

TRIBUNE

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MORE ABOUT A. I. C. C.

WHY PROBE IMPERATIVE?

In view of the widespread public uneasiness about the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation, A.I.C.C. for short, Government must order an immediate investigation into the affairs of this state-organisation. In this issue, "Tribune" will merely indicate the lines on which the investigation may be profitably conducted.

In the issue of August 14, "Tribune" referred to a company called NAVAM ESTATES LIMITED and in this issue it is proposed to give a few facts about a concern called the GENERAL INVESTMENTS LTD.

Scope

The scope of the investigation must cover the activities of the A.I.C.C. from its very inception. It is our information that about 2000 loans have been granted by the A.I.C.C. since 1943. The first matter that needs examination is to find out how many of these loans were for purposes that came outside the scope of the objects set out in the A. I. C. C. Ordinance. How many of these loans, or rather how much of the money totally lent out, were for genuine agricultural and industrial purposes? Were any of the loans so granted utilised to finance speculative deals? This is the first matter that must be looked into.

Rejected

It is also necessary to examine the applications that were rejected and the reasons for such rejection? Among the rejected applicants are some of the bitterest critics of the A.I.C.C. method of granting loans. There would be a temptation to dismiss the allegations of such rejected applicants summarily as coming from parties with a grievance, but it will not take long for any

investigator to find out that these rejected applicants have every reason to feel aggrieved.

An investigation of rejected applications would provide the finest clue to probe the allegation that the A.I.C.C. discriminated in favour of certain privileged parties.

Lawyers

In regard to the successful applicants, it would be pertinent to find out who their lawyers were. A question that would naturally arise is whether the A.I.C.C. lawyers themselves have, in any instance, had any interest, direct or indirect, in the borrowers as well. A widespread belief is held that in a very large number of cases that Messrs. De Silva and Mendis, the A.I.C.C. lawyers, did have such interest. In the case of NAVAM ESTATES LTD. their interest seems apparent.

It would be pertinent to find out who the lawyers of the unsuccessful applicants were. And whether the applications of any clients of Messrs. De Silva and Mendis were ever rejected?

Apart from the question of whether a firm of proctors can act for both the lender and the borrower, an investigation must examine the propriety of members of the firm of De Silva and Mendis borrowing from the A.I.C.C.

ASSETS



pavement talk when social services department conducted a teggur survey

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HEALTH CENTRE & IRON CURTAIN

The Foreign Affairs debate in the Parliament brought a clearer understanding of India's attitude to the cold war. It silhouetted the Seató as the modern synonym for colonial rule; the debate focussed Prime Minister Nehru's own and national feelings regarding Goa. When he declared that he himself felt like marching into Goa with a flag in hand he gave mute his voice and his enunciation of the much talked of "crisis of the time" was sharply in contrast to the Washington line.

Finding the Premier stealing the thunder, the Communist members of the Parliament found little to provoke except a rather cheap dig, "Why don't you march then?" The answer was already given and there was no occasion for frivolity nor of mock seriousness. Nehru and Krishna Menon both had said that it was one thing to give ventilation to one's pent up feelings and another to achieve results.

Free Treatment

One of the most popular Ceylonese in Delhi, Narcissus Ananda Meemanage, has been asking me for sometime past to visit an institution called Ashoka Health Centre at Maharaully, near the world famous Kutb Minar. Yesterday afternoon I went to the institution and spent many hours till almost midnight and was surprised at the quiet nature of the work done by Meemanage who has earned the gratitude of hundreds of poor people in the locality for his free treatment of ailments. Ashoka Health Centre, set amidst the 17th century historical ruins of a fortress, was inaugurated by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the Union Health Minister. It houses a Buddhist Monastery also where monks from many South East Asian countries have established a Vihara.

Meemanage is a soft-spoken man. His association with Mahatma Gandhi in regard to his nature cure interest and other leading Indian politicians like Jawaharlal Nehru and Jaiprakash Narain has given him an unique opportunity of understanding and cementing Indo-Ceylon relations for a little over a decade. He is one of those Ceylonese in India who has done much more for the Indian than Ceylonese living in India of whom I can easily think of.

Human Value

Treating people free of cost reminds me of a charmingly little pamphlet called "Quest For Life" which I have lately read. The booklet is by S. Mahmuduzzafar. Last year the author took his wife, the well known Lucknow physician and poet Rashid Jahan, to Moscow for a treatment of cancer and there in the hospital she died. I would not have ordinarily mentioned this book let but for the tremendous human value it contains. Mahmuduzzafar writes in the introduction:

"Our next halt was Zurich and here we had to deplane.... Zurich clean, comfortable, expensive welcomed us with its bourgeois heart of gold. We felt the impact of Europe as of something almost physical. We were looked after at the airport, we were met by a very comfortable, gleaming ambulance. We were accompanied by a polite and attentive doctor. We were greeted and bowed in by the white cowed sisters of the very clean, neat and modern sanatorium. We were given a pretty room, overlooking a beautiful lawn on which large black birds were hopping. We could pull up the venetian blinds and from the balcony catch a glimpse of the lake and the distant Alps. We were made comfortable in every way. But we could not help

feeling that everything here was done with an eye to salesmanhip and profit..... Altogether in Zurich we spent..... more than Rs. 11 per hour!"

Prague

What struck me in the contrast was the remarkable change Mahmuduzzafar narrated while describing his experience at Czechoslovakia. He writes:

"Our next halt was Prague..... We had already made friends with some Czech officials on the plane and they helped us to discover the ambulance that had been sent to the airport for us.... It was a fine, airy room, overlooking an orchard and open country. Beside it was an ante-room with a couch, table and chairs. This was for me. So we were once more comfortably installed. Everything was as neat and clean as at Zurich, but neither the Clinic nor the people had that gilt-edged look. There was an atmosphere of informality and friendliness which we could not help noticing, despite the barrier of language..... Rashida explained (to the Superintending Doctor) that she ate white meat, fruit, *Compote*, all in small quantities but at frequent intervals and even at night. She also said that she would like to be given a Vitamin B injection. She spoke about piles which had become suddenly painful on the journey. All these things seemed a tall order, and I hesitated for a moment before translating. The doctor noticed it instantly and said firmly, "Come, come, speak up frankly, my friend—what does she want?" These words at once made me feel at home with him and I explained the discomfort Rashida had suffered from piles, the shaking-up and exhaustion...."

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DOES CHINA KNOW FULL FACTS?

Since March 1953 the Rubber Commissioner is the sole exporter of coconut oil to China and no private shipper is allowed to deal direct with China. On 20th May 1953 the Rubber Commissioner issued a circular stating that he will purchase coconut oil only from Ceylonese shippers and he has defined the term Ceylonese shippers to mean:

Ceylonese

"Citizens of Ceylon, Ceylonese partnerships and Ceylonese Companies". A "Ceylonese Partnership" means a partnership in which at least 51 per cent of the capital is held by citizens of Ceylon and majority of the partners are citizens of Ceylon. Ceylon Company" means a company formed and registered in Ceylon under any written law and satisfying the following requirements:—

- (a) that the majority of the Directors are citizens of Ceylon and
- (b) that the holders of not less than 51 per cent of the issued share capital are citizens of Ceylon or are to be treated as citizens of Ceylon."

