

# TRIBUNE

## AUDIT CHECKS

### In Govt - controlled institutions

There is at the moment a great deal of dissatisfaction among Ceylonese who practise as Chartered or Incorporated Accountants and Auditors about the manner in which the work of auditing the accounts of Government controlled institutions and corporations is being distributed among firms and individuals competent and qualified to do the work.

The dissatisfaction seems to arise on two grounds: first that whilst a number of Ceylonese firms are in existence, work of auditing such institutions like the CWE is being handed over to European firms, and secondly, that a select few of

the Ceylonese firms seem to enjoy an unnatural monopoly of the work available.

It must be stressed that there is sufficient work in the private sector of industry and commerce for European and other non-Ceylonese firms to be kept fully occupied. With the increase of Ceylonese business concerns and their obtaining a greater share of the local trade and industry, it is inevitable that Ceylonese firms of Accountants and Auditors would have more work to do in the private sector. *But, it should be recognised that work related to Government and semi-Government institutions and Corporations should be given to Ceylonese firms (if the audit is to be done by anyone but the Auditor-General.)*

#### Ideal

It would be the ideal thing if the accounts of all Government-controlled institutions were audited by a streamlined Auditor-General's Department employing a very much larger number of qualified Accountants than now, who would be able to dispose of audits quickly and expeditiously. But owing to the amount of work which is piling up and the difficulties of attracting



men with good qualifications to enter Government Service, it will probably be impossible for the Auditor General's Department to handle all the work of such institutions.

In the circumstances, the work of auditing the accounts of institutions like the CWE, the Co-operative Banks, the Corporations controlling the factories manufacturing plywood, cement, caustic soda, leather, paper and the like, will devolve on private firms of accountants. In the past, the selection of auditors from among Ceylonese was limited because the number was small. But now, when there are a larger number of qualified firms, the appointment of auditors can create more difficulties.

The present system of entrusting the appointment of Auditors of such institutions to Permanent Secretaries or even the Boards of Directors who are generally appointed by Government is most unsatisfactory. It is not necessary to discuss some of the recent appointments in order to make the suggestion that Government should call upon the Auditor General to draw up a panel of Ceylonese firms of Accountants and Auditors qualified and competent to do the work. Government should also take steps to see that the appointment of such auditors is in future based on the recommendations of the Auditor General who can keep an eye on the question of a proper distribution of the work.

In fact, legislative amendment to the effect that the Auditors of Government-controlled institutions should in future be nominated by the Auditor General would be the most satisfactory arrangement. In this way, it would also be possible for the Government and the taxpayer (with whose monies these corporations are run) have some control over the manner the accounts are checked and audited.

### TRIBUNE

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In This Issue

Bhikkhu Peramuna	...	275
<i>Background</i>		
Money & U.S. Election	...	277
<i>Without Comment</i>		
Kariapper	...	279
<i>Revolt</i>		

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# FILM

## Touch and Go

Jack Hawkins;  
English at The Regal

If there is anything that might be called typical nowadays, here is a typical British comedy. Delightful from beginning to end. Its all about nothing really, — a whole lot of pother about the Fletchers who make up their minds to migrate to Australia, because Fletcher pere finds his boss frustrating. The Fletchers have an adolescent daughter — and Heathcliffe (yes the Fletcher women are terribly Wuthering Heights and all that). Heathcliffe happens to be the family cat. Now the English may not particularly love their neighbours, but they adore pets and are particularly addicted to cats. In order to see how demonstrative the undemonstrative English can be, you have only to throw a cat in the path. The consternation that a biased cat can create in an English home is just nobody's business. And they can make a film about it too. If this film is not entirely Hawkins, it is undoubtedly Heathcliffe. What would they do with Heathcliffe? Indeed what would they do without him? Find Heathcliffe a good home. Put Heathcliffe to sleep? Sell Heathcliffe? To take Heathcliffe,

or not to take Heathcliffe, that is the question of the entire film. It took five minutes before the end of the film to make the Fletchers decide to take Heathcliffe with them to Australia and then they decide not to go themselves. Daughter Peggy and her sweetheart whose names have, alas, escaped me — the worse for the present practice of giving the names in the cast before the film only — made me almost want to be young again and in love again. This is a happy picture of family life. And it in no way exaggerates the deep ties, the warm companionship, the essential friendliness, the willing teamwork, the humour, the fun and all those foolish things that make family life livable and lovable.

I cannot think of the proper word for Jack Hawkins' performance of the irritable, splenetic paterfamilias. Stupendous? Perhaps. But he slams into the part with terrific verve and an irrepressible gusto which is readily communicated to the audience. Mrs. Fletcher (again I apologise for not noting the name) was splendid too as the other half of the marriage — the intuitive sensible half, as opposed to the deciding half, which is invariably on the brink of wrong decisions. She does not wear the pants by any means. But she sulks

Look at your skin  
..Others do!



a little, weeps a little, says sorry now and then, hey presto, although the cat is never really out of the bag, it is on board. And thats exactly where she wants it.

There was a short on the Suez Canal tracing its history and origins from Rameses 11 in the 13th century to Colonel Nasser. All very interesting and educative. And I suppose we shall soon know how far the Latin tag appearing at the foot of de Lesseps statue at Port Said, has any any meaning all all.

N

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## The Good Earth

With Paul Muni, Luise Rainer

# BACKGROUND

The Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna has been very much in the news during the last fortnight. The letter by Mettananda in the *Daily News* and other daily papers on September 4 and the replies that have been written by some of the priests who played a prominent part in the EBP has brought the internal politics of this organisation sharply into focus.

The EBP played an important role in the defeat of the UNP. It was admittedly a loose election front of two main Buddhist organisations mainly composed of priests together with a number of laymen who have been connected with Buddhist affairs. Although some of the demands and objectives were of a progressive nature, the main content of the Peramuna programme, which was not emphasised before and during the elections, was conservatively reactionary with a flavour of religious racialism. But the publicised programme had popular appeal in that it epitomised all the discontent of the masses.

