

TRIBUNE

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“TRIBUNE” UPSETS HIGH OFFICIAL

The Rubber Commissioner, Mr. H. Jinadasa, held a conference of registered Ceylonese coconut oil shippers last Tuesday for the purpose of reviewing oil shipments to China. The immediate provocation for this conference seems to have been a small note in the “Just Briefly” column in our issue of August 7th.

In the course of the conference, Mr. Jinadasa in indignant tones read this extract from the “Tribune” and declared that he was at all times willing to give all information and was perturbed that shippers should rush to papers like “Tribune” to ventilate their grievances.

Mr. Jinadasa's other comments about the “Tribune” only betrayed the customary tantrums of a bureaucrat who resents attention being drawn to matters of public interest.

This was the first time, however, the Rubber Commissioner had called a conference of this kind ever since the coconut oil shipments to China had begun. If the “Tribune” paragraph has not achieved anything else, it has at least impressed upon the Commissioner the need for discussions with *all parties* concerned with export of oil to China.

Packing

The Conference was fruitful in many ways. Among other things, it was pointed out that in spite of a circular dated 6th May 1954 wherein the Commissioner stipulated that he would accept offers only in a particular kind of drum, he had accepted offers from certain shippers in packing of a different kind. The Commissioner undertook to see

that such discrimination did not take place in the future.

Discussion took place about a number of other matters including the method of purchasing. Shippers impressed upon the Commissioner that all in the trade should have information about his intention to purchase at the same time.

Artificial

In the course of the discussion on this point, Mr. Jinadasa revealed that he had often obtained offers from local shippers without any intention of remitting them to China. He stated that he did this in the national interest with a view to strengthening the local market. To Mr. Jinadasa, with his experience in the C. W. E. and particularly of the large scale purchases he made during the Korean threat, this may have seemed good business, but shippers did not mince words in telling him that such artificial inflation of the market did more harm than good. Mr. Jinadasa, thereupon, undertook that in future he would not

call for offers unless there were firm inquiries from China, for he also stated that whenever he sent offers to that country on his own initiative, China was inclined (naturally!) to pay lower prices.

Information

Finally, he undertook to keep all shippers informed by cyclostyl-ed circulars as to the names of the shippers from whom he made purchases and the prices he had paid. One copy of this circular, he stated would be posted at his office notice board.

He also declared that he would give all information about the trade to China without reservation. “Tribune”, to begin with, would like the Commissioner to publish the names of the shippers from whom his Department bought coconut oil in the first instance for the first purchase in March 1953. This information will set at rest a certain complaint (baseless, no doubt) that one of those from whom his officers bought on the first occasion (allegedly the major quantity) had not exported even one ounce of coconut oil before.

On the answers to this question will depend other questions “Tribune” will ask the Rubber Commissioner in respect of oil shipments to China.

TRIAL AT BAR AND

BY JURY

It would appear that for the exercise of the power to deprive a citizen of his right to be tried by a jury, civil commotion or the like must factually exist. It is not a question of the Minister's opinion but the objective existence of civil commotion or the like. Where the Minister's opinion counts is in deciding whether the offence is "appropriately triable" before the Supreme Court without a jury.

Inquiry

Minor offences which are stated in the Criminal Procedure to be triable by the Magistrate's Court are summarily triable without a preliminary inquiry.

In the case of grave offences a preliminary inquiry is held by the Magistrate. All the witnesses for the prosecution are called and they give their evidence. Thereafter the accused, if the Magistrate is satisfied that a *prima facie* case has been made out against him, may be committed for trial before the District Court or the Supreme Court.

Summarily

Sometimes where the offence is not ordinarily triable by the Magistrate but the facts are simple and there are no complicated questions of law, the Magistrate may try "summarily" in the case of offences which are not considered to be very grave. There is also provision for such trials with the consent of the accused,

In a few instances like contempt of Court and where a witness has committed perjury before the Supreme Court he may be tried without a preliminary inquiry before a Magistrate.

In England also the provisions are similar. In the case of grave offences or indictable offences there is a preliminary examination before the Justices. The witnesses are examined and cross-examined and the justices determine whether or not there is a case strong enough to justify committing the accused for trial.

Depositions

The evidence given by the witnesses at the preliminary inquiries

or "non-summary" inquiries is taken down and the accused is entitled to a copy of the "depositions" as they are known.

To quote Kenny :

"The depositions are important for several purposes. (a) They enable the opposite party to check the evidence given at the trial, and to cross-examine or contradict a witness whose evidence there varies from that which he gave at the commitment. (b) They form a substitute for the witness in the event of his being at the time of the trial, either dead or too ill to travel or give evidence, or kept out of the way by, or on behalf of, the prisoner. But his absence abroad does not suffice to render them inad-

By

BARRISTER

missible, (c) They assist the draftsman who has to frame the indictment. (d) They enable the judge to learn the difficulties of the case before the trial. And (e) they inform the defendant as to the precise case which he has to meet. To him this is obviously an advantage, and it is often an advantage to the public, for if the case thus disclosed is a strong one, the defendant is the more likely to plead guilty.

"It is, however, to be noted that our law does not take measures for securing a reciprocal disclosure of the intended defence. At present it is possible to raise at the trial some speculative defence, which there is then no opportunity of contra-

This is the second and concluding part of this article, the first instalment of which appeared last week.

dicting, and to support it by witnesses about whom it is too late to make inquiries. The facility has become greater since the prisoner himself has been allowed to come forward as a witness."

Information Exhibited

An information, on the other hand, is a written complaint filed by the Attorney-General before the Supreme Court. It dispenses with the necessity for a preliminary inquiry before a Magistrate and thus the accused does not have the advantage of having the "depositions" in time so as to know precisely the nature of the evidence against him.

In England also, the Attorney-General has the power to file informations but apparently recognising the disadvantage to the accused he rarely uses the power in modern times. The last occasion on which an *ex-officio* information was filed appears to be in 1911 when one Myleis was brought to trial for libelling the King.

In short, when an accused is brought to trial on an information exhibited by the Attorney-General, the accused does not know precisely the evidence that is to be led against him, has no time to investigate matters in order to cross-examine witnesses or to prepare his defence and summon witnesses for the defence as effectively as he could have had in the case of normal procedure.

U. S. ALLIES IN ASIA

By

Kumar Goshal

American diplomacy as to Indo-China...has resembled a man trying to get a firm footing on small floating logs.... Eventually he may be able to lash enough of them together to make a raft which will bear his weight and can be propelled to where he wants to go.

—Ernest K. Lindley, Newsweek, 31/5/54.

With proper Asiatic nations.. and Australia and New Zealand [we] might possibly work out something [without Britain] that would be maybe not as satisfactory or as broad as you would like it, but would be, could be, workable.

—President Eisenhower. Press Conference, May 19.

The "proper Asiatic" logs at hand for a raft propelling Washington to armed intervention in S. E. Asia were Bao Dai's Vietnam, the French puppet princes of Laos and Cambodia, the Philippines, Chiang Kia-shek's Formosa and Thailand. The question: could such a raft Uncle Sam's weight?

