

# TRIBUNE

## Harbour Muddle

### PM's Duty

The recurring phenomena of lightning strikes in the port of Colombo, which has already caused so much disorder, carries the seeds of the destruction of the MEP Government, if Prime Minister Bandaranaike does not take early action to checkmate one of his Cabinet colleagues who seems to be playing a Jekyll and Hyde role in an attempt to be master of the Harbour workers and thereby achieve a position from which he can blackmail this Government

With each strike, the Union led by Philip Gunawardena has obtained greater support as against the communist-union, but this cannot provide any consolation to the Government. Under normal circumstances, any Government should be happy to have within its

ranks persons who have the confidence of large sections of the working people. If the harbour workers supported the MEP government solidly it would be a matter of supreme importance. But unfortunately this is not the case.

#### Dominant

Instead of resolving their difficulties in the normal manner provided by the law, instead of placing their grievances through the union to be settled by conciliation, the harbour labour led by Philip Gunawardena rush to lightning strikes and thereby cause the worst possible dislocation. It is not merely this. By provocative actions this union induces other troubles with the rival union and through the strikes and deadlock that ensue it endeavours to increase its own union following. It may be said that Philip Gunawardena's union has today a dominant position in the harbour and it can also be asserted that this has been achieved owing to the fact that he has been a Cabinet Minister from April 1956.

The question at issue is simply this,



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It is not whether Philip Gunawardena has a right to win a following in the harbour as a trade union leader. He has every right to do so. But whether a Cabinet Minister should permit a Union of which he is leader to rush to unauthorised lightning strikes in one of the most important essential services in the country is really the problem at issue. There is no doubt that the strikes in the harbour undermines the confidence of all sections of the public in the Government. The port of Colombo is today regarded in international shipping as a port to be avoided at all costs. To carry goods to and from Colombo, shipping companies already demand enhanced rates. Importers in Ceylon, including Government, pay fantastic rates as demurrage every year.

If the present situation is allowed to continue the result would be that the import and export trade of Ceylon, which is the backbone of its present economic structure, will be so badly affected that a crisis of the first magnitude would become inevitable. *Prime Minister Bandaranaike must insist that his Cabinet colleagues who are Union leaders should not embarrass his Government by supporting lightning strikes of workers in harbour. If this, at least, is not done, the Prime Minister will have only himself to blame if the public confidence in his Government weakens. It would be a tragedy if this should happen, for the Government of S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike has the opportunity of ensuring a better way of life in Ceylon through its declared progressive policies.*

### TRIBUNE

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# FILM

## I AM A CAMERA

Julie Harris, Lawrence Harvey  
*English, at the Regal*

This film purports to be a portrait of Berlin before the Second world war and a slice from the autobiography of Christopher Isherwood. Or Mr. Ici Voo as his German landlady calls him.

I remember recommending the play to a friend in London, who took with him as his guests, an elderly client from the North and his wife. They could not stand it and walked out during the first act. This was rather unfortunate. I suppose they were looking for something on the lines of *Kismet*. However in spite of my banal taste, the play ran for several months in London, and I daresay many elderly couples from the North did have a good laugh and pretended not to hear the more risqué lines.

Well what is a good play does not always make a good film. And what may be London's meat may be Colombo's poison. This is the case of an amusing play which has made a rather indifferent film. It started well and then began to drag and woke up a bit towards the end. And the dialogue, as far as I can remember the play, had been watered down considerably.

The film meanders along to the excitement of Mr. Ici Voo's endeavours to live platonically with a promiscuous little English girl friend



In our issue of July 28, 1956 we published an article entitled LANGUAGE TENSION and it was attributed to Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh, Himalayas. This particular article was written by Swami Sivananda Sachitananda who is now sojourning at Rishikesh. The error, which arose as a result of a confusion because of an earlier article on the Buddha by Swami Sivananda published in the *Tribune* is regretted.

whom he has picked up in a Berlin night club. Her only credentials appear to be that she is not exactly a virgin. Mr. Ici Voo is led up the garden path several times. But in the end he succeeds. To be platonic, I mean. Imagine Mr. Ici Voo's surprise when one fine day Sally announces without even batting an eyelid, that she is going to have a baby. Whose was the question?

If we know Sally it could be anybody's as we are sure that a trifle like paternity wouldn't worry her in the least. At last she admits

that she has been somewhat careless with an American with whom both of them have been careering around madly. Ici Voo suggests possible courses of action and should they fail is gallantly prepared to offer his services as papa and marry her. A noble sentiment like this leaves Sally quite unmoved. The conventions leave her cold. The American has by this time abandoned her to her fate and sailed up the Amazon. But Sally will have her revenge. She will go to Paris and fix the American's best friend. And she goes. Both meet again years later at a party thrown by a London publisher and continue where they left off. What is surprising is that each has, in the interim, inspired the other to write a best seller. The literary Muse certainly works in mysterious ways.

Julie Harris rather captures the spirit of the gay exuberant mixx Sally Bowles and Lawrence Harvey is excellent as the long suffering Chris.

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# COMPROMISE

The Suez, through the genius of M. de Lesseps, was open to traffic in 1867 by the Suez Canal Company in which the major shareholder was the Khedive of Egypt. In 1875, the Khedive being hard pressed for money, made it known that he was willing to sell his shares, Benjamin Disraeli bought them from him for England before his English Parliament knew of the transaction. In international affairs it was as free a deal as one could imagine.