## Power Behind Throne

With the defeat of the UNP and the coming into power of the MEP, the Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna for a time was regarded as the "power behind the throne." Undoubtedly, a number of priests of the EBP went round the country as veritable king-makers, and racialists like Rajaratne exploited the situation by pushing the MEP to adopt policies which were dangerously neo-racialist, like the *Sinhala Only* Bill. Premier Bandaranaike too seemed anxious to placate the EBP, and under pressure from some of these priests he omitted to do a number of things which has caused a great deal of harm. But, in fairness to the Prime Minister, it must be said, that even in the early days he refused to completely kow-tow to these priests, particularly when they wanted Buddhists appointed as the Attorney General and the Speaker of the House!

The position and power of the EBP made many fear whether the MEP would not be driven along the path of rank reactionary politics intended to make Ceylon a "Buddhist Sinhalese" country. Discerning observers, however, were of the view that the EBP was too loosely knit an organisation to be stable, and that it was composed of too heterogeneous a crowd to ensure purposeful integration. Realising this weakness, some of the sponsors of the EBP attempted to create a united organisation of Buddhist priesthood under the auspices of the EBP. They invited the two main Buddhist sects under the Chapters of Malwatte and Asgiriya to come into the EBP. Malwatte and Asgiriya had always supported the UNP and had always taken the position that priests should influence politicians "unseen" and "invisibly" and not be drawn into active open political activity like some of the priests in the EBP.

*Pertinax* critically analyses the contemporary politics of the Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna and its efforts to forge a unified political organisation for the now disunited and divergent groups and sects among Buddhist monks. The first article in the series of three, which appears this week, sketches an outline of the background of the present situation.

## Political Bhikkhus

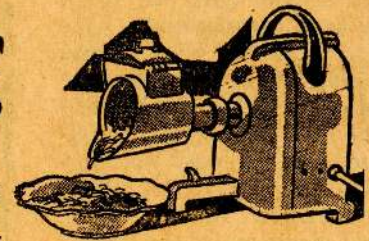
It will be remembered that some years ago all priests who openly associated themselves with progressive politics were branded as "political bhikkhus" by the older hierarchy and the ruling UNP. Politics was permissible for priests only if it was reactionary and conservative. In the EBP, which emerged before the 1956 Elections, however, were some of these political bhikkhus of the Left, but associated with them were some of the reactionary high priests, who envious of the political influence enjoyed "unseen" by Malwatte and Asgiriya, wanted a change of government: a change which would bring them "power". Adopting some of the slogans of the progressive political bhikkhus and also flaunting some of the more popular religious and racial cries, the high

*continued on page 276*

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# Bhikkhu Peramuna

continued on page 275

priests of the EBP rode the crest of popular upsurge against the UNP.

Malwatte and Asgiriya refused to be drawn into the net of EBP under the plea of "unity of the Sangha". Since religious unity was impossible among the different sects of Buddhist priests, some of the leaders of the EBP sought to bring about a political unity of all Buddhist priestly clans and their followers. When Malwatte and Asgiriya refused, the leaders of the EBP were powerful enough to persuade the Prime Minister to issue a statement reprimanding these two Maha Nayakes for standing in the way of "unity". Even Prime Ministerial admonitions failed to move the two High Priests, and then the leaders of EBP resorted to a new strategem. They officially dissolved the Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna and called for a new organisation to unify the Buddhist Sangha. It was hinted that the rabidly progressive political bhikkhus who were inclined towards the Left would be kept out of the new organisation in order to accommodate Malwatte and Asgiriya.

But even this failed to convince the High Priests of Malwatte and Asgiriya. They issued a *dictat* that no Buddhist priest belonging to their sects should have any truck with the new organisation. This attitude of these two High Priests created more difficulties for the priests of the EBP. The opposition to the EBP went further: Malwatte and Asgiriya were not enamoured of the report of the "Buddhist Commission" which was the ideological manifesto of the EBP.

## Old Name

It was in this situation, that some of the sponsors of the EBP set up a Special Committee to devise ways and means of "unifying the Sangha." A report in the *Daily News* of August 25 revealed that the Committee had not only decided to stick to the old name EK-SATH BHIKKHU PERAMUNA, but also that a rift had started among the members of the Special Committee. The full report is quoted below because it sums up the

position succinctly, and at the same time the names of the main protagonists and factionalists is revealed.

"The Special Committee to report on the unification of the Sangha unanimously disapproved of the behaviour of five of its members who did not attend yesterday's meeting

"The committee unanimously decided that the name of the proposed new organisation should be the same as the recently dissolved one — name y, Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna.

"Reason 1. — Many mushroom organisations have sprung up and a new organisation under a new name might be mistaken for just another of them.

"Reason 2.—The M. E. P. Government had accepted the ten principles submitted by the original Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna and a change of name might make the Government's election pledge no longer binding.

"Those who attended yesterday's meeting are Motunne Indasara Nayaka Thera, Ven. Hawanpola Ratnasara Thera, Dehigaspe Panasekara Nayake Thera, Bambaren-

de Sri Seevali, Ven. Menaalane Wachissara Nayake Thera, Ven. Arundagalpola Punnaratne, the Ven. Mapiitigama Buddharakkita Nayake Thera, The Ven. Talpawila Seelawamsa Thera, the Ven. Mirisse Chandajothi Thera, the Central Committee of both the Sri Lanka Sangha Sabha and the All Ceylon Bikkhu Congress will be held on September 8. A general meeting of the entire Bhikkhu Peramuna will be held at the Kelaniya Vihare premises.

"Earlier the joint secretaries of the Ceylon Bikkhu Congress—the Ven. Talpawila Seelavamsa, Mapiitigama Buddharakkita and Hawanpola Ratnasara Theras—issued a statement alleging that these five members are working in concert with certain ex-members of the government who are themselves disruptors of the M.E.P.

"The five members are Ven. Pandita Hempitagedara Gnanaseha, Baddegama Wimalavansa, Kelapitimulle Sanghapala Thera, Kerami-niye Jnananda Thera and Kotagama Wachissara Thera.