Bao Dai

Bao Dai—World War II Japanese collaborator and Riviera playboy with a fat income from gambling houses—found a way to bring his government's unpopularity to a new peak: he appointed as police chief Lau Hun Sang of the Binh Xuyen gangster organization which controls gambling and "the main enterprises historically affiliated with gambling" around Saigon (N. Y. *Herald Tribune*, 20/5/54). Vietnamese conscripted into his French army units have been voting so heavily with their feet that their recruitment and training has been virtually halted (*New Statesman*, 15/5/54).

Peking's *Hsinhua* reported (6/5/54) that 10,000 of them went over to the Viet Minh in the first three months of 1954.

Liberation forces now control more than half of Laos and

about 5/1/54 of "politically wobbly" (N. Y. *Times*, 26/5/54) Cambodia. Frenchmen arriving in Geneva from Hanoi agreed:

"Under free elections..90% of the Vietnamese and the majority in the rest of Indo China would vote against the French puppet rulers" (*New Statesman*, 22/5/54)

In the Philippines

Although President Magsaysay remained pro U.S. hostile sentiment increased especially over Washington's claim to permanent ownership of the 23 American military bases—a claim denied by Vice-President and Foreign Affairs Secy. Carlos Garcia. The government was "unwilling to become involved in further anti-Communist actions abroad," considered "the \$17 million a year it costs to keep Filipino troops in Korea as excessive and wants to withdraw them" (*U. S. News*, 26/5/54). In the Korea debate at Geneva, U.S. Undersecy. of State Bedell Smith prevented the Philippines delegate from making a speech and accused him of "echoing Communist theses" because, although anti-Communist, the speech did not support Syngman Rhee 100% (*Tribune des Nations*, 17/5/54)

A tour of the "small floating logs" to size up their military potential took U. S. Defense Secy. Wilson to the Philippines last month. Sen. Carlo Recto, a foreign policy spokesman for Magsaysay's Nationalist Party, had urged that Wilson be told Filipino troops would defend their own soil but would not be sent to Indo-China (*NYT* 26/5/54).

In Thailand

Dictator Pibul Songgram has been carefully nursed by U. S. Ambassador (former OSS chief) William Donovan, and some of the U. S. Army's "best officers from Korea and Japan" have

been sent to Thailand (*U. S. News*, 21/5/54) Pibul welcomed the Japanese in 1941, declared war on Britain and the U. S. in 1942, accepted the rank of Maj. Gen. in the Japanese Army and was declared a war—criminal by Thailand's first post-war government. Himself gaining power by force and violence, he continued to admire Spain's Franco and admonished Americans for having "too much freedom" (*NYT*, 11/12/50). His subjects' discontent at uncontrolled living costs, the drop in rice exports and government corruption is intense.

"Moral sanction" to enter the Indo China war would enable Secy. Dulles to defend such governments' "independence." His concept of independence was made clear in recent press conference answers to \$64 questions on Indo China independence posed by I. F. Stone (see his *Weekly*, 17/5/54). Dulles said in effect, Stone wrote, that he is

"..against independence for Indo-China or free elections there until he feels sure its people can be counted for 'the free world.'"

In Formosa, S. Korea

Corruption, nepotism and lack of democracy in Chiang's Formosa were recently revealed by Gen. Li Tsung-jen, former Vice-President to Chiang (*NYHT*, 10/2/54), and by Dr. K. C. Wu, former governor of Formosa, both of whom have taken asylum in the U.S. They accused Chiang of spending millions of dollars in bribing U. S. officials; putting away government funds for his private use should he lose Formosa; transferring government funds to private persons in Britain and U. S.; holding thousands of political prisoners in Green Island; trying to establish a "dynasty" by placing his son in charge of secret police, the Youth Corps, the Army and the Army's political department.

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RED HERRING

Lake House finally decided to take notice of "Tribune" on August 11, 1954. In an article in the "Ceylon Daily News" a special correspondent endeavoured to explain current politics in this island, and in the course of his exposition he chose to refer to "Tribune". We publish on this page the relevant extract.

We also publish on this page one of many pointed letters we have received—owing to exigencies of space we have not so far published readers' letters commending our journalistic efforts. An editorial from "The Observer", London, is also reprinted and this will throw a great deal of light of the journalistic methods of newspaper bullies like Lake House.

In three past issues we have published our statement of policy. And in our issue of July 3, we had occasion to declare as follows:

"We, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to declare once again that TRIBUNE is not the organ of any vested interest or a political group. It came into being as a result of a desire among a number of Ceylonese desiring to have a paper that will speak out fearlessly on the basis of a common programme.

"The individuals who have banded themselves together to produce TRIBUNE belong to different communities, faiths and political convictions, but so far as this paper is concerned they are pledged to abide by the policy set out in the statement published along side

"We invited the public to read and to buy the TRIBUNE on the basis of our declared policy which seems to meet the wishes and desires of a very large number of people in this country. Readers can judge for themselves whether or not we are endeavouring to reflect our policy in every page of TRIBUNE. . . .

CREATING DISCORD

"The other Communist aim of creating internal disruption and instability is being served at present particularly by the political news-sheets which have grown up recently. Some like "Trine" are obviously fellow travelling organs; others, like "Tribune," pretend to be independent and detached even though run by old and trusted C. P. elements

"It is undoubtedly true that the aims of these news-sheets have been greatly helped by various sins of commission and omission of the Government party, which they have been able to exploit. It is certainly necessary that these sins should be exposed and criticised. But there is a great difference between responsible criticism directed towards correcting and reforming political and social ills, and propaganda aimed at creating indiscriminate suspicion and hatred against each and every person in power."

—Ceylon Daily News, August 11.

Lake House would like to make the public believe that our policy is only a pretence at being "independent and detached"! The public can judge for themselves, and Lake House will expose itself if it shouts COMMIE LIE at every turn.

WAR CRY

The Editor,
TRIBUNE.

Your "newssheet" has started bothering Lake House. More and more people are discovering that Lake House does not serve the people but only serves the interests of a small group. While you discover and expose matters of moment, Lake House stands

around with a camera clicking away at inoffensive Ford cars. There is also some family quarrel about national parks.

Lake House must find something new. The "Red Menace" as a red herring that could be drawn across every inconvenient trail is now worn thin. When did Lake House "last expose and criticise" "these sins" of the U. N. P.? Did they ever raise their voice against the foul libels that are uttered by members of the U. N. P.? Did they protest against vulgar abuse by the highest in the land in Parliament and outside? The old hypocrites are getting a little nervy.

Why refer to old and trusted C. P. elements? Instead why not publish something to show that the "Tribune's" information about the London Loan is wrong. Can't their money and their sleuths discover anything better than rides in Ford Consuls?

Should a miracle overtake Lake House and it becomes a watchdog of the nation would it be a correct and conclusive argument against everything it says if someone points out that Lake House is run by old and trusted (and some not so trusted) Trotskyite Sama Samajists?

Yours Sincerely,
CITIZEN PERERA.

PRESS GANG

"When anyone criticises the Beaverbrook newspapers ("Daily" and "Sunday Express" and "Evening Standard") or otherwise offends their proprietor, the consequences are always the same. These papers make no reply to the particular criticism and rarely mention what has caused offence. Instead, attacks or denigrations are launched at the offender or any line thought to be hurtful, with a fine disregard of truth on

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ATOM BOMB

AND THE COLD WAR

It is the atomic bomb that characterises what we call the cold war. Only yesterday, you needed millions of men to kill millions of men: and to get the masses to accept death and to inflict it, the conflict had to reflect, if not their interests, at least their passions to a certain extent, and it had to avoid shocking their sense of justice.

