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BACK TO SCHOOL—TO THE NEVER-NEVER LAND OF IRIYAGOLLE

With the new school year, the children are back at school. There was a time not long ago when school days were regarded as the happiest in the life of a human being. It probably still is for the very young and the innocent who do not know what is in store for them, but for most parents, particularly for parents who are aware of the blind alley that education is in Ceylon today, it is a nightmare. It is difficult enough to scramble for admission in a school near one's home. Many in the city have to buy a place with a donation that may amount to even Rs. 3,000 a child. The entire school career thereafter has to be sustained by such donations. If a parent is lucky enough however to find a place in a free government school, he will have to contend with many other pitfalls before the child reaches the be-all-and-end-all of our educational system, the GCE (Ordinary Level). To get to this point through the maze of the Iriyagolle labyrinth one needs luck more than anything else. But beggars cannot be choosers and so far as education is concerned every parent is a beggar. It is foolish to grumble, but what are parents to do? With the child back at school, they can only pray for small mercies and hope that GCE Examinations are not postponed too often.



Headlines Of The Week

FRIDAY, December 20 — All strikers in the public service who had vacated their posts for failing to comply with the Essential Service Order will have to re-apply for their jobs. The seven-year ban imposed in the foreign commercial banks to do business with Ceylonese nationals will be finally lifted in February, next year, according to a report in the *Sun*. Premier Forbes Burnham's People's National Congress scored a sweeping victory in Guyana's general elections. Prince Sihanouk announced yesterday that he had decided to release the eleven American servicemen taken into custody when their vessel strayed into Cambodian territorial waters.

SATURDAY, December 21 — The Government has decided to hand over all major construction work to the State Engineering Corporation and the PWD. Ceylon has lost Rs. 25 million in foreign exchange and an opportunity to revitalise the tea industry as a result of delay in responding to a request from Pakistan for about ten million pounds of low grown teas. One of the two Arab commandos who machine-gunned an Israeli airliner at the Athens airport last week told an investigating magistrate that he had orders to destroy the plane, but had not intended killing anyone.

SUNDAY, December 22 — All public servants who refused to heed the general strike call and remained at their posts will be given cash awards amounting to Rs. 50 in addition to other benefits. America's Apollo eight astronauts darted out of earth orbit and headed for the moon.

MONDAY, December 23 — A UN expert on physical planning is to advise the Colombo Municipal Council on the planned development of the City. The Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake will leave for London to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference and will be away till January 18. Russia has agreed to step up economic co-operation with Czechoslovakia under which the Soviet Government has decided to increase shipment of goods in 1969 in order to improve the balance of payments in hard currencies. The National Council for Higher Education has decided to introduce correspondence courses from the beginning of next year for students who have reached the qualifying standards for admission to the four Universities but have been rejected for want of accommodation. Pope Paul has announced a new synod of bishops next year to discuss problems within the Roman Catholic Church.

TUESDAY, December 24 — The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, Dr. Gamani Corea, said at a press conference that in the new year every Ministry and Department would have to prepare a full implementation programme for that year. The Soviet Union wished the Apollo eight astronauts a successful flight to the moon and paid tribute to the courage of the three spacemen.

WEDNESDAY, December 25 — The death occurred yesterday of Mr. P. Sri Skanda Rajah, retired Puisne Justice, at the age of sixty two. Christmas was celebrated throughout the island on a merry scale. The US Military Command reported that the Vietcong had broken their self-imposed Christmas ceasefire with two mortar attacks on Government positions.

THURSDAY, December 26 — Baton-waving police burst into St. James' Roman Catholic Church in Jaffna and indiscriminately assaulted several worshippers. The Apollo eight astronauts are on their way back after orbiting the moon ten times.

FRIDAY, December 27 — The Prime Minister yesterday directed his Permanent Secretary, Mr. G. V. P. Samarasinghe, to have the Christmas incident at St. James' Church fully investigated by an outside authority. Eight persons were killed in acts of violence on Christmas Day. Twenty eight women and children were burned alive in a clash between communists and non-communist peasants in a village in the Tanjore district of Madras state last night. Three Soviet scientists lived alone for a year in a small cabin on water distilled from their own urine and dehydrated food.

SATURDAY, December 28 — Ten Industrial Corporations earned a profit of Rs. 27,509,365 during the financial year 1967/68 on Rs. 370,668,638 capital employed for production, but four Corporations recorded a loss of Rs. 7,952,834 for the same period. Work has already started on the formulation of the new Six Year Agriculture Development Proposals which come into operation in 1971. The three astronauts of Apollo eight returned to earth safely. Two Arab commandos sprayed an Israeli Boeing 707 airliner with machine gun fire as it stood on the airport tarmac in Athens killing one passenger and injuring an air hostess.

