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Petrol Rationing No Blackmarket!

The trend of world's affairs, as we have pointed out elsewhere in the issue, indicate that petrol rationing will become inevitable in Ceylon, at least for some months until the international situation improves and more tankers become available for the transport of oil to this island. Unfortunately, owing to the experiences of the last war, the word rationing evokes the most unpleasant memories of blackmarketing and profiteering. Just now, people are wondering whether Government will be able to devise a scheme to make impossible the black-market in petrol.

In the last period of petrol rationing, the whole scheme became a mockery and a farce because of the unlimited quantities of "military" petrol which surreptitiously found its way into the blackmarket. At that time too, bus companies had a greater number of petrol vehicles, and therefore they had wangled ex-

cess quantities of petrol and this also helped to sustain a pernicious system of blackmarket to flourish.

Today, the Government starts on its rationing under better auspices. There is no "military" petrol in the sense known in the last war to contend with. Moreover, most bus companies use diesel oil for their vehicles and it is unlikely they will have any appreciable excess of petrol coupons. It must be remembered that a blackmarket becomes possible only if there is an excess supply with some particular group and a scarcity need in another group. In the last war, the military and the bus companies had an excess of petrol whilst the private consumer was only granted a fraction of his actual needs, and the result was a horrible blackmarket in coupons and petrol.

Taxis

At the present moment, a black-market can only arise if an excess of coupons are granted to taxis and taxi companies and if the supply to private consumers are cut to the bone. There are indications that in collusion with certain petrol filling stations, taximen in the city of Colombo are preparing to obtain an excess of coupons. Petrol stations can inflate the quantities sold to taximen and depress the quantities sold to the private consumer "for cash" and thereby help taximen to make out a case for an excess of coupons for taxis under the plea of their being a public utility service. It is essential that the rationing authorities resist the temptation to issue coupons to taxis *ad lib* and at the same time not to give way to the equally dangerous desire to cut the supply to professional and occupational users to levels which will compel them to resort to the black-market. The axe must come down heavily on all who use cars for luxury, social or prestige reasons.

We await the full scheme of petrol rationing before making any comments, but we trust that the authorities will not make the mistakes which bureaucracy in Ceylon have traditionally made to render any scheme to flounder in a morass of petty regulations more concerned with shadows rather than the substance.

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW
COLOMBO, Dec. 1, 1956

Vol. 3 No. 29

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Ethics of Strike

A member at a Kandy Branch Union meeting said "If you want peace, prepare for war, and if we are driven to war, use the atom bomb — STRIKE."

Rule 2 (g) of the Constitution of the G.M.O.A. clearly states that we have the right to resort to strike.

Should Doctors Strike?

Deep inside each of us is an inherent horror for "Strike," due to the code of Hippocrates and the Ethics of a noble profession.

As doctors we have absolutely no right to strike, if by strike we mean that we down tools and refuse to treat patients. But under the present system of medical aid to the people we are allowed the right to "Private Practice", which really means that we are "Government Doctors" for part of the time and "Private Practitioners" for the rest of the day. Morally there should be nothing wrong in striking against the Employer, by refusing to treat in his Hospitals, if we are prepared to treat the sick at private dispensaries and other Non-Government Institutions. Then the Government Doctor will be able to treat the sick in exactly the same way that 800 Private Practitioners are treating their patients today. But unlike the Private Practitioner, the Government Doctor "On Strike" can give his service to the public FREE. The patients already in Government Hospitals will suffer, but they are under the care Not of the Doctor, but of the Government which has taken over the responsibility of taking care of the nation's sick.

Who is responsible for the Patient?

As an ordinary Non-Government doctor, we can treat our patients and it is our sacred duty to continue to treat them until the patient is cured or desires to be treated by someone else. Once we join Government Service, that inherent right to continue to treat our patients is taken over by our Employer, the Government. As Government Doctors we therefore have no patients, in the way a private practitioner has. Have you ever heard of a single doctor ever protest against a transfer to another

Hospital on the grounds that he cannot leave his patients till they are cured? Who is responsible for the patients? On whose shoulders must the Ethics fall?

Does the means justify the end?

A non-member at a Batticaloa Branch Union meeting said "I agree that in the interest of a better Medical Service, private practice must be abolished and I agree that the salary scales recommended by the G.M.O.A. are very reasonable BUT I CANNOT STRIKE. It is against my Christian principles".

We answered him by asking "Is the proposal of the G.M.O.A. merely motivated by selfish interest a higher salary scale for doctors, or do each of us individually feel that by the implementation of our proposal we can give a better medical service to the nation? If we sincerely believe that it will, and if we are sure that "Strike" is the only way to achieve this end, then only should we resort to strike." A BAD MEANS TO A GOOD END When Christ said "Thou shalt not kill". He made no exception such as "Thou may kill in war's

We reproduce in full the editorial of the latest GMOA NEWSLETTER Vol. 1. No. 3, which sets out the Government doctors case for striking. The utter childishness displayed by the GMOA stalwarts in regard to the question of strike can be gauged by the naivete of the arguments adduced. This is a splendid example of how a good case can be spoiled by wrong and foolish argumentation.

Yet Christian countries are waging war today. It is a crime and a

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Attack on Egypt

On the 13th of September, 1956, the last day of the last session of the Lok Sabha, I made a statement in the House about the developments relating to the Suez Canal issue. Previous to that, on the 8th August, I had given to the House an account of the developments which followed the action of the Egyptian Government in nationalising the Suez Canal Company.

"Over two months have passed since my last statement on this subject in the Lok Sabha, and much has happened, which has been reported in the public Press and must be within the knowledge of Hon'ble Members. The matter was taken up by the Security Council, and there was broad approval of certain basic principles which should govern any agreement in regard to the Suez Canal. It was proposed that the chief parties to the dispute, namely, Egypt, the United Kingdom and France, should meet soon after to discuss this subject further on the basis of those principles.

This meeting did not take place. Instead, on the 29th October, Israel launched a sudden and premeditated attack on Egypt, and large concentrations of Israeli troops made deep penetrations into Egyptian territory. The next day, the Governments of the United Kingdom and France sent an ultimatum to Egypt and Israel to the effect that if they did not stop fighting and withdraw their forces to ten miles on either side of the Suez Canal, British and French forces would intervene to stop the fighting. The ultimatum expired on the morning of the 31st October and soon after British and French forces commenced aerial bombardment of airfields and military objectives in Cairo and elsewhere in Egypt. This was followed a few days later, by landings of airborne troops near Port Said and heavy fighting there.

