with lacrymose speeches; we want something more concrete.

## Protestants

In this context we find the Protestant Christian denominations in Ceylon taking up a position *vis-a-vis* the challenge that has been thrown out to all just men.

The National Council of Christian Churches (excluding the Roman Catholic Church) had issued, as the language controversy raged three indicatives of the attitude of the Protestant denominations to the Language Policy of the political parties. The Catholic Hierarchy as the accredited voice of the Roman Catholic parties remained silent

nursing privately its anti-Marxist opinion and propping up its pro-U.N.P. leanings. Not a word about what the Hierarchy should have thought was fair play and justice on the language question. The position taken up was that the church had no business nor call to step into politics. Actually the question is

Mr. Paul Pillai has sent us this statement in reply to a letter from Mr. A. A. Fernando of Chilaw which appeared in the "Tribune" two weeks ago. Mr. Fernando had defended Bishop Peiris who had been taken to task by Mr. Paul Pillai in a letter in the "Tribune" for his attitude (and activities) in regard to language.

whether the Hierarchy was unwilling to join issue on the subject or was unable by its own constitution to do so.

The election was over and the M. E. P. was in the saddle. Not a word again! Waiting perhaps to see how far the M. E. P. would go

the Buddhist Commission way! The feasting and the glucose feasting over, the 5th of June brought a pretaste of some Fuehrer in some revolutionary niche would spell out for the minorities. Then from Jaffna and from Chilaw came the weak voices of ecclesiastical protest. Against what? Not against what was conspired. During the months of conspiracy and during the period when the people were driven to an ecstasy of racial frenzy the Hierarchy remained dumb. Efforts to make the Hierarchy, raise its voice in protest were caused to be fruitless. One Catholic priest came out openly on the Sinhala Bhashava Peramuna platform. And mind you no rebuke from the Hierarchy, even then!

Had the Hierarchy a duty to speak with authority on this subject of language? When Poland was partitioned at Yalta the Bishops of Catholic Scotland thought it their duty to issue a joint pastoral because they could not be blind to the immorality of it all. When the U.N.P. sought to acclimatize people to Birth Control and marriage guidance, the Hierarchy felt it its moral duty to go on record against such proposals. When the U.N.P. went to the polls the Catholic Hierarchy felt it a moral duty to save this country from the horrors

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## THE PEOPLE'S CAR



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# Bishop Peiris

(continued from page 197)

of Marxism. When the U. N. P. sought to make of a Government Schools denominational schools of particular type, the Hierarchy had to be heard in protest. But when the dominant political parties and later the Government sought to violate one of the fundamentals of democracy, the Hierarchy withdrew into the quiet of the sanctuary and held that such a violation was not one of those moral principles that did lie within the jurisdiction of the Hierarchy.

## Precursor

Why? I can answer the question very briefly. The Hierarchy behind the cadjan curtain of the Education Code and its various amendments from 1951 onwards cut itself-imposed caper of the Precursor to the M.E.P. His Lordship had even made himself the subject of a question in Parliament when he made the education code an excuse for his pre-M. E. P. activities.

In 1951 Very Rev. Father D. J. Anthony the then General Manager

of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese, had very successfully started to squeeze the Tamil Catholic Children out of Catholic Schools. In this laudable pre M. E. P. effort he was seconded by two priests one at St. Joseph's College and the other at St. Peter's College. In support of all these I have with me a letter with the 1953 date-line written to me by Very Rev. Father G. Fortin. In this letter he tells me that the General Manager, informs him that the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese are meant primarily for Sinhalese Catholic Children. An interview with Fr. Fortin at Silversmith Street ensued as a consequence of this letter. And what a sad commentary on these apostles of demon-national Education. To think we Catholics had spent almost a century fighting for it only to be balked of its fruits by the imposition of racial boundaries over this achievement.

Was not therefore the political climate in which the Hierarchy moved and had its existence one that was attuned to the Fourth of June? Wherefore the fifth of June was a day which did not take the Hierarchy by surprise. Then why all this hypocritical cant, on the part of His Lordship of Chilaw on the seventh of June to an Association at Chilaw?