SUNDAY, December 29 — A Special Committee has been appointed to keep under constant review the demurrage incurred by Government departments and Corporations that charter ships. The Government of Denmark yesterday granted Ceylon a Rs. 16 million interest free loan repayable in sixteen years. Radio Peking announced that China had successfully conducted a hydrogen bomb test over the western region. Premier Cernik and his Cabinet yesterday resigned to pave the way for the formulation of a new government under the federalisation of Czechoslovakia which come into effect on January first.

MONDAY, December 30 — An Assistant Superintendent of Police and three Inspectors were interdicted from duty following the St. James' Church incident. Israeli commandos struck a cirppling blow at the international airport at Beirut in a daring new reprisal raid deep into Arab territory.

Headlines Of The Week

TUESDAY, December 31 — Ceylon will take a hard line at the third FAO sponsored International Tea Conference, pressing for some kind of international agreement to safeguard producers. Thirty five thousand settlers in Colonisation Schemes and their one hundred and forty thousand dependents will receive food assistance for a period of over five years under the World Food Programme. Egypt said that the Israeli commando raid on Beirut airport was a real act of war.

WEDNESDAY, January 1 — In an exclusive interview with the *Daily News* the Prime Minister expressed high hopes for the nation's future with the emphasis on development and improved living. Certain categories of prisoners who lose their jobs on being sentenced to jail in future will be able to resume employment in the same jobs at the expiry of their sentences. Queen Elizabeth named Sir Learie Constantine—the West Indian cricketer-turned diplomat—as the first non-white to be made a British peer in fifty years. President Ayub Khan has expressed willingness to compromise with his political opponents.

THURSDAY, January 2 — St. James' Church, which remained closed after the Christmas incident was re-opened for worship after a purification ceremony. Over one hundred and twenty men, women and children were admitted to the Accident Service of the General Hospital who had been burnt by fireworks and others injured in drunken brawls. Israel warned that she would take all necessary steps to ensure her survival and would not be swayed by outside interference. This was immediately after the Security Council had unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Israeli commando strike at Beirut airport.

FRIDAY, January 3 — The *Daily News* reported that export earnings of Rs. 2,000 million were expected this year and the foreign exchange budget for 1969 would be based on this forecast. The Chinese trade delegation held its first meeting with Ceylon's Minister of Agriculture and Food and officials of the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Commerce and Trade. Two names have so far been received by the National Council of Higher Education for nomination for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Vidyalandara University. The Soviet Union is reported to be making an attempt to enlist Britain in a fourpower initiative to bring peace to the Middle East. At least fifty eight people died in a severe cold wave that has swept Northern India.

SATURDAY, January 4 — The Working Committee of the Federal Party yesterday decided to drop their attempts to merger with the All Ceylon Tamil Congress to elect a Mayor for Jaffna next week. When he addressed heads of all local bodies at a conference at Temple Trees yesterday the Prime Minister said that all political parties must get together for the development

of the country. According to the latest figures of unemployment assessed by the Employment Exchanges in all parts of the island, there are two million unemployed. Rubber-Rice talks between Ceylon and China entered the hard-bargaining stage today. Six trade union officials of the Post and Telecommunications Department have been interdicted for allegedly inciting others to strike after the promulgation of the Essential Services Order. The Australian Prime Minister said that Australia would maintain army, naval and airforces in the Malaysia, Singapore area until the end of 1971. In Kuala Lumpur the Malaysian Prime Minister welcomed the Australian Prime Minister's announcement.

SUNDAY, January 5 — The Prime Minister explained at Katunayake this morning to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London. A Ceylonese planter has developed a new variety of instant tea known as tabloid tea. The Minister of Health has decided not to re-employ medical officers who have given up government service. Many traders have closed shop and adopted a 'wait and see' attitude to new government regulations designed to put some retail business into the hands of the Zambians. The Apollo 9 spacecraft which will carry three American astronauts on a ten day orbit on the earth in rehearsal for a moon landing has been placed on its launching pad.

MONDAY, January 6 — The *Daily Mirror* reported that an appeal made by the Lanka Samasamaja Party to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party to concede more seats at the next parliamentary general elections has been flatly refused by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike. The Acting Head of Government, Mr. J. R. Jayawardena, has informed his ministerial colleagues that a decision on the interim salary increase proposal has to await the return of the Prime Minister to the island. The Minister of Education, Mr. I. M. R. A. Iriyagolle, has been assured by his officials that the standard of English would be restored to the 1940 level. The *Daily Mirror* reported that Ceylon would buy rice from China at £ 52 a ton and that this price had been decided at the talks held between the Chinese trade delegation and the Ceylon Government officials yesterday. The Cabinet yesterday decided to ban non-Ceylonese from importing pulses and other subsidiary foodstuffs. Fourteen more trade union leaders who participated in the November 28th general strike were interdicted yesterday on charge of inciting members of their unions to strike after the service in which they were employed were declared essential services. Last year the Ceylon Transport Board had an overall accident rate of approximately three accidents to every 100,000 miles it covered, and of every three accidents the CTB was culpable in one according to Police classifications. Racial questions are expected to dominate and embitter the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. Minor skirmishes between Government troops and rebel ranchers continued in Guyana's Rupuni hinterland.