Reversion To Colonial Methods

As the House knows, India had viewed with grave apprehension the policy of the U.K. and French Governments after the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company. In particular, the massing of troops

and aircraft for the purpose of military operations in Egypt appeared to us to be a reversion to past colonial methods and an attempt to coerce Egypt by show of armed might.

Indeed, it was stated by responsible statesmen in the United Kingdom and France that the regime in Egypt must be changed and, in particular, the head of the State and of the Government of Egypt should be removed. We had hoped, however, that after the Security Council resolution, more peaceful methods would be adopted to solve this dispute. The starting of military operations against Egypt by the United Kingdom and France, and, more particularly the bombing of parts of Cairo city and other parts of Egypt came therefore, as a profound shock not only to people in India but also to large numbers of people in other countries including the United Kingdom. This appeared to be a flagrant case of aggression by two strong Powers against a weaker country with the purpose of enforcing their will, even

This is the full statement made by Prime Minister Nehru in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on November 16. With all the conflicting claims and propaganda of "interested" parties, this objective analysis by a leader of Afro-Asian opinion will provide our readers with an authoritative account of the recent happenings in West Asia.

to the extent of changing the Government of that country.

Veto Of in U.N. Council

This led to widespread world reactions against the Anglo-French action, and as the Security Council proved ineffective because of the exercise of the veto by the United Kingdom and France, the U.N. General Assembly, at an emergency session, expressed its disapproval of this action and demanded the stoppage of military operations in Egypt and the withdrawal of the armed forces of Israel, France and the United Kingdom, from Egyptian territory. An uneasy armistice followed, and it was declared on the part of the United Kingdom, France and Israel that they would with-

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THE PEOPLE'S CAR



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Attack on Egypt

(continued from page 451)

draw their armed forces, though this was made subject to certain conditions.

These developments gave some hope that peaceful methods would henceforth be employed and I ventured to say a few days ago that the situation had slightly improved. To-day I am by no means sure that this improvement has taken place. There are numerous tendencies which may well lead, unless checked, to a rapid deterioration of the situation and a reversion to warfare. If unfortunately military operations begin again, it is possible that they might extend over a much wider area and might even develop into a major war.

Two days ago, the Prime Ministers of Indonesia, Burma, Ceylon and India issued a joint statement which has already been placed on the table of the House. The statement gives expression to the views of these Prime Ministers to the recent happenings in Egypt and Hungary and points out the danger of war inherent in the present grave international situation.

In spite of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, sporadic fighting continued and there had been no attempt at withdrawal of forces from Egyptian territory. It would appear indeed that these forces have established themselves firmly on Egyptian territory and have no present intention of leaving it. If these foreign forces continue to remain on Egyptian territory, the situation is likely to deteriorate rapidly and bring the danger of fresh military operations nearer.

The Governments of the United Kingdom and France, though apparently accepting the U.N. resolution, have laid down certain conditions which are not consistent with that resolution. The Prime Minister of Israel has continued to insist that he will not evacuate Gaza. If the foreign forces are not wholly removed from Egyptian territory this will amount to a clear violation of the U.N. resolution.

Indian Contingent

Meanwhile, India has agreed to send a contingent of her armed forces for the United Nations International Force and this contingent is expected to leave India by air to-day. This United Nations force

will not be concerned with the Suez Canal issue as such, which can only be considered separately after peace has been fully established and all foreign forces removed.

The main task of the International Force is said to be to ensure that Israel remains within the demarcation lines set by the old armistice agreement. The accounts that have appeared in the newspapers have not indicated that the fighting in and around Port Said was severe. We have received some accounts of this fighting and these show that the casualties, chiefly among Egyptian civilians were very heavy, running into many thousands. Conditions in Port Said have been distressing in the extreme. We are taking immediate steps to send a large stock of medicines by special aircraft to Egypt for purposes of relief.

The story of the past three and a half months, ever since the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company, is full of tragic drama, and events have happened which I would have thought could not possibly occur in this modern age. I find it a little difficult to deal with this record of unabashed aggression and deception. The explanations that have been given from time to time, contradict one another and exhibit an approach which is dangerous to the freedom of Asian and African countries and to world peace itself. It has brought mis-

ery and disaster, hatred and illwill, with no gain whatever and, in addition, we live now under the threat of a possible world war.

Irreproachable

During all the controversies since the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company, Egypt has conducted herself with a large measure of propriety and forbearance. Without the least justification. Egypt was attacked not only by Israel but also by the United Kingdom and France. Whether there was any previous consultation between the aggressor countries, I do not know. But it is obvious that their plans fitted in, and the Anglo French attack helped Israel's aggression and was itself helped by it. Egypt, the victim of Israeli aggression, was attacked immediately after by the armed forces of the United Kingdom and France. It was only the widespread indignation of peoples not only Asia and Africa but also in Europe and America and the action taken by the United Nations that put some check on this aggression. But it appears to me that the cease-fire having taken place, there is a tendency to complacency and to allow matters to drift. Indeed, there has even been some attempt made to minimise and justify this utterly unprovoked and brutal attack on Egypt. Attention has been diverted to some extent to the grave and distressing occurrences in Hungary

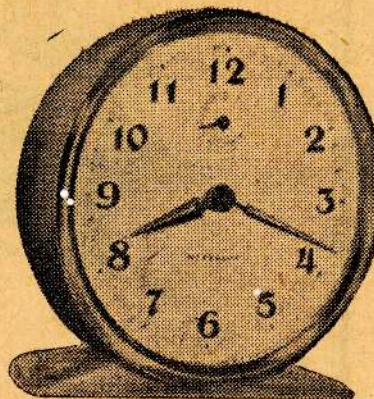
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BY
ARIEL

EDEN

PORT SAID

HUNGARY

Anthony Eden suddenly "took ill" last week and is now in Jamaica on a three weeks rest-cure. Though nobody in Britain has officially stated that Eden's illness is "diplomatic", it is recognised all over the world (including England) that this "holiday" in the West Indies has little or nothing to do with any identified illness which seems to have afflicted the British Premier.