The entry of the masses into the national army obliged governments to distinguish between wars of aggression and defensive wars—wars of aggression being those waged by others, and defensive wars being those waged by ourselves.

Thus even in the bourgeois democracies, at a time of national war, opinion exercises a control. But especially during the Second World War and after, in occupied Europe in the Soviet Union, then in China and in Indo-China we have seen the appearance of popular armies which live among the people and not on the people, which take to the people, as the Chinese say, as a fish takes to water. In this instance, the people take over complete control of the war they are supporting, and immediately they win peace.

The Opponents

A people's war can only be a war of defense or of liberation; a people's army defends itself on its own soil, and it could not attack another nation nor cross its borders without losing its character. But.....the people's army and the atomic bomb are the two opposed characteristics of our time. At a time when the participation of the whole people in war has been finally seen to be a factor making for peace, a terrible power enables the leaders of the West to make war without the people... A handful of men, an instant of time, and an order given far away by a bureaucracy which is cut off from the nation, are all that is needed to blow up a capital. War becomes detached from mankind, it is no longer restrained by the masses who fought it and suffered in it.

The American people as a whole want peace. But the more they are persuaded that they are not needed to make war, the less influence they bring to bear on events. Because of fatalism which is inculcated into them, atomic war is getting out of control. ...That is perhaps the greatest danger....

"Stop World Turning"

The atomic bomb is the only weapon suitable for oppressive minorities. Without it, their task would be impossible. Their task is the maintenance of abstract barriers between the nations and between people inside each country, and to govern against the necessities of history and political economy.

We have lost Indo-China because it was contrary to the necessity of history that a professional army, thousands of miles away from its bases, should defeat a people's army. There remains but one way out—the atomic bomb. The atomic bomb is a weapon against history..... a permanent ultimatum..... In fact, it is blackmail on the destruction of the human race. They try to stop history as Joshua stopped the sun, by threatening to blow up the world. "We will drop the bomb if the French lose the war, and it is just too bad for man, we will drop them on Indo Chinese, on the Chinese or Russians, it doesn't matter."

In order to stop the world turning round they are threatening to suppress History by liquidating those who make history. It is all they can do: wipe out man in case he changes.

By JEAN-PAUL SATRE

Author of the book on which the film on the Negro question was based and which was recently banned in Ceylon by the censors, allegedly at the instigation of the U. S. Embassy.

It Threatens All

Fortunately, the warmongers are defeated by their very power; the catastrophe which they are preparing for us is too complete; it threatens everyone of us, but they do not dare unleash it. Can one wipe out the whole of humanity because of the retreat of a regiment of Marines in Korea or the loss of Dienbienphu? The weapon is too horrible, it cannot be controlled, every day it deviates further from concrete reality; too sure of their power, those who have this weapon have forgotten even the most elementary diplomacy; they confine themselves to threats but do not turn their threats into action. But meanwhile, barriers are falling, more contacts are made, the people cease to put fear in the hearts of their neighbours, there is new unity in Europe and indeed in the world....

Up till now, anger, blundering, wrong calculations, stood in collective history as unimportant accidents; at present, they can become formidable, the moods of a leader can become historical factors. History must remove the warhead from the atom bomb, or else the bomb will blow up the world. The peoples have a double task: they must unite against the bomb, instead of war impose peace, replace abstract opposition by definite alliance, win victories for peace, without ever giving the nuclear weapon the time or the pretext for being exploded.....

We must redouble our efforts; in the past history was often made by war, but today, since war would mean the end of the world, peace alone can make history.

ONLY BENEFITS U. S.

At Ra'agiriya after laying the foundation stone for extensions to a school building towards the cost of which the American-sponsored Committee for Free Asia had contributed Rs. 9,000/-, the Prime Minister Sir John, is reported to have said that "The Americans, who are now the biggest nation in the world, help poorer countries like our own because there is no purpose in the accumulation of wealth when other countries are backward."

Naivete

Such political naivete on the part of Sir John Kotelawala is, of course, to be expected. But the people of Ceylon, who are only too familiar with the real motives behind most of America's aids to foreign countries, cannot be so easily misled. Already, as Sir John himself admitted, "...people say KOTELAWALA DOES NOT LOVE THIS NATION, HE IS GOING TO SELL US TO THE AMERICANS..." It would be most unwise for Sir John to dismiss as foolish these sentiments so strongly expressed by such a wide section of the population.

At the present moment there is much talk of American aid and of the idealism which inspires such aid. Undoubtedly, a good deal of capital has flowed from the U.S. to foreign countries in the form of aid. But a major proportion of this aid has been military assistance to right-wing reactionary regimes such as that of Syngman Rhee in Korea, Chiang Kai shek in Formosa, Bao-Dai in Indo-China, France in Spain and the militarists and fascists in Germany. On the other hand, the U.S. has invariably turned down requests for genuine economic assistance from many of even her own allies.

Rubber

Two years back, when the rubber industry in Ceylon was seriously threatened, Ceylon's efforts to find a stable market for rubber in the U.S. ended in a failure. This was largely due to the U.S. Government maintaining in full production its heavily-subsidized synthetic rubber plants. Thanks to the China Pact,

By

(A Special Correspondent)

not only was Ceylon's rubber industry saved but, as Mr. Dudley Senanayake pointed out in Parliament the other day, Ceylon made a profit of Rs. 60 millions during the last financial year and another Rs. 40 millions so far during the current financial year. Having turned a deaf ear to Ceylon's requests for aid at the hour of dire need the U.S. vigorously opposed the Pact and is now attempting to sabotage it. This is, by no means, an exceptional case of American behaviour towards her potential allies.

Trade

Since the end of the war most European countries have made strenuous efforts to increase their exports to the U.S. hoping thereby to balance their chronic dollar shortages. American spokesman have spared no pains in creating the impression that the U.S. is in favour of free trade and is bent on helping the general economic recovery of her European allies. In real practice, however, import duties have been increased and all manner of obstacles placed in the path of those attempting to export any machinery or consumer goods to the U.S.

Only a fortnight back President Eisenhower ordered increases upto 50 per cent in import duty on Swiss watches. This is, undoubtedly, a severe blow to the Swiss watchmaking industry which employs over 60,000 skilled workmen and ranks as the third highest exporting industry in the country. This unilateral action by the U.S., it must be pointed out, is a direct contravention of "the principle of trade relations set up on an equal basis between the two countries in 1936".

Switzerland is not the only victim of U. S. economic "aid". Early this year, Societa Aonnima di Elettrificazione, a reputable Italian Company, tendered for the supply of steel towers for an electrification scheme in South

Dakota. The Italian company's tender for \$1,972,852 was nearly \$750,000 lower than that of the successful tenderer—the American Bridge Division of United States Steel. The Italian government took up the matter through diplomatic channels but got nowhere.

Discrimination

When tenders were invited for the supply of generators and transformers for the Chief Joseph Dam in the U. S., the English Electric Company's bid, even after allowing for an import duty of nearly \$700,000, was \$900,000, lower than the lowest American bid. Instead of awarding the contract to English Electric and saving \$1,600,000 to the tax payer, the U. S. authorities rejected all the offers and invited fresh tenders. Eventually the major portion of the contract was awarded to America's Westinghouse. This is not an isolated incident. During the past few years discrimination against foreign firms has been steadily increasing in the U. S.