In Retrospect

- ★ New Year Promises
- ★ Teenage Vote & Unemployment
- ★ SLFP—LSSP Confrontation
- ★ Rubber & Rice—Pact

IT IS CUSTOMARY for every Government in power in this country to make promises and resolutions with the dawn of every new year. But, as a matter of fact, these are invariably unkept and various reasons and excuses are trotted out. More often than not, the failure is all explained away in one simple sentence — due to circumstances beyond our control.

The National Government of Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake means to keep its promises it made when it was elected to power in March 1965, there is not the slightest doubt. The Government itself realises the its very survival wholly depends on its being able to deliver the goods to the people. But, how many of its promises will be fulfilled is, of course, a moot point.

Judging from pro-Government newspaper reports, it would appear that the National Government will go all out to make the new year a really prosperous one. The go-getter Minister of Local Government, Mr. R. Premadasa, has said that the Government would not be satisfied with mere propaganda alone and its aim would be to prove to the people that the confidence reposed by them in the Prime Minister and his Government had not been in vain.

Government's economic planners whose expectations often go awry, are optimistic that the policies initiated by the Government during the last four years would culminate in significant economic achievements before the year ended. The *Sun* quoted Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs sources as fore-

casting a phenomenal increase of nearly seven percent in the Gross National Product before the year ended and that this spectacular increase would be achieved as a result of the gains on the food production front and the foreign assistance that had been negotiated by the Government from a number of friendly countries.

The *Daily Mirror* has never been grudging in heaping praise on the Prime Minister for spearheading a vigorous grow more food campaign. Whilst paying tribute to him, its truck a discordant note in its editorial comment when it said that 1968 left its imprint as the costliest year in recent times, and characterised the past year as an year of promise. At the same time, however, the paper expressed the hope that in 1969 the Government would stride forward towards the goal of making Ceylon the island paradise it should be.

The Opposition, for its part, does not seem to think that the National Government would be able to redeem its election pledges. From the *Daily Mirror* report it would seem that it is planning to concentrate its fire on exposing its failure during the current year. That it will have ample ammunition to fire at the Government there is, of course, not the slightest doubt.

IN RECENT TIMES there has been considerable speculation in political quarters that the Prime Minister might decide to hold a snap general election during the middle of the year. Not to be caught napping, all political parties have decided to intensify their activity, particularly among the

youth, who will be a force to be reckoned with in tilting the scales in favour of either the United National Party or the Coalition.

The *Daily Mirror* reported that all parties would make a determined bid to win over the teenagers who had voting rights as they felt that the teenage vote will be a decisive factor in any future parliamentary election. In a statement to the paper the President of the UNP Youth League, Mr. Dennis Fernando, said that the Prime Minister had always exerted himself to gain for the party the sympathies of the of the youth. The President of the SLFP Youth League, Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalle, in a statement said that the Opposition would exploit to the full the present plight of the educated unemployed youth for whom the UNP had pledged to give jobs at the last General Elections.

If the past is any guide, it is certainly difficult to see how the problem of unemployment among the educated youth will be solved during the current year when the problem has already begun to snowball into unmanageable proportions. In this connection, the *Times of Ceylon* reported that according to officials of the National Council of Higher Education unemployment among graduates would be well over ten thousand within the next few months. A report in the *Daily Mirror* said that according to the latest figures assessed by the Employment Exchanges in all parts of the island, there were two million unemployed.

AS IN THE PAST, the pro-Government newspapers are sparing no pains to wreck the unity of the Coalition by publishing reports that all is not well within its ranks and that it is being torn asunder by warring factions and groups. How far these reports are true it is difficult to say, but one fact that cannot go unnoticed is that every time that the *Times of Ceylon* publishes stories about rifts and bickerings within the Coalition it departs from the practice in not

publishing the name of the reporter, as it does in the case of other stories. The omission gives one the impression that they are inspired accounts.

Be that as it may, The *Times of Ceylon* on 7/1 published a report that Mrs. Bandaranaike had assured SLFP Members of Parliament whom she had entertained for lunch that she would give them an opportunity to say what they had to say to the LSSP and that she had also told them that they must not fight shy of making allegations against the LSSP who would be present at the meeting. It would indeed be interesting to see what the *Times of Ceylon* will then have to say.

LAST WEEK the Rubber-Rice Pact between Ceylon and China was signed in Colombo. Under which China will provide two hundred thousand metric tons of rice and Ceylon will supply twenty thousand metric tons of rubber. What is somewhat strange is that earlier the Government had indicated several weeks in advance that it wanted to buy only one hundred and fifty thousand tons for the current year because of the increase in local production of rice. The decision to buy two hundred thousand tons of rice is on the ground that China had reduced the price quoted earlier and that the Government had grabbed the offer because the price agreed to by the Chinese was much less than the prevailing world market price for rice.