Eden had every reason to seek a holiday. His policy had met with unqualified defeat. The *New York Times* of November 11 summed up the situation in the following terms (since it was written the British "defeat" has become even more accentuated):

"The week's developments added up to a major defeat for Britain and France and, to a lesser extent, Israel. It was plain that the combination of Russian threats and U.S. and U.N. criticism had forced London to back down and that Paris had to follow suit. In the end Israel was unable to go it alone.

"Thus none of the three nations achieved the objectives that sent them into battle. Britain and France occupy only one-quarter of the Suez Canal zone. The canal itself has been closed down with the result that British tankers must go round the Cape of Good Hope and Britain has had to limit oil consumption. Moreover Israel is being forced to relinquish her territorial gains and retreat to her original armistice lines although there is some question whether she will yield the Gaza strip.

"It is true that Nasser's air power has been hurt by the Anglo-French bombings; some of his troops have been captured by the Israelis and his prestige in the Arab world may have been damaged by his failure to stand up to the Israeli army. Nonetheless, Nasser is still in power, still in control of part of the Suez Canal, still adamantly opposed to recognizing Israel, still supporting Arab raiders on Israel's Jordanian and Syrian frontiers."

Forthwith

The *Time* of November 19 adopts the same analysis and adds comment of a more incisive nature when it says: "..... Not for all this should he (Eden) have risked the goodwill of Britain's most powerful ally, outraged the Commonwealth, aroused the Arab world to outspoken hostility, incurred the opprobrium of the world, and divided his own country"

How strongly Eden's Government has upset Washington can be gauged by the fact that during last week-end the U.S. supported the Afro-Asian motion calling upon Britain and France (with Israel) to withdraw from Egyptian territory forthwith in spite of various tactics by Britain to delay such a resolution or have a watered down plea for "phased withdrawal". This lining up of the US with the anti-colonial Powers of Afro-Asia and the USSR (which has so far been the only Big Power which has con-

sistently stood with the "underdeveloped countries) is a landmark in the history of the UN and is undoubtedly a turning point in British-American relations. In the hysteria caused by the "cold War", the United States has for many years now stood by the Colonial Powers against the Afro Asian countries simply because Russia and the Communist bloc were opposed to colonialism. The illness of John Foster Dulles and the disappearance of the influence he had over US policies may well have resulted in this happy turn in Washington's policies.

The extent of American disapproval of British action can be judged by the fact that during the last week-end Eisenhower refused to see Selwyn Lloyd ("snubbed" was the word used by diplomatic correspondents in New York) twice whilst he gave an enthusiastic welcome to Afro-Asian Premier Bandaranaike

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World Affairs

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and agreed with him that Anglo-French-Israeli forces should immediately quit Egypt. But more serious than the diplomatic snubs which have been given Britain, the refusal to help Britain and France with oil unless they withdraw their troops is the greatest help that the USA has rendered the cause of peace.

Oil

A despatch from Balaraman, the *Madras Hindu* correspondent in New York dated November 18 sets out the position clearly, and the US vote last week on the Afro-Asian resolution is undoubtedly consistent with the position it has taken up about the oil.

"Though she is naturally anxious to help Western Europe tide over the oil which has been precipitated by the Anglo-French-Israeli attack on Egypt, the United States has decided not to give this help till Britain and France begin actually to withdraw their troops from the Egyptian soil; it goes without saying that once the latter start doing it, Israel will follow suit.

"With the Suez blocked and all pipelines excepting the American owned one from Saudi Arabia blown up by the Arabs, the flow of Mid-Eastern oil to Western Europe has practically dried up and Britain and France are understood to have made urgent appeals to the United States to come to their rescue with oil from the western hemisphere. But the United States is regretfully rejecting the appeals for the present and

making withdrawal of their troops from Egypt a condition for her granting the requested assistance. It is believed that the United States is ready even to withhold the Saudi Arabian oil from Britain and France if they don't start pulling their forces out of Egypt."

Port Said

In the meantime, evidence has been mounting of close "collusion" between Anglo-French forces with the Israeli attack on Sinai on October 29. But more than this, revulsion is growing in the civilised world about the methods Britain had used to occupy Port Said. In spite of British propaganda that Port Said was occupied without any damage, reports from traditionally pro-British observers reveal a story of horror and destruction. Benjamin Bradlee, the Paris bureau chief of the U.S. *NEWSWEEK* filed a revealing on-the-spot report from Port Said published in the issue of November 19. "Port Said is now an ugly, festering sore on the mouth of the Suez Canal," said the report. "Its cemeteries are littered with hundreds of unburied dead, bloating fast under a scorching Mediterranean sun and black with flies. The wards of the city's candlelit hospitals are jammed with moaning wounded. It morgues are clogged chest-high with dead. Streets are blocked with rubble or awash with broken sewer or water mains. Low hanging wires threaten decapitation. Black-veiled women sit motionless, quietly weeping in the rubble. Men in dirty-stripped pajamas and barefoot children pick through ruins for pots and pans. Dead goats and donkeys rot in the streets, unnoticed except for the stench. There is an inescapable smell of death, smoke and sewage.

Even before ships and airplanes brought British troops, Port Said was devastated by RAF Venoms and Hunters, backed up by a naval bombardment....."

With so much evidence against them, British propagandists have been able to do nothing more than to wait that all this destruction could have been avoided if Egypt had "surrendered" when called upon to do so.

Baghdad Pact

The four Moslem powers of the Baghdad Pact have been in session in Iraq during last week. Nasser had refused to meet the Pakistan Premier; and the qualified support Pakistan had given Britain in the Suez crisis was mentioned as the chief reason for this "diplomatic" snub. *Dawn*, the Karachi paper, had characterised this refusal as "a calculated insult to our country and our people."

These four Moslem Powers have been making vigorous efforts to rehabilitate themselves in the Arab world. The Turkish Premier had called on the King of Saudi Arabia without much avail. The paper resolutions passed by this group calling upon Britain, France and Israel to quit Egypt have not been taken seriously. It is also believed that these four powers have been contemplating replacing Britain in the Baghdad Pact set-up with the US, but the latter is a little wary with Arab opinion so strongly against the Baghdad Powers.

The one effective measure the that Iraq and Iran could have taken to bring Britain and France to heel was to threaten to stop the supplies of oil from their oilfields to Western Europe. This is the action which

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WEEK by WEEK in CEYLON

★ CHITS

★ BLOOD

★ ELECTIONS

★ MEP

The Minister of Health and her Ministry have been very much in the news in the past week — what with the new chit system in the General Hospital, the transfers of G. M. O. A. Committeemen, and money earned by the sweat of someone else's blood, or "blood money" as the *Observer* succinctly put it.