In 1956 President Nasser of Egypt wanted money for the reconstruction of the economy of Egypt and having failed to borrow the money from the U.S.A. and England, seized the property of the Suez Canal Company. The reasons why the would-be creditors refused to lend the money seem to be that the creditors somehow did not consider the debtor's conduct, in arming his country with Russian weapons satisfactory. They also felt that they should not allow themselves to be played off against the Russians.

## Surprise

The years between 1875-1956 saw Egypt first as a protectorate of Britain and later Egypt's freedom was achieved with the evacuation of British troops from the Suez Canal area. It would appear that implicit in these later developments was an understanding that the Suez Canal would not, in any way, be interfered with. The "nationalization" of the Suez was naturally a great surprise! It may be wondered how Egypt, so badly in need of money for her own reconstruction, could pay money for the purchase of the Canal! This outlay may in some circumstances retard her reconstruction programme, unless a power like Russia can lend her the funds for the purpose.

Increased pressure from Russia in this area, out of which she had been excluded by Britain and the U.S.A. for so long, would mean that the Arab powers will display much more independence in regard to the administration of their oil resources, even to the extent of taking possession of the property of the various oil companies of Great Britain and the U.S.A. This

Though we cannot agree with a many statements made by B. H. Aluwihare in this article on Suez, we publish it because it represents the views of a leading public personality who left the S.L.F.P. on the eve of the last General Elections and joined the U.N.P.

oil is the life line of Britain and very important to the U.S.A. Here is a major conflict between the two groups of powers — Russian on the one side, West European and American on the other. It was out of a similar clash of interests with Germany that the big wars of this century started!

## Third Power

*The vast destruction threatened by modern weapons and the terror of annihilation will retard a conflict but these alone will not prevent one. These events today may finally determine the minds of the West European powers that a war with Russia is inevitable. The question sometime ago was only whether there should be co-existence; the question hence may be when this*

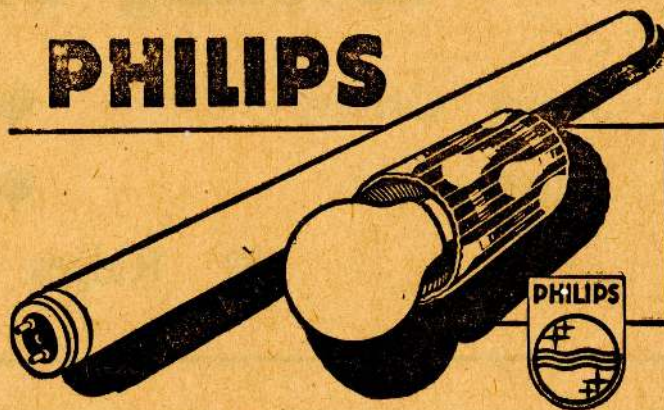
*fight for annihilation should begin. It is a grim thought; but what can be done about it?*

The Eastern Mediterranean is the outlet of the oil of the Middle East; it is the short road to all the East and its commerce. Under constant propaganda for peace it is possible to neutralize warlike action to protect the interests of Britain and the West European powers as well as those of the U.S.A., whilst smaller nations destroy them. It can scarcely be expected that powerful nations will not resist action that will destroy their vital interests. If peace is to be preserved it would appear that two objects have to be kept in view.

(a) A reasonable compromise that preserves the assets (or by mutual consent buys them out) of the holding powers with such adjustments as are necessary to recognise the sovereign right of the Arab nations and a reasonable remuneration to them for the exploitation of their resources. Such compromise must leave sufficient opportunity for the Arab countries to develop their own resources.

*continued on page 228*

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## COMPROMISE

continued from page 227

(b) The safeguarding of international communications with sufficient guarantees as to efficiency and continuity.

(c) Under the cloak of (a) and (b) a Third Power should not be allowed to take the positions evacuated by the former holders, thus securing an undue advantage from the present situation.

It would appear that such a settlement, if it is to make for peace, has to be an international settlement. It has already been established that this Suez shall be an international highway open to all nations. Access to oil, however, has gone to the first comers mainly England and the United States and to a lesser extent Russia. The internationalization of oil presents far greater problems than this Canal; the problem of the canal is merely that of setting up an authority which will work efficiently. Up to the present the Suez

Canal Company has been that authority.

Is the Egyptian Government a sufficient substitute? Is the nature of the sovereignty of Egypt over the Canal area such that the matter cannot be discussed? Under the Suez Canal Treaty, the Egyptian Govt. was given his responsibility for carrying out his provisions of the treaty under which the Canal was "internationalized". It was under the aegis of the Egyptian government that this Suez Canal Company operated. At that time the "Egyptian" Government meant merely the power in occupation of Egypt. The last of these powers was Britain and the present Egyptian Government is the successor power to those Powers. *Legally the argument that this Egyptian Government should control the Canal seems unexceptionable.*

### Explosive

Yet the legal adjustment is not all there is to it. The political and economic results of the action of President Nasser is looked on as a further step in the liquidation of the influence and assets of the West-


European and U.S. nations in the Middle East and the descent of Russia into that region. Further, whatever treaties may exist, the controlling power, i.e. Egypt, can always close the Canal. Whether the administration of the Canal by the Egyptian Government will be efficient is scarcely a matter that government will be willing to discuss with any foreign power.