Whilst being on the subject of food, it has been reported that the World Bank Mission that visited Ceylon to study and report on conditions here for the Aid Consortium meeting in March has paid a warm tribute to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Planning Committees for the measures that have been taken to minitor the various development projects.

Political Balance Sheet

UNP And Government Get Stronger In 1968 In Spite Of Major Difficulties: Opposition's Weak Propaganda And Academic Slogans

IT IS difficult to look back over the immediate past and evaluate the significance of events and make prognostications thereon about the future. History is best written twenty or twenty five years after, but it is worthwhile and rewarding to pick out from the year that has just ended what may be considered the pointers to the future from a crowded conglomeration of events and happenings.

The year 1968 had a great deal crowded into it even in the little island of Ceylon. In the world at large a great deal more had taken place and some of the events have had a major impact on this country. No major reference will be made in this article to international events which have affected political history in Ceylon, because this is only an attempt to look at everything from the strictly Ceylon angle.

The most striking feature of 1968 is the fact that the National Government of Mr. Dudley Senanayake has come through 1968 with flying colours surviving many difficulties stemming from external as well as internal causes. Apart from the world-wide imbalances caused by the further corroding of the capitalist international monetary system, Mr. Senanayake had to face the defection of one of the major partners of the National Government, viz the Federal Party. Both events have left scars and sores, but strangely enough, the Government has emerged in a slightly stronger position than at the beginning of the year. Mr. Dudley Senanayake has himself

strengthened his position *vis a vis* the UNP, the National Government and even the country as a whole. He now feels strong enough, for instance, to entrust the affairs of the country to Mr. J. R. Jayawardena when he leaves the island, unlike in the two previous years when there was a major cloud of suspicion between them and Mr. Senanayake was reluctant either to leave the country even for short spells or entrust many of the departments under him to Mr. Jayawardena when he did have to go out of the island.

THIS strengthening of the UNP and the National Government, in a year of great stress and strain, is undoubtedly a testimony to the political acumen of the Prime Minister who has mobilised all his supporters and in particular the three big groups publishing daily papers into a viable front to help him and his government to score over the Opposition which has tended to take defensive and apologetic attitudes on many of the issues before the country. The Opposition has also virtually put its Common Programme, which was signed with great gusto on the astrologically auspicious date of March 28, into cold storage and based its political propaganda on spotlighting the difficulties facing the country and attributing all of them to the UNP and the Government. In sharp contrast, the PM and the daily press backing him have concentrated on boosting the Food Drive and the availability of goods from local industries as well on the FEECs imports.

The Government had begun the year 1968 with a narrow victory in the Nattandiya-by-election on Jan. 5; in which Mr. Hugh Fernando had been elected by the skin of his teeth. This narrow majority in a predominantly Catholic electorate had made many in the Opposition feel that the marginal vote and the Catholic minority were swinging round to the SLFP. The victory of the SLFP-inspired ISF candidate in Kalmunai over the FP nominee, who was backed by the UNP, on February 18th, made the Opposition beat its big drums that the tide was running strongly in favour of the anti-UNP forces. It was in this mood of exultation that the Common Programme, which had been delayed for a long time, was signed at a mammoth rally in Kandy on March 28, but apart from signing the Programme, very little has been done to popularise it or to explain its implications to the people in concrete terms in respect of the different problems confronting the people. The Common Programme has brought the SLFP, LSSP and the CP into an uneasy front, and as to how uneasy it is can be gauged by the fact that when an international issue like the Czech crisis broke upon the world, the Opposition coalition very nearly broke up.

THE PEKING-INSPIRED CP is out of this Opposition Coalition, and in anticipation of this S. D. Bandaranaike broke away from the SLFP proclaiming that he would represent the Peking Communists in Parliament. The SLFP formally expelled S. D. Bandaranaike on March 13, fifteen days before the Common Programme was signed. Two months after the Common Programme was signed, R. G. Senanayake was expelled from the SLFP for being critical of the alliance with the LSSP and the CP. This was on June 4th. R. G. Senanayake has now formed the Sinhala Mahajana Pakshaya, and there are strong reasons to believe that a sizable section of the SLFP ultras would tend to gravitate towards R. G. in any critical situation. There is very deep

opposition among a section of the SLFP hierarchy to continuing the Common Programme Coalition (they want no more than a no-contest pact), and it would need all of Mrs. Bandaranaike's tact and deft handling to prevent influential sections of the SLFP from joining hands with R. G.