More than two years back, a special Committee of the U. N. proposed the setting up of a new agency for financing economic development in undeveloped countries. Mainly because of U. S. opposition this proposal has been shelved for such a long time. When it was discussed at the U. N. Economic and Social Council in Geneva a few weeks back, Mr. Preston Hotchkiss, the U. S. representative once again strongly opposed the proposal as being too inadequate to meet the needs of the underdeveloped countries! *The real reason for U. S. opposition is of course its unwillingness to provide funds for any international organisation over which it did not exercise full control. In other words, "AID WITH STRINGS" is America's motto.*

Assistance

With the recent participation of the Soviet Union and some of the Eastern European countries the modest but useful, U. N. Technical

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Notes from
New Delhi

FORMOSA,

GOA AND SEATO

For the moment the Indian scene predominated with the news of what is happening in and around Goa. While bugles sound alerting the Portugese machine guns, non-violent Goanese Satyagrahis are entering the occupied territories.

By the time these lines are published, the Goan strategy and the situation in Goa are bound to be different, but history will record that the struggle for Goan freedom began non-violently. It is difficult to predict now how it will end for even worms turn and the enslaved people of Indian Goa are human beings. With the news of Goan liberation Formosa, Chiang Ka Shek's hideout in the China Seas, is in the head lines once again.

Though it is a foregone conclusion how China's renewed demand on Formosa, her own territory -legally, morally, and historically, will react on USA, which is

shielding Formosa with her powerful 7th Fleet, it is known where India's sympathies lie. With the Portugese on her own neck India is more likely to actively help the Chinese cause at Formosa than ever before.

Pressure

To think of the diplomatic pressure which is being regularly put on India on this Portugese issue, one would normally be amazed at the numerical strength of Dr. Salazar's friends. And of course, our neighbour Pakistan is there at the mast helping Portugal with active encouragement, with passage of troop-carrying ships, with cheers.

Pakistan is cheering anybody who thinks in terms of pricking India. Gulam Mohamad, her Governor General, thinks India "is jealous of Pakistan" (his own words) because of his country's military alliance with U S A!

Seato

It is a real relief to the diplomatic observers in New Delhi to learn that forced by internal pressure and Asian majority opinion Sir John is now showing healthier signs in his country's foreign policy. In regard to SEATO India's stand (as that of Indonesia and Burma) is absolutely unambiguous. She has nothing to do with military alliances with any power blocks—be it American or Russian. So is the declared policy of Burma and Indonesia. In such circumstances, when free countries in South East Asia are veering around Nehru's ideas, Sir John would be well advised, political observers in the Indian capital feel, to keep peace with his immediate neighbours rather than seek alliances with a country which has nothing culturally ideologically, or historically in common with the people of the island.

August 15, 1954.

Shibdas Banerji

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Comment

COMMIE LIE

When the Editor of the *Ceylon Observer* threw out of his office Mr. Squires, the U.S. Public Relations Officer, for shouting *commie lie* he performed an act of great public significance. Not only did he uphold the sacred principle of the freedom of a paper to publish what its editor thinks fit and proper, but he also registered a protest against that fascist technique of attempting to suppress freedom of thought by raising the cry of *commie lie*. In doing this, the Editor of the *Observer* has also run contrary to the whole tenor of Lake House journalism which in recent times has increasingly resorted to the McCarthy technique of yelling *commie lie* every time it came up against something it did not like. Lake House particularly the *Daily News* still persists in this Goebellian method of meeting criticism and the extract and comments we have published on another page bears ample testimony to this.

If the Lake House Press as a whole will take a lesson from the Editor of the *Ceylon Observer* and throw out persons who know no other logic than what is contained in the magic words *commie lie*, the public will begin to look up to Lake House with greater confidence than now. At present, it is no exaggeration to state that anything out of Lake House is suspect. The public is tired of being threatened with the big stick entitled *commie lie*. After the first flush of a little fear and nervousness of this unknown menace conured up by Lake House, the public pay scant or no respect for the phrase *commie lie*. But public life and politics in this country will be on a higher plane and develop in healthier surroundings if all matters of public interest are discussed on their merits and not be side-tracked by shouts of *commie lie*.

Tri Sinhale

The House of Representatives spent almost a whole day discussing the menace of Tri Sinhale. It was disconcerting to see the Premier and certain members of the Government Parliamentary Party defend the Tri Sinhale as being merely an organisation against "foreigners and foreign trade." A great deal of light was thrown on the activities of this neo-fascist organisation by members of Parliament from both sides of the House.

It is apparent that the Tri Sinhale is against the presence of everybody else, except the Sinhalese, in this Island. It is significant that it has so far not agitated against the presence or the trade of Britishers and Americans in this country. It objects to Jaffna Tamils, Ceylon Tamils, Ceylon Indians, Indian Indians, Ceylon Muslims, Burghers and the rest of them in no uncertain terms.

The seed of communalism that is being spread by Tri Sinhale has already borne fruit in the communal and religious disturbances in Mawanella, Kalutara and Chilaw. The Premier, Sir John Kotelawala, in turning a blind eye to this growing danger of communalism is doing the greatest disservice to the people of the country.

As has been suggested in Parliament by several members, the Government must institute investigations into the Tri Sinhale. Where does it obtain its funds? What is the amount of money it is spending every week? Are its officers paid and how much? Are speakers at the meeting paid for making speeches? How much is being spent on printing? Is any subscription collected? Does the

● TRI SINHALE

● TURF CLUB

Sinhale obtain any funds from the Free Asia Committee or any other foreign agency in this country?

These are matters of urgency and importance which cannot be lightly brushed aside. A Government which fails to stamp out communalism has no justification for continuing in office. A Government which is not able to see the menace Tri Sinhale constitutes, forfeits whatever confidence the public have had in it.

Turf Club

Though only a very small number of the public are members of the Turf Club, and though only a slightly larger number ever go to the Havelock Race Course for meets, there is no doubt that owing to a complete and comprehensive system of bucket shops throughout the Island, a very large section of the adult population of the Island has been drawn into this business of gambling on racing.

It is another matter whether gambling on such a wide scale must be allowed through illegal bookies. It is another matter too whether gambling should be permitted at all. But as long as it is tolerated by the State as it is now, a duty is cast upon the Government, the press and responsible persons who have an effective say in the affairs of the Island to see that racing is carried on according to certain rules which ensure that the public is not cheated and swindled by racketeers.

If we are to judge by the reports that circulate about the conduct of racing in this country, we have to admit that we cannot be anything but pessimistic. *Tribune* has, therefore decided to investigate some of the more alarming of these reports and allegations against the Turf Club and the system of gambling as permitted by the laws on our Statute Book. We shall factually report to our readers what the investigations reveal.

JUST BRIEFLY
by
SERENDIB

Mr. Rudra Mr. Thambiyah
"Observer" "Times"
Rubber Commissioner Wolf

CUP OF SOUP

The Colombo Municipal Elections and thereafter the Mayoral Elections has turned out to be a veritable defeat for the swash-buckling politics of Sir John Kotelawela and his lieutenant Sir Ukwatte Jayasundara. In spite of all their mighty efforts they were able to win for the U.N.P. and its satellite candidates only 42% of the voters of the city. But owing to the vagaries of the electoral system, they had 16 members with U.N.P. and Right leanings in the Council, as against the 15 for the Left.