The Hierarchy by its sins of omission and commission have put my Tamil Nationalism and my Catholic Faith at variance. After having so astrained my feelings of loyalty to my faith will the same Hierarchy call me out in its defence when the M.E.P. (and the New Democracy behind it) calls for the extermination of Christianity as a foreign religion and the expulsion of foreign missionaries as spies and for the nationalisation of the Catholic Church in Ceylon?

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# FRAGMENTATION

The Food Minister had in one of his recent utterances, referred to fragmentation of land and that his government was opposed to such practices. It is heartening to note, that the Government, which is more concerned with trivialities of sensational value, could also address itself to more serious problems of national significance.

Whereas two-third of the cultivated land is covered by the three major plantation crops, it must be noted that the vast majority of the rural population (approximately two-thirds of the employable population) look for work and livelihood to the million acres of the land which is all that is left free from the intrusion of the cash crops. The essence of our Agricultural problem is the simple one of inadequacy of cultivated land and of its continuing shrinkage in the face of an increasing population. The result is the growing pressure of land, which stands unrelieved by any substantial extension of cultivated land, or by the movement of the population out of Agriculture on to productive industry. Such a situation definitely results in the fragmentation of cultivated land, which in turn restricts the availability of capital, and the continued adoption of primitive methods of production and the low productivity of land. This excessive division of land (in most instances amounting to an average of half an acre) is the natural consequence of the relation existing between existing resources and population. Such "postage stamp" cultivation, as the World Bank Mission would like to call it, is the mere reflection of the pressure of population on the land.

**Negative**

In the light of these developments, to state that the Government is against fragmentation of land would only amount to a protest of a negative kind. The M.E.P. should lay down its policy in a clear cut manner, and state the means by which it seeks to solve this problem. It clearly demands for a complete overhaul of policy, that had been pursued by their predecessors in power. The U.N.P.

had lured the rural folk away from focussing their attention on the core of the problem, by talking big of grandiose schemes. They had never attempted at co-ordination, whereby the lot of the poor peasantry could be relieved. We could have concentrated on intensive cultivation methods, that could have saved the millions of Rupees drained away in the larger irrigation schemes. It could have attempted at floor-protection schemes, which it never did, for fear of annoying the plantation empire. The upper catchment areas of the various rivers have to be re-forested, if the floods and frequent droughts that cause so much of devastation affecting non-plantation Agricultural, is to be avoided.

It had been the fate of Ceylon's economy, that it should pay more attention to plantation interests to the detriment of the vast majority of the people and also the future generations to come. The hill country, where our rivers have their source, had been deforested for exploitation by foreign interests, whose only ambition was profit and not national welfare. We have

been, as a result of such activities, exposed to frequent floods and droughts.

With the growing sense of national independence, there is developing a tendency to transfer foreign-owned tea and rubber estates to Ceylonese Control. Apart from lowering efficiency, it has resulted in a definite deterioration through sub-division of the estates. Unscrupulous money-makers find it profitable to purchase these estates and re-sell them after blocking them out into smaller parcels. This prevents the possibility of any co-ordinated policy to avoid soil-erosion and the adoption of a progressive re-forestation programme.

The Government therefore (if it has the interests of the people at heart) should initiate a positive programme of Agricultural development. This might lead to opposition from the various vested interests, particularly those from the plantations in the hill-country. But unless the government is bold enough to assert itself, it could be safely said, that the poor peasant will never find any relief at all in the near future.

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# COMMENT

## AIR CEYLON

Newspaper reports this week revealed that the lone solitary plane constituting the Air India International Service suffered another breakdown which necessitated in a delay of 24 Hours. There can be no doubt that this antiquated "constellation" which the KLM so graciously dumped on Air Ceylon is really a decrepit machine which has to be consigned to the scrap heap. Furthermore, as anticipated by this paper, the talks in New Delhi have proved futile. India seems unwilling, and perhaps justifiably so, to allow Air Ceylon with one miserable plane in its International Service to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the KLM as far as India is concerned by granting full traffic rights in Bombay.