B. C. C.

The largest manufacturer of coconut oil in Ceylon, The British Ceylon Corporation Ltd., does not conform to these requirements and is therefore not registered as a Ceylonese shipper of coconut oil to China.

China is a large buyer of coconut oil but unfortunately due to an absence of bulk storage facilities in China all coconut oil shipped has to be packed in drums.

Ceylon oil millers manufacture two types of drums:

By
C O P R A

Lake House does not miss any opportunity of having a 'whack' at China whether the criticism is justified or not. In a report published in the 'Daily News' last Monday, it was stated "that Communist China's insistence that coconut oil shipped from Ceylon should be packed in a particular type of drum has given a non-Ceylonese firm a monopoly in supplying drums." It is not known whether China has been apprised of the full facts regarding these drums. This matter will be, it is hoped, be taken up at the forthcoming negotiations in Peking. In the meantime, we are publishing two articles, one this week and another next, on this question of coconut oil shipments to China by a person who is competent to write about it.

(a) *Double edged steel drums with flanged heads* — this type of drum has a screw bung and is manufactured in a size to hold 5 cwts. nett of oil. Expensive plant and machinery is required for its manufacture and it is manufactured in Ceylon only by the British Ceylon Corporation Ltd. which is a non-Ceylonese company. The British Ceylon Corporation Ltd. is not recognised by the Rubber Commissioner as a Ceylonese company.

(b) *Welded steel drum* — these drums are generally manufactured in a size to hold 10 cwts. nett of oil, but recently one Ceylonese oil miller Messrs. A. R. Abdul Hameed & Bros., Galle has started manufacturing same in a size to hold 5 cwts. nett of oil. No expensive machinery is required for its manufacture and there are

four Ceylonese oil millers who could manufacture the 10 cwts. drum. Generally these drums are not supplied with screw bungs but have their opening welded after filling. However, these drums could for an extra charge be supplied with screw bungs.

London Accepts

During the pendency of Ceylon's contract for sale of coconut oil to Ministry of Food, London, coconut oil was exported in these drums to London and it is well known in the trade that London buyers are the most discriminating buyers in the world and a drum that is acceptable to London should have no difficulty in finding acceptance in any other part of the world. Welded drums are generally cheaper than the other type of drums manufactured by the British Ceylon Corporation Ltd. as the following table would show:—

B. C. C. type 5 cwts. drum with screw bung costs Rs. 200/- per ton of oil.

Welded steel 5 cwts. drum without screw bung costs Rs. 150/- to Rs. 160/- per ton of oil.

Welded steel 10 cwts. drum without screw bung costs Rs. 120/- per ton of oil.

In the case of welded drums, an additional charge of Rs. 10/- per ton will have to be added if screw bungs are required. European buyers however do not want screw bungs.

Insisted

By a circular dated 6th May, 1954 the Rubber Commissioner insisted that all oil purchased for China should be packed in B. C. C. type drums. It is apparent therefore that a non-Ceylonese company has in effect a monopoly in coconut

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AMERICAN COMICS

Mr. KEUNEMAN: At the Asian Premiers' Conference my right hon. Friend signed a declaration saying that he is going to stop international anti-communism and communism. But American magazines, not only anti-communist but also anti-Soviet Union, anti-Chinese, anti-Indian, in the sense that they are opposed to the peace policy of Jawaharlal Nehru, are flooding the country.

Mr. P. H. W. DE SILVA: (Second Ambalangoda-Balapitiya): Even anti-religious.

Mr. KEUNEMAN: I have seen certain American publications coming here—

The Rt. Hon. Sir J. KOTELAWALA: They are all being stopped.

Mr. KEUNEMAN:—which are derogatory of some of the religions of this country, particularly Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism. They are certain magazines published by a very militant Section of the Protestants in America which are openly derogatory of the Buddhists and of followers of other religions.

These magazines are allowed to flood this country. Nobody raises the question of imports control. The Hon. Minister of Education will be aware that the Teachers' Unions have protested against the so-called American "comics" flooding this country. These American comics are being read by school boys and they are even being translated into Sinhalese and Tamil.

Dr. PERERA: What about adults? There are certain adults too who read them!

Mr. KEUNEMAN: I shall not be one bit surprised if the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister gets his ideas on Communism from American comics. The Hon. Minister of Education has been told by the Teachers' Union that the entry of these American comics should be prohibited. In fact the ideas contained in these American comics are contrary to a proper public spirit because they glorify violence, war and the superiority of one race

We publish an Extract from the Hansard of August 2, 1954 where Mr. Keuneman points out the dangers arising from the present indiscriminate import of American Comics.

over the other. I have received complaints about them. I have got a collection of these American comics where the Asian people are referred to as "gooks" and "wags" and other insulting words of that sort are used to describe them.

All these magazines are freely pouring into this country and no action is taken against them. But books and pictorials setting

out the activities of the Soviet Union and China, publications showing the cultural and other developments in those countries which will enable people to study the political and scientific progress that those countries have made—these are being stopped today under the pretence of import control.

Now, I understand that they are going to burn these books. That is certainly some thing which Hitler did.

The Rt. Hon. Sir J. KOTELAWALA: Stalin also did it.

Mr. KEUNEMAN: Stalin never burnt any books. Hitler burnt them and now Sir John Kotelawala's democracy is also thinking of burning books.

Mr. W. DAHANAYAKE (Galle): He has burnt bulls!

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BLOWING ITS TRUMPET

The Prime Minister of Ceylon, Sir John Kotelawala, has many times publicly supported M. R. A. "The country needs a definite change of heart," he said in November. "The time is ripe for the emulation of the MRA principle where 'who is right' is immaterial and 'what is right' is what matters."

Kandahena

The settlement of the Kandahena dispute is an instance of this principle in action. It had dragged on for eighteen months and threatened to involve the country's tea industry in a major way.

The trouble began between the workers on the Kandahena Estate and one of the superintendents over the alleged go-slow tactics on the part of the workers. The workers called it "anti trade union activity" on the part of management. Initially 75 people were involved, but when the attitude of both sides hardened, the Ceylon Workers' Congress called for sympathetic action on neighbouring estates. 10,000 workers were involved on twelve estates.

Forgotten Factor

The leaders of both sides had earlier seen the M R A play "The Forgotten Factor" and there was an appeal to them to settle the dispute on the principle of 'what is right' and not 'who is right'. Finally both sides arrived at a settlement.

As a footnote to the settlement the two workers' factions on the estate whose strife had so greatly complicated the dispute, held a joint religious celebration to mark the end of the dispute and of their own conflict.

Maximum Crops

Paul Lacey is a British planter who manages a plantation of 1,300 acres of tea in Central Ceylon. He employs 1,200 workers. Only two years ago none of his men belonged to trade unions. Now they are organised into a union

We are reprinting the following which appeared in the journal "Indian Finance." The article speaks of the work M. R. A. has done in Ceylon. Readers are referred to our Comment page 8.

of five divisions, corresponding to the five areas of the estate.

On one of the areas a professional agitator obtained control of the union committee. He did no work himself but encouraged others to go "slow", and created a bad atmosphere of conflict between the men and the staff. Lacey asked Rajamany, the district representative of the union, to remove the man, with no result. To dismiss the man was to invite a strike; to keep him was to leave an open door to agitation and possible violence.