To begin with to describe the new chit system. The old system when specialists gave chits to admitting officers to admit their patients has now given place to the new chit system where Minister of Health, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and others give chits that patient so-and so be admitted to the Hospital. Sometimes requests are made by telephone and Admitting Officers and Hospital Secretaries and even the Medical Superintendent are perforce obliged to act on such requests. There is nothing to grumble about this system as long as there are enough beds to go round or even as long as the privileged ones take their turn for beds. But when priority is demanded and that too immediate priority over a long waiting list then comes the rub. Admitting officers have on occasions told the privileged ones that their cases did not need immediate hospitalisation or that there were others whose needs were greater. But a chit from the V.I.P.'s is an Open Sesame to the General Hospital and Medical Superintendents to persons have had to bow to the magic password of the V.I.P.'s. And the privileged ones get their beds all right!

The *Morning Times* first broke the story of a MEP wife of a Parliamentary Secretary (then Acting Minister) who was given a bed after all the rules in the book relating to hospital admissions had been broken. The story also said that the bed was given by the Medical Superintendent, after Ministry officials had intervened on behalf of the MEP wife. Next day the Minister of Health denied the story that the Ministry had inter-

vened in obtaining a bed for the MEP wife. The paper accepted her denial, although the Medical Superintendent who had been asked to deny the fact that he had reported the matter to the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry, did not deny it. Incidentally the report of the Medical Superintendent was in writing.

Minister

Immediately after this episode the *Morning Times* followed up with two more stories — one concerning a patient who had been admitted "at the request of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health" and the other "at the request of the Minister of Health". In the second case the Minister of Health had desired that the patient "be operated on by Dr. A. Sinnathamby and no one else." This proved not only the truth of the MEP wife story but also the existence of the new chit system. This time however the Minister did not deny the stories. Strange!

But what the Minister did, we understand, was to send a patient to the office of the Editor of the *Morning Times* with her Private Secretary, and ask him to judge

whether the patient (who is alleged to have been refused hospital admission) was a case who could be rejected as not being in need of hospitalisation, in the state of health he was in. This ruse of the Minister boomeranged on her for the Editor quite rightly sent the patient away saying that he (Editor,) was no better qualified to judge whether the patient needed hospitalisation, any more than the Minister was. And the person who was best qualified to judge the case was the Admitting Officer of the General Hospital.

I hope we have not been uncharitable towards the Minister. She certainly deserves a big bouquet for her order immediately cancelling the transfer of the G. M. O. A. Committeemen. The transfer was admittedly in the routine course of events and was to take effect from January 1st. 1957, but the Minister acted on the principle that office bearers of an Association or trade union should not be so transferred that their union activities might be hampered by the government, thus giving the impression that it was

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When we published in our news columns last week that certain confabulations were taking place in political circles aimed at bringing about a SLFP UNP merger, in order to secure a stronger and more stable government, by the purging of certain elements from the UNP and the breaking away of the SLFP from the VLSSP, little did we imagine that the moves in that direction will be so swift and so sure.

Already tension which has been mounting during the past few weeks, within the ranks of the MEP front (as the Prime Minister has described the SLFP-VLSSP coalition) has manifested itself in a clash between the SLFP and the VLSSP leaders, not only in the seclusion of Cabinet meetings but also in the open election battlefield.

It is reported that SLFP candidates and VLSSP candidates will oppose each other in Pettah and San Sebastian wards. The tussle which has been going on behind closed doors will now be brought into the open, and needless to say a lot of dirty linen will be washed in public, and not a few people exposed. We feel that this is the beginning of the end of the MEP front.

Influential forces in the SLFP have always been apprehensive of the "extreme left" tendencies of the VLSSP and have constantly been of the opinion that the party should rather depend on "centrist" elements for their majority in Parliament and popularity in the country. The same influential forces in the SLFP have made no secret of their discomfort in bed with their strange bedfellows of the VLSSP.

During the harbour troubles, which the leader of the VLSSP, as boss of the All-Ceylon Harbour and Dock Workers Union was trying to forment, while the rest of the Cabinet was trying to settle, vociferous opposition against the Jekyll and Hyde role of Mr. Philip Gunewardena was raised. Finally the Prime Minister had to intervene in the harbour dispute and put an end to Mr. Gunewardena's game of blowing hot and cold in the same breath.

Then arose the controversy over the Paddy Lands Bill, which has poughed deeper into the already strained relations between Mr. Philip Gunewardena and the same influential forces. Its passage through the Parliamentary Group of the Government, I have alone Parliament, is most uncertain, and this Bill may well be the lever that will be used to throw the VLSSP out.

The Rural Development Movement too proved a bone of contention between the VLSSP leader and Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya, a founder of the SLFP. This further caused a cleavage between the parties and perhaps explains the keeping away of the ace election campaigner, Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya from the local elections so far concluded. It is reported that the Prime Minister had asked Mr. Philip Gunewardena "to take charge of the election campaign", and it may well be that boycott of the election campaign by Mr. Jayasuriya and other Cabinet colleagues was motivated by a desire on their part to see Mr. Gunewardena cook his own goose.

Elsewhere in this issue there is evidence of the disinterestedness of the SLFP in participating in the local elections so far concluded. The position has now become more acute with the Kandy and Colombo Municipal Council elections not so far away. The manifesto of the SLFP for the Colombo elections has just been released, and contains the following unequivocal statement: "the MEP is not a political party but a political front formed on the basis of a common programme of work".....and "The SLFP with its strength of 50 members in Parliament can now stand on its own feet".....Influential sources, which we have referred to earlier, feel that these statements constitute more than a hint to the leader of the VLSSP, and that it is now unnecessary for him to be told where he gets off.

In the UNP too strong forces are at work and we shall reveal in our news columns evidence of the SLFP-UNP merger, in the coming weeks.