THE DEFEAT of the LSSP candidate in the Balapitiya by-election on December 17 constituted the first gain of the UNP and the Government in any by-election. This was also a seat which the SLFP had conceded to the LSSP and the way that the SLFP handled the campaign (in a very sectarian manner) has strengthened the hands of the anti-coalitionists within the SLFP. But the leadership of the SLFP had also blundered badly in the Welimada by-election not merely in the choice of the candidate but also in the way that the campaign was conducted — with the result that it was impossible for the LSSP to capture Balapitiya. The victory of the Government candidates in Balapitiya and Welimada towards the end of 1968 has provided a big propaganda boost for the government and the UNP. It is claimed that the run of Oppositi,n victories in by-elections and the swing towards the Opposition has been effectively checked. Government propaganda claimed that this was mainly due to the success of its Food Drive and the improving situation in the economic front. It is yet too early to say whether this claim is justified because in the local elections which are now taking place the UNP and the SLFP seem to be having the same kind of support they had in 1965.

There does not as yet seem to be a major swing either to the SLFP or the UNP — judging by the results of the local government elections. With a shift here and there in favour of one or the other side in particular areas owing to particular causes, the strength of the UNP and the SLFP in the Sinhalese areas seems to remain the same. There does not seem to be any decisive swing of the

marginal vote towards one side or the other. Neither, R.G.'s Sinhala Mahajana Pakshaya nor S. D. Bandaranaike's Peking-wingers have come into the local elections and it is difficult to say what impact they will have on the General Elections. Whilst it is almost certain that the SMP will contest the General Elections in a big way, it is likely that S. D. Bandaranaike group will seek to function through the SLFP.

THE ROLE and function of R. G.'s party must be viewed in the context of a continuing and persistent demand from a section of Buddhist clergy and ultra-Sinhala Only elements that the UNP and the SLFP should merge to constitute a Sinhala Party which can win over 75% of the seats and thereby not be dependent on the Tamils or the other minorities, racial, religious or even political, to form a Government. RG's SMP will most likely field candidates in all seats where there are UNP or SLFP candidates who favour political collaboration with the minorities.

The political logic in favour of a UNP-SLFP merger to form a Sinhala Only Party has been set out in many places but nothing more succinctly has been stated than in an article in the *Observer* of November 19, 1968 by the Ven. Madihe Pannaseeha Maha Nayake Thero entitled "Some Lessons of Recent History — How We Make Enemies of the Opposition"

This well-known Buddhist priest whose name has often figured in political affairs, emphasised in the article that in countries like the United States the Government and the Opposition displayed bipartisan collaboration which was beneficial to the nation. He wanted something similar to this on a pan-Sinhala basis in this country as between the UNP and SLFP—admittedly to minimise the influence of the minorities, particularly the Tamils, but incidentally the Muslims, Catholics and even the political minorities of the Left like the LSSP and the CP.

The logic of the prelate's political thesis is worth quoting *in extenso*:

".....In our country there is so much personal animosity during elections that often rivals do not even look at each other in a tolerant manner let alone meet on friendly terms within a fortnight. If this attitude continues, the Sinhala nation will soon be no more. In America there are only two main political parties. Yet they talk about the need for unifying the nation and act accordingly. In our country there are at least eleven parties — the 'Hath Havula', the 'Thun Havula' and the new party. Despite these many divisions which must inevitably lead to the degeneration of the nation, it does not look as if anyone has felt the need for unity. Both Coalitions claim to be working for national unity and call themselves United Fronts. But so long as the Sinhalese people are divided, how can there be any talk of national unity or united fronts.

"The political disunity among the Sinhalese in this country is not a secret. That is why the Tamils openly proclaim that without their help it is not possible to govern. Meanwhile, the Sinhalese parties have accused each other of secret agreements with the Tamils. The political parties are already getting ready for the next general election. The UNP, the SLFP-LSSP-CP United Front, Sinhala Mahajana Paksaya, the Tamil Congress and the Federal Party will be the main parties contesting the elections. The Muslims will join all these five parties.

"As things are, each of the three Sinhala parties is confident that it will gain a sufficient number of seats to form a government on its own. Any party will have to gain at least 75 seats in order to form a government alone.

"When one considers the disunity among the Sinhalese, it seems very unlikely that any of the Sinhalese parties would be able to gain that required number of seats.

Thus, whichever party wins the largest number of seats will have to run after the Tamils for support to form a government. The Tamils are well aware of this situation. They will no longer enter into secret agreements. Instead, they will openly lay down their conditions.

"In order to save the nation from this recurrent crisis here are some suggestions.

"If a Sinhala party is unable to gain 75 seats at the next election, the party that wins the largest number of seats should ask the support of the other Sinhala parties. An agreement could be reached before the election pledging such support. If the Maha Sangha and the Sinhalese people demand this pledge throughout the country, the political parties will have to accede to public opinion. Such an arrangement would not upset their individual campaign plans for the election. It would also not prevent voters from voting for the party of their choice.

"The next question would be the manner in which two parties could form a government. Here is the answer: The leader of the party which has the larger number of seats could be the Prime Minister, while the leader of the party next in line becomes the Leader of the House.