But as has been mentioned in in this paper before, every member of the Rightist camp wanted to be Mayor. Sir John and Sir Ukwatte were compelled to summon a series of conferences at "Temple Trees" in an attempt to agree on a Mayoral candidate. In spite of all this, they were uncertain about getting a majority. Reduced to brass tacks, the votes of Mr. W. A. D. Ramanayake and Mr. T. Rudra were all important.

It is evident that Sir John and his advisers set out to win these two gentlemen over to their cause.

Came a Cropper

It would appear that the U.N.P. hoped to press-gang Mr. Ramanayake by reminding him that the Party had not put up a candidate against him and that, therefore, Mr. Ramanayake should stick to the U.N.P. In this attempt, Sir John failed.

But the bigger failure was in regard to Mr. Rudra. So heart-broken have the U.N.P. become over the Rudra affair that the Lake House is carrying on a vicious campaign against the ex-Mayor (and presently Deputy Mayor).

From what I can gather there was a two-way effort in this matter. It is believed that Mr. Rudra himself had sought support from certain members of the Right camp as he was not cure of full support of the Left. Whilst this attempt to win over one or two votes from the other side was going over, a bigger attempt to swallow Mr. Rudra was afoot. And there seems to be reason to believe that the U.N.P. chieftains thought for a short moment of time that Mr. Rudra had been conquered.

The first suggestion that the U.N.P. should support Mr. Rudra came in an editorial of the *Daily News* when the Right could not agree on a nominee.

Cup of Soup

Thereafter, Mr. A. L. Thambiyah seems to have stepped into scene and endeavoured to pull the U.N.P. chestnuts out of the Mayoral fire by carrying out the Lake House suggestion of winning over Mr. Rudra. Mr. Thambiyah is no beginner in this game. It will be recalled that he was the person who was responsible for weaning over Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam and a section of the Tamil Congress to the side of the U.N.P. This ultimately led to the virtual political liquidation of Mr. Ponnambalam.

In spite of Mr. Thambiyah's reputation as a broker for the political intrigues and manoeuvrings of the U.N.P., Mr. Rudra, in his quest for Mayoralty, had persuaded himself to be taken for a ride, to the House of Representatives in the first instance. There, it would appear, he had a chat with Sir John. After this, there seems to be a great deal of confusion over what has happened.

Did Mr. Rudra have his soup at the gate? Or is Lake House using its well-known techniques to blast Mr. Rudra because he refused to play ball after drinking that cup of soup. But the public isn't interested in whether Mr. Rudra drank only soup or ate buriyani, be it at the gate or in the house. What the public know is that the U.N.P. has been out-manoeuvred at every turn.

Mr. Thambiyah, Sir John and Sir Ukwatte failed to win over Mr. Rudra as they failed in the case of Mr. Ramanayake. For the crime of having drunk a cup of soup in bad company, Mr. Rudra is being damned by the Lake House which had earlier thought him the fittest for Mayoralty.

Mr. Thambiyah

In this whole episode, Mr. Thambiyah's role as broker for party, which does not base its politics on policy but on cups of tea and soup and plates of buriyani does not do him any credit. It is time politicians in this country learnt that politics must be rooted in well-founded convictions and policies and not in car rides to "Temple Trees", or anywhere else to meet V.I.P.'s. The Mayoral Elections, however, has driven another nail into this kind of politics in this country.

But, apart from this, Mr. Thambiyah seems to be digging his own political grave at a very fast rate. At a time when Jaffna is seething with discontent against the Sir John—Sir Ukwatte brand of politics, particularly the support they seem to be lending to the Tri Sinhale, Mr. Thambiyah's efforts to wean over Mr. Rudra

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CUP OF SOUP

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has, it appears, angered Jaffna. At the rate Mr. Thambiayah is going, I am told, that he would find it difficult to face his electorate in Kayts.

The Observer

One of the inexplicable mysteries of Ceylon journalism seems to be the *Ceylon Observer*. Though it more often than not toes the political line of the *Daily News*, at least on the matter of the Americans, *The Observer* has taken a refreshingly independent attitude. The Editor deserves the gratitude of the people of this country for this.

The campaign he has carried on against the ban on the Satre film about race relations in the U.S.A., allegedly on U. S. Embassy interference, is something to be greatly commended. But even greater is the service rendered by his publishing the series on the Klu Klax Klan.

There is no doubt that the U. S. Embassy is unhappy about a Lake House paper behaving in this way. It is for this reason that Mr. Squires seems to have broken into the Editorial sanctum of Mr. Tarzi Wittachi. I must take my hat off, as all other democratically-inclined persons must, to Mr. Wittachi for having thrown out Mr. Squires when this gentleman became truculent. To have done this in the climate and atmosphere of Lake House deserves congratulations.

Commie Lies

In Mr. Squires, the U. S. Embassy seems to have the type of American whose sole political vocabulary seems to be confined to two words "Commie lies". Hitler bred a generation of young and not so young people who explained away everything that did not fit into the fascist scheme as "communist lies." The America of Dulles and McCarthy seems to have produced similar types to whom a political argument is inconclusive with the *cliche* "commie lie". It is heartening that the Editor of the *Observer* did not succumb to the intimidation of the "commie lie" threat of Mr. Squires.

The Times

The *Sunday Times* last week quite rightly drew attention to the activities of the Free Asia Committee. This is a Committee that must be investigated. Is it a fifth column for Dulles and McCarthy in Ceylon?

The Free Asia Committee (or whatever other names it chooses to operate under) in India, Burma and Indonesia are under political surveillance of the respective Governments. Spies have been discovered working in such organisations and been thrown out.

The Free Asia Committee is frankly an anti-communist agency with a political tinge. An American, a foreigner, is the organisational head of it in Ceylon. It spends lavishly. It wants to set up little groups and pockets in every part of the island.

American aid is never altruistic. The Government Parliamentary Party must insist on a full investigation of the Free Asia Committee. I understand that some of Ceylonese, working in this Committee, with no apparent qualifications, are paid four-figure salaries.

This article in the *Times* is significant for another reason. Editor Tori de Souza is back from the U. S. and if he heralds his return by highlighting an investigation into the affairs of the Free Asia Committee, it would appear that he has not fallen victim to the Dulles-McCarthy ideology, in spite of a free scholarship. Those who know Tori de Souza, and I must confess that I am one of his secret admirers, were reasonably certain that he would not be swallowed up by the Mighty Dollar. His stand on the China question and American aid are some of the greatest things that have happened in Ceylon journalism.

Rubber Commissioner

Trade circles are buzzing with gossip about some of the acts of the Rubber Commissioner's Department. This is one story I have heard that may be worth repeating.

Rubber shippers are asking the following questions. Whether the Department, which was quick to take action against one shipper of rubber to China for some default, has for nearly three weeks now not done a thing against another shipper said to have been guilty of a greater default? Whether this shipper against whom the Department has so far, as is known, not taken any action is a particular favourite of certain individuals in the Department? And, whether this shipper has suddenly blossomed as an exporter of other commodities in which he never dealt in before the Rubber Commissioner became the sole exporter to certain countries?