The situation is as explosive as anything can be. If the western powers and America as well as Russia can co-operate with Egypt in the reconstruction of her economy without any political "strings" it may help this situation; it may be that Britain will feel she does not want to be blackmailed into such a solution President Nasser is set on succeeding in his agricultural schemes to relieve the poverty of the peasantry of his country; he has to guard the dignity of his country in the international world. We do not know what price was asked expressly or otherwise,


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# AMEND IT

That the Official Languages Bill should have become an Act was perhaps inevitable, though the ease with which it slipped, almost unnoticed, through the Senate is surely a serious reflection on the value of that place of hollow oratory. But it would be a grave misjudgement to suppose that because the wave of violent opposition has subsided, and the Act is on the Statute Book, all we can do is to resignedly accept the consequences. The consequences are too serious for that.

A deep wound has been inflicted upon the life of Ceylon which is too deep and too poisoned by ill-feeling to heal with the passage of time: on the contrary it is already festering, and left alone it will grow in depth and malignancy weakening our life as a nation, and ultimately, it may be, destroying us. That is sober truth, and every lover of Ceylon who has understood the significance of the events of the past three months will be asking himself what can be done to undo, or at any rate to moderate the wrong which has been done. The Church has expressed its conviction that the Act has done injustice: the Church must not rest until that injustice is removed.

## Dissatisfaction

That would seem to be inevitable in any case because it is very doubtful whether in its present form, it would survive a challenge in the Supreme Court. It would not be a good thing for the Government to suffer defeat in law: it is much better thing that amendment comes about by the pressure of public opinion. Of that there is some hope. It is widely believed that the Bill was more extreme than many in the Cabinet cared for. The Prime Minister himself, in reply to Mr. Kandiah during the debate, spoke of the possibility of amendment after the measure was passed and he has both publicly and privately spoken of the need for further consultation and "possibly a round-table conference" after the measure has become law. This must be pressed for. There are many who

would welcome amendment. In particular there are two groups of people who must be enlisted in an active campaign to get the Act amended.

There is the large group of Sinhalese who, while, emotionally in sympathy with a policy to restore the prestige of their race and culture, are yet ashamed of the way in which the extremists have

We publish an appeal from the *Christian News Bulletin* on the necessity to amend the *Official Languages Act*. The concrete suggestions made are worthy of serious consideration.

pushed through a measure without regard for the feelings of their Tamil and Burgher fellow-country-men. They are unlikely to take the initiative in action which might be unpopular with fellow-Sinhalese: but they can be stirred to action by example and persuasion.

There are all the people who foregather in Jaffna verandahs and

in the club rooms of the D.B.U. and express themselves freely in Tamil and English respectively) on the language policy of the Government, but who are inclined to do nothing from sheer despair, because they have lost faith in the goodwill of the Sinhalese. These too must be moved to action. This is no time for anyone to stand aloof with hurt pride. The dangers are too desperate.

## Mobilise

The people who have deep convictions (and if the Christian hasnt there is something the matter with his Christianity) must act as a catalytic agent, precipitating the activity of these two groups. There are some who think that the Language Act is right and will fight to keep it on the Statute Book. There are others who are convinced that it is wrong, and will fight to amend it. There are others who neither think nor fight: "They make me sick" said God. (see Rev. 3. 16)

The need to get men and women to come together, to talk, to listen and to understand, is more urgent than ever. Something along these lines has been occurring here and there within the English-speaking stratum of our society, and for that we can be thankful. But nothing effective will be accomplished until the swabasha speaking Sinhalese and Tamils are somehow brought into contact with one another.

*continued on page 230*

## THE PEOPLE'S CAR



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# AMEND IT

(continued from page 229)

The power behind the Language Bill was largely the Sinhalese speaking people of the Western and Southern provinces. Most of them are quite ignorant of the Tamil point of view, and quite unaware of what the Act, as it now stands, will do to Tamil culture and the

Tamil home. The great gulf which exists between these two sections of our nation must be bridged.

*Let us be your partners* was the title of the letter which appeared in the English press on July 4th. It was signed by about twenty leading citizens of Jaffna and set forth in moderate and conciliatory tones the Tamil case for amendment of the Bill. As a part of the campaign to promote understanding, the Study Centre has had the letter translated into Sinhalese and printed it as a pamphlet with an attractive cover. This is intended for widespread distribution in the South.

Can you undertake to get ten copies into the hands of Sinhalese speaking people? Could you arrange for the distribution of a hundred? Would every member of your congregation take a dozen copies? Could you get some Buddhist organisation to help in the distribution? Send to the Study Centre for your requirements. The leaflet will be sent free in quantity to anyone who will undertake to distribute it.

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# GLASS and PAPER

Among other things, Mr. Hockly wants to know the fate of the Government Glass Factory. It was *officially* wound up about 3 or 4 years ago, and its equipment, plant etc. were sold to a private company which proposed to start the manufacture of bottles with the assistance of Japanese experts. No reports are yet available of how the re-organised factory under private enterprise is functioning.