PETROL RATIONING

Owners of motor vehicles have

been busy this week completing forms in support of their claims for petrol when (and if) rationing is introduced. The situation in the Middle East points to the fact that Ceylon is likely to experience an oil shortage not because of any international scarcity (arising from a global war) but because all the available tankers may be diverted to carry oil to Western Europe. With the blowing up of all British pipelines, and the possibility that Suez may not be cleared for use for at least another six months (or more), it is inevitable that all the tankers which can possibly be mobilised will be used to carry oil for Britain and other Western European countries round the Cape of Good Hope. With America refusing to go to Western Europe's rescue in the matter of oil until Anglo-French forces pull out of Egypt, and with all the grudging reluctance these two countries are showing to quit Port Said and the canal region, it is more than a likely that tension and crisis arising from this unhappy situation will affect the oil supply situation in countries like Ceylon. The public of Ceylon must therefore reconcile itself to a period of comparative oil scarcity in the year 1957. If the international situation eases, the oil supply position is bound to improve, but even the most optimistic cannot hope for any striking improvement for about six to nine months, unless of course the USA changes its mind and increases its production on the American Continent (costs are higher than in the Middle East) and helps Western Europe with oil. But even so, more tankers would be needed for the transport of this oil, and Ceylon and other countries in Asia are not likely to benefit in regard to oil supplies.

In this situation, we must commend the government of Ceylon for the promptitude with which it has taken measures to introduce petrol rationing. Rationing is the method by which a Government ensures equitable and just distribution of an essential commodity in times of scarcity.

**JUST BRIEFLY**BY
SERENDIB

Tribune's last week's first page story created a sensation.

It was a sensation not merely because it brought to the surface as a news story something that was being talked about in deep whispers in certain political circles, but also because it explained a great deal about certain happenings in the political firmament that seemed contradictory and inexplicable. What is more, what the *Tribune* predicted seems to be happening even more quickly than was anticipated.

The SLFP Manifesto for the Colombo Municipal Elections released to the Press last Monday was a deliberate and conscious effort to draw a distinction between the SLFP and the VLSSP and to emphasise that the MEP was not a political party but only an "election front." Whilst the crisis within the MEP has come to a head a little sooner than expected, the crisis within the UNP (to purge itself of its Jonahs) is also slowly gathering momentum.

Certain SLFP tacticians do not want an immediate or abrupt break with the VLSSP. They want it done in such a way that at least a section of the VLSSP Parliamentary group will "cross over" to the SLFP. To do this, clever "unity talks" will be carried on (after Premier Bandaranaike returns) and in the process of the discussions, the "fence-sitters" and the "middle-roads" will be persuaded to believe that the VLSSP High Command is "unreasonable." Some interesting developments are anticipated.

Sterling Shares

I have been reliably informed that certain persons high up in the former UNP regime and their associates, who were notoriously connected with certain sensational "international" transactions have been slowly but steadily buying up shares in some sterling tea and rubber companies on the London Stock Exchange.

It is a good thing no doubt for Ceylonese to acquire the interests

of foreign shareholders in this manner, but the point I wish to make is to know how these gentlemen have had the finance and the money to buy these shares with sterling in London. Have they got Exchange Control permits to remit the money to purchase these shares in advance? Or have they bought these shares first and later asked the Exchange Control for permits to remit the money in the London in the first instance?

If it were the latter, how did they get the money to buy the shares? Did someone lend it to them? If so, *who*? Or is it that they have a secret hoard from the days of the UNP international financial scandals from which these share transactions have been financed? Are Exchange Control permits secured later to remit further monies to replenish their hoards for cash taken out to finance these share transactions?

The interesting thing about it all is that the Exchange Control will not grant the "ordinary person" who can afford to do so permits for money to dabble in the London Stock Exchange. It is also a notorious fact that the values of shares in the sterling tea and rubber companies dropped in the UK after the MEP came to power; shares dropped to par and sometimes to below par, and these of companies which were paying good dividends. It is a fact that the prices of tea shares are lower in London than for comparative companies in Ceylon.

An investigation of Ceylonese who have recently been buying shares in Ceylon companies in London in a big way will reveal a great deal and may probably throw much light on a number of UNP international financial scandals.

Will the present Government order such an investigation or are some of the new adherents of the SLFP sufficiently powerful to prevent such a probe?

House Beautiful

Whilst these high and mighty men are busy buying Directorships in powerful sterling companies with all the sordid intrigue associated with Big Business, I was heartened to hear that two men in Ceylon have struck out on a new profession mainly concerned with the *House Beautiful*. I am told that ex-Port Commission Arthur Van Langenberg, famous for his *decor* in a large number of plays in the last two decades in this country, and that wonderful *raconteur* Bevis Bawa have gone into business as Indoor Decoration and Horticultural Consultants.

Their job is only to advise you just how you can make your house or hotel or business premises look pleasing and aesthetic, and if you have garden space just how it can be laid out. The actual execution would have to be entrusted to others who do the job or you can do it yourself if you are so inclined. Bevis Bawa has perhaps one of the most beautiful gardens in the island and it is one of the attractions that visitors from abroad, interested in such things, go a long way to see. Bevis Bawa's garden is situated in the Bentota-Alutgama area, and if he and Arthur Van Langenberg can create a few more of these not only in private homes but in places like the Victoria Park in Colombo, Ceylon will be a much nicer place to live in.

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WHEN YOU BUY GOODS

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(continued from page 455)

an attempt to break the back of the Union. In this case the Minister felt that such an impression might be created and hence the cancellation of the transfers which we applaud.

Blood

The other matter which concerns the Ministry of Health is the manner in which blood is sold by the Blood Bank by a system where donors voluntarily give blood to the General General Hospital, and an honorarium of Rs. 10 is given to the donors to meet their expenses for travel etc. This Blood is stored in the Blood Bank and given to cases that need blood both in the Hospital and to private nursing homes when a request for blood is made. Blood is sold to the nursing homes at "Rs. 20 a pint", and the doctor from the hospital who is sent to the nursing home to give the blood transfusion collects a fee of somewhere about Rs 85 a pint of blood given. The private nursing home does not replace the blood or make adequate compensation to government for having stored the blood and for other expenses, and the doctor who gives the transfusion makes a large sum of money for doing so. The system it is felt needs revision, for it is the ordinary man in the country who volunteers to give his blood and no man is entitled to make money, on that blood. The Minister has called for a report on the system there is every hope that there will be an end to this pernicious system.

Elections

On the face of it, the results of the elections to local bodies so far concluded, show a preponderance of Independents returned to Urban Councils, and Town Councils, over and above candidates who contested on party tickets.