"Ministers and Junior Ministers could be appointed in proportion to the number of seats gained by each party. The leaders of the parties could jointly pick persons for these posts. If Tamil candidates are also willing to come in, they may be taken in without conditions. The rest will form the opposition.

"A problem may arise on the programme of work to be handled by such a government. It may be possible, at the time formulating their election manifestos for a few individuals with a knowledge of politics as well as the needs of the nation to formulate a common programme of work. I wish to appeal to the Maha Sangha, the

numerous associations and organisations and the Sinhalese people to consider these proposals with the utmost care and help build up public opinion throughout the country in order to get our political parties to accept such a course of action".

THE IMPORTANCE of the minorities — racial, religious and political — at a General Elections is now realised by all political parties. In 1956 and 1960 (March and July), the UNP went it alone, and did not go very far. In March 1965, the UNP fought the Elections as a Coalition with racial (Tamils), religious (Muslims and Catholics) and political (MEP, SLFSP) minorities, and scored a decisive victory over the SLFP which went into the fray only with political minorities (LSSP and CP) as allies after having alienated the support and sympathy of the Muslims, Tamils and the Catholics.

With the approach of the General Elections, the SLFP hierarchy is becoming increasingly worried about minorities. The SLFP stands very far from the Tamils at the moment, but has been wooing with some success the Muslims and the Catholics. Mrs. Bandaranaike is firm in waiting to keep the alliance with the LSSP and the CP. But there are sections within the SLFP which think that the majority of the Catholics and the Muslims would be hard to win over having the "Marxists" with them — but more than this they want the SLFP to go it alone to win over the marginal Sinhala vote which today seems to be veering towards the UNP.

Not many seem to realise that the strength of the UNP has increased in the Sinhala rural areas after the FP quit the Government. With the break-up between the UNP and the FP, the most effective and widely used political slogan of the SLFP and Opposition had used in the by-elections since 1965 has become useless. The SLFP had used the cry that the UNP was wedded to the FP on racial

and communal lines, whilst the CP and LSSP had used it with a major flavouring of left terminology (that it was a partnership of "reactionaries", etc. etc). The increased majorities scored by the UNP and the National Government in Balapitiya and Welimada was no doubt due to the fact that the Opposition could not anymore use the "Masalavadai" slogan even in the most disguised form.

Though the FP has osetensibly gone into the wilderness, there is no doubt that it is still a more powerful force among the Tamils than the Tamil Congress. The failure of the FP to get anything substantial from the National Government (either in language or regional autonomy) has no doubt reduced its popular standing among the Tamils, but the Tamil Congress cannot hope to displace it. There is too much suspicion about the TC as being a party that will stooge for the Sinhalese. This situation may bring an upsurge of "Independents" among Tamils seeking election, but it would appear that the FP will continue to hold its own.

Just as there are elements among the Sinhalese who want the UNP and the SLFP to merge, there are Tamil VIPs who want the FP and the TC to combine. This is as unlikely to take place, at the present juncture, as a merger between the UNP and the SLFP. As long as the present leaders are at the helm of affairs in the FP and the TC, and in the UNP and the SLFP, a merger of either set of parties is not likely to take place, but what the position will be if there is a change of leadership or even a major shift in the leadership is hard to forecast.

EVERY PARTY is now getting ready for the elections. In the forties and early fifties everybody wanted to "go it alone", but S.W. R.D. Bandaranaike changed the concept of electioneering with his no-contest pact with political parties and other minorities. The UNP adopted this same tactic in the 1965 elections, and the main parties now

realise that elections are won or lost on the basis of the allies one is able to mobilise.

The greatest weakness of the Opposition is its lack of a well-organised propaganda machine. The big bourgeois newspaper combines will naturally tend to support the UNP, but in the context of Ceylon politics the SLFP and other Opposition Parties can obtain adequate coverage and even support from the big daily papers — because, more than anything else, they want circulation. Having the popular support of very nearly half the voters of this country, the Opposition forces can easily push the big dailies to a position of complete neutrality.

But, the Opposition is heavy-handed in the way it deals with the press. Nor have Opposition Parties developed daily or weekly papers which has a national mass appeal. They have so far been unable to get over their sectarian inhibitions in the matter of propaganda. The Opposition is therefore unable to obtain the maximum benefits from the many acts of commission and omission of the Government which help the Opposition politically,

Unemployment is increasing by leaps and bounds, the cost of living is spiralling to dizzy heights daily, and there is complete disillusionment among many sections of the population about the Government. But the Opposition is not able to exploit the situation because its propaganda is weak and has so far not offered any concrete alternative programme except the remote and academic slogans of the Common Programme.

If the UNP and the National Government has emerged stronger in the course of 1968, it is because the SLFP and the Opposition Parties have left matters slide by default. They have placed themselves in such a position that they are unable to woo the Tamils and the FP—both of them had supported the SLFP in 1956 and 1960 — and have thus been unable to make political capital of the FP-UNP break.