I think, if I may say so, you are somewhat mistaken in your statement that the Government Glass Factory at Nattandiya was "killed" by glass importers. The Government Glass Factory was killed by shocking mismanagement, ineptitude and inefficiency by those in charge of it and also waste. Those who were in charge apparently had little or no knowledge of glass manufacture even of its elements.

**Ponna**

All this occurred during Prince Ponna's regime when he was Minister of Industries. In the first place they used the wrong kind of sand

with the result that the glass had a greenish tinge. In many cases the glasses were crooked and could not stand upright on a table. I myself personally saw some of these products shown to me by a friend who had purchased a few, to his regret. There was carelessness in the making and the products were utterly hopeless and unusable.

I heard later that the Government had proposed to obtain the services of some glass experts from Japan, which Ponna should have done in the first instance, and to reorganise and recondition the Factory on proper and efficient lines. Whether this idea was carried out I have no knowledge as I had heard nothing more about it. In fact, nothing further has been heard about the Government Glass Factory or what has been done in this respect. A veil of silence has fallen on it. A question should be asked about it in the *Tribune*, I think. Why not send one of your reporters to find out something about it and to see for himself what has been done or has not been done about it, and report to you.

The site chosen for the Factory was a mistake in the first place as the sand at Nattandiya is of inferior

quality and unsuitable for glass manufacture. There is a place in the Negombo District where the finest silver sand is to be found equal to any found at Fontainebleau in France. No notice, however, has been taken of this sand before the inception of the factory at Nattandiya. The reason for this decision was probably because Negombo was not in the constituency of the Member for Chilaw whereas Nattandiya is - all political tricks!

In the same way millions have been wasted on the erection of the Paper Factory at Valaichenai because it was in the constituency of a "Minister". The Factory is on totally unsuitable site and is an utter and useless venture. The idea was to manufacture paper from Iluk which at best could only have made paper of a very coarse quality. It was proposed to plant up 500 acres with Iluk and also to manure it with fertilisers.

What an utter farce! Nothing more has been heard of this farcical paper factory on which, I believe, over Rs 20 million have spent. One of Prince Ponna's dreams! The least thing the Government can do is to abandon this White Elephant and not throw away further good money after bad, and cut the losses. That is what any sensible business firm would do as it is an utterly hopeless proposition which will only a sink for money.

I think questions should be asked by *Tribune* regularly regarding this fantastic Paper Factory. Otherwise Importers of Paper may be blamed.



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Thinking sections of the public are greatly perturbed about the manner in which Minister of Education Dahanayake is throwing himself around in an effort to clean up the Education Department as well rationalise and improve the system of education in the country. In the Budget debate he has promised the Moon to the people of the country. In the next school year, not three months away, he has undertaken to provide ten periods of practical work each week instead of five. This can easily be achieved even without teachers to cope with it by making paper provision on the time-table during which time the only kind of practical activity would probably be gossiping.

### Text-Books

Next, Dahanayake threatens to reduce the number of text books from 120 to 30. It is undoubtedly true that a *text-book racket* has been in operation for years arising from a sordid conspiracy between certain publishers and our educational authorities as a result of which school children were burdened with a large number of unnecessary books for which parents had to find money. That this *racket* should be smashed and the number of text-books reduced is an essential reform, but how is it to be done? Minister Dahanayake according to press reports, seems to think this can be done by 'history, geography civics, language and literature being taught under the head *language*'. With suitably prepared text-books it will be conceded that this kind of short-circuiting can take place. But do such text-books exist? Can they be got ready in three months, or even in three years? And, the question also arises whether history, geography, civics, language and literature can be lumped together as one subject for educational purposes? If this attempt were made, would not the result be that a student will not know any one of the subjects mentioned? All he would gain would be an utterly confused jumble of (mis) information!

Dahanayake has also promised a revision of the SSC examination (a

very desirable thing), fully equipped laboratories for all schools (an essential need), and houses for all teachers (nothing better could be thought of). But to declare that he would "produce within three months enough teachers to teach and science and mathematics" takes us to the field of neocramancy and magic and we are left to wonder how this miracle is to be performed. Or, is it that science and mathematics would be ignored and a large number of SSC-unemployed inflicted on the youth of this country? We shudder to think of the state of education after Dahanayake has done with tinkering with it in this way.

### Jayasuriya

Minister Dahanayake has undertaken to clean-up the Education Department. This is something that should be done, but many are disturbed that the Minister seems to resort to near-dictatorial methods to achieve his objectives. The critics of T. D. Jayasuriya are many. He was no doubt a relic of the worst aspects of the UNP government officialdom. But as long as we pretend to be a democracy and pay homage to democratic traditions and conventions, it is essential that we conform to the rule of law. If this Government proclaims itself to be a dictatorship, then the way that T. D. Jayasuriya was kicked out of his job would be understandable. But as long as public servants are governed by certain regulations

under a democratic system, it is only fit and proper that they should be removed in the manner provided. However unsatisfactory was the manner in which T. D. Jayasuriya obtained his extension on the last occasion—after the first and but before the final day of the General Elections — it was something that was *de jure* proper and correct. The only way to remove him from office was to frame charges against him, and after due departmental inquiries, his retirement or dismissal should have been ordered by the Public Service Commission. If this were a tedious process, the Minister could have waited until April next and declined to renew his contract. In the meanwhile, ways of ensuring that he did not function *de facto* as Director could not have been devised, but to kick him out unceremoniously in the way he was creates a precedent which has shaken the confidence a very large majority of public servants had in this Government. Every public servant today lives in fear that the fate of Jayasuriya may overtake him if a particular politician did not like his face or the shape of his ears. The excuse that "Jayasuriya was a UNP stooge" cannot provide a answer. It would be easy for an politician in power, particularly a Minister, to brand any person a "stooge" and proceed to throw him out. It is for this reason that the Public Service Regulations exist.