At the time these notes are being written Eighteen Urban and Town Councils have held elections, so far, for 143 seats. Seventysix of these seats were won by Independents. Next came the MEP with 29 seats, the LSSP with 21 seats, the UNP with 13 seats, and the CP with only 4 seats.

And it seems a travesty of democracy and its concomitant party system, that Independents whom Dr. Colvin R. de Silva once described as "three-headed donkeys" should be returned to power in a number of local bodies.

Today they hold sway in Panadura (3 out of 7 seats), Wattala (all seats), Avissawela (all seats), Kolonnawa (3 out of 7 seats), Negombo (10 out of 12 seats), Ja-ela (all seats), Teldeniya (all seats), Kotte (5 out of 10 seats), Kalutara (5 out of 7 seats), Kuliyaipitiya (4 out of 5 seats), Balangoda (3 out of 6 seats) and Kegalla (6 out of 8 seats). In all these areas the number of party members returned is so small that they are not in a position to form an administration even if a few of the Independents decide to join them at the last moment. It is no secret that they are being wooed by the various parties, and it is also no secret that quite a number of them will shortly shed their guise as Independents, and reveal themselves in their true party colours.

Both the UNP and the MEP have not hesitated to stake their claims with these candidates, and time will show which side of the fence the so-called Independents really belong to.

Break

Last week *Tribune* revealed that confabulations were taking place in political circles, armed at bringing about a SLFP-UNP merger in order to secure a stronger and more stable government. The basis of such merger, the *Tribune* stated, was dependent on the purging of certain elements from the UNP and at the same time the breaking away of the SLFP from the VLSSP.

An analysis of the cause of the return of Independents in such large numbers offers evidence, though not conclusive, of the moves in the SLFP to break away from the SLFP. While the VLSSP leader was going the rounds in various local areas canvassing support and making public speeches in support of MEP candidates, SLFP big-wigs displayed a studied disinterestedness by not joining their colleague, Mr. Philip Gunawardena on public platforms. Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya, the SLFP stalwart, and ace election campaigner (as was evidenced in the last general election) even went so far as to suggest that quite a number of candidates who contested on the MEP ticket were

not nominated by the party but were self-nominated or at the best were nominated by their local party organisations. This hurry to disown candidates for whom Mr. Philip Gunawardena was working with all his might is again indicative of a strong desire on the part of the SLFP influential circles to disassociate themselves with the VLSSP. Not that they love Mr. Philip Gunawardena less, but that they love the SLFP-UNP merger more!

The twin cries of language and religion were again raised at the elections so far concluded and that explains to a large extent the failure of the Left parties, the LSSP and the CP to secure more seats than they did. In Kalutara and Dehiwela — Mount Lavinia where the LSSP administration during the past few years, despite tremendous opposition, was able to provide better amenities for the ratepayers, and clean up the mess of previous administrations, the LSSP was badly beaten into second place.

MEP & UNP

The question then arises:- why did a large number of electorates reject MEP men or at least men who came under MEP colours. Surely a party which was returned to power at the last general election with such a large majority could not have dissipated all its goodwill in so short a time. Or is it that the electors are fed up with parties as a whole and in party government? And if they are, have the electors gone back to 1931 when they voted for the man and not the party? It is sincerely to be hoped that this is hardly the case, and electors still believe in party government.

Leading UNP members have claimed that the Independents elected so far are really UNP men. If this were the case, what would the electors have to say of the Independents who align themselves with a party which the whole country in no unmistakable terms rejected at the last elections? The UNP, as it is presently constituted, is no longer in favour in this country and electorates, may deal very strictly with candidates who change their colours for consideration, whatever form that consideration might take.

On the other hand the only saving grace in the UNP backing Independents and claiming them as their own is as the *Tribune* said last week :-

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CENTRALISATION

The modern era has been marked by the evolution of certain collective entities which since the 16th century have become infinitely variegated and universally decisive in affecting the lives of people.

These entities are broadly divided into institutions and associations. The institutional and organisational development of modern society is so obvious as to appear co extensive with history, but it must be stressed that at earlier times there was only the bare minimum of institutions and associations going down way back to the family or tribe only.

To the extent that society began to change into modern democratic society, to that extent the number, the size, and variety of these collective entities have increased.

The second fact to be recognised in this connection is that the nature of the influence of these collective entities on the lives of the people concerned has varied in accordance with the nature of the modernisation of any particular society (not to be equated with the modernisation of economy).

The third fact is that political centralisation and modernisation of economy have everywhere been the basis on which the institutional and organisational development of modern society has taken place.

Centralisation

Past centralisation of states and modernisation of economy may be considered as falling within three historical periods: the era of Mercantilism (16/18th century, the era of Industrialism (19th century) and the era of Imperialism and Socialism (20th century). Britain and France and the United States fall within the first period, central and South Eastern Europe fall within the second period and a number of Asian and African and Latin American States (in addition to the U.S.S.R. and China) fall within the third period. Corresponding to the difference in the periods of centralisation there has been a change in the nature of modern-

isation of economy, in the nature of institutional and organisational development and in the evolution of consciousness.

Broadly it is correct to say that political centralisation and economic modernisation of Britain and France and the United States in and before the 19th century were accompanied by democratisation while the political centralisation and economic modernisation of Germany and other States in Central and Eastern Europe in the 19th century were accompanied by the stifling of the springs of democracy.

Before ending the present contribution it is necessary to refer to what is a fallacy or a hoax (depending on who are guilty of it). After the varied types of modernisation of economy of different Nation States, resulting from the different periods of centralisation, there has been a surreptitious generalisation that the classical political development (particularly of Britain and the U.S.A.) as the normal perspective of democratic development in any Nation-state at any time. Subsequent articles will endeavour to show that nowhere else in the world have conditions prevailed to permit democratic development along lines similar to the development of democracy in Britain, France, the United States Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

What then is democracy and democratisation? Is it more a matter of form than of content? What is or should be the content of democracy? What has been and is the relation of the individual and the group entities to the State? What are the significant group entities of modern democratic society? Are they mainly political or political and economic? In the evolution of democracy what is the significance in the change from the Laissez-faire theory of the State to the welfare State theory? What is the relevance of the Soviet and Chinese revolutions to the evolution of democracy? What is the perspective of democratic development in the future?

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World Affairs

continued from page 454

The Arab world seems to have been expecting from the Moslem members of the Baghdad Pact, but this is the one action that not of them have even hinted at.