Under Paid

At this point Lacey, who had welcomed the M R A task force to Ceylon, recalled the scene in "The Forgotten Factor" where the honest apology of the employer brought unity with the labour leader. He summoned all his courage and invited the union leader, Rajamany, to tea at this bungalow.

Such an invitation from a European employer to an Indian worker was extremely unusual. Suspecting a trap, Rajamany brought four other men with him. Lacey was shaken by this, but stuck to his convictions. For six months he had been underpaying a section of his Tamil labour. Lacey apologised for this and said that the money would be paid immediately.

Atmosphere Different

The relationship between the two men was completely transformed. Without being asked Rajamany removed the agitator from his office, and the bad feeling on

that particular division disappeared overnight. Union committees on the other divisions found that Lacey was treating them differently too, and the atmosphere on the entire estate became different.

Rajamany

Rajamany, who is an area representative of the Ceylon Workers' Congress which has a membership of 225,000 was much impressed by Lacey's change of attitude. A few months later he flew with Lacey to Calcutta to learn more about MRA from the task force operating in that city. On his return he began to settle labour problems himself in this new way.

But the problem goes beyond bringing new relationships on the plantations. The security of the whole Dominion is at stake unless a lasting solution can be found to the food deficiency.

Rice

Rubber and tea production provides three quarters of the national revenue of Ceylon. But in modern times the island Dominion has not been able to produce sufficient food, for its eight million inhabitants, increasing at the rate of about a quarter of a million a year.

On Lacey's estate there are some rice fields which are not producing the food they might. Lacey is making arrangements to have these fields put in condition by proper fertilisation, and to ensure a maximum crop by the best methods of transplanting. "Through M R A," says Lacey, "I have come to recognise that rice is part of the ideological war in Asia. The government has declared that if every cultivator and planter would take these two steps of proper fertilisation and transplanting, the rice shortage in Ceylon could be considerably diminished."

U.S. SCIENTISTS CONDEMN WITCH-HUNT

The cold-war politics of the A- and H-bombs has claimed another victim Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the man who headed the project which produced the A-bomb, was ruled a "security risk" and banned from any further official contact with the knowledge of super-destruction he helped devise.

It was ironic that his fall came during commemoration of the first anniversary of the deaths of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, earlier victims of A-bomb politics. How many more would succumb to A-bomb politics, none could guess; but Americans in general and U. S. scientists in particular are fearful of a continuing toll unless the politics were changed. The Federation of American Scientists saw the danger clearly. Commenting on the 2-to-1 decision of the Atomic Energy Commission's Personnel Security Board, it said:

"We believe the majority findings unfair to Oppenheimer. But more than that, we believe them to illustrate the dangers and the bitter fruits of a security system which is now motivated more by the risks of politics than the risks of disclosure of information... We urge strongly that the entire machinery of security must itself come under review. The American people are seeing samples of the mixing of politics and security in such highly-publicized proceedings as the Army-McCarthy hearings. It is to be hoped that these hearings will attract attention to the underlying problem—the exploitation of legitimate concern for national security for political ends. Security machinery has only one justification, to protect a small area of vital national information. It cannot efficiently do more; it cannot do more without sapping our national strength and eventually destroying our traditions and practices as a free people."

Yes—And No

The panel which examined Oppenheimer was composed of Gordon Gray, former Secy, of the

Army and now Univ. of N. Carolina President; Thomas Morgan, former head of the Sperry Corp.; and Ward V. Evans, chemistry professor at Loyola. They interrogated 40 witnesses, took 3,000 pages of testimony, examined another 3,000 pages of written material.

Gray and Morgan signed the tortured and self-contradictory majority opinion, which held that Oppenheimer is "loyal" and "discreet" but nevertheless a "security risk." They admitted they might have found an "alternative recommendation" if, under the Eisenhower security program, they had been allowed "to exercise mature practical judgement without the rigid circumspection of regulations and criteria established for us." To Sen. Edwin C. Johnson (D-Colo.), a member of the Senate House Atomic Energy Committee, the majority decision was "nothing but doubletalk."

Lacked Enthusiasm

On the charge that Oppenheimer—with many others—had originally opposed a "crash" program to develop the H-bomb (he frankly stated his reasons had been both technical and moral), the majority found he "did not oppose the project in a positive or open manner, nor did he decline to co-operate" in it. But it also made this finding:

"However, enthusiastic support on his part would perhaps have encouraged other leading scientists to work on the program."

On this, Evans said in his dissent: "He did not hinder the development of the H-bomb and there is absolutely nothing in the testimony to show that he did... I personally think that our failure to clear Dr. Oppenheimer will be a black mark on the escutcheon of our country."

The majority found that had Oppenheimer "enthusiastically supported the thermonuclear program either before or after the determination of national policy, the H-bomb project would have been pursued with considerably more vigor." The *Washington Post* remarked:

"Does the board really mean that a man should be expected to anticipate a decision and temper his convictions to conform with what later may turn out to be a popular course? What is this but a formula for intellectual dishonesty? ... The decision deals a devastating blow to free inquiry in government research. ..."

Road To Suicide

The blow was already beginning to be felt. One June 6 the Atomic Scientists of Chicago reported that a dozen top scientists, none of them implicated in any charges, are resigning from Fort Monmouth's radar laboratories because of security charges against their colleagues. The ten officers of the Fedn. of American Scientists in an open letter to President Eisenhower warned:

"The purge of a loyal scientist for giving frank advice presents a grave peril to our nation. Such a policy, if continued, will eliminate the men of independent mind from our defense establishments. In this age ... this is a sure road to national suicide."

At the end of the week it was ruled that Oppenheimer might file a brief appealing the decision with the AEC, but his lawyers would not be permitted to argue the case before it,

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SERIOUS COMPLAINT

The Exchange Control Department has thought it necessary, for some unaccountable reason, to "hush up" a most serious complaint of the breach of Exchange Control Regulations. In fact, the complaint had already been inquired into by an official of another Department and more than a *prima facie* established against the alleged violator of the law. But the Exchange Control Department seems determined to ignore the inquiry and findings of the other official just as it does not seem to want to take action itself in regard to the complaint.

Simple

The facts are simple and straightforward. Sometime in the beginning of 1953 some Indian workers on Mahagastotte Tea Estate in Nuwara Eliya went up for inquiries under the Indian and Pakistani Act for registration as citizens. These workers discovered that according to the records, they had remitted money to India, whereas they asserted that they had not. Most of these cases so affected were persons who had been born in Ceylon and who had never left the island. The inquiries into the citizenship application of these persons were adjourned pending inquiries by the applicants into this question of remittances.

It then transpired that the Head Kangany of this estate, who goes by the grandiose title of Labour Welfare Officer had sent money to India in the name of his labourers to his (Head Kangany's) relations and friends resident in his and his wife's villages in India. He had done this sometimes by bluff, sometimes by "persuasion" and at others by undue influence.

Citizenship

It is necessary to recall that in the relevant times in 1949-50, each labourer could send Rs. 60 to India periodically according to the Exchange Control Regulations. This Labour Welfare Officer sent a considerable sum of money out of the island in the names of his labourers.

How it affected these labourers was that when their applications for citizenship came up, the fact that they had remitted money militated against establishing "permanent settlement" in the island within the meaning of the Act as

currently interpreted by the officers administering the Act.