Minister Dahanayake seems to have a way of hitting the headlines. A newspaper snoopers seems to be around everytime Dahanayake sneezes, but this is not sufficient to inspire public confidence in a Minister entrusted with one of the most important portfolios.

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What is the mystery behind the first Corea formula regarding the Suez dispute? Why did he rush to Cairo? On whose instructions? What role has he played in the whole business behind the scenes? Has he been attempting to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for Britain? Why is Premier Bandaranaike touchy when any mention is made of Corea's efforts?

These are questions which are being seriously asked in diplomatic, political and newspaper circles in the city of Colombo. The same questions are also worrying circles in New Delhi, Cairo and probably other Asian capitals.

The facts are strangely significant. Shortly after the Suez Conference was announced, Prime Minister stated that his Deputy, Subasinghe, was flying to London as his envoy with instructions on the line to be followed. Bandaranaike in reply to questions in the House declared that Ceylon's policy would be to seek a solution on the basis of recognition of Egypt's unrestricted sovereignty to nationalise and control the Suez Canal. So far so good.

### Sunday Dash

Then on Sunday August 11, five days before the Suez Conference, it was reported in the local press that our High Commissioner in London was in Cairo with a *compromise formula*. On Monday, the Lake House *Janata* published a statement from the Prime Minister to say that he had no compromise formula, but later at the Press Conference on Wednesday (or a little earlier) he discovered that he really had a "formula" and that Corea was trying to sell this to Nasser. This is the first mystery. How did Corea's formula become Bandaranaike's? It is believed that Bandaranaike agreed to Corea rushing to Cairo to find out Nasser's reactions and wishes first-hand. But it is said he knew nothing of the com-

promise until later when he was reluctantly "compelled" to adopt it as his own? Why?

The situation becomes intriguing because the Egyptian press has attacked the first Corea formula presented to Nasser as bit of indecent stooging for Britain. I have before me cuttings of Egyptian press comments on Corea's efforts, and what these papers say is not the least complimentary of Ceylon's (mis)adventure into the field of international diplomacy. It is also significant that Indian papers have published a report (local papers have not) that Corea in London long before the Conference had given a "fire-side" chat (may be off the record) in which he had been critical of Nasser's action — nationalisation was too hasty etc., etc. If this is what Corea feels, the critics argue, that his role (under cover as Ceylon's envoy) was no more than stooging for Britain.

The point stressed by the Egyptians is that in presenting a formula before others had done so (including Egypt) Ceylon's weakened Egypt's case in that the suggestion for a "compromise" came from an Asian country. India and Russia made suggestions only after the Dulles Scheme and Nasser's Offer were known. Their formulae were an attempt to bridge the gulf between the two. But Ceylon's first effort, it is said, was not such an effort. It was no more than an offer of a horse-deal with the dice loaded heavily in favour of the Western Powers. Why did Ceylon fall victim to this? Was it due to inept handling by Corea? Or, is he so a "British" that he felt impelled to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for Britain?

### Local Repercussions

I am told that there have been local repercussions of an important nature. Michael, the Lake House correspondent who has been flying around with our Premier on his London Conference trip, reported back that Cairo had felt bad about

Corea's attempt to weaken Egypt's case. Strangely enough, only the *Janata* and *Silumina* carried these reports (it is one of the mysteries of Lake House why such important news is often not in all their papers). I understand that Premier Bandaranaike nearly threw a fit when he read these reports and that he has been wanting to chew off Michael's head for letting this cat (Corea's) out of the Egyptian bag. Pressmen in the city feel that the Premier was trying to make scapegoat of Michael for reporting facts about a situation instead of publicly pulling up Corea for acting as an agent of Britain under the flag of Ceylon.

Subsequent to this first effort, and with Subasinghe in London, Corea has been toeing the line. Undoubtedly one of Ceylon's ablest men and one of the most persuasive speakers ever produced in this country, Sir Claude Corea can make an impression on any audience in any part of the world, but it is clear that having been so long in Europe he does not seem to realise that the temper of Asia has changed. Ceylon cannot afford to earn the reputation of being another Pakistan. In aligning herself with India, Indonesia and Russia, on the side of Egypt, Ceylon has taken a great stride forward from the first Corea formula. But the question is "was the first formula necessary?" It has only earned Ceylon a bad name in the Middle East.

### Transport

*Tribune's* comment last week on the report of the Bus Nationalisation by a team of our civil servants has triggered a series of reactions of a significant nature. The Minister of Transport, in another context, had declared that he had no intention of adopting the suggestion that fares should be raised. That indeed is wise, but he would be even wiser if he threw the whole report overboard.