What trade circles are unhappy about is that under cover of Ceylonisation a policy of discrimination is being followed. This is a matter that needs prompt investigation.

The Wolf

Readers interested in Turf Club matters have written in to find out if the person I referred to as the wolf in sheep's clothing (i. e. bookie in respectable guise) in this column two weeks ago has been elected to the Committee. I am sorry I did not make mention of this in my comments last week. Inquiries reveal that this big bad wolf is back again on the Committee. The racing public isn't interested in the personnel on the Committee. All that it wants is clean racing, and that is what it is not getting today.

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HOLLYWOOD'S NEW HERO

By
MICHEL WILSON

ABOUT 20 years ago a new type of movie hero began to appear on the Hollywood screen, and came to full flower during the New Deal.

A refreshing contrast both to the romantics and the tough guys, our new hero was a homespun fellow, awkward and inarticulate, shy and idealistic. He was also gullible, and in current Republican party jargon, "softheaded." But whatever his shortcomings as a leader, this hero put human values above money values. Faced with a problem, he was more likely to use his heart than his fists in its solution.

Change

Today that era has all but disappeared from the U. S. screen. The Jimmy Stewart of *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* has become the irascible, mercenary cowpoke of *The Naked Spur*, The Gary Cooper of *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* has become the masterful adventurer of *Return to Paradise*. Henry Fonda of *The Grapes of Wrath* has fled to Broadway. And whatever happened to Joel McCrea?

The nice young men vanish, although the durable personalities remain. Gable is still Gable. Wayne is Wayne. Yet even here something has altered. The white hunter of *Mogambo* is a breed apart from the friendly young reporter of *It Happened One Night*. And the soft-spoken, easygoing Wayne of *Stagecoach* has become the hardened killer of *Hodo*.

Cold War

What kind of man is he, the dominant hero of the cold war era?

Taken in the aggregate, he has an abiding conviction in his own superiority. With other men this takes the form of an easy insolence, a ruthlessness when crossed; with women, a contempt of frailty is coupled with the assurance that he is irresistible.

Tense, dead-pan, he walks alone, like a stalking cat, seeking a personal solution to a social problem. He prefers violence to debate. The

This article is reprinted from the "Hollywood Review". Its author wrote the screen play for the Mine-Mill film, "Salt of the Earth".

Ceylon is flooded with American films, and this article explains the logic, the dynamics and the danger of the typical film from Hollywood. Our Board of Censors might read this article with profit.

odds are that he has killed a man, and the odds are better that he will again. In sum, he is menace, and in real life any sensible person would cross the street to avoid him.

Yet he is our hero, circa 1953, whether portrayed by Mitchum, Ladd, Palance, Brando, Lancaster,

Occupation

Let's have a look at the way the hero makes a living, for a clue to his values. Of some 300 Hollywood pictures surveyed (from the film trade publication, *Daily Variety*, reviews of 1953), we get the following occupational breakdown:

<i>Military men soldiers of</i>	
<i>fortune</i>	45
<i>Business men entrepreneurs,</i>	
<i>land owners</i>	18
<i>Athletes</i>	17
<i>Entertainers</i>	14
<i>Aristocrats</i>	12
<i>Police, detectives, FBI, etc.</i> ...	10
<i>Crooks</i>	7

Another 60 Western heroes (not included in the above breakdown) would only swell the number of soldiers, police, and outlaws.

The rest of the year's starring roles cover a vast variety of occupations, most of them unusual if not bizarre. Thus we find: a mink breeder, an Indian mahout, a diamond cutter, a bomb disposal expert, a stunt man, a juggler, a treasure hunter, a Pinkerton agent.

The most notable statistics are those that don't appear at all. For heroes in the following classification, the 1953 statistics are:

<i>Industrial workers</i>	0
<i>Trade Unionists</i>	0
<i>Farmers</i>	3
<i>Farm Workers</i>	1
<i>Negroes</i>	2
<i>Other national minorities</i>	0

Obviously the vast majority of the American people do not qualify for heroic treatment, despite the publicists' boast that Hollywood films are democracy's best salesman abroad.

Negroes

Negro heroes were seen in *Bright Road* (a problem child) and *The Joe Louis Story*. The latter, a low budget independent production, received its main distribution in Negro theatres.

This picture brings to mind an even more telling test of the 1953 hero. What of the biographical pictures? The true-life stories? Apart from Joe Louis, the only biographical heroes were Eddie Cantor, Sol Hurok, Houdini and Crazy Legs Hirsch.

These five gentlemen, now immortalized on film, have given many people many hours of pleasure off the screen. But with all history to choose from, is this all Hollywood can do on the subject of greatness? During the Roosevelt era we saw a sampler of what could be done: *Zola*, *Juarez*, *Pasteur*, *Dr. Ehrlich*, *Madame Curie*...

During the Age of Eisenhower, alas, the great humanists are not the proper stuff of heroism. To

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HOLLYWOOD'S NEW HERO

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be sure, there were seven scientist-heroes last year, but all were of the science-fiction variety, given to interplanetary conquest, and more of a threat than a boon to mankind.

Objective

So much for the occupations of the current hero. But what of his goals? What is he after?

Curiously enough, the goal is not often a woman. The romantic love story is on the way out. The hero still meets a woman in his adventures, but she remains incidental to or an obstacle to his main drive.

In current pictures, Hollywood has contrived something that might be termed the military triangle: the guy, the girl and the army. In the two most highly-touted war films of 1953, it is the army, and not the girl, who gets the guy (*From Here to Eternity*, *Take the High Ground*).

Vengeance has it over women as a goal, and money has it over vengeance. Not just a modest sum of money, but an unearned fortune. Of course, fortune hunting is no novelty on the screen but the pursuit of other people's riches, once the hallmark of the villain, has become an acceptable attribute of the hero (*Fair Wind to Java*, *Blowing Wild*, *Plunder of the Sun*).

Free-Booter

A host of current pictures presents a freebooter-hero who brazenly interferes in the affairs of another nation—usually a colonial country. At a time when embarrassed politicians assure us that U. S. imperialism is a thing of the past, movie stars are busy glorifying white supremacist adventures. A few prime examples:

His Majesty O'Keefe.

Burt Lancaster, a Yankee sea captain, makes a fortune on copra in the Fiji Islands, fights Fijian "idleness and superstition," wins control of the island, and has himself crowned king.

Appointment in Honduras

Glenn Ford crosses the Central American jungle to deliver money that will be used to overthrow a Honduras president, thus demonstrating the right of a U. S. resident to overthrow a government by force and violence so long as it is not his own.

Wings of the Hawk

Van Heflin, a U. S. engineer, struggles to save his Mexican gold mine from appropriation by the provisional government. He becomes a leader of the insurrectionists, dynamites his own mine to achieve victory over the government forces.

King of the Khyber Rifles

Tyrone Power, a half-caste British officer in India, crushes an Afridi uprising, led by his brother, against British rule. By this service to the Crown Ty proves he is more English than Indian.

White-Mans Burden

These are but a fraction of the white man's-burden pictures recently released. The titles alone show that the Hollywood freebooters encircle the globe: *East of Sumatra* (Jeff Chandler); *Drums of Tahiti*, (Dennis O'Keefe); *Jamaica Run* (Ray Milland); *Desert Legion* (Alan Ladd); *Flame of Calcutta*, *White Witch Doctor*, *The Royal African Rifles*.