## The Statement

"The text of statement issued by the joint secretaries is as follows :

continued on page 285

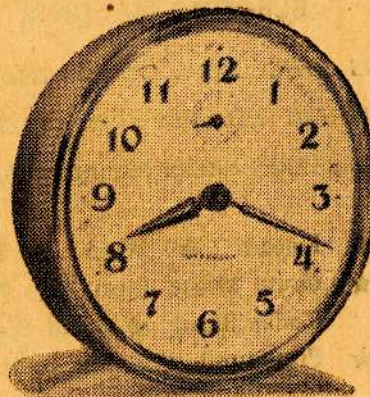
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# MONEY & U.S. ELECTIONS

"Politics has got so expensive," Will Rogers once said, "that it takes lots of money to even get beat with". Win or lose, the candidate for public office will pay this year as he has never payed before. The entire cost of Abraham Lincoln's first nomination and election ran to only about dollars 700; in 1956, the bill for nominating and electing a president will run upwards of dollars 10 million. The best estimates show that the outlay for all political campaigns this year will reach the astonishing total of dollars 200 million.

In the following Special POLITICAL RINGSIDE Report, John J. Madigan of Newsweek's Washington bureau tells why.

By its calculations the Republican Party spent dollars 13.8 million four years ago to elect President Dwight D. Eisenhower and a Republican Congress. The Democrats admit to having spent dollars 6.2 million. Labour groups and minority parties filed reports with Congress admitting they spent an additional dollars 3 million: But the total *admitted* outlay of dollars 23 million was only a fraction of what actually was spent for electioneering in 1952. An exhaustive study by political scientist Prof. Alexander Heard of the University of North Carolina comes close to proving that the total bill for "all nominating and election purposes in 1952 reached dollars 150 million." "This year" Heard says, the cost "will be higher."

The best guess is that the price of electing some 270,000 public officials in the nation this year will come to about dollars 200 million. Since statistics on campaign expenses are even harder to come by than information on how a man voted, the dollars 200 million is only a guess. But it is based on cold facts.

In a tough race in a heavily populated state the election of a single United States senator can easily cost millions. After his reelection in 1950, the late Sen. Robert A. Taft reported to Congress that his personal expenses came to only dollars 1,816. Later he estimated that various Taft committees had spent some dollars 500,000 to help get him elected. But later on, some GOP fund raisers, who ought to know, estimated that Taft's campaign cost his supporters close to dollars 3.5 million.

## Nothing Cheap

The cost of a Senatorial race varies widely. A Democrat in Mississippi who had won his primary would have to spend little or nothing. But a candidate of either party in California or Pennsylvania would have to count on a heavy bankroll. Should New York's Senatorial contest this year be between Democratic Sen. Herbert H. Lehman and former Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, or between Lehman and Attorney General Jacob K. Javits, each candidate will need at least dollar 1 million.

Nor is there anything cheap about a seat in the House of Representatives. One conservative estimate puts the price at dollars

50,000 and upward. Two years ago it cost Al Canwell, a Washington Republican, more than dollars 22,300 to get defeated.

The cost of campaigning is one of the strategists' biggest headaches this year. Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall has budgeted dollars 9 million for the Presidential and Congressional campaign committees this fall, and Democratic National Chairman Paul M. Butler estimates his party

*continual on page 278*

*Without Comment* we publish an extract of an article from the magazine *Newsweek* which throws revealing light on the state of democracy (or plutocracy) in the "land of the free" (bar the Negroes). The only reason we draw attention to the sad degeneration that has befallen the land of Abraham Lincoln is that its present-day leaders seek to spread the gospel of democracy (according to Dulles) without realising that there is more to remedy within the United States of America than in the world outside.

## THE PEOPLE'S CAR



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## Without Comment

continued from page 277

needs at least dollars 9.5 million for the job. But neither has even a fair chance of keeping within his budget.

### High cost of T V

More than anything else, the all-seeing eye of television must accept the blame for the rocketing rise in the price of public office. As a mass medium for communing with the voters, TV is unmatched. As a drain on the campaign treasury, TV is also unmatched. A one-minute spot on a small TV station will cost a candidate dollars 30 to dollars 40. If he is running for President and wants to enter some 35 million living rooms in place of Sergeant Bilko or "Disneyland," he will plunk down dollars 50,000 to dollars 100,000 for a half hour of time. Mr. Eisenhower will make at least six of these high-priced appearances. Between now and November the Republicans

and the Democrats will each spend some dollars 3 million for network television alone.

Old style campaigning has gone up too. A quarter page paid political advertisement in a weekly newspaper will run dollar 50 or more. Billboards cost dollar 50 monthly and up, and a sound truck is more than dollar 50 a day. A statewide candidate who wants to mail a single postcard to 2 million registered voters, which many states have, must shell out dollars 40,000 for postage alone. Even campaign buttons have gone up, to dollar 32 per thousand in the standard size, and to dollar 36 per dozen in the giant, 9-inch size.

One of the most unpredictable campaign expenses in this, or any political year, is paying off the precinct workers and getting out the vote on election day. The candidate must expect to dole out dollar 100 here and dollar 100 there to the party worker who is

"having trouble in his precinct." How much of this expense money winds up in the worker's pocket the campaign treasurer seldom knows

Every political boss is familiar with the problem of the bagman who treads a narrow path between vote buying and paying legitimate expenses and could hardly be expected to turn in a signed receipt for every dollar he hands out.

Putting the touch on friends, rich and not-so-rich, is the only method the parties' fund raisers have to pay their big bills. "There are new ways to spend it," says Clifford Folger, chairman of the Republican finance committee, "but still only one way to get it." You have to ask for it." One of the most effective fund-raising devices now is the dollar 100-a-plate dinner. With their "Salute to Eisenhower" banquets in 53 cities last January the GOP took in dollar 5 million.

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# WEEK by WEEK in CEYLON

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★ MOSCOW - PEKING

At a time when splits and dissensions seem to be the order of day in Sri Lanka, Mudaliyar's Kariapper's revolt from the Federal Party can only be taken as symptomatic of the period of transition and change that is now upon Ceylon. But, however much one may disagree with the policies and programme of the Federal Party and however much one may attempt to understand the reasons for Kariapper's defection, the view that is held in political circles is that the Member for Kalmunai has turned a neat somersault. If his present objections to the Federal Party were genuine, it is rightly argued that the correct thing for Kariapper to have done was to have resigned his seat in Parliament which he won on the Federal ticket and to have contested again on the basis of whatever policy he now claims to support.