*continued on page 239*



# Final Day

Racing last Saturday was a punter's nightmare but a bookmakers dream with so many unfancied horses turning up. *Cheeko* set the ball rolling by winning the first in a false run race. I could not understand Raffaele waiting so long to make his run with *Counter Attack* when he must have known that *Cheeko* does not like being collared early during a race — However, I suppose, we all make mistakes not forgetting my sad lapse in think-

ing the *Joshua* could not get more than a mile!

*Suriya's* win in the second race was one of those unaccountable things that make the sport of kings so fascinating — you may run and re-run that particular race and I am prep red to wager that *Suriya* will never win.

*United Steel* made light of his 6 stone 1 to win from start to finish from the consistent *Mullaley* who appeared to have had enough of racing for the present, but it was a pity that *Samaranayake* did not keep the genuine stayer *Laugh of the Moon* up with leaders as he appeared to be gaining ground at the finish after being tailed off most of the way.

*Jubiriyah* won a nice race for his new owners and *Fordyce* is to be congratulated in holding this very hard puller and making his run only two furlongs from home.

The great *Joshua* failed but was not disgraced in the O. E. G. Cup as he met with a great deal of interference coming into the straight and with his weight 10.5 he just could not make it and *Adamant* thriving under *Doyle's* long style of riding sailed home to win a great

race from the much improved *Nomad Star*. Although *Joshua* was interfered with I am convinced that he would not have beaten *Adamant* even with a clear passage as I do not think he could give *Adamant* 35 lbs.

*Jayawardene* rode a clever race on *Venus* to win the first leg of the treble in spite of bad draw and it will be interesting to see how this rejuvenated pony will fare in the higher class.

*Wishford* was lucky to win the next race as *Gunadasa* kept *Dry Joke* too far behind and made his run far too late and I was impressed with the newcomer *Hedera's* effort.

*Neon Lights* left his field standing to win the last race. This pony has a very short burst and his run has to be timed otherwise the pony has a tendency to loaf but *Abeygunewardene* times his run beautifully and won comfortably

## THIS WEEK

The longest race of the year the A. E de Silva Cup appears to lie between *Laugh of the Moon*, *United Steel* and *Way to Paradise* in the order mentioned, and if a suitable rider could be found (which I very much doubt) owing to the weight *Laugh of the Moon* should just about win.

continued on page 239

## SELECTIONS

(Subject to Scratchings)

By

S. M. K. S.

### A. E. de Silva Cup (Div. 1)

1. Laugh of the Moon
2. United Steel
3. Way to Paradise

### Bartleet Stakes

1. Drakes Drum
2. Shell Pink
3. Shamin

### E. L. de Soysa Cup

1. Reckless Courage
2. Pearl of the East
3. Exford

### Torrington Plate (Div. 1)

1. Friendly Isle
2. Lini
3. Dry Joke

### Torrington Plate (Div. 2)

1. Constant Star

### Banda; anaike Cup

1. Qaddah Leila
2. Hopeful Pearl
3. Irbid al Jibal

### Carlyon Stakes

1. Counter Attack
2. Sarem
3. Cheeko

### Mirigama Plate (Div. 1)

1. Kosaj al Bahrein
2. Jirjir Hamed
3. Al Moj

### Mirigama Plate (Div. 2)

1. Jubiriyah
2. Baz Mudhaffer
3. Petroleum,

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# LAW & LANGUAGE

Senator A. M. A. Azeez examined some of the difficulties of implementing the *Sinhala Only* Bill in the sphere of the administration of law, and stressed out that an immediate Amendment of the Act was called for.

I was trying to find out for myself why the particular year 1960 was selected and not any other year. Someone said it was because an election has to take place in 1961 unless something unfortunate befalls the Government before that. I was not too happy about that reason and I read for myself the statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister. He has given us a reason why 1960 was selected. This is what the Hon. Prime Minister, in introducing this Bill, said:

"What is the time required to make the change over — I am talking apart from the language of the minorities — to change over from English, what is the period? The Hon. Minister of Justice, in consulting the Supreme Court Judges, was informed by them — of course provided that certain things were done, interpreters were provided, and so on — that they could make the change in four years, and we took the Supreme Court as the body where it would be most difficult to effect a change. Therefore we fixed a date that exceeds four years; that is to say 31st December, 1960."

Some questions were put on the floor of this House by the former Minister of Justice (Senator E. B. Wikramanayake) and some answers were given. But it was stated that in the public interest the correspondence could not be tabled. I do not know what exactly were the reasons, but it was clear from the statement of the Hon. Leader that, provided certain interpreters were available, provided certain things done, it would be possible. But what about the pleaders? I refer to those who plead before the Supreme Court. It is very strange

in fact, as far as the Supreme Court is concerned, that the Official Languages Committee has made this statement, which it is appropriate at this stage to quote.

"This Select Committee of the State Council visualised this when it stated, We have to proceed with the greatest caution. The history of other countries which have gone through the phase that is now upon us when national languages supplanted by a foreign tongue were struggling to gain ascendancy, tells us that the Courts have been the last citadel of the foreign language."