Hungary

In spite of vigorous efforts by Western propagandists to equate the Hungarian affair with the attack on Egypt, and in spite of the all the blood-curdling tales of "Russian atrocities" (reminiscent of the tales put out after the Revolution in 1917), world public opinion has begun to realise that there is a basic and fundamental difference between the two.

The "Foreign Editor" of the local *Sunday Observer* deals with this question with surprising (for Lake House) objectivity in a front page article last week. Basing his thesis on the demand of the Afro-Asian Premiers that all military pacts should be scrapped and all foreign troops should be withdrawn, this commentator emphasises that the Hungarian people were

the victims of the cold war. He stated:

"Let us remember first the difference between the Hungarian and Polish situations. In Gomuika's Poland, Russia was confronted with an independent Communist government, and she accepted it. In Hungary, on the other hand, the failure of the Communist regime to respond to the people's desire for liberalisation and national freedom swung opinion in favour of the anti-Communist groups. When Premier Nagy conceded the demand for free elections and reconstituted his government so as to bring in a large number of non-Communists, there was at least the danger of a right-wing restoration. Add to this the fact that the anti-Communist rebels held the Austrian frontier, and the possibility that the right wing would have received foreign arms and assistance by this means.

Russia was faced then, with the choice of crushing Hungarian national resistance by military force or of letting events taking their own course and risking the establishment of a right-wing regime, friendly towards or even dependent on the

West, in Hungary. In the context of the cold war, the answer was inevitable.

"There has been already in the West a guilty feeling that the British and French attack on Egypt helped to precipitate Russian intervention in Hungary. It was certainly unlikely that with one of the power blocs attacking aggressively on one sector of the international front, the other would have withdrawn on another sector. But even leaving Egypt out of the reckoning could Russian action have been different as long as American troops remain on the continent of Europe? Mr. Khrushchev declared last week to Western envoys: "If you withdraw your troops from Germany, we will not stay one day in Poland, Hungary and Rumania." That may be merely a propagandist statement. But at least it is true in its negative form; it is futile to expect the withdrawal of Russian troops from Eastern Europe as long as U.S. troops remain in the Western half of the continent.

"To make an objective assessment of Russian action in Hungary,

continued on page 463

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NADCHATHIRAMS

According to ancient astrological works, it has been stated, that the whole Zodiac is divided into 27 constellations each covering 13 degrees and 20 minutes of the arc. These are called *nadchathirams* or *nagathithas*. These stars are said to be ruled by the 9 Planets including Rahu and Kethu. Thus each planet gets 3 out of the 27 *nadchathirams* in the following order.

or Planets in their journey round the Zodiac affects the individual born under the particular star. Learned astrologers of ancient India have watched and given in their works the effects of the planet in the

- (a) nadchaththirams as well as
- (b) in the Rasies (which are the

1. Kethu	Aswini	Maga	Moola
2. Venus	Beranai	Poora	Pooradam
3. Sun	Kaththe	Uttara	Uthiradam
4. Moon	Rehena	Hastha	Thiruoanam
5. Mars	Mirugesirar	Siththa	Aritham
6. Rahu	Thiruvadithirar	Sothi	Sathaya
7. Jupiter	Punaasiya	Visaka	Poorattathy
8. Saturn	Poosa	Anusha	Uttarattathy
9. Mercury	Aiyliya	Kertai	Revathi

When planets are passing through each of these *nadchathirams* they are influenced by the qualities of these Planets ruling the *Nadchathirams*.

At the time of birth, moon would be occupying one of these *nadchathirams* and in a particular degree. This is called the *birth star position*. The moon at this point is also called the *Radical moon*. All reckoning is made from this star for all purposes.

When all the planets are moving through these stars they exert some kind of influence on the radical moon, according to the star and angle they are in, to the Radical moon. Thus, there are two kinds of influence exerted on the moon :

- (a) The position of the Planet in the *nadchaththiram* and the effect of the ruler to Radical moon.
- (b) The position of the planet to the Radical moon at angles of 30 degrees. The first point of 30 degrees from the moon at Birth is termed as the 2nd House, 60 degree the 3rd House, 90 degree the 4th house, etc.

The Moon represents the body. Any effect good or bad to the Radical Moon by the Planets in transit

on 25 September 1956 in Jaffna. On 25th September 1956 the position of the moon was according to the current Ephemeris is: 1/2 more in Uttiradam (or uttarasala) till 45 gadikas 16 vagatikas. Uttiradam began on the previ us day at 38 gadikas 53 vagatikas

Birth time was 3 p.m. standard time. Sunrise was at 6.03 a.m. S.T. The time from Sunrise 6.03 a.m. to 3 p.m. is 8 hours 57 minutes. This is equal to 22 vagatikas.

As the moon was in uthiradam till 45 gatikas 16 vagatikas and this birth was it 22 gatikas 22 vagatikas the birth star is Uthiradam and the Rasi of the moon is Capricorn. This is called the Chandru Lagna of a person born at 3 p.m. on 15th September 1956 at Jaffna. At this time the position of the Planets to the moon are

Sun is cancer 7th from Radical moon.

Moon in Cancer 1st house
Mars in Pisces 1st house
Mercury in Leo 8th house
Jupiter in Leo 8th house

30 degree points from the the moon at Birth).

This is what is termed as transit Gochara effects.

For example:

Take a person born at 3 p.m

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Predictive Astrology-2

continued from page 435

Venus in Gemini 6th house
 Saturn in Scorpio 11th house
 Rahu in Scorpio 11th house
 Kethu in Taurus 5th house

In subsequent articles we will give the effects of these planets in their respective position.