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DISEASE-RESISTANT RICE

Moscow

That nutritious foodstuff, rice, is "attacked" by over 50 weeds and pests species. However, standard pest and disease control techniques are not always applicable to rice which is grown on flooded fields. The plant protection laboratory of the rice research institute in Uzbekistan has experimented with coating rice seeds with a mixture of pest control chemicals. On hardening, the mixture reliably protected seeds from pests and imparted seeds an elongated form ideally suited for machine drilling. The laboratory has tried 15 different combinations of protective chemicals. Some of them boost the germinating capacity of seeds from 50 to 96 per cent. Tests which continued for two years have shown that the coating heals rice from almost all diseases until tillering, after which usual protection techniques could be used. In 1969 the institute will plant coated seeds on a big area.

MINERAL SOURCE IN... THE POCKET

The source of the world famous Borzhomi water can be "carried" about in the pocket. A corresponding member of the Georgian Academy of Sciences Dmitri Eristavi and production engineer Shota K'ululashvili converted "Borzhomi" into a powder. A couple of tablets dissolved in soda water are enough to obtain a bottleful of curative drink. The dry "Borzhomi" fully retains the salt composition and medicinal properties of natural mineral water.

Paradox Of The Century

Technical Aid In Reverse: From Underdeveloped To Developed Countries

IT has been estimated that 1,200 medical men emigrate each year from Africa to the United States, half of them from the lesser developed countries. This is technical assistance in reverse, and its dollar value is high.

No country seems to know exactly how many of its nationals go abroad to study and fail to return home, but there is no doubt that the number is considerable. An African medical expert has recently declared: "This outflow, which deprives the countries of Africa of key personnel, often in substantial numbers, as fast as they are trained, is one of the great paradoxes of the twentieth century. No amount of outside aid can possibly replace this loss of national life-blood. As long as health workers take the easy way out and desert their national health services, often for no other reason than the poverty of their home countries, we have no right to speak of progress towards peace in tomorrow's world or to expect miracles from any form of aid, however massive or from whatsoever source'.

What is the situation at the present time? There are eleven medical schools in eight countries of Middle Africa. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria and Uganda these schools were set up before independence. Since then others have appeared in Ivory Coast, Kwanda and Tanzania. New ones are now planned in Cameroon and Kenya.

In Asia and Latin America, there is hardly any country of more than three million population that does not have a medical school. In the African region there are still nine such countries without a medical school, and seven of these as yet have no plans for setting up one.

In the eleven medical schools now functioning, a total of 170 African students were expected to terminate their studies in 1967 and by 1970 the total yearly output should be around 400 graduates. How inadequate this is can be seen from the following calculation: The population of the African region now

approximately 200 million, is increasing at a rate of 2 per cent or about 4 million a year. If at least one doctor is needed for 10,000 people 400 new graduates are required each year simply to keep pace with the normal increase in population. In medical training, the countries of Africa have to run in order to remain in the same place.

—From *World Health*



WHAT WORDS INSPIRE

By Arul Manuel

The Economic Journal is in revolt
Over Capital Out-put Ratio,
It will call the bureaucrats' bluff, it says,
To hide over-expenditure.
Strong words, that make us pause and think,
They give it headlines one inch thick;
They'll never say die, but battle swift
They'll join, with the Public Sector.

Of capital formation, this they'll say,
They'll quote the rate at such per cent,
The growth, they'll grant, is really great,
But the waste, o shucks, will shake your guts.
If there's naught they can do quite right just now,
It just isn't fair to twist their tail,
It's great the way they play the game,
O, do give them a real fair try.

When all is said and done and writ,
It takes a-many to make the world,
Of hews and shapes and sizes all,
Of brains, both big and round and small.
If the world were to go on smoothly by,
And the £ and the rupee to behave themselves,
And cash did buy what buy it ought,
Then we'd bend our heads and weep and cry.

For who wants the world to go smoothly on?
It'll put the newspapers out of joint,
There'll be no sale for fish and chips,
But a surfeit of food, so rich, you'd die.
So let's just live the way we do,
From crisis to crisis with calms a'tween,
It's just what is the spice of life,
It is what makes our b'm'n' heart tick.

How Long Should Life Last ?

Way To Live Longer—Alternate Mental And Physical Work

The point of view of Professor Georgi Speransky, member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the Soviet Union. Professor Speransky himself is over 95, and still very active.

WE ARE granted life on one, obligatory condition: we must defend that life every single day. Defending it, we must remember that a process of "self-incineration", is taking place all the time in our bodies. As some substances are destroyed, others take their place. The human organism is not a machine subject to gradual wear and tear, at a rate that may be calculated by special formulae.

Young men have died with all the signs of senile decay, while other men — Goethe, Tolstoy, Repin and Pavlov for example — have been working just as vigorously in their eighties as in their youth.