## Pleader

In other words, it is accepted on all hands — even the Constitution of India has accepted it — that the most difficult place where the new language could be introduced is the Supreme Court. The Hon. Leader talked about records, about pleaders pleading in their own language and getting it interpreted by somebody for the benefit of the judge, where the judge did not know the language of the pleaders, but he did not make any reference to the translation of the various legislative enactments. I say that because I envisage that after 1961, if there is a pleader who knows only Sinhalese and no other language, in terms

of this Bill, of the spirit of the Bill, by virtue of the mandate that has given this Government, he should not be compelled to get hold of another translator to read a set of legislative enactments.

Well, I can envisage an ironic situation where a lawyer who is very proficient in the Sinhalese language — as proficient as the Muslim Minister, does not know the English language pleads in the Supreme Court. What is he expected to do? This is a matter that has not been dealt with. What I say is, respect of the most difficult sphere of administration, in the most difficult place where you be have Sinhalese you have fixed on 1960 for the switch over. Therefore, by implication, in every other aspect of administration this switch-over could be possible much earlier, but it has been accepted everywhere — in the Indian Constitution in the Select Committee Report — and history has proved it, that the place where it is the most difficult to introduce a new language is the Appeal Court or the Supreme Court.

So, in that state of affairs, if you have fixed 1960 as the time for the switch-over in respect of the Supreme Court, then I take it that in

*continued on page 236*





# LAW & LANGUAGE

continued from page 235

other spheres of administration you could switch over much earlier. That is why we are very much concerned, and perturbed because the position is that 1960 is the last date; it is not the first date. So that, some of the members of the Muslim community must be prepared as soon as this Bill is passed to possess a knowledge of Sinhalese which they cannot acquire in that style, in that manner and in that quick time.

## Extend

Now, I would like to ask the hon. Leader one simple question — I am not a lawyer — a commonsense question. You say that the courts will have to keep their records in Sinhalese by 31st January, 1961, but you are allowing the pleaders to plead in their own language. Is it easy for them? Are you not creating difficulties? Supposing you made it 1971? If your 24 hours mandate can be 1960, cannot that mandate be 1971? Either you have it in 24 hours or you have it in reasonable time. We were under the impression that the intention at one time was to switch over to Sinhalese within 24 hours. Later an explanation was given that within 24 hours the Government pledged itself to have a target date. I accept it.

But if you can have 1960 as the target date, why cannot you have 1971 as the target date, particularly when it is pointed out to Government the various hardships that are caused. The Hon. Prime Minister stated that the date would be extended if necessary. When the date is sufficiently extended I will be the first to speak equally at length, in acceptance. Till the date is extended, I cannot accept it. I will also read the particular passage where the Hon. Prime Minister spoke about the date. Here is the assurance and the particular passage to which I believe the hon. Leader has been referring to:

“May I say now, at this stage, that it is our intention, as far as is possible, to make that change wherever possible, but if in the course of our proceedings in implementation we find on sufficient ground and date that the change over just cannot reasonably be

made during that time, we will not hesitate to come before the House and the country for passing the necessary amendment to the Bill with the facts before us.” —

## Amend

I ask in all earnestness, have I not shown the hon. Leader our difficulties? So, why does he not consent to an amendment now? The Hon. Prime Minister says, “it just cannot reasonably be made.” According to whose reasoning? According to the Government’s reasoning. Do they think that our Muslim boys are so linguistically made and created specially that they can take to any language in such quick time? But that is not so; it simply cannot be done. Within 4½ years they cannot acquire proficiency in a new language. Our proctors, our advocates who have been practising for such a long time cannot adapt themselves so quickly to the change-over. They may have to plead with interpreters, understand with the help of interpreters and read records also with the help of interpreters. I do not know of any country in the world — either in the past or the present, and I am sure not even in the future — with the kind of arrangement where the judge must have an interpreter, the lawyer himself must have an interpreter, and where the books are in a language which is not the official language.

These are difficulties to understand which there is no necessity to wait for a certain measure of time; these are difficulties which stare in our face. With a little imagination, with a little commonsense, they can be envisaged right now. The Government says that the Bill can be amended later when the change over “just cannot reasonably be made”, but as far as the difficulties are concerned, they are as clear as daylight. It is impossible to expect a person to acquire proficiency in a new language in such quick time. Of course, if it is the kind of proficiency that is expected of a salesman or a hawker, it can certainly be acquired, if it is the standard expected of a professional man, it simply cannot be done.

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# DR. KALEEL

Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel, ex U.N.P. Minister and President of the Ceylon Muslim League, has stated to the press on the 16th July, 1956 that "one of the several reasons why the League has broken away was that certain demands made to the former UNP Government had brought no substantial results. Even when the League wanted UNP members in the Lower House to move an amendment to the Sinhala Only Bill they were overlooked and UNP members voted for the Bill intact.

"The League had asked for a training school for Muslim girls and for the immediate amendment of the Waqf Ordinance during the UNP regime but nothing had come of it. The MEP Government, on the other hand, had already conceded a number of points to the Muslims."

Hardly 3 weeks later on Sunday the 12th August at the UNP Rally held in the Colombo Town Hall, Dr. Kaleel said "the MEP Government was voted into power during a state of insanity of the masses. He hoped the people would not be so gullible again and be duped by empty promises of the Leftists. He said that had the UNP been returned to power,

they would have presented a better budget than the MEP. He said the UNP had drawn up concrete proposals for the welfare of the masses and the party must be prepared to wrest power from the MEP at the next Municipal and Parliamentary elections".