At the beginning we have said that there are effects also according to the stars the planets are on in their march vide (a) para 2. In the date under reference the following are the positions of the planets in the stars

Birth Star is Uttaradam in Capricorn

Sun in Leo on Uttaram or Uttaradala	19th Star from Radical moon
Mars in Pisces on Pooradam or Poorasala	2nd from Radical moon
Mercury in Leo on Pooram or Puvapal	18th Star from Radical moon
Jupiter in Leo on Pooram or Purapal	18th Star from Radical moon
Saturn in Scorpio on Visaka	23rd Star from Radical moon
Rahu in Scorpio on Anusha or Anura	24th Star from Radical moon
Kethu in Tarsus on Kakththukai or Kaththe	10th Star from Radical moon

In looking for the effects of Planets in gochara or transit the result according to stars should also be taken into consideration. If a planet is bad in the signs or rasies and

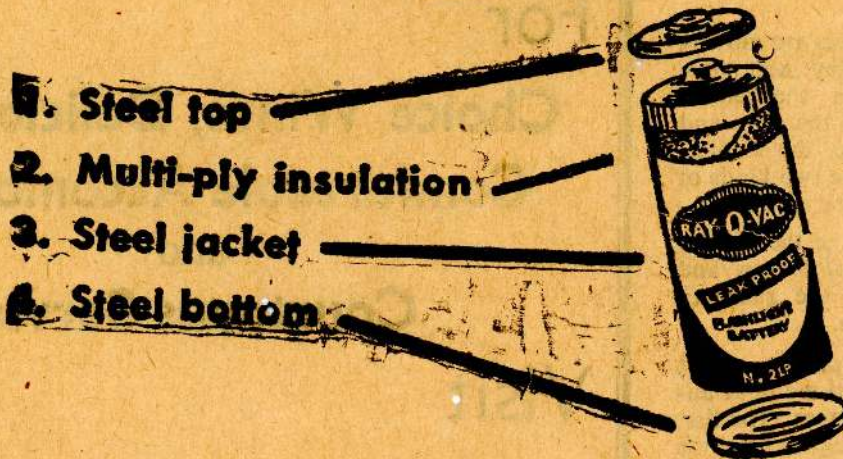
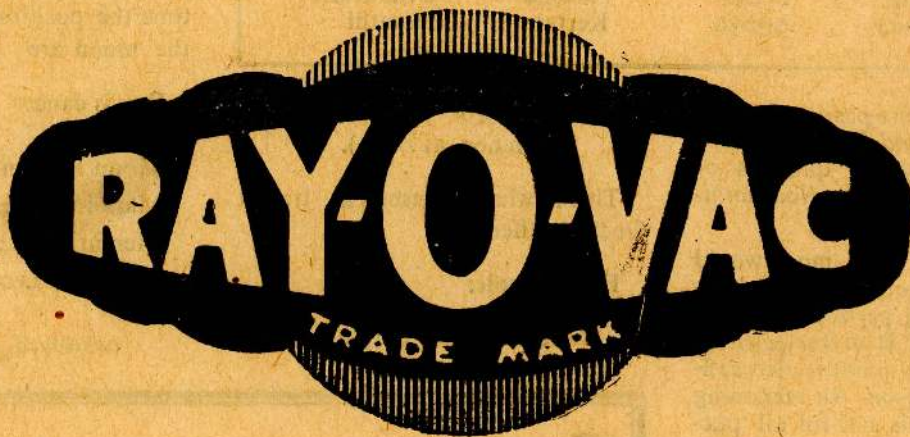
good in the nachathirams the effects would be neutralised. If good in both very satisfactory results can be obtained. If both are bad the results would be very bad.

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WEEK BY WEEK

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"The phenomenon of the UNP back n3 Independents or even fighting the elections as Independents (in Negombo and other places this is happening) is indicative of a move to bring the UNP and the right wing of the SLFP together. The name UNP evidently evokes many hostile antagonisms and UNP stalwarts seem to be fighting the elections as Independents as a first step towards merging with the SLEP".

Electorates, in local government are small areas and one would expect that electors will know the party affiliations and leanings of each candidate, vote with that knowledge. The mere fact that they returned Independents is not conclusive proof that they were totally unaware of the guises under which the Independents paraded before them.

There is also very indication that the country is aware of the unpopularity of a section of the MEP, and the results of the Avissawela elections bear that out. It now remains for the country to wait and see, the trend of events. Kandy polls on December 8th and Colombo on December 15th. It can then be judged whether the return of Independents in such large numbers was the writing on the wall or not.

Ethics of Strike

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sin to commit suicide. Yet Christian martyrs have gone forth to preach the gospel and died. Some of them may even have known that they would be killed if they went into hostile lands. But dauntlessly they went and died. That too might be considered a kind of suicide (which is a sin) but they must have felt that death was but a small sacrifice in the attainment of a greater glory. When a surgeon removes an inflamed appendix, he cannot claim to have saved a life. If he did so he would be most arrogant. He has merely helped nature to overcome the infection. Some higher influence God, Nature, Karma decides on life and death. The surgeon was merely the instrument.

That non-member replied "I wish to become a member and vote for strike as a last resort".

The Last Resort

We have the right to strike. We have the power to strike, but let not the sense of power prevail in the final decision to strike. 90% of all the doctors in the Government Service have made a proposal to their employer. It should be the duty of the employer to examine that proposal and accept it, or show cause why the proposal can-

World Affairs

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let us consider an imaginary parallel. How would the U.S. have acted if there was a danger of a Communist regime being set up anywhere in Latin America, for instance, in Guatemala? The joint resolution on Communism passed by the U.S. and her South American allies at the Caracas conference give us the answer. By this resolution these states pledged themselves to prevent Communism being established in power anywhere in the Americas.

"Russian intervention in Hungary is in essence an expression of the same doctrine that the U.S. maintains in the Americas. But the complicity of the West in the Hungarian tragedy actually goes even further. Who made possible Russian domination over Eastern Europe? Who but Roosevelt and Churchill at Yalta when they cynically let Russia claim the small countries of this region as her sphere of influence in the same way that Stalin cynically abandoned the Greek Communists to the mercies of the British?"

not be implemented in full. We are reasonable men and we will listen to reason. If reason prevails there will be no need to strike. We sincerely hope that the need will never arise.

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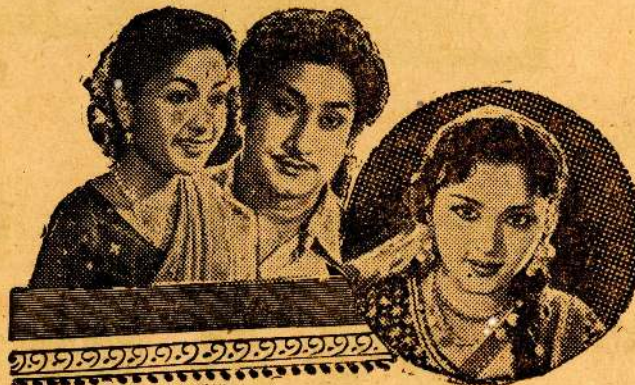
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