In such films, the hero's personality is an almost constant factor. He behaves much the same whether he lives in the 20th century or the 12th. Director George Stevens once remarked that Shane, like all Western heroes, was a buckskin Galahad, a 19th century counterpart of the chivalrous knights of feudal mythology.

If the analogy is apt it is only because the celluloid Shane and the celluloid Lancelot are interchangeable, and derive from the same source; Hollywood's Knights of the Round Table lean more heavily on the funny papers than on Sir Thomas Malory, and Shane has more in common with Mickey Spillane than with the actual pioneers of the West.

In fact, little of chivalry remains in the current hero. Not only has poor Mr. Deeds vanished from the screen, but the traditional virtues of the romantic hero are on the wane, and what emerges is the fascist personality.

Superman

Some of my friends think the label "fascist" overstates the case. Their complaint against the contemporary hero is that he is Superman, without flaw or frailty, perfection itself, hence not to be taken seriously.

But what is this "perfection?" It is comparable to Hitler's use of Siegfried, the fusion of legendary demigod and Nazi murderer.

During seven years of cold war hysteria, the moral values of the movie hero have undergone a subtle alteration. What was once vice now parades as virtue, and if U. S. audiences cannot yet whole-heartedly approve their heroes' conduct, they are asked at least to condone it. Consider, for example:

Return to Paradise

When Gary Cooper's Polynesian mistress dies in child birth, he flees from the island, abandoning the new-born baby. We are asked to condone the desertion as a symptom of grief, not irresponsibility.

In *Hondo*, killer John Wayne shoots a rancher, later lives happily ever after with the rancher's wife and son. But the most fabulous character in this picture is a vicious dog that follows Hondo about. Hondo won't let anyone feed this dog; even Hondo refuses to feed it. The dog is supposed to live off the land, chomping down on whatever living flesh is available. This passes for a lesson in self-reliance.

White Witch Doctor

Opens with a scene on a Congo dock, where white hunter Robert Mitchum has assembled some caged animals, among them a particularly violent and murderous gorilla. When an African

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whacks the gorilla with a stick, Mitchum slugs the African. Since we are told that the hunter is a man who sympathizes with the Africans, this scene must be a lesson in relative values: the gorilla is worth more than a Negro.

In *His Majesty O'Keefe*, Burt Lancaster, married to a Melanesian girl, dallies with other Melanesian women. The audience is asked to accept this with amused tolerance—for after all, the wife herself is Melanesian.

Such examples could be multiplied tenfold. The point is that these moral lapses are not presented as chinks in the hero's armor or as faults that make him human. The audience is asked to identify with this hero as he is—to believe him, pull for him and, in the end acclaim what he has done.

Fascist

I do not know to what degree U. S. audiences have accommodated to the budding fascist hero. From all reports, he is not a howling success at the box office. But let us not be too quick to assert that decent people "see through" these pictures.

The very fact that so many people still dismiss the whiteman's

burden films as "escapist" is cause for alarm. They are not escapist, but propaganda films, expressing the doctrines of Manifest Destiny, the American Century and white supremacy in gaudy technicolor.

The men who produce these pictures hope you will absorb them without critical scrutiny, that you will be sufficiently diverted by their heroes' imperialist adventures to forget the unsung heroes of your democratic heritage.

Mr. Deeds

Nobody is going to hold his breath waiting for Hollywood to screen the life of Frederick Douglass, or Tom Paine, or Sacco and Vanzetti. Only a strong people's movement for films produced independently of the big monopolies can bring such epic themes to life.

Meanwhile we cannot remain silent as the Hollywood hero becomes a paragon of McCarthyism. If audience protest is loud enough, even the men who control the movis industry cannot remain deaf to it.

The fascist hero may be invulnerable on the screen, but he is not invulnerable at the box office; and were he to perish there, we might again see nice young men like Mr. Deeds and Mr. Smith.

U.S.-PAK PACT, A TRAGIC FARCE

LAHORE, August 5.

The *Pakistan Times*, Lahore's popular English daily, has urged the Government to take immediate steps to repudiate the Pakistani-American military aid pact which it said had apparently failed to achieve what was supposed to be its primary objective.

The paper said the agreement became a "tragic farce" when considered in the light of reports that the total amount of aid to Pakistan which the U.S. experts had in mind was less than one half of Pakistan's annual military budget and that the proposed initial allocation was no more than Rs. 10 crores, of which a substantial proportion would be devoted to expenditure on auxiliary United States personnel.

It added: "The Muslim League leaders and their apologists have always asserted with great confidence that as the result of the pact, Pakistan's military strength would receive a tremendous boost, and it has been argued that in return for our country being made militarily impregnable, we should accept the disadvantages of the arrangement—the various military, political and economic restrictions.

"It appears, however, that the U.S. Government does not consider the actual arms aid to be of any great importance. If America's contribution is to be nearly one half of our normal defence budget, and if the allocation for the first year is to be less than the amount raised by the latest Pakistani Government loan in one day, even those who, for some reason, accept the necessity of foreign military aid will admit that Pakistan is being made the victim of a cruel hoax," the paper said.—

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U. S. ALLIES IN ASIA

Continued from page 3

In S. Korea's elections last month, Syngman Rhee won only a bare majority despite such strong-arm tactics that "numerous protests have been filed with UN observers" (NYT, 23/5/54). Rhee wanted a 2/3 majority in the legislature to push through amendments granting him a third term as President and permitting him to hand over state-owned industries to private firms. He was reported (L. A. Herald-Express, 3/22) "struggling to unloose from the backs of his people the hated burden of government ownership [of Japanese industries] transferred to the ROK government," and to present them to Americans. "...with plans to invest \$180 millions in manufacturing, 170 millions in power, 150 millions in transportation and 50 millions each in mines and fisheries..."

In Pakistan

Its larger part lying far to the West across 1,000 miles of India, Pakistan is now being grouped with "S. E. Asian nations" since it signed an agreement May 19 to receive U. S. war material and technical military aid. Its 72 million population, "strategically situated in the southern flank of Soviet Russia and China" (NYT, 23 5 54), presents a tempting source of troops for U. S. adventures in Asia.

Such hopes seemed dashed by the March elections in E. Pakistan, the country's most populous part.

A united front including the Communist Party captured 222 of the 237 Assembly seats reserved for the majority of Moslems. The pro U. S. ruling Moslem League party was virtually eliminated. The newly-elected E. Pakistan government, representing 56% of the total Pakistan population, opposed U. S. policy supported a broad program of social and economic reform, favored collaboration with neighbouring Indian territory, demanded release of all political prisoners and reconstitution of the Central Cabinet in which it should have a majority.

Panicked by these developments, Pakistan's Gov. Gen. Ghulam Mohammed dismissed E. Pakistan's new government last week, arrested 210 "key persons," sent more than 10,000 troops to fight thousands of jute and paper mill workers now on strike declared martial law with "strong man" Defense Secy. Iskandar Mirza as E. Pakistan's Governor.

The world waited to see if Washington would get these logs lashed into a raft, and if so how long it would float. *National Guardian New York June 7, 1954.*

ONLY BENEFITS U. S.