It was known for sometime that Kariapper was planning "to do the Marcellus" - if it is permitted to borrow a phrase which became famous after a memorable episode in the Colombo Municipal Council in the days of the UNP. A columnist in this paper anticipated Kariapper's mode of exit: a mass petition signed by thousands asking him to give up the Federal Party. On the basis of a petition with over 10,000 names, Kariapper staged a meeting at Kalmunaikudy, a full report of which appeared in the *Daily News* of September 16, 1956.

## Battleground

The opening paragraphs of the news report indicated the logic of Kariapper's *modus operandi* for quitting the Federal Party.

"It is the Eastern Province which has been converted by the Federal Party as their battleground to fight the language and other issues while perfect quiet reigns in the Northern Province," declared Gate Mudaliyar M. S. Kariapper, adding: "Like the British Prime Minister who proposed to fight the Great World War to the last Frenchman, are the Jaffna M.P.s going to fight the language

issue to the last Eastern Province Tamil?"

"Mr. Kariapper was replying to Mr. A. Adambawa who presided at a public meeting held at Kalmunaikudy when the latter questioned him as to why his name was still found in the list of Federal M.P.s when immediately after the General Election over 10,000 of his supporters had definitely requested him not to take his seat in Parliament with the Federal Party group.

"Mr. Adambawa pointed out that 99 per cent of those who voted for him were Muslims, none of whom belonged to the Federal Party. In this context he demanded a full statement as to Mr. Kariapper's future programme of action."

## Two Nation Theory

Thereafter, Kariapper entered into a long explanation as to how he had got entangled with the Federal Party during the elections. It would appear, if Kariapper is believed, that Chelvanayakam and Vanniasingam had taken him for a ride, but with the Gate Mudaliyar's reputation for shrewdness and cuteness the popular view in political circles is that it was the Federal Chiefs who were carried away in a buggy by the enterprising Kariapper who now

complains that the support of the Federal Party nearly cost him his seat, and that it was because his "anti-Federal" co-religionists came to his rescue that he managed to win the Kalmunai seat.

Whatever be the truth about how Kariapper won the election, one political argument advanced by Kariapper as to why he was leaving the Federal Party deserves serious considerations. He states: "This historically inaccurate and politically mischievous theory of a Tamil-speaking nation must be nipped in the bud. We are no more Tamils because Tamil is spoken in our homes than the Burghers are Englishmen because English is spoken in their homes."

Without delving into the question of the origins of Eastern Province Muslims, it can be said that what Kariapper stipulates is correct: that a language by itself does not make a nation, and that this is a criticism of the Federal Party which has been made validly. He goes on to illustrate his statement thus: "The longer I associate myself with the Federalists the more I am convinced that the kingdom of Tamil Nad and Muslim interests are not

continued on page 282



September 15, 1956

The fact that the Bill to establish a NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL was welcomed with approbation by the Opposition is indicative of the fact that this measure is one which will be welcomed by the entire country. The strongest criticism against the old regime under the UNP was that it never paid any attention to national economic development on the basis of a properly planned programme. The worst of it was that the UNP endeavoured to hoodwink the people through bogus planning organisations with grandiose nomenclatures. These *ad hoc* committees — they were no better than that — prepared hotch-potch schemes and plans: plans which the propaganda machine of the UNP claimed would usher in the millenium. Readers will recall with a pang of horror the unblushing eulogiums which the *Observer* editorially bestowed on the last SIX YEAR PLAN. It was hailed as the creative work of the several geniuses who constituted the Planning Department set up by the UNP. One of the several editorials which that paper wrote about these gentlemen referred to the world-staggering qualities and the unique intellectual calibre of the framers of that PLAN. How false these claims were and how blatantly untrue was the propaganda was exposed in the historic series of articles written by A STUDENT OF POLITICS in the *Daily News* not very long ago. It was shown by that writer that all the SIX YEAR PLANS of UNP vintage did nothing to transform the stagnant character of the economy of this country.

It is to be hoped that the National Planning Council, which will now be set up, will break with the old tradition of bamboozling the people with paper schemes for election purposes. It is necessary that the Planning Council should have men and women on it with vision and knowledge who are determined to device ways in which the contemporary colonial plantation economy can be transformed into a dynamic modern industrial-cum-agricultural economy, which can provide a better way of life for the mass of the people, in the shortest possible

time. It would not do to fill the Planning Council with yes-men of the party in power. The best talent in the country, on the Government side, in the Opposition, in the University, and in public life should be brought into the Planning Council. The experience of a large number of countries which have now successfully adopted planned economies will serve as excellent models for what has to be done here.

Prime Minister Bandaranaike has done well to bring this Bill before Parliament without undue delay. The country has confidence that he will choose a team that will be capable of delivering the goods.

#### Foreign Monopolies

One of the questions which Government must tackle immediately is the question of foreign monopolies which operate in this country in such a way that local industry is prevented from growing and developing. In the recent past, this paper has had occasion to draw attention to the position of Lever Bros. (Ceylon) Ltd. It is an admitted fact that LEVER BROS (CEYLON) LTD. is only a part of an international combine, perhaps the biggest in the world, and that this company monopolises practically the entirety of the soap manufacturing industry in Ceylon, the bulk of the cooking fats and oils consumed and a sizable portion of the toilet preparations used. This monopoly operates not only by means of local manufacture, but also through imports of branded goods produced by different companies belonging to the international combine.

In India, the Government has taken note of the activities of this Company. Legislation has been passed to check and prevent any further expansion by this Company. In fact, even for replacement of existing machinery a licence has to be obtained from the Directorate of Industries. When a country like India, which freely permits foreign enterprise which do not hinder local industries to flourish, thinks it necessary to curb the activities of a firm like LEVER BROS, it is likewise necessary that Ceylon, which is even more handicapped in the matter of industrial development,

should adopt measures to enable local producers not to be driven to the wall by the most powerful international monopoly. It is not necessary to ban or liquidate LEVER BROS in Ceylon. Just as anti-trust and anti-monopoly laws exist in the United States of America, there is need in this country for similar laws to permit local entrepreneurs and manufactures to develop along healthy lines in the same sphere of productive activity as Lever Bros. Leading personalities in the circle of Ceylonese businessmen have called for such laws: laws intended to help local industry (but not banish foreign enterprise). A distinction must also be drawn, at this stage of the economic development of Ceylon, between foreign enterprise which operate for the benefit of the country without preventing Ceylonese owned industries from functioning profitably and enterprises of a monopolistic nature which have unlimited strength and power owing to their international link-up to crush all local competition.