The workers concerned through their Union, the Ceylon Workers Congress, made representations to the authorities.

In the first instance, the Union wrote to the Agent of the Government of India in Kandy to investigate whether this complaint had any basis of truth. The Union gave a list of names of workers so victimised.

Admitted

The Agent, with the permission of the estate authorities, held an inquiry in April 1953. His findings were contained in a letter dated April 20, 1953 to the Ceylon Workers Congress and were as follows:

"My enquiry on the estate disclosed that Sri. N. Krishnaswamy, L. W. O., has remitted money to India with the assistance of the labourers on the estate. According to the labourers, they signed the "B" forms because they were made to understand by Sri Krishnaswamy that cumblies had to be got from India and the remittances were for payment for the cumblies. *Sri Krishnaswamy admitted having made the remittances with the help of the labourers, having explained to them that the remittances to be made were for repayment of loans as well as to get textiles from India for his personal use and also for the use of a select few on the estate as well as for the education of his son in India. He denied having told them that the purpose was to get down cumblies.....*"

A copy of this letter from the Agent of the Government of India

Ignored

was sent to the Superintendent of the Estate on April 28, 1953 asking for some kind of action. Copies of this correspondence were sent to all governmental authorities likely to be interested, including the Controller of Exchange, the Commissioner of Income Tax and the Commissioner for the Registration for Indian and Pakistani Residents.

Inquiry

There was no response for this letter from the Exchange Control, but the Ministry of Home Affairs referred the matter to the Ministry of Labour, and on the instructions of the latter, the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Hatton held an enquiry on the estate.

The enquiry was spread over two full days and the Labour Welfare Officer as well as the complainants were represented by lawyers. It must be mentioned that at the enquiry held earlier by the Agent of the Government of India, the Labour Welfare Officer's lawyer was present and participated in the proceedings, whilst the workers and the Union were not legally represented.

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Hatton stated that his enquiry was only to find out if a *prima facie* case existed. In his inquiry he went fully into the matter and the evidence disclosed more than amply justified the findings of the Government of India Agent. It was found that Mr. Krishnaswamy had sent money regularly during the the period investigated to his friends and relations in his village by misusing the concessions extended to labourers. It also transpired in the course of the inquiry that another member of the clerical staff on the estate had similarly utilised the "B" forms to send money to his relations.

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Comment

● RUBBER COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTMENT

● THE M. R. A.

EXCHANGE CONTROL

The report we publish on another page about the mysterious manner in which a complaint about a serious breach of Exchange Control Regulations has been dealt with calls for an immediate investigation by the authorities. The complaint, in the first instance, was made to the Agent for the Government of India. Next, the complaint was sent to all relevant Government Departments, and the Home Ministry together with the Labour Ministry caused an inquiry to be made. It is significant that the Exchange Control Department did not put the matter in the hands of the C.I.D. no sooner the complaint was made.

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour held an inquiry, and we understand on good authority that the evidence and the documents fully established the charges made by the complainants. And that, furthermore, more serious charges could have been framed if a fuller inquiry was made. The report of this senior officer of the Labour Department together with his notes of inquiry were forwarded to the Controller of Exchange. In that Department, the matter seems to have been given a decent burial, in spite of representations and reminders.

If this is the reception accorded to a serious complaint by the Exchange Control Department, then there is something most vitally and radically wrong with it. The delay in pursuing investigations will not only bring in prescription for certain offences but will allow miscreants to destroy evidence and documents. One does not know whether the documents available to the Assistant Commissioner of Labour will be available to day,

Apart from the incidental question of the complainants being at a disadvantage in the matter of their applications for registration as

Ceylon citizens, the scandalous manner in which the Department has refused to take any action calls for condemnation. This concrete instance of the utter inefficiency of the Exchange Control Department is a matter, we would venture to suggest, that the Government Parliamentary Party and the House of Representatives must probe.

Rubber Commissioner

Something seems to be radically wrong with the Rubber Commissioner's Department. Rubber shippers are unhappy about the manner in which this Department discharges its duties, but even more serious are the complaints of the coconut oil shippers. The charge has been openly made that the way the Department operates in the purchase of coconut oil has tended (or has been designed) to assist a particular firm or firms. In this connection, in response to a statement made by the Rubber Commissioner at the historic conference he held a fortnight ago, we requested him to publish certain figures with regard to the first purchase of coconut oil to China. The Rubber Commissioner has so far not done so. He may now chose to take refuge behind the excuse that it is not for him to answer the "gutter press" like the *Tribune*, but if he does this we will be compelled to publish what figures we are able to get in regard to this purchase. He can then refute our figures (which, after all, may not be far wrong) and give the public the benefit of the correct information.

In the meantime, the Minister of Commerce should pursue inquiries of his own whether certain officers now performing responsible functions in the Department—we believe that the number is under four—should continue to be in the Department. It is our belief that a great deal of acrimony and controversy may be avoided if these officers are sent to some other

Department without delay. Unless this is done, we are afraid that the affairs of the Rubber Commissioner's Department would end up in a major scandal.

M. R. A.

The art of making a mountain out of a mole-hill seems to be the *forte* of the M. R. A. The claims that this Movement makes in regard to its achievements the world over are so staggering that they take one's breath away. But if these reports are anything like the report we have published on another page of M. R. A. work done in Ceylon, they would constitute the tallest yarns the world has ever known.

The report of its work in Ceylon is a masterpiece for claiming credit for everything good that happens by merely stating that the M. R. A. did it all. Take the instance about the Kandahena Dispute. We understand on good authority that the persons who settled the Kandahena Dispute had not been under the slightest M. R. A. influence. This Buchamanite Movement was not even thought of when negotiations were in progress. It is even doubtful whether the persons who really settled the dispute saw the play "The Forgotten Factor," though it is possible some members of the Ceylon Workers Congress and the Employers Group might have seen it.

So much for Kandahena. As for the increased production on Mr. Lacey's estate it is not clear whether the increase is due to M. R. A. influence on the workers or the fact that the labour was no longer under-paid. The article also pretends that the Premier, Sir John Kotelawela, is a very ardent supporter of the M. R. A. Sir John has many accomplishments and predilections, but the M. R. A. is not one of them. The only Ceylon V. I. P. closely associated with the M. R. A. is Mr. R. E. Jayatilaka. Attention is also drawn to the fact that the article in question was published in a magazine known as "Indian Finance," and the accusation has often been made that the M. R. A. is financed by Big Business.

- A.I.C.C. FACTS
- CREPE RUBBER OIL SHIPMENTS
- RAMANAYAKE U.S.I.S.

INTIMIDATION

Sherlock Holmes tells me that certain worthy gentlemen have become perturbed about an article that appeared in the *Tribune* about two weeks ago on certain aspects of the work of the A.I.C.C. In their anxiety to stop "this sort of nonsense" they had thought it necessary to approach a very high legal dignitary to ask him whether *Tribune* could not be charged for criminal defamation under section 440 A of the Criminal Procedure Code. I am told that this legal dignitary, who has something to do with such prosecutions, told these worthy gentlemen that such action was unthinkable. Perhaps, he knew his law a little better than the gentlemen who approached him, who are themselves not quite ignorant of the law.