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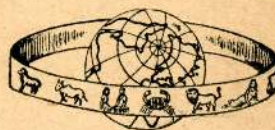
Assistance programme is beginning to assume a truly international character. This co-operation between East and West in a common endeavour to raise the standard of living everywhere is a matter for rejoicing. The first reaction in the U. S., however, has been the deletion by the House of Representatives of the entire \$18 million U. S. contribution to the U. N. Technical Assistance programme. Whether this is an attempt to wreck the whole technical assistance programme time alone will reveal.

Interesting facts emerge from an analysis of the "billions" which the U. S. gives out on aid to foreign countries. A total sum of \$3,419,380,000 has been approved for foreign military and economic aid. Of this no less than \$2,505,000,000 is to be used for the purchase of surplus U. S. agricultural commodities

to be shipped abroad! As President Eisenhower pointed out, last year it cost the U. S. government nearly \$30,000 an hour merely to store the American farm surpluses and the whole price support programme costs the government about \$3 billions. There has been so far no reduction in the farm surpluses; instead it is accumulating at an increasing rate. Viewed in this context the American aid programme is a convenient instrument for disposing America's surplus produce.

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RED HERRING

Continued from page 4

even relevance. Simultaneously, the offender and his relatives may expect to be mentioned in the personal gossip columns of those newspapers on pretexts thought to be embarrassing.

"This technique has been used on various individuals and institutions, great and small, for many decades now. It provides the large clientele of these papers with salty reading—malice replacing the pornography of the broader kind of popular journalism. Its effect on people in public life, the potential victims, is usually somewhat numbing: they hesitate to involve themselves in such one-sided methods of controversy, and tend either to avoid or to fawn upon Lord Beaverbrook, like schoolchildren smirking at the boy with a catapult.

"When we published an article on the hounding of Mrs. Donald Maclean by the "Daily Express," the answer came from the "Evening Standard"—which alleged that a provision of our Trust Deed was hostile to Jews and Roman Catholics. Recently, we published extracts from the pamphlet in which the staff of the British Council showed how the Beaverbrook papers had consis-

tently and deliberately misrepresented the Council's work. Back came the reply from the "Evening Standard": with a roll of stage thunder they redoubled their accusation of anti-Semitism and anti-Catholicism, or such, at any rate appears to be the impression it was intended to convey.

We do not need to repeat here the full reply we made when this false accusation was previously made. (We suspect that our adversary is not very interested in the substance of the accusation, anyway.) And we make no complaint. He has a catapult: so have we—and we have every intention of using ours. We will continue to point out examples of what we consider to be bad journalistic practices, and will welcome criticism of our own behaviour.

We would like to make our motive clear. We do not consider ourselves faultless, or superior to papers employing such practices. We consider them our neighbours and colleagues—exactly that is the point. If there is a bully in a community, someone ought to stand up to him. Newspaper bullies should, we think, be answered by other newspapers.

—The Observer, London, July 11, 1954.

Dr. OTTO JOHN AND
LORD RUSSELL

Continued from page 16

and China are being watched with great interest. Here again, the delegation has nearly everybody's approval and good wishes. The only exception was not, as could have been expected, a die-hard Tory, but a Labour man, Hector McNeill, a former Minister in Mr. Attlee's Government. He called the delegation's visit "irresponsible and untimely" and said the visitors were lending themselves to a Communist propaganda trick. But then Mr. McNeill was speaking in the United States to an appreciative audience. While Mr. Attlee is giving comfort to "the enemy", his ex-colleague is making up for the blunder by giving comfort to those, for whom "peaceful co-existence" is a naughty word.

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DR. OTTO JOHN & LORD RUSSELL

London, 14th August 1954

The controversy about German re-armament, which I described in my last letter, shows no sign of abating. Although it is in France that the most crucial decision will be made at the end of this month, the British people are being reminded of the German problem every time they open a newspaper.

Otto John

The subject began to steal the headlines with the dramatic "desertion" to East Germany by Dr. Otto John, head of one of West Germany's intelligence services. Now that all attempts have had to be given up to persuade a sceptical public that Dr. John was kidnapped or enticed over to the Soviet zone and that it is admitted that he went of his own free will, his revelations about the resurgence of Nazism in West Germany cannot fail to make an impression.

Up till recently, the debate on German re-armament took place almost exclusively in the Labour movement, all other sections of the population having given E.D.C. its tacit approval. But now far wider circles are being made aware of the dangers. The most popular and widely-read paper in Britain, the Conservative *Daily Express*, could these days easily be mistaken for the Communist *Daily Worker* for all the space and passion it devotes to its warnings against German militarism.

Revelation

Day after day, its star correspondent in Germany, Sefton Delmer, is pouring forth the most startling and frightening revelations—all backed with facts, figures and names—about the extent to which prominent henchmen of Hitler and active Jew-baiters are once again in control of all branches of public life in West Germany. He also shows how far the preparations have

From

Our Special Correspondent

gone to build up the German armed forces far in excess of what would be permitted under E.D.C.

More astonishing, perhaps, is that the Liberal *News Chronicle* (a staunch supporter of E.D.C.) has been running a similar series of articles, showing to what extent democracy is non-existent in Adenauer-land. The "Chronicle's" readers must get somewhat confused when they compare these articles with the paper's editorials!

Russell

And now on top of all this came the bombshell of Lord Russell's resignation. What happened is this: Over two years ago, Lord Russell, holder of one of the highest judicial offices in the Government, sought and got permission from the Government to write a book recording German war crimes and atrocities. Now the book, called "The Scourge of the Swastika" (and based entirely on official records and on the Nuremberg war-crimes trials) is ready for publication.

Advance Copy

But the Lord Chancellor, who had read an advance copy of the book, told the author that "publication of this book would be incompatible with the holding of judicial office"; in other words: suppress the book or resign. Lord Russell resigned. The reasons the Lord Chancellor gave for wanting to suppress the book are interesting.

He said that at a time when the question of German re-armament is an issue of acute public controversy, the book, and especially the photographs of concentration camps, is likely to stir up hatred of the German people and would, therefore, strengthen the hands

of those campaigning against re-arming the Germans.

Independence

To the credit of the British Press it must be pointed out that this attempt of Government censorship has been condemned by all papers. But the Lord Chancellor will have achieved the opposite of what he intended. His action has provided the book with unprecedented publicity and assured it of a far bigger circulation than it would otherwise have reached.

Altogether the British Press has lately shown far more spirit and independence than it used to do. It is no longer a case of each paper loyally defending whatever the party it supports does. Cyprus is a case in point. Almost without exception the papers (including Conservative ones) have attacked and condemned the Government's refusal even to consider the Cypriots' wish for union with Greece now or in the future. "There can be no question of any change of sovereignty in Cyprus" said the Government spokesman during the Parliamentary debate on the matter just before the recess.

Because of strategic considerations, the Cypriots (80 per cent of whom are Greeks) will not be allowed to benefit from the Government's declared policy of guiding Britain's colonies towards independence and self-determination. What has aroused most indignation is the decision to enforce the sedition laws, under which it becomes an offence, punishable by up to five years imprisonment, for anyone or any paper to advocate union with Greece. It speaks well for the British press that it is disregarding party loyalties and strategic considerations when it deems that a grave injustice is being done.

Attlee

The British Labour Delegation's travels through the Soviet Union

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