The United National Party has never been able to face up to the problem created by firms like Lever Bros in a way that would have been beneficial to the economic development of the country. The MEP cannot shirk its responsibilities in the same way. Unless it takes action as India has done in regard to Lever Bros, the future of the soap industry here is a bleak one. The few Ceylonese firms in the industry today are permitted, by the grace of Lever Bros, to produce a few toilet soaps, but in the larger field of washing soaps local enterprise has little or no say. Government must act without delay.

**NEXT WEEK**

**CEMENT  
PRODUCTION**

AND

**THE SECOND KILM**

AT

**KANKESANTURAI**



**JUST BRIEFLY**BY  
SERENDIB

★ DOCTORS

★ CANVASSING

Certain comments in a well-known column in the *Sunday Times* last week made me wonder how long it takes for a weekly newspaper to attain respectability in the eyes of the pundits of the local daily newspapers. It seems to be a kind of unwritten tradition in the daily newspapers of this island not to mention the name of a weekly paper even if they choose to comment on what it says. Although *Lake House* and *Times* have on many occasions in the last two and a half years referred to what has appeared in the *Tribune*, (and in the *Trine*, the English version of which has once again suspended publication), great care has been taken not to mention these papers by name. The idea seems to be that such mention would add respectability to these papers and probably help them to improve their sales.

Janus, the sprightly columnist of the *Sunnay Times*, headed last week's comment with the title **WHEN I GO TO PEKING**. Advertising to the subject of ambassadorial selections, on which I had some thing to say a fortnight ago in this column, Janus wrote: "My grouse is that one brisk and bold little weekly has picked on me as a likely candidate!" The reference was to the post in Peking. Even Janus, the veteran journalist, whose writings I had admired even as a callow youth, insists on persisting in this local tradition of not mentioning the names of weekly papers (except when reference is made in Parliament or they figure in court cases).

Anyway, *Tribune* has carried on so far without being officially "recognised" by the local daily newspapers, and I am sure the day is not far off when such recognition can no longer be withheld. One of the difficulties has been that Ceylon has had a dearth of political weekly papers and this may be one reason for the lordly attitude of the dailies.

**Wattiamma**

Though Janus does not refer to *Tribune* by name, the only topic he discusses is the hint that was drop-

ped in this column that a veteran newspaperman "presently in Sinhalese journalism" might be a likely choice for the post in Peking. In fact, I had gone so far as to say that if this choice were made, the Prime Minister would have chosen one of the best possible men for work in Ceylon's diplomatic service. When India became Independent, and she had to choose men for diplomatic posts, a very large number were recruited from the field of journalism. In Ceylon, the old regime had picked on defeated candidates and retired public servants to fill such posts, and the results had not been satisfactory. Journalists like Janus will certainly be able to do a better job than party hangers-on defeated at the polls or government servants in dotage.

I must also say that I did not mention Janus by name. He seems to have thought wise to fit the cap, and I will be content to let it rest at that. For some strange reason my remarks seem to have made him unnecessarily self-conscious, and in his column he has endeavoured to draw from his brand of distinctive humour to laugh the whole thing off. He claims that he would insist on what he calls the *wattiamma* brand of diplomacy — calling a spade a spade in the language of the market place — and that for this reason international difficulties might arise. And, finally, he resorts to the age-old question: "Is this suggestion to make me an Ambassador and attempt to kick me upstairs to stop me writing this column?"

If I know Janus, nothing can stop him writing whether he be Peking or Timbuctoo, whether he is a diplomat or a schoolmaster or a tourist guide, and I therefore

hope to read him always. What I would wish is that Janus would put his hand to some substantial writing with that sardonic humour of which he is capable so that the world of writing in this country may have a legacy of good humorous writing with point and purpose. His *Running Commentary* is too ephemeral for my liking, and may

*continued on page 287*

State of Sri Lanka

**WHY?**

JAFFNA, Wednesday,

*S. RASIAH of Pungudutivu West, charged before Mr. B.G. S. David Jaffna Magistrate, with attempting to steal cash from the charity box of the "Infant Jesus" at St. James church, Karayoor, pleaded guilty.*

*The magistrate asked him why he had tried to steal from a church.*

*Rasihah replied that was not the only instance. He had also stolen from the charity boxes at the Mariamman Kovil Pungudutivu, and other temples.*

*Magistrate: Why is it you lay hands only on temples and churches?*

*Rasihah: It is a sin sir to steal from the poor. The rich won't give any charity. I am against inconveniencing human beings. That is why I lay my hands on the charity boxes of temples and churches.*

*The magistrate found Rasiah guilty and put off identification and sentence.*

6/9/56 Morning Times,

**YOU BUY WITH CONFIDENCE**

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(continued from page 269)

compatible.....If Tamil Nad takes shape I shall move heaven and earth to create a Muslim state .....

It has been pointed out time without number that the weakness of the Federal two-nation theory rests on the fact that the Tamil-speaking people in Ceylon do not constitute a "nation". In fact, if one applies the strict definition of nation and nationalities in a rigid manner, Ceylon will have several nations: Jaffna Tamils, Eastern Province Tamils, Indian Tamils, Muslim Tamils, Burghers, Low Country Sinhalese, Kandyan Sinhalese and so on (with subdivisions among each group).

## Forward Bloc

Whilst the Federal Party has to contend with Kariapper's revolt and what it signifies in so far as Muslim support is concerned, within the MEP equally significant changes are slowly taking place which have not yet gathered head. With the exit of Rajaratne and the decline in the fortunes of the Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna through internal dissensions, a new pressure group calling itself the Forward Bloc has emerged. Though it proclaims loyalty to the Premier loudly (a little too loudly not to create suspicion!), it is said that the Forward Bloc is no more than a cover organisation for certain ambitious politicians to bring pressure on the Prime Minister and the Government.