Incorrect

Sherlock Holmes also tells me that these gentlemen declare that the information published by the *Tribune* about a certain company that had dealings with the A.I.C.C. was incorrect. If that were the case, the proper thing to do is to write to the Editor of this paper and tell him where he has gone wrong, and I am certain that if what they say is true, the Editor will do what every newspaperman will do in such circumstances.

But the Editor tells me that the facts published are correct. But he added that further inquiries revealed that the was more to it than met the eye. Fuller information of this transaction referred to—re: from whom was the property bought? who valued the property? who made the application to the A.I.C.C.? and so on—would prove even more interesting. I do not know when the Editor will make all this information available to the public, but I am sure he will.

Public Good

In this connection I overheard certain discussions among high

dignitaries in the Government and the professions about disclosures that appear from time to time in the *Tribune*. It was the view of some of these gentlemen that such disclosures were not in the "public interest" even if the facts were correct. The argument was that such disclosures tended to weaken the confidence the public had in the Government and administration.

This is the most amazing argument I have heard. Is it in the public interest to hide and hush up scandalous acts of corruption because disclosure will hurt the administration? Doesn't public interest demand that corruption be exposed and the guilty punished? Is it not correct that only by such blood letting democracy can thrive?

If the argument of the hide and hush-up philosophers is allowed to prevail, it would mean that though government and the administration is riddled with corruption nothing should be done or said to expose such matters because "public confidence" in the government would be shaken. I do not think that any democratically-inclined person could subscribe to such a view.

The biggest danger facing the country today seems to be that a number of important people, honest and good in every respect, have succumbed to this philosophy that scandals should be hushed lest the confidence in the government be affected. It is time that these gentlemen woke up and realised that hushing up scandals and punishing those who attempted to expose these scandals constitutes a greater danger to democracy than the consequences, painful though it may be to some, flowing from such exposures.

Crepe for China

It is good to know that China is to buy crepe rubber from

Ceylon. The extension of such trade is for Ceylon's benefit. For this purpose the Rubber Commissioner has called upon Ceylonese Crepe shippers to register themselves. Old crepe shippers are to be given the opportunity of making these shipments. I understand that the notification calling upon crepe shippers to register themselves appeared in the press sometime last week. But even before the ink was dry on the advertisement, a certain firm in Colombo was buying crepe at two to three cents more than the market price. Was this a bit of clever business instinct on the part of that firm or was it the result of advance information? Trade circles assert that this firm has recently been endowed with an abundance of such business instinct? Could this new-found business acumen be in any way connected, they ask, with the fact that an official in the Department—not the high panjandram but a slightly lesser light—is often seen in the offices of this firm?

Ceylonisation of business is a good thing and must be encouraged, but it is necessary to avoid the danger of minor officials (and even not so minor officials) helping friends and others by stealing a march over others by giving them advance information.

Daily News

The affairs of the Rubber Commissioner in regard to coconut oil shipments were spotlighted in this column first. This led to a "great" conference. The *Daily News* reported this Conference in a few lines. After this, it has taken up the question of coconut oil shipments to China in a big way.

This is a happy augury. It has often happened that certain daily newspapers have refused to deal with any topic critical of certain departments of Government simply because a weekly has first referred to the matter. If the administra-

Continued on page 15

SERIOUS COMPLAINT IGNORED

Continued from page 1

The report of the Assistant Commissioner together with his full notes of inquiry were forwarded to the Controller of Labour.

Exchange Control

By letter dated August 27, 1953, the acting Controller of Labour informed the Union that "all connected papers relating to the investigations made by my assistant at Hatton have been forwarded to the Deputy Controller of Exchange. You may address all future correspondence on the matter direct to him."

On September 29, 1953, the Ceylon Workers Congress wrote to Controller of Exchange asking him what action he proposed to take in regard to the complaint. The Union also asked for a copy of the Asst. Com. of Labour's report. Three months later, on December 4, 1953, an officer of the Department signing for the Controller of Exchange replied as follows:

"We refer to your letter of the 29th September, 1953 and inform you that we are unable to furnish any information regarding the deliberations of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Hatton."

The Union, thereupon, on December 19, 1953 sent a full memorandum on the matter to the Deputy Controller of Exchange. In fact the complaint was made again that "money had been remitted in their (labourers') names to India to persons unknown to them" by the Labour Welfare Officer.

The memorandum set out that the inquiry by the Assistant Commissioner of Labour had revealed that the Labour Welfare Officer concerned had not only violated rules framed by your Department for remitting money and thereby committed statutory offences..." The memorandum also suggested that other more serious offences may emerge if a full investigation took place.

On 16th February, 1954, the Ceylon Workers Congress drew the attention of the Deputy Controller to the letter of December 19, 1953. It must be noted that several other officials, to whom copies of this correspondence had been sent, at least

had the courtesy of acknowledging receipt of the same, but the Exchange Control Department had not even bothered to do that.

To this reminder of February 16, 1954, the same officer who had signed the previous letter of December 4, 1953 replied on February 20, 1954 as follows:

"We are in receipt of your letter of the 16th instant drawing our attention to your communication of the 19th December 1953. The matter is receiving attention."

The Union heard no more about the matter, and a reminder was sent on May 15, 1954. To this reply was received dated July 16, 1954 written by the Controller himself which reads as follows.

"We write in reply to your letter of the 15th May 1954 and earlier correspondence on the above subject.

"2. As we pointed out in our letter of the 4th December 1953, the

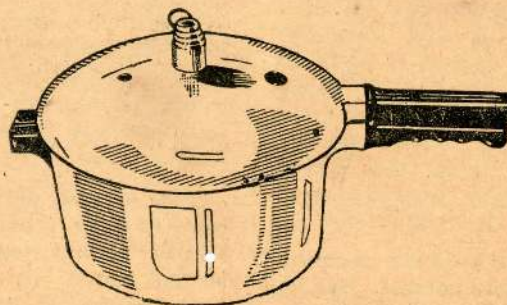
Exchange Control is unable to furnish any information regarding the deliberations of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Hatton.

"3. We have also to inform you that the Exchange Control is not aware of any remittances having been made in the names of the labourers on the above-mentioned Estate which are not for their account and at their request."

The letter from Controller is a supreme example of evasion. It refuses to recognise the inquiries held by the Agent of the Government of India and the Assistant Controller of Labour as being even worthy of investigation. Further, with no inquiry of its own, it has come to the conclusion that the Exchange Control Department is not aware of such remittances.

If the Controller of Exchange made inquiries, they must have been in great secrecy without even the complainants knowing about this matter.

PRESTO



PRESSURE COOKERS

CHOICE OF WOMEN
THE WORLD OVER!

LITTLE VANKA

By
ANTON PAVLOVICH CHEKHOV

On Christmas eve Vanka Zhukov, a boy of nine years, who had been three months ago given to cobbler Alyakhin as an apprentice did not go to bed. He waited until his master together with his family accompanied by the journeymen had gone to church to attend the matins. Then he fetched the ink-pot out of his master's cupboard, took the pen-holder with the rusty nib, smoothed a crumpled piece of paper and started writing. Ere he drew his first letter he glanced anxiously towards the door and the windows, threw a look at the dark image of the saint in the corner where the boards were fastened on which the shoemakers' lasts were stacked, and drew a deep breath. The piece of paper was in front of him on the wooden bench beside which he was kneeling. "Dear Grandfather Constantin Makarych!" he wrote. "I am writing you a letter. I wish you many a merry christmas and all the blessings of our good lord. I have neither father nor mother and you are the only person of our family left with me."