### SCANDAL

It is time that the Minister of transport looks into the affairs of Air Ceylon particularly its International Service. To waste more money in sending delegations to New Delhi and Amsterdam is really to perpetuate one of the biggest scandals of the old regime. A proper investigation of the KLM deal will show that it is an even more foolhardy and risky business venture than the earlier ANA tie-up. Before more damage is done and before more money is wasted on this costly blunder of the KLM-AIR CEYLON business, the Minister should cry halt.

With a vast field for development in internal services and "coastal" services to India it seems unbelievable that the old government should have been bamboozled into this game of wanting the Ceylon flag to fly on airways of the world. As it is, several persons are daily unable to get seats on the Air Ceylon plane to Jaffna. It can be said that if better and more economical planes are used and the fares reduced a little, the traffic between Jaffna and Colombo can be trebled or quadrupled without the slightest difficulty. Air services

to Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Amparai, Matara, Galle and Kandy should reap large profits whilst at the same time providing a much-needed public utility service. The present Dakotas are, from a commercial point of view unwieldy and uneconomical for Ceylon; and the two serviceable planes we possess are not sufficient to have a properly integrated internal service. Coupled with this Air Ceylon can easily extend her present Trichy-Madras services to places like Madurai Tuticorin and the like. Co-operating with Indian National Airlines. Air Ceylon and provide a usual network to cover south India and Ceylon.

### Colombo Powers

If Air Ceylon wishes to go further afield the closest neighbour India would be the best partner for any such venture. It is in the interests of Ceylon and India to have a combined air service for international purposes. And even better suggestion was made some time ago that the Colombo Powers - Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia (and later Malaya) - should pool their air resources and form a corporation to have an international airline service that can really stand up to the giants in the air world like the TWA, PAN AMERICAN, BOAC, AIR FRANCE, KLM and the SAS. The last mentioned should really provide a wonderful model for the South East Asian countries. SAS is a corporation consisting of the Scandinavian countries. Each of them by themselves cannot really afford the luxury of an international air service, but the combination provides one of the finest in the world. In this region, Pakistan Airways, the Air India International and the (Indonesian) Garuda Airways are still running at a loss, and it is unnecessary to refer to the unfortunate position of Air

Ceylon, but a combined airline can easily operate on a profitable basis.

The Ceylon Government would do well to take the initiative in inviting the Governments of the Colombo Powers to consider setting up an Air corporation which will keep the flag of South East Asia flying on the air routes of the world. The Minister of Transport should consider this suggestion and invite opinion on this matter first from all aviation circles in Ceylon (not foreign airlines) and on the basis of such discussions submit a memorandum to the other Colombo Powers on this project. We feel certain that such a proposal will receive wide support.

The Government should have no qualms about scrapping the KLM deal and writing off the loss without incurring further losses and increasing the amount that would have to be written off later if there is more delay. To concentrate on developing our internal services, there is no need for any assistance from the KLM (none has been got). This is the primary task of the Minister of Transport in the matter of air transport. The post-mortem into the affairs of the Air Ceylon International Service, though important, should not act as a brake on immediate measures that should be taken to build up a regular first class internal service.

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# BLACK MAIL

Where is the MEP rushing to? That is a question which seems to be on the lips of many persons who are deeply interested in the affairs of the country. Whilst the Government is following a progressive foreign policy, there are grave indications that in domestic and local affairs various reactionary and disruptive trends seem to be having undisputed sway in certain matters.

It would be unnecessary to refer to the language issue. The MEP *Sinhala Only* Bill is indisputably jingoistic. Its basic character cannot be changed by "regulations." Everything that has to be said on the Language Bill has been said and it is not necessary for me to repeat the same.

But I cannot but help refer to the recent Mettananda letter and aftermath. Sometime in the second week of July, the Prime Minister made an announcement that a Department of National Languages was to be set up on August 1: that L. J. de S. Seneviratne was to be its head and that M. J. Perera and N. A. de S. Wijesekera were to be his Deputies.