These same persons had earlier used people like Rajaratne and the Bhikkhus in order to stampede the Premier to adopt certain measures. But the Premier has now grown wise not only to the wiles of these gentlemen but also his own strength and standing, and for this reason the Forward Bloc has been brought into being in order to achieve the same old racist objectives through press publicity of a broad character. The Forward Bloc disguises the inner content of its politics by pretending to a great deal of interest in certain matters of general public interest. Political circles have not yet been taken in by these tactics of the Forward Bloc, and the two Ministers of the Bandaranaike Cabinet, who are said to be behind the Forward Bloc

are greatly suspect among orthodox SLFP circles.

## Rajaratne

The activities of the Food Minister continues to cause alarm not only among the general public but also among the loyal supporters of the Prime Minister and the MEP. It is pointed out that despite the vehement proclamations of this Minister, prices of ordinary food-stuffs have shot up anything between 10 to 50 percent. The story that this price increase is due to the action of anti government saboteurs is not generally accepted and is now regarded as a convenient smokescreen for the acts of commission (port strikes) and omission (departmental neglect) attributed to the Food Minister.

In addition to this, Philip Gunawardene thinks it fit that he should openly come out in support of Rajaratne (whom it is said he had inspired in secret earlier). At a meeting in Welimada, reported in the *Observer* of September 3, Philip Gunawardene "praised Mr. K. M. P. Rajaratne in the course of his speech: he said that Mr. Rajaratne had won favour as a politician because he worked whole-heartedly and genuinely for the whole country."

It is also known that Mr. Philip Gunawardene is in close contact with the political grouping that Rajaratne is endeavouring to set up, although there appears to be a rift between the great Felix Jayasuriya and Rajaratne. The differences between the two is said to stem from a sense of disappointment in Rajaratne that the advice given by Jayasuriya had led to his being thrown out of the Government and the SLFP.

## UNP and Municipal Elections

The United National Party, ostensibly led by J. R. Jayawardene, is endeavouring to stage a comeback at the Municipal Elections due in December this year. It was publicly proclaimed that the UNP was adopting a *socialist policy* to woo the voters in the city. Two UNP members of the Municipal Council have given notice of eight motions which is claimed is part of their new "socialist policy". These resolutions deal with such problems as a graded system of taxation, new assessment tariffs dependent on rent, slum clearance, rent purchase of municipal house tenants, housing schemes, reduction of electricity tariffs,

unemployment dole and certain safeguards against rapacious landlords. If this is the kind of "socialism" envisaged by the UNP (although it is an advance on its older politics) it is not likely to win much support.

In the meantime, the Municipal voters' list which had been rigged in the days of the UNP administration with large numbers of bogus names is being "cleansed" through rigorous checks and counter checks. In the Kochchikade Ward, for instance, over 1,115 names have been found to be fictitious and it is alleged that another 350 names are suspect. In a ward where the polling strength is around 3000 to 4000, 1500 bogus names would make a great deal of difference.

The Kockikade Ward on the last occasion returned a UNP member, Sugathadasa, presently the Mayor. He beat a Communist by a majority of under hundred votes.

## Moscow-Peking

Great satisfaction has been expressed not only in political but also commercial circles about the arrangements being made to open full diplomatic relations on an ambassadorial level with Moscow and Peking. Even the Lake House group of papers have welcomed this move. It will be remembered that not very long ago when the spirit of Dulles-Nixon (fortified with the now dormant McCarty) hovered over Lake House, it had violently objected to any diplomatic and trade relations with the so-called "Iron Curtain" countries. In an editorial last week, the *Daily News* welcomed the decision to exchange ambassadors with Moscow and also the agreement for increased trade. This change in the attitude of Lake House is undoubtedly a reflection of the change in the climate of world politics which has decided to bury the cold war. However, knowledgeable circles also attribute this change to the far-seeing wisdom of the presiding editorial genius of Lake House who is now on tour in Europe and has included a few "Iron Curtain" capitals in his itinerary.

# Li Shih - Chen

As a physician Li was able to combine study with practice. As a professional physician he employed in his treatment the traditional methods of *inspecting* (colour of face, tongue, etc.), *hearing* (the patient's voice), *inquiring* (the history of the illness) and *palpating* (taking the pulse) in his treatment. He took great care to avoid errors in diagnosis. When treating doubtful or difficult cases he would first make an exhaustive study and then prescribe tentative remedies. Once he succeeded in curing asthma with a mixture of *mahuang* (epheora vulgaris) and at another time cured viscid diarrhoea with croton seeds. And these are only two of many examples which could be quoted.

## Exactitude and Integrity

During the long course of his studies Li acquired a habit of exactitude and integrity. He was no blind follower of tradition and current crazes. He had a Cartesian spirit in dealing with theories of previous authorities and nothing could stop him opposing any falsehood which passed for truth. Ancient books on *materia medica* used to say that the taking of *ch eh hsieh* (water plantain) could make one look young, have a light body, and walk on water. Even Tao Hung-ching, a well-known pharmacologist of the sixth century, believed this to be true. But Li boldly refuted this theory and asserted that prolonged taking of *ch eh hsieh* is deleterious to one's health. He also dismissed as untrue current theories which he considered unwarranted. This he did regardless of political pressure, as is clearly shown by the following incident. The Emperor Shih Tsung (1522—1566) of the Ming Dynasty, wishing to prolong his reign and happy life for all eternity, resorted to Taoist magic. He brought to his court a number of Taoist alchemists who proposed to build altars in the palace precincts and promised to concoct for him the *elixir vitae*. Precious medicinal substances and building materials were demanded. Despite public outcry, local officials seized this opportunity for extortion and used every pretext to enforce the

demand. Most physicians, who were as servile as they were ignorant, expatiated on the attainment of immortality. Li Shih-chen, however, risked the displeasure of the Emperor and openly refuted the gibberish of these time-serving doctors. He pointed out the preposterousness of concocting elixir from such dangerous substances as mercury, realgar and arsenic.