Vanka let his eye rove over the window, which was reflecting the light of the candle. Vividly he recalled how his grandfather Constantin Makarych looked, who served the rich Zhivaryov family as a night watchman. He was a small and lean but uncommonly quick and vivid man despite his sixty-five years. Forever his moist eyes of a drunkard were sparkling in his smiling face. During the day he used to sleep in the servants' kitchen, when he was not flirting with the kitchenmaids. But when darkness falls he begins to walk his beat around the farmstead, dressed in a wide coat of sheep-skins and beating a kind of wooden gong. Nosing his heels old Kashtanka is trotting. At her side young "Vyun." This "Vyun" is an extraordinarily polite and pleasant dog. But though he treats his own people and his friends with equal deference, he is by no means a popular dog. Under his polite meekness he is hiding the malicious cunning of an accomplished jesuit. No one is such an

adept in stalking you unnoticed and biting you right in the leg, or to sneak into the ice-cellar or to steal one of the farmer's chickens. More than once they had almost beaten his hind-legs to pieces, twice they had hanged him, every other week he was beaten within an inch of his death but up to now he had always managed somehow to scramble to his feet.

Sure, grandpa was at this very minute standing at the gate. He will be winking with his rheumy eyes at the brightly lit windows of the church, having a jolly chat with the servants, while he was jumping from one feltbooted leg on to the other, to keep himself from freezing. His wooden gong was fastened at his belt. He was beating his arms across his chest, cringing with cold and surely he will pinch sniggering first the chambermaid, then the fat cook.

"Let's take a pinch of snuff," he will be saying, offering the women his opened snuff-box.

The women take a pinch and sneeze. Grandpa feels almost exploding with mirth. Frenzily laughing he cries: "Hold me back, I'm am bursting, I'm dying! You never have seen such a sight!"

The dogs too are given snuff. Kashtanka sneezes, wrinkles her nose and slinks offended away. Out of sheer politeness "Vyun" does not even sneeze and only wags his tail. The weather is marvellous, the air is quiet, transparent and fresh. Though the night is dark one can see the whole of the village with its white roof tops and the soft clouds rising out of the chimneys. One can see quite distinctly the frosted trees and the great snow-heaps. The sky is covered with brilliantly blinking stars. The Milky Way stands out quite clearly, as if it had been polished up for the holy days and rubbed with snow.....

Vanka heaves a sigh, dips the pen in the ink and goes on writing: "But

yesterday they gave me a sound beating. The master dragged me on my hair across the courtyard and lashed me with his belt. And only because I had fallen asleep when I had to rock the baby in its cradle. But really, I had not meant to. And last week the master's wife had me clean a herring. And when I started at its tail she took the fish and slapped me with it across my kisser. That's how—it is with me. The journeymen are making fun of me. They are sending me to the inn to fetch them vodka and they make me steal pickled cucumbers in the master's cellar for them. And the master is beating me with everything he can lay his hands on. But decent food I do not even see. There's just bread for breakfast, porridge for dinner and in the evening we get bread again; but tea or cabbage soup is not for the like of me, the master and his folk, they are swallowing it all alone. They have me sleep on the cold stairs, and when their child is crying I don't get any sleep at all, for I shall have to rock the cradle all the night. Dear little grandpa! For the love of god, do take me away from here, bring me back home to the village.... I can't stand it any more... I kiss your hands, and I'll always pray to god that you'll take me away from her or I'll die....."

Vanka made a wry face, rubbed his eyes with his grimy fists and sobbed.

"I shall rub the tobacco for you" he continued the letter. "I'll pray to god that you come and take me with you. And if anything goes wrong you can beat me as much as you want to. And if you think there is nothing to do for me at the village, then I'll go and ask the steward. I'm sure he'll allow me to clean his boots, or I'll go in Fedkas place as a shepherd. Dear little grandpa, I wanted to run away and walk back to the village, but I have no shoes and I fear the cold. But when I'll be grown-up I'll thank you for taking me away from here. And I'll work for you

Continued on page 12

LITTLE VANKA

Continued from page 11

and keep you with me. And nobody will be allowed to do you any harm and when you die I'll pray for the salvation of your soul, just like I do for mother Pelageya.

"And Moscow is a large town. The houses are all very first-class and there are many horses too, but no sheep, and the dogs are not fierce at all. And the children do not go around now with a star and they don't let nobody come up the aisle to sing with the choir. And once I saw in a shop-window even fish-hooks, they sell them together with the lines and for every sort of fish they have a special hook. There is even one, large enough to hold a sheat-fish of a hundredweight. And I have even seen shops where they have all sorts of guns for sale, even such a gun, as our master has got. Each one is perhaps worth a hundred rubles.... And at the game-dealers there are hanging hares, and grouses and heath-cocks. But the salesmen didn't want to tell me where they were shot.

"Dear grandpa, and if the squire has a christmas tree with sweets and cakes, please get a gilded nut for me and keep it for me in the small green box. Please ask Mistress Olga Ignatyevna for it, tell her just it's for Vanka!"

Vanka caught his breath and stifled a sob. Again he looked towards the window.... He remembered that grandfather used to go every year into the woods to get a christmas-tree for the manor, and he always took his grandson with him. Ah, these were the good times! And grandfather groaned, and the trees groaned with cold, and whenever he noticed it little Vanka would groan too.. Before he felled the christmas tree grandfather used to finish his pipe, then with much ado he would take a large pinch of snuff while he would make fun of the chilled Vanka Covered with hoary frost the young firs stand immobile, waiting for the decision which of them was to die. And before you can move a limb; a hare wheezes past across the deep snow, swift as an arrow. And grandfather cannot but shout: "Hold him, hold him stop!.... Ah you bobtailed little devil!"

And grandfather drags the felled tree up to the manor, and there they start to decorate it. Mistress Olga Ignatyevna, whom Vanka loves the most, is especially clever with this work. When Vanka's mother Pelageya was still alive and working as a chamber-maid, Olga Ignatyevna fed Vanka with sugar-candy, and to kill the time she taught him to read and to write, to count up to one hundred. She even taught him to dance the quadrille. But when Pelageya died the orphaned Vanka was taken to the servants' kitchen to his grandfather and out of the kitchen they took him to Moscow to cobbler Alyakhin...

"Come to me, dear little grandpa," Vanka continued his letter, "for the love of Christ, I beg you, take me away from here. Have pity with me poor orphan child, because they all are beating me, and I would like so very much to eat something nice and I am so sick to be home again, I cannot tell you, so heavy is my heart. I am always weeping. And it is only a few days since the master has hit me with a boot tree on my head so that I fell and almost blacked out. I hardly could get on my feet again. My life here is hell and I am living worse than a dog.

"Remember me to Alyonka, to one-eyed Yegorka and to the coachman, but don't give my mouth-organ away. I am always.

your grandson Ivan Zukov

dear little grandpa, do come and take me away..... Vanka carefully folded the piece of paper and put it in an envelope he had bought last night for a copeck... Then he sat thinking for a moment, then dipped the pen in the ink and wrote the address:

To my grandfather in the village.