## Mettananda

Then came the Mettananda letter. Among other things it alleged that it was wrong to shift the Buddhist L. J. de S. Seneviratne from being head of the Treasury and the Public Service to be replaced by the Catholic S. F. Amerasinghe. It is also known that Seneviratne moved heaven and earth (and Bhikkus) to prevent his being "kicked upstairs" to the Language Department.

Bandaranaike made a heroic reply answering Mettananda that fascist methods were not needed to help Buddhism assume its rightful place. But it must be noted that the Language Department was not set up on August 1. It is now being stated that the language affairs needed something more than a Department, a Ministry in fact. And the suggestion has been made that the HEAD OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE and the HEAD OF THE LANGUAGE MINISTRY should

be one and the same person and that the person should be L. J. De S. SENEVERATNE.

This gentleman was the person who during the UNP was carrying on an insidious policy of making this country a Sinhalese Buddhist country and the suggestion to make him continue as head of the Public Service as well as head the Language Department is nothing short of pursuing the clandestine racial policies of the UNP more openly and blatantly in the MEP (Mettananda) style. And it also gives the show away that the Language Policy mainly revolves round the question of employment in the Public Service!

Another aspect of the matter is that the Mettananda blackmail has succeeded. A glucose-cum-orange juice hunger strike by Mettananda's side-kick, Felix Jayasuriya, transformed a reasonably acceptable Language Bill into a fascist enactment. A press statement by Mettananda on the methods of administration of the Language Bill seems to have stampeded Bandaranaike into accepting the *chosen* of the UNP to fulfil the wishes of the most reactionary racial chauvinists (MEP brand).

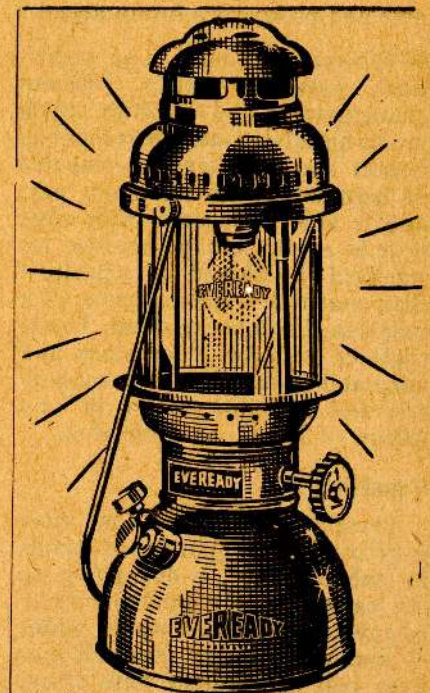
Will this blackmail push Bandaranaike to a position which will make him objectively an out-and-out fascist?

## Unions

Another form of blackmail is also being practised by yet another section of the MEP. Readers will recall how the UNP attempted to draw the organised workers in the city and elsewhere to switch to a UNP-sponsored trade union. It was led by the famous (Briggs) T. F. Jayawardene (also Parliamentary Secretary for Labour). The method of recruitment was simple. If you don't support the UNP union, you will get nothing, but if you join us we'll "persuade" the employers to hand out a few concessions. That was the line, and it worked for a time. But the number of concess-

ions the employers granted were few and far between, and since UNP also received contributions to its party funds from employers and proprietors it could not very well make a fuss about concessions to workers.

The MEP technique seems to be different but the aim and motive is the same. A few Members of Parliament are now on the prowl to recruit the workers now in the other unions into the MEP fold. The same promises of governmental patronage for the workers and their demands is being held out. And, whilst the UNP had used the bogey of "communism" and "marxist anarchy" to intimidate employers and proprietors into granting a few concessions to help them win UNP trade union members, MEP stalwarts seem to be threatening employers with "spectre" of nationalisation to browbeat them into conceding a few demands.



# TAMILNAD

June 5, 1955, will go down in the historical records of this land, as the date on which Sinhalese Only was made the language of the State by Parliamentary sanction. But its deeper and sader repercussions though unwritten in the annals, are already evinced, and will mark a dark blot in the era of this generation.