Li's medical technique advanced with his research work. He soon found himself courted by fame. Many patients from distant parts suffering from obstinate diseases believed that a visit to Kichun for treatment by Li was their only hope of recovery.

The rapid growth of Li's fame attracted the attention of local officials and he was twice called upon to serve in an official capacity. The first time he acted as the keeper of the ancestral temple and head of the official physicians at the court of Prince Chu of Wuchang (Hupei Province). The second time he served in the Imperial Medical Academy, then a medical organization of the highest prestige and authority. But Li was by nature a

This is a concluding part of an article which we reprinted from the magazine *People's China*. The first part of this article appeared in our issue last week written by two eminent Chinese medical men (Western) and a classical scholar. This article is an object lesson for Ayurvedic physicians and Western trained doctors as how the problem of Ayurveda should be approached.

man of simple tastes and liked nothing better than study. Official life was irksome to him. So after a short period of service, he resigned. He was forty years old at this time.

## Research

Thenceforward he devoted his entire time and energy to pharmacological research. The scope of his field work expanded. He travelled in his own province and in Hunan, Honan, Kiangsi, Kiangsu and Anhwei, making medical observations and collecting a number of pharmacological specimens.

In 1578, when he was sixty, after 27 years of indefatigable labour, Li finally completed his magnum opus, the *Pen Tsao Kang Mu* or *Compendium of Materia Medica* in 52 volumes, with two million words and

(continued on page 284)

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# Ayurveda in China

continued from page 283

over a thousand illustrations. During these 27 years of collecting materials he read 757 works and made copious notes running to close on ten million words. He revised his work over and over again and completely rewrote it three times. During its compilation Pang Hsien, his student, and his three sons assisted him; and when he was putting the final draft into shape his four grandsons also shared in the work of copying and illustrating it.

When the manuscript of the *Pen Tsao Kang Mu* was ready the problem of publication came up. Although printing by movable type had already been invented, it was not yet in popular use. Most books were still printed from wooden blocks. To print so large a work as the *Pen Tsao Kang Mu* required a long time and a huge sum of money. Li did not have the money himself, nor any rich or influential friends who could defray the cost. It was not until ten years later that a publisher was found enterprising enough to take the matter up, who agreed to carry out its printing and distribution. Li did not live to see his book published, for he died in the autumn of 1593. But just before his death news came from Nanking, then centre of the publishing business, that the major part of the blocks for printing the *Pen Tsao Kang Mu* were ready. This, to Li, was welcome news indeed.

## A Great Book on Materia Medica

The *Pen Tsao Kang Mu* is China's greatest book on materia medica. It records every kind of medicine which the Chinese people used before the 16th century, together with some ten thousand prescriptions of popular and empirical authenticity. It divides medicinal substances into 16 classes and 60 species. There are, for instance grasses, divided into nine species, according to their quality and habitat, and woody growths, divided into six species according to quality.

All but 374 of the medicinal substances listed in Li's *Pen Tsao Kang Mu* had appeared in previous books on materia medica. Li, however, made a critical examination of them. He cleared up confusion arising

from different medicines with the name, and different nomenclatures for the same substance. All errors were rectified and misplaced medicinal substances reclassified. He made exhaustive inquiries and much new material was added to the descriptions of the history and curative properties of medicinal substances. Among the new medicines he added are camphor, *san chi* (*Gynura pinnatifida*), and grape wine, which have remained valuable medicaments ever since; and maize, carrot and sweet potato, products introduced into China after the tenth century A. D.

Li's description of each medicinal substance is set out under the following heads: nomenclature, other names by which it is known, provenance, identification, preparation, form and properties, curative use, previous experience in its use the author's opinion on its efficacy and, finally, details of prescription. Such treatment of the material is highly scientific and bears comparison with the best descriptive methods used in modern pharmacological treatises.

With regard to biological origins, Li was strongly against the prevailing theory of his time which held that all living organisms were spontaneously generated. It was he who exploded the theory of fish being born of the seed of water weed. He pointed out that it was spawn on the water weed which produced the fish, not the weed itself. From his own experience as a practitioner he refuted the theory that parasitic worms in the human body aid digestion. He denounced alchemists and advised pharmacologists to keep them at arms' length.

## Remedies

All these refutations may now seem matter of course, but they derived from a progressive outlook of life, and it took a man of unusual mettle to make them in Li's time in the face of all kinds of opposition. Li's greatest contribution to pharmacology was, however, his study of the efficacy of various medicinal substances. In books on materia medica written before his time these properties had seldom been explained in clear terms. From his extensive study Li was able not only to clarify most doubtful points

but also to make new discoveries. He found for instance that *yen hu* so (*Corydalis ambigua*) was good for alleviating pain, and that *chang san* (*Orixa japonica*) can cure malaria. Both of these discoveries have been proved correct by modern pharmacologists.

As a pharmacological treatise the *Pen Tsao Kang Mu* is a rich, complete work of a progressive nature. It has played an important part in advancing Chinese science, especially natural history, pharmacology and medical science in general. It is a first-rate reference book for modern pharmacologists engaged in research. Research on Li's work has led to recent discoveries of the therapeutic properties of many medicines: *Lu craban*-seed oil as a cure for leprosy; *tang kuei* (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*) for menstrual complaints; *ephedra* for asthma; that *lei wan* (*Mytilus lapidescens*) and betelnut kill tape worms; *tu chung* (*Eucommia ulmoides*) alleviates high blood pressure; *rhubarb* and *huang lien* (*Coptis teeta*) produce good anti-bacterial effects, and many more. Of the 531 varieties of medicinal substances and prescriptions listed in the 1953 edition of the *Pharmacopoeia of the Chinese People's Republic*, over 100 are taken from the *Pen Tsao Kang Mu*.

Medical workers in New China are beginning to make a systematic study of the medical science of their motherland. An exhibition to commemorate Li Shih-chen, China's great scientist, was held in Shanghai in 1954. To answer the increasing needs of medical circles, the people's Public Health Publishing House is preparing to reproduce a photolithographic facsimile of the first edition of the *Pen Tsao Kang Mu*. In his own time Li himself earnestly hoped that the printing of his work would be sponsored by the government so that it might bring blessings to the masses. It is only now, when the people have become masters of their own country, that the fondest wish of Li Shih-chen, one of China's greatest scientists, at last comes true.