I as a Muslim am at a loss to know how Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel can reconcile these two statements referred to above, For how long more does Dr. Kaleel intend playing Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde and fool the Muslim masses? Does the learned Dr. Kaleel realise that when on the 15th July, 1956 he denounced the now defunct UNP Government, that he in fact denounced himself, having been part and parcel of that Government. Why was it that he did not resign his portfolio at that stage, renouncing the plums of office, but waited till the MEP came into power?

I take this opportunity of warning the leaders of both the UNP and MEP to beware of men of Dr. Kaleel's calibre and others of his ilk.

In conclusion, I pray to God that He gives wisdom to those whom these so called leaders profess to lead.

"Naiz."



## COMPROMISE

*continued from page 228*

for the loans that were eventually refused.

A friendly solution may also help Egypt, in that the source of the Nile is in British-Controlled Territory and in Ethiopia, which owes its own freedom to Britain and U.S.A. It is not impossible that reprisals on the Nile will be resorted to against Egypt.

Whatever that may be, a settlement in the Middle East is urgently necessary for world Peace. For Peace, international discipline is essential. Righteous talk, divorced from awareness of human pains and frustration will not help the cause. The trouble with recent wars has been that they have defeated the objects for which they have been fought. If the spirit of co-existence so boldly espoused is real a solution should be possible. Even if war does come, there is the consoling thought that man's destruction of himself does not limit the Creator!

On the other hand, co-operation between all powers in the interests of Egypt and international Commerce may open up vast fields of common action that will help largely to minimise the danger of war and to increase human happiness. The means of such co-operation is not beyond wise statemanship.

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*Who's to bell the cat?*

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# RACING

continued from page 244

The Bartleet Stakes should lie between *Shell Pink*, *Drakes Dram* and *Shamin* and I fancy *Drakes Drum* most with *Fordyce* up.

The E. L. F. de Soysa Cup looks a good for *Reckless Courage* with *Exford* and *Peal of the East* to trouble him most.

The Torrington Plate Division I which should be one of the treble legs is a very open event and the race appears to lie between *Friendly Isle* (who I think will be scratched) *Lini* and *Dry Joke*. If *Friendly Isle* is an acceptor I consider he is past the post!

In the 2nd Division I do not like anything. They are a bad lot and the race is best left alone but if one must have a flutter then the unlucky *Constant Star* has my choice.

The Bandaranaike Cup will depend a lot on the draw and should *Qaddah Leila* be drawn favourably I think this pony will just about get there with *Hopeful Pearl* and

*Irbid al Jabal* also there of thereabouts.

*Counter Attack* should win the Carylton Stakes with the consistent *Sarem* and *Cheeko* also somewhere there.

The two divisions of the Mirigama Plate provide two absolute posers and in the 1st Division I fancy *Kosaj al Bahrein* to win from *Jirjir Ahmel* and *Al Moj* whilst the 2nd Division should provide *Jubriyah* with another win if *Fordyce* is available and this pony should win from *Baz Madhaffer* and *Petroleum*, but the selections in these to races are dependent on the draw and readers are well advised to study the draw before picking their choice.

transport and not be led by reports of Civil Servants. There are strange stories of how bigwigs in two leading bus companies have a way of persuading certain civil servants and other government officials that "theories" of nationalisation which they advance are the most acceptable. Even civil servants, who were daggers drawn not so very long ago seem to be the best of friends under the beneficent aura of these two bus companies. It is said that these two companies hope to emerge more powerfully placed after "nationalisation" of certain inefficient services. Should there be a change of Government, those companies hope to take over the nationalised services of the rivals. It is therefore important that in any scheme of nationalised bus transport, there should be island-wide zoning, and the no exceptions should be made in regard to taking over.

## Just Briefly

continued from page 233

The anxiety of the Minister to inaugurate a Nationalised system of Bus transport is understandable, but it is essential that he should obtain the services of experts on

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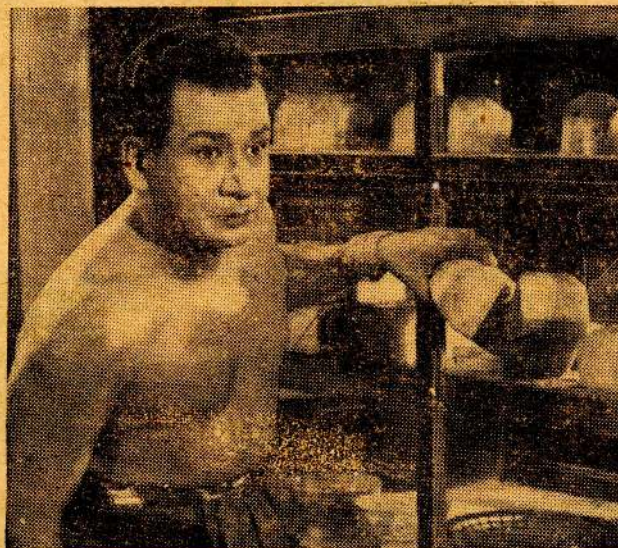
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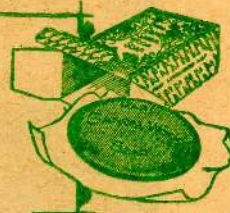
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