Today, there exists a rift in the Ceylonese Nation, caused by a shameful bit of legislation. Seeds of communal discrimination, frustration and bitterness have been sown, and the roots have already grown too deep and fast to be eradicated by mere words of assurance and pledges of trust.

The force of circumstance has brought all Tamil peoples together, and the common bond of their heritage binds them today in closer unity, and quiet resoluteness to march forward towards the goal of self-determination wherein to them lies the one solution to this tragic situation. With that end in view, there is now no looking back; on the contrary, they have every reason to be hopeful of a respectable and prosperous future ahead.

The average Tamil, as an individual, possesses certain inherent characteristics and qualities which are to his advantage. He is humble, honest and conscientious, capable of hard work with minimum pay, and is able to manage with what little he earns, perhaps because his standard of values is more spiritual than material — the outcome of a religious Hindu background. These, together with his intelligence and adaptability, rate him as a successful and desirable fellow in any sphere of labour or profession.

## Capability

Therefore, the reason that there is (if any) a disproportion of Tamils in public service, is due purely to the capability of the individuals — as any honest opinion would admit — and not to other insidious motives that some might have others believe.

For a community endowed with so much, to make an oasis out of a desert is not impossible, and the further development of areas of the Northern and Eastern parts of Ceylon, therefore, presents no formidable task to those who have already toiled to exploit whatever resources are available, and have eked a living under such trying conditions even from the time of Vijaya!

The Palmyrah palm fulfils many uses which are numerous and varied, and need no mention. Agricultural produce such as rice, vegetables, onions, chillies, tobacco, etc. are already under cultivation. Industrial enterprise is catching on, and avenues for labour already exist in the manufacture of cement, paper, salt, and sugar if produced on a larger scale. Deposits of morazite on the beaches still await exploitation. The long coastal stretches provide for fishing as an important means of livelihood. The British Naval Base at Trincomalee, though politically undesirable, employs many thousands, and thus satisfies a further economic need.

Commerce is a natural development of a progressive economy, and machinery for banking, insurance and finance will consequently follow.

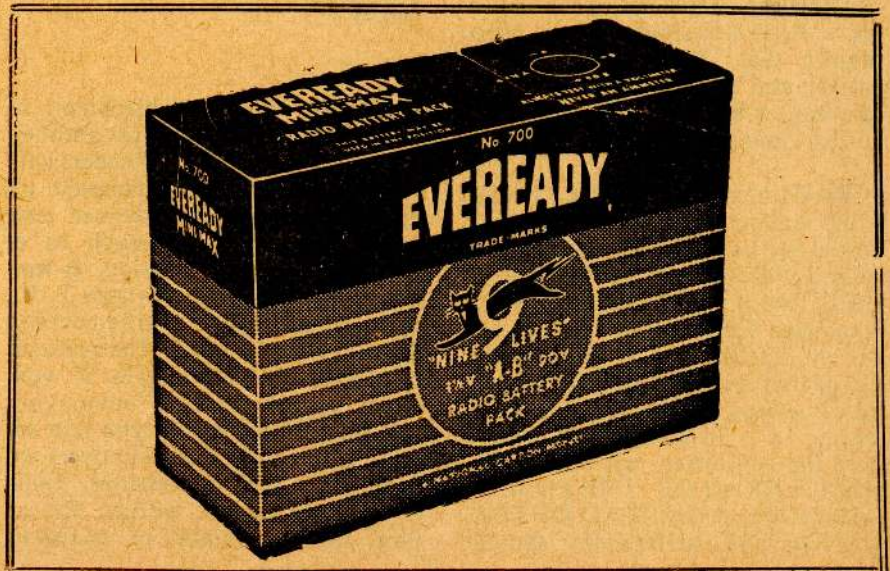
The sea ports of Jaffna and Batticaloa, if developed, will make the

State independent of the Colombo harbour. Deepening of the Palk Strait as planned by India will no doubt enhance the importance of these harbours. Moreover, conditions leading to port congestion such as go slow policies, petty strikes and too many holidays, all of which spring from too much Rampering, will be unheard of; and with the decline of the Colombo Port due to these causes, ships are bound to call where more efficient facilities are available.