Then he scratched the back of his head and added:

"To Constantin Makarych."

Deeply satisfied that nobody had disturbed his writing he put his cap on his head, and clad with his shirt only he ran into the street without even bothering to put on his short fur-jacket. The servants at the butcher's when he had asked them last night had told him that one puts the letters into the letter box. And out of these bright boxes they were taken and sent all over the world by drunken coachmen on post-trioikas with jingling bells. Vanka ran up to the first letter-box he found and threw his precious letter through the slit...

Lulled by sweet hopes he soon fell asleep. In his dream he saw the large kitchen stove. And grandfather is sitting on the stove dangling his bare feet and reading the letter aloud to the kitchen maids... In front of the stove Vjun walks up and down, wagging his tail.....

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Movement Emerges

Madampe, Tuesday.

"DEMOCRACY must be saved at any cost and the danger is not from Communists but from Fascists," said Mr. Dudley Senanayake, former Prime Minister, who presided at the fifth anniversary meeting of the Galmuruwa Rural Development Society held at the Galmuruwa Rural Development Society Hall.

Guardian 25-8-54

This is the first of a Series of Articles on the Thri Sinhale Movement.

employment is on the increase. Cost of living continues to soar. Schools and hospitals are over-crowded. Housing shortage is acute as never before. There is no end in sight to the bitter controversy over the introduction of swabasha. Industrialisation of the country, which alone can diversify the economy and bring lasting prosperity, has been shelved indefinitely. There is, above all, no economic or social policy to inspire the people for action. Little wonder there is such widespread discontent throughout the country to-day.

Thri Sinhale

In the popular mind the U. N. P. is increasingly identified as a party

of bus magnates, landlords and other unscrupulous self-seeking persons, and very few people any longer entertain any hopes of ever reforming the U. N. P. Instead there is much talk everywhere of the need for a new party. But new parties, like the S. L. F. P., with the same old men, programmes and policies will merely add to the existing confusion.

It is against this background of discontent, apathy, cynicism and despair that one has to view the emergence of the Thri Sinhale Jatika Peramuna. This organisation is barely six months old. Its activities have hitherto been confined mainly to propaganda though in a few instances its supporters have resorted to direct action. From the evidence so far available it is abundantly clear that the Peramuna, far from being a broad-based national movement as its adherents claim it to be, is really conceived on narrow racial lines. Unless firm action is taken early to check the activities of this organisation, in the prevailing political climate of Ceylon, the Thri Sinhale Jatika Peramuna will soon pave the way for fascism.

On the eve of the inauguration of the Soulbury Constitution, the veteran politicians, led by the late D. S. Senanayake, hastily banded themselves together to form the U. N. P. Its ranks were soon swollen by a motley crowd of careerists and opportunists on the one hand, and landed proprietors, bus magnates and businessmen of the 'new-rich' variety on the other.

The self-interest of the members was the only cohesive force in the new party which was lacking in both a tradition and an ideology. The prestige and personality of the leader, as long as he was alive, also helped in some measure to maintain unity amongst the various elements in the party.

Illusion

The accumulated sterling balances and the boom in the commodity markets helped to create the illusion of progress during the first few years of the U. N. P. regime. With the post-Korean recession and the virtual exhaustion of the external assets, harder times set in. At the first touch of reality the U. N. P. coalition began to break up.

Unlike his predecessor, Sir John Kotelawela, a man of quick decision and firm action, was expected to work the miracle and stop the rot. But during the past few months during which Sir John has been in office the affairs of the country have gone from bad to worse. Un-

YANKEE

"It is time, therefore, that the Americans woke up to the fact that they are the most distrusted of the Western peoples in Asia. And the brash and stupid conduct of the American Public Relations Officer in Ceylon in attempting to interfere with the editorial policy of the 'Ceylon Observer' is a symptom of the disease which afflicts far too many official and political Americans. The American people had better put a more civilised set of men into their politics and public relations unless they want Asia to be confronted with the dire alternative of preferring Communism (with all its horrors) to Americanism with all its bad manners, counter jumping superiority, and anti-colonial hypocrisy."
—Stanley Morrison in the U. N. P. Journal of August 20, 1954

U. S. SCIENTISTS CONDEMN WITCH-HUNT

Continued from page 6

Question From The Floor

Meanwhile Britain's Labour MP Henry Hynd said he would formally ask in Commons on June 15 that Oppenheimer, whose "services as atomic scientist are not required by the U. S. government," be invited to Britain "to place his knowledge at the disposal of this country."

A letter-writer in the N. Y. Times had a practical question for the chairman of the AEC:

"Is Admiral Strauss going to make the next atomic bomb and not tell Oppenheimer how he did it?"

—from National Guardian, New York.

LETTER

MORALS & THE "DAILY NEWS"

Editor,
Tribune,
Sir,

The Ceylon students in London after many years of agitation have succeeded in getting a hostel for themselves. But the *Daily News* is not content and is determined to put a spanner in the works. In an editorial on 25/8 the *Daily News* gives warning of two dire dangers that beset the hostel. The one is that the hostel might become "a focal point for Communist and anti-national activity among the Ceylonese community in London". This statement does not surprise us for we are well aware of the spectre of the Red Bogey that haunts Lake House.

It is the second danger that is more interesting for the editorial says that, "there should be no room whatever for this hostel to become a convenient bed and breakfast establishment of the shadier sort, with the emphasis

on the bed...The Government and the Ceylon High Commission in London must not allow public money to be spent on an institution which helps Ceylonese to stray from the path of virtue and respectability". Since when, we would like to know, has the *Daily News* become the guardian of the morals of Ceylon students? All these platitudes about "virtue" and "respectability" sound a bit ironic, for if there is any "straying from virtuous paths" done in London, the very supporters of the Lake House press are the main offenders. We suggest that if Lake House is interested in leading a crusade against vice in London, they should begin, not by casting slurs on the morals of Ceylon students, but by investigating the "extra-curricular activities" of Ceylon V. I. P's and notabilities who visit London.

Yours Sincerely,
Vijayabahu

London, August 29, 1954.



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INTIMIDATION

Continued from page 9

tion of this country is to be cleansed of all corruption, newspapers must co-operate in an all-out effort to wipe out every manifestation of malpractice.

Ramanayake

Lake House whipped itself into a fury of excitement against Mr. Ramanayake last week. I have never seen so vicious a campaign against any particular individual in any paper in Ceylon. There was even direct provocation urging persons named and unnamed to burn Mr. Ramanayake's effigy. Editorials were written, cartoons drawn—all because Mr. Ramanayake had in the first instance joined the Left in the Mayoral Election, voted with the Left in the election of the Committees in the second and thereafter had not refused to be elected as Chairman of the Housing-Committee.

Lake House took umbrage that an architect and building contractor like Mr. Ramanayake had been elected to this post. The most libellous innuendos were cast upon Mr. Ramanayake. But what Lake House forgot was that not many years a Right Wing (U.N.P.) dominated Municipal Council had elected with approval Mr. Ramanayake as Chairman of the same Housing Committee. Lake House also forgot that for a long time Left-inclined members had endeavoured to vest the powers so far exercised by the Housing Committee in the Executive, but the Right had consistently opposed it.