# Bhikkhu Peramuna

(continued from page 276)

'We were surprised at a statement issued by members of the Sangha stating that they would keep away Friday's meeting. We really cannot understand this statement which was issued in secrecy and without the knowledge of one of the joint secretaries of the Sri Lanka Sangha Sabha, the Ven. Hawanpola Ratnasara Thera.

'These members have a responsibility to the Maha Sangha and the Buddhist public, to explain their action which was done without reference to the parent organisation of which they were elected as representatives.'

'We consider the action of this group led by the Ven. Hempitagedara Gnanaseka who accepted the decisions of the Executive Committee at the meeting held on August 4, as an attempt to sabotage the religious and national plans which the Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna hoped to carry out.

'We cannot understand how they seek the co-operation of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Mahanayakes who have in no uncertain terms opposed the recommendation of the Buddhist Commission Report, and we leave it to the intelligent mem-

bers of the Sangha and the Buddhist public to decide whether those who have accepted the Buddhist Commission Report, like this group seek the co-operation of Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters with the sincerest of motives or to sabotage the Sangha unification campaign.

'We have room to believe, that these members instead of airing their grievances within the committee, when they had an opportunity to do so, have adopted a disruptionist attitude and have been lured towards this end by certain ex-M.E.P. members with similar disruptionist intentions. This again we place before the public to decide.'

'At the same time we wish to inform the public that if these two Bhikkhu organisations approve of the policy of the Executive Committee we shall continue to carry out our campaign as we have hitherto done, and see the implementation of the ten principles.'

## Rebuffed

The *Morning Times* of August 30 indicated that a fresh attempt was being made to draw in Malwatte and Asgiriya. A front-page news report read as follows:

'The Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna has invited the Mahanayake Theros of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters to a special meeting to be held on September 9th to adopt the report of the Special Committee which was appointed to report on the formation of a single union of bhikkhus'

'The meeting will be held at the Raja Maha Vihare, Kelaniya at 1 p.m., and will be open only to the Sangha.

'A meeting of the executive committees of the two bhikkhus unions which have been amalgamated to form the present Peramuna will be held earlier the same day to consider the report of the Special Committee.

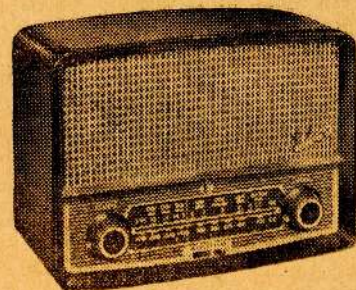
'After the two meetings, the Peramuna will hold a public meeting at the Colombo Town Hall at 3 p.m. on the same day to announce to the public the results of the deliberations, which will aim at for-

continued on page 286



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# Bhikkhu Peramuna

continued from page 285

ming a single union of monks, irrespective of Nikaya differences.

"The Special Committee has recommended the formation of a single union with the retention of the title, Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna. Invitations have been sent to 600 temples in all parts of the island.

"Thalpawila Seelawansa Thero told the *Morning Times* that the formation of the single union was now a foregone conclusion."

## Crude

The attitude of the Mahanayakes

to this invitation was set out in rather crude language in a news report of the *Daily News* of September 4.

"The Mahanayakes of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters have rejected the invitation of the Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna to attend their conference to be held at the Town Hall on September 9. ....

"The secretary, Yatigammana Wimalagnana Thero on behalf of the Chapters told me yesterday that the invitation had been rejected by the Mahanayakes as they considered it an insult to them to have been invited by this group.

"Yatigammana Wimalagnana Thero also pointed out that the

decision to invite the Mahanayakes was taken after the E.B.P. had agreed on their policy and wanted the Mahanayakes to merely conform or consent to it.

"The Mahanayakes will not suffer any such insults and the invitations have been thrown into the waste paper basket, he added."

It is in this background that Mettananda's letter and the replies to it must be analysed. It is also in this background that the meeting of September 9 must be examined.

*This will be done in two succeeding articles.*

(To be continued)

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# Just Briefly

(continued from page 281)

be in Peking he will have time to do some worthwhile writing without being worried about newspaper chores and squabbles.

## Medical Men

*Tribune's* reference last week to the evil system of permitting private practice to government doctors has made many medical men tell me that they had wondered for a long time why this paper had not so far taken up this problem which is the bane of the medical profession. From the remarks I have heard, except for a few Specialists and Visiting Specialists attached to the Government Hospital in Colombo and a few outstation hospitals, practically all the doctors who have spoken to me are agreed that the evils of allowing private practice are so enormous that even if doctors are forced to be as poor as the proverbial church mice, that best thing to do would be impose an immediate ban on private practice'

I have so far thought that the curse of private practice only fouled the atmosphere of the city of Colombo. From what I have heard this week, the evil seems to have spread to other provincial centres right up to the North in Jaffna. A doctor who knows these matters tells me if a Commission were sent out by the Royal College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons in London, and it goes into the activities of a number of doctors who hold diplomas from these institutions, a very large and substantial percentage would immediately be struck off the rolls for unprofessional conduct.

## Canvassing

I have it on good authority, and the illness of certain friends of mine in recent weeks has brought it forcibly to my notice, that a number of VISITING PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS attached to the Colombo General Hospital seem to spend more time in canvassing work from private nursing homes than devote to their patients in the hospitals. This canvassing has become so scandalous that unashamedly doctors confront persons in

charge of private nursing homes and ask them "why is it that you do not call me in? why do you call only so and so.....?"

A large number of these specialists have vested interests in certain private nursing homes. I know a case recently where such a specialist was called into consultation at a particular nursing home. He not only discussed the case with the patient (breaking all ethical rules of the profession) but succeeded in whisking him off to the nursing home in which he had a financial interest.

I have heard of cut-throat competition in different walks of life, but the struggle to make money (in tens of thousands) among specialists in the General Hospital is something that beggars description. I know that there are specialists in particular fields who are not on talking term with each other because of such competition. It is the patients and the work at the hospital which suffers as a result of such piratical conflicts, but this does not seem to worry these gentlemen.

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