Whatever cannot be produced locally can, therefore, be imported.

Education already flourishes at all levels. Their practical reasoning to continue higher education in English, and the natural aptitude of the Tamils for the study of sciences, unfolds every opportunity for recognition both internally and internationally.

A planned economy to suit the various conditions of these regions, and proper educational, research, and training facilities, such as a Tamil University, and Technological and Engineering institutions; and encouragement and guidance in the cottage industries and handicrafts that are already existent, should pave the way to economic and social prosperity.



# ENTITTY

There has been a statement made in the Other Place that the Sinhalese race forms the Ceylonese nation and the others a mere national minorities. I am sure the hon. Leader will admit that the Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers all form the Ceylonese nation, and that the Muslim community forms an integral part of this Ceylonese nation. I am saying this because of the utterances of some members of the Government party which are creating a lot of anxiety in our minds and I do hope it will be the task of responsible members like the hon. Leader to ensure that in their party the tail does not wag the dog! People have short memories and some of the members of the Government party are comparatively young, so that it will be proper for me to quote portions from the concluding speech of the present Prime Minister when he wound up the debate on the Sri Lanka Bill which he sponsored in 1945. This is what he said. "May I here refer to the support that the main principle of this Bill has received from the hon. Nominated Member, (Mr. Jayah), the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Razik), and the hon. Member for Colombo Central (Dr. Kalleel) among the minority Members. I say that if any Member has brought closer the achievement of agreement among the various sections of the people of this country, — He used the words "sections of the people" and not "national minorities" —

" — by an attitude of generosity where even those with whom he is concerned stand to suffer, I say the fullest credit, must go, more than to anyone among us, to the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah). The hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) has made a speech today that will have a great effect in bringing unity among the people of this country, in bringing some sense of reality to this struggle, however it may shape, that we are going to undertake to obtain a satisfactory measure of freedom.

We publish on statement based on the speech made in the Senate by Mr. A. M. A. Azeez on the Official Language Bill. The Muslim Community in Ceylon is in an unenviable position in Ceylon and this statement will help readers to understand the position as set out by one of the leaders of the community.

What have the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) and his colleagues, the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Razik) and the hon. Member for Colombo Central done? There is provided in this Bill a scheme of representation under which the Muslim community more than any other community in this country might suffer, in the form in which it appears, but yet he himself was so sincerely determined to work for the main idea of freedom that he was prepared to vote for that principle embodied in this Bill".

## Affected

It is very unfortunate that there is an impression in the minds of some distinguished people, that the Muslim community is the one least affected by the language problem. In fact, the present Prime Minister stated this in February 1955 — I am reading from the *Ceylon Daily News* of 26th February, 1956:

"Muslims need have no fears Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Leader of the Opposition, assured the Muslim community in Ceylon that theirs was the one community that need worry least about the language problem which now confronts the people of this country. Mr. Bandaranaike, who was addressing members of the Young Men's Muslim Association, at its headquarters in the Fort yesterday, asked them to tell Mr. Azeez that if he will spare me (Mr. Bandaranaike) half an hour, I will remove all his doubts and fears"! He is under the impression that the Muslim community suffers least by any change in the language policy and

*continued on page 204*

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# ENTITY

continued from page 203

he had been kind enough to issue an invitation, which I unfortunately did not avail of for quite a length of time, but he did give me the privilege of discussing this problem along with others for nearly four hours on the 24th May, 1956. He said in February, 1955, that within half an hour he would remove all my doubts and fears; I was with him for four hours — I was quite convinced that he was very anxious to do his best for us in the circumstances but I cannot honestly say that all my doubts and fears have been removed. But still I am hoping for the best.

I would read a short extract from the Zahira College Prize Day Report of last January. It explains why the language problem is more complicated and more troublesome to us.