What the Left did now by resolving to transfer the powers to the Commissioner was what they had attempted to do for a long time. The fact that even Right wing members also supported the resolution was undoubtedly because of the Lake House agitation against Mr. Ramanayake. Out of evil cometh good, and out of the Lake House vendetta has come a wise decision with unanimous support. But to achieve this, Lake House need not have stultified itself to the extent it did in the campaign

to lynch Mr. Ramanayake. I hope Lake House will develop the same enthusiasm against other politicians in other bodies who are where they should not be.

U. S. I. S.

The American Embassy, after much preparation has discovered the reason why the K. K. K. series published by the *Observer* are untrue. Its author, Stetson Kennedy, is a pink who has been associated with "Communist-Front organisations", it asserts. In the eyes of all thinking persons, the fact that a person was associated with a progressive or even communist supported organisation is no crime. It does not make his work any less convincing.

This is particularly so when it has been shown that the Commit-

tee for Un-American Affairs headed by McCarthy to be a most unreliable body. Recently, in certain Senate investigations it was established that McCarthy and this Committee had used faked letters and phoney photographs to smear the character of a political opponent as a "red". Furthermore, McCarthy himself is now up for investigation on charges of graft and corruption (for some reason, Ceylon papers have not given this much prominence).

In the meantime, contrary to the decisions arrived at the Asian Premiers Conference, the U.S.I.S. continues to flourish as an active anti-communist agency in this island. Every week it floods the country with literature against the policy of "non-involvement" in international power blocs, and seeks to intimidate this country into aligning itself with the administration of John Foster Dulles to wage a war against "international communism." It is time that something is done to stop this.

DOES CHINA KNOW FULL FACTS?

Continued from page 3

oil shipments to China and that by reason of this fact Ceylonisation of the coconut oil trade to China has been nullified. There is no sense in the Rubber Commissioner buying coconut oil only from Ceylonese shippers when the Ceylonese shippers are compelled to go to a non-Ceylonese firm to purchase drums for packing coconut oil.

If Ceylon could have negotiated a major Trade Pact with China whereby Ceylon sells her rubber at above the world market and bought rice at prices below the world market, how is it that in a trifling matter of the packing of coconut oil the Rubber Commissioner has been unable to get China to accept a drum that had been accepted by London and one that even today is cheaper in price than that produced by the British Ceylon Corporation Ltd. It will be interesting to find out what efforts were made by the Rubber Commissioner to convince China that the drum manufactured by the Ceylonese millers was in no way inferior to the drum manufactured by the British Ceylon Corporation Ltd. Was China given the

full facts? If he failed in his efforts, were representations made the Minister so that the matter could have been taken up at higher level? The Rubber Commissioner very well knows that the shippers, from whom he buys oil purchase the oil, from the British Ceylon Corporation Ltd. The only reason he can makeout for his not purchasing direct from the British Ceylon Corporation is the so called policy set up by him of Ceylonising the oil trade.

[To be concluded next week]

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JAYA SEKCHAR, B.A.

Modern Astrologer,
Kodambakkam - Madras, 24.

MORE ABOUT A. I. C. C.

Continued from page 1

General Investments Ltd.

Though it would be unfair and unreasonable to insist that members of a firm of lawyers representing the A.I.C.C. should be precluded from obtaining loans themselves, it will be admitted that granting such loans will cause a great deal of heart-burning among those whose applications have been rejected.

GENERAL INVESTMENTS LTD. is another case of a company very closely connected with De Silva and Mendis which successfully obtained a loan from the A.I.C.C. This company was incorporated on November 7, 1950, and its two original share-holders and directors were Mr. N. S. O. Mendis and Mrs. Mendis (Nicholena Irene Trusset Mendis). Mr. N. S. O. Mendis is partner of De Silva and Mendis.

The Company obtained a loan of Rs. 400,000 from the A.I.C.C. on bond No. 242 attested by Derrick Koch on 12.6.51 on the mortgage of a divided portion of Shakerley Estate in the Kurunegala District.

Did Not Sell

Unlike NAVAM ESTATES LTD. in regard to Mount Prospect Estate GENERAL INVESTMENTS did not sell Shakerley Estate, but it would be interesting to find out what value was attached to the divided portion that was mortgaged and what percentage of such valuation was advanced by the A.I.C.C.

GENERAL INVESTMENTS LTD. has now three additional directors (and share-holders). They are Mr. A. J. C. Fernando, Mr. Joseph Polycarp Justin Mendis and Mr. John Basil Norbert Mendis —the two latter being very close relations of Mr. N. S. O. Mendis. These three gentlemen hold one share each in the company, that being the qualifying shares for being a director. From July 1952, the address of Mr. N. S. O. Mendis in the books of the Company is c/o Messrs. Richardson & Co., 56, South Moulton Street, London.

Incidentally, it might be mentioned that Mr. John Basil Norbert Mendis was successful in floating a loan of Rs. 250,000 (Bond No. 63 executed on 2.8.51) from the Housing Loans Board on the mortgage of two plots of land in Jaya Road, Bambalapitiya. On this land he put up seven houses, all of which he has now sold or transferred. Messrs. De Silva and Mendis are also the lawyers for the Housing Loans Board.

Reverting to the A. I. C. C., it should be interesting to find out as to who passed title to that divided portion of Shakerley Estate which GENERAL INVESTMENTS mortgaged to the A.I.C.C.

Valuators

An investigation into the affairs of the A.I.C.C. must also include an examination of valuers used by the A.I.C.C. Was the panel of valuers used in respect of their areas from which they came or were particular valuers rushed about from one part of the country to another?

Was there any instance where a valuator bought a land he valued and thereafter obtained a loan from the A. I. C. C. on the mortgage of the same land. And finally, for the present, it may be worthwhile investigating whether loans had been granted to parties who had not applied in the normal course to the A. I. C. C.? Whether there are instances where say Mr. X applies for a loan on a mortgage of a piece of land called Y, and where the loan was given to Mr. Z who purchased land Y from Mr. X?

These are some of the lines on which investigation should be conducted.

U. S. AID

Mr. R. G. SENANAYAKE

On the question of aid, the hon Member for Matale raised the point that we should not get any aid with strings attached. We saw the action of Burma, not very long ago, when she tore up her Aid Agreement. She said, "We do not want aid from the United States." Why? Because one of the implied considerations for American aid was that Burma should allow Chinese Nationalist troops, to carry on the fight with the peoples' Republic of China from Burmese territory. A foreign army, which was operating in Burma, was maintaining itself on Burma's soil by ravaging that land and in return for that Burma get aid from America. Burma could not bear it any longer and asked that the troops be removed. America refused; Burma tore up the agreement. That was the type of agreement that America entered into with Burma and for that reason I say that the China Pact is a protective bulwark. It prevents us from agreeing to any agreement that will start with aid and end with a stranglehold. And for that reason. . . .

from Hansard August 2, 1954.

GOA, HEALTH CENTRE AND IRON CURTAIN

Continued from page 2

"Later, when we discussed how we should carry Rashida to Moscow, he said that they would lend her a special stretcher with an adjustable back-rest, pillows and air cushions. . . . I thanked him very warmly and requested him to let me know the charges for the excellent arrangements. The Superintendent look at Rashida and then at me and smiled—'You are in a People's Democracy, Comrade! What question can there be of payment?'"

Shibdas Banerji

August 30, 1954

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