## Unity in Diversity

"It is our conviction that we best serve Sri Lanka not by the abandonment of our culture but by its preservation and promotion aiming at unity in diversity, political unity in the midst of cultural diversity. On Zahira therefore devolves a sacred obligation to foster the culture that is distinctively our own. In thus stressing its importance we are not unmindful of the value of

political unity. We believe with Sri Richard Livingstone that, 'Men are born to four citizenships. They should be able to live as good members of their family, of their community, of their nation, and of the whole human society, and that 'many of the world's troubles can be traced to a failure in one or other of these citizenships—to our never mastering the art of living with others, in the family, in the community, in the nation, in international relations, We also realise that these four citizenships must co exist and that the transgression of one of these loyalties must necessarily involve the transgression of the other three. While an Englishman in the United Kingdom or an American of Anglo-Saxon descent in the United states could exercise his rights and discharge his duties inherent in these four citizenships through the medium of one single language, namely English, and without the necessity of his having to acquire a knowledge of any other languages, we the Muslims of Ceylon are in an entirely different and extremely difficult position.

to be ( ) week

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# Cupday at the Races

By S. M. K. S.

Before I go through the card for today's racing I would like to touch briefly on the racing on Robert's Cup Day — *Contessa* won very easily but if *Paradise Way* had not dwelt and if *Alpe Smith* had ridden him as well as he did on Saturday the result might have been different. It was a pleasure to watch *Smith* waiting with this horse trailing the field and then get through on the rails the shortest way home to finish second easily beating a tiring *Mahal Trust*. *Gazalat al Thaniya* pulverized the field to win the second race and even if he had lost the race to *Dahman Dalaf* I think he would have been awarded the race as *Fordyce* chopped him off two furlongs from home. It's a long way ahead to make a prophecy but I consider we have seen next year's Robert's Cup winner. *Gazalat al Thaniya* is a beautiful Arab with delightful confirmation and should be soon winning races in top class. *Belle of Enterprise* cantered home as expected and nothing could live with him as soon as *Fordyce* turned on the heat and was only 2/5 of a second off the record and he won pulling up. Simply tremendous! What a proposition in Calcutta with the short two furlong straight. This horse will give the bookmakers in Calcutta something to think about.


*Golden Border* was lucky to win and *Fordyce* was mainly responsible. After *A. R. Smith* hit the front on *Ardlaw* and slowed the race down to suit the non-staying *Golden Border*. I thought *Knuckey*

on *Cape of Good Hope* was a little unwise to try and creep through on the rails against *Fordyce*. He never had a hope. *Fordyce* just kept him there and won by a head. Although *Shell Pink* was unlucky to lose the Lawyer's Cup which he thoroughly deserved, *Whiteside* appeared slightly anxious on him when he was left by about four lengths at the barrier. He made too much use of him in the first furlong to get up to *Court of Claims* quite as soon as he did but you cannot blame him as he over estimated the chances of *Court of Claims* who ran a great race for a green horse. When this horse is ready it will be a shame to take the money. He is a real good un and only blew up as he was not quite ready and I think that the going was a bit too hard for this horse who does not relish galloping on a hard course. I thought *Fordyce's* efforts of dramatizing his inability to ride out *Anomaly* when *Shell Pink* veered out rather unnecessary and not what you would expect from a jockey of his calibre.

The Robert's Cup was a feather in the cap of *Arthur Stead* who rode a magnificent race on *Hilal Ahmed* to win very nicely. He came through just when he wanted to peg back *Raffaele* on *Little Babu*. Although you may be on a loser it is pretty to watch a jockey ride a clever race and *Stead* certainly showed us that he has forgotten more than some of the others will ever learn. *Sarem* gave *Mr. Aries* his first win for August and the re-

continued on page 207

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STEWARDS CUP	1. <i>Reckless Courage</i> 2. <i>Cape of Good Hope</i> O.S. <i>Brockdale</i>
W. M. RAJAPAKSE CUP	1. <i>Masrur or Coin Lover</i> 2. <i>Hoagy Carmichael</i>
LUNUGALLA PLATE	1. <i>Mahoul</i> 2. <i>Madlul Naji</i>
MORLEY CUP	1. <i>Karikalzo</i> 2. <i>Batal al Jazira</i> 3. <i>Sagir al Ubaid</i>

**HEADLINES  
&  
DEADLINES**

BY PUCK

**SUEZ SEIZURE IS PLUNDER  
SAYS EDEN** Times, 9/8  
*Really? What of the Empire?*

★  
**EX-MINISTER (J.R.) SPEAKS IN  
TAMIL, SINHALESE AND  
JAPANESE** Morning Times, 8/8  
*What about Greek?*

★  
**RICE AT 10 CTS WHEN WE CAN  
(FOOD MINISTER)** Observer, 2/8  
*Who couldn't promise this?*

**TWELVE BEDS FOR SIXTY  
PATIENTS!** Morning Times, 4/8  
*All so cosy and nice*

★  
**NO WOMEN ALLOWED IN  
TRINCO MARCH** Times, 6/8  
*Boys will be boys!*

★  
**THERE IS A LEAK AT LABU-  
GAMA** Observer 7/8  
*Why blame the weather?*

★  
**P.M. PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIR  
OLIVER** Times, 9/8  
*Victor vanquished*

★  
**DAHANAYAKE STALKS THE  
PETTAH: BOOK-SEARCH** Observer, 7/8

*Sherlock Holmes, but not in  
White Company*

★  
**MATERNITY HOME HAS NO  
WATER & LIGHTS** Morning Times 6/8  
*To discourage birth rate.*

★  
**ONLY ONE WELL FOR 3,000  
PEOPLE** Times, 8/8  
*Propaganda centre!*

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**'I LEARNT ENGLISH LATE,'  
SAYS MINISTER (VIMALA)** Daily News, 7/8  
*Past regrets and future hopes*

★  
**GRAVES DUG UP BY KABA-  
RAGOYAS** Times, 7/8  
*Why not employ them as grave-  
diggers?*

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# RACES

(continued from page 205)

sult was never in doubt once Abeygunewardene got to work on the pony.

*Borwick Lawe* won the last comfortably but I think the position would have been reversed if *Royal Coronet* had got away with the leaders but this does not mean that I consider him the better horse but *Berwick Lawe* is not quite ready yet and *Royal Coronet* is a seasoned horse and may have put it across *Berwick Lawe* on that day but never again.

Now to turn to today's card I am still of opinion that Governor General's Cup will be between *Adamant* and *Merlin* and should there be rain before the race I fancy the chances of *Canway* who will I understand not be a runner if the going is hard. I leave out *Joshua* as I am convinced that this great miler will not stay.

The Merchants Cup for horses in Class II should provide *Cobscar* with a chance of another win and

I expect *Jaffa II* to trouble him most. It will be interesting to see how *Viking* fares as I continue to hear very good reports about this horse and prefer to see him run before I comment.

The Stewards Cup over a mile should be between *Reckless Courage* *Cape of Good Hope* and *Brockdale* and if *Reckless Courage* is any where near his form he should win this race comfortably.

The W. M. Rajapaskse Cup for gentlemen riders should give Mr. Grey a great chance of winning on either *Masrur* or *Coin Lover* which ever he decides to ride with Mr. Chitty to trouble him most on *Hoagy Carmichael*.

The Lunugala Plate for Arabs in class I looks a very open race and I fancy the chances of *Mohoul* and *Madul Naji*. The scratchings provide a pointer to to stable fancy.

Now that *Gazel al Thaniya* has gone up a class the Morley Cup seems a good thing from *Karikalzo* with *Batal al Jazira* and *Sagiral Ubaid* to follow him home.

The Kaduwela Plate Division I will give *Kosaj al Bahrein* a chance of another win as I cannot under-

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stand the handicapply keeping this good pony in this class and *Mohan's Pet* with his weight should be thereabouts with *Kawkab-Amer* also knocking at the door.

In the Second Division Mr Wallis appears to have a very strong hand from who I fancy *Happy Baby* to win from *Juburiyah* and *Marzuk*.

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