Such men, however, have all known how to rest completely after work, alternating mental and muscular activity. This alternation recharges the batteries of the cortex from the centres newly brought into operation.

We all know people of whom it is said that they "burn themselves up" by work. Many valuable people have died young, merely because they haven't learnt how to alternate mental and physical work — because of a scornful attitude to physical exercise.

Physical exercises are not just a pastime. Five minutes spent on them in the morning are a profitable investment. And — even if you are in your sixties or seventies — it is never too late to begin gymnastic exercises.

But you must first consult a doctor!

WHEN Louis Pasteur was 46, he was paralysed by a stroke. Meditating over his condition, he concluded that it was due to intensive mental work attended by complete physical inactivity.

And so, to overcome his disease, he established a strict regime for himself and commenced systematic physical exercises. He lived almost thirty years longer — and never again experienced any recurrence of the disease.

All his most outstanding discoveries, by the way, were made in that period. How long should man live according to Nature's plan? Science is still unable to explain the long lives of some plants and animals.

The American sequoia lives for about a thousand years. Turtles are allotted 300 years, while whales come out of the water to die at the age of 400. But why?

The answer, no doubt, will also answer another question: what is old age? Individual longevity depends on individual conditions of life. Material welfare, condition of work and recreation, health services domestic cultural habits — all these are factors.

Our country has succeeded in raising the average life-span from 32 years in 1913 to 70 in 1968. By 1926, it was 44.3; in 1959 already 68. And today's 70 years promises 100 tomorrow.

And then:.....?

It is not secret that shorter hours of work, improved housing, a higher cultural level, elimination of illiteracy, and fuller satisfaction of ma-

terial and mental requirements are the basis of human longevity.

But longevity lies in activity.

Balanced stress and constant training help all living organisms. Recently a series of experiments was performed on white mice. The mice were forced to climb up a pole.

Then, after a period of training they were exposed to lethal doses of radiation. The trained mice survived, the untrained mice died.

Are there any secrets in this? Yes, there are. Oxygen metabolism! Oxygen, the source of life "works" more efficiently in the trained body.

Iceland

Devaluation Of Currency: Decline In Price of Fish

ON NOVEMBER 11 the Central Bank of Iceland announced a 35.2 per cent devaluation of the crown, and the following day the Althing decided after a four-hour debate to apply for entry into the European Free Trade Association. By these emergency measures the country's ruling circles hope to extricate the economy from its present straits.

Iceland's economy is pivoted on fish. The bulk of her labour force is engaged in fishing and fish-processing, which account for 90 per cent of her exports. In 1967, however, the catch dropped considerably below the level of preceding years with unemployment as a result. And this year's catch so far amounts to only one-quarter of last year's.

The second reason for Iceland's economic plight is the decline in the prices of fish and fish products on the world markets. According to data released by the Central Bank, the value of the country's exports has

dropped by 45 per cent as compared with 1966, and foreign currency earnings by 55 per cent. In recent years Peruvian competition has been squeezing Icelandic exporters from the American markets. And the Nigerian market has been lost because of the war in that country.

The decline in exports and earnings has placed Iceland in a critical position. The living standards is falling. In 1967 real earnings per capita went down by 7 per cent, and the trend has continued this year. With fish-processing enterprises closing down, the prospect is one of growing unemployment.

When the British pound was devalued last year, Iceland announced a 25 per cent devaluation of her crown. The present devaluation is of a more serious order. The government hopes to improve the payments situation by reducing imports and stimulating exports, in particular to the EFTA countries,

with which 40 per cent of Iceland's foreign trade is conducted.

So far no one in Iceland will venture to forecast what the future will bring. What is clear, however, is that the economic difficulties will hit the working people the hardest. Prime Minister Benediktsson has already announced in the Althing that the government proposes to introduce a wage freeze. The trade unions, naturally, are strongly opposed.

In view of this the two opposition parties — the Progressive Party and the People's Union — have refused to support the government measures, leaving the ruling coalition — the Conservatives and Social Democrats — to bear full responsibility. Fourteen MPs voted against association with EFTA. While the debate was going on, a protest demonstration against government policy was held outside the parliament building.

A. Antonov

whatever rate could be agreed upon individually.

Unlike last year the Marxists did not prevent migrant labour being hired for harvesting. Police protection was given to the labourers and the landowners. As a result, both harvest and procurement took place under police protection. The landowners were anxious to sell the produce without delay.

For the Government, things could not have gone better. Faced with rice shortage due to the failure of the first monsoon as also a decrease in paddy acreage because of unattractive prices, easy procurement proved a blessing. The 'unrest' is confined to a few hundred areas, while on the remaining 14-lakh acres of the delta there has been no difficulty.

While last year's demand for higher wages bore fruit, this year's is likely to go against the Marxists. Realizing this, the Communist Party and the PSP leaders in the area invited the Marxists to a meeting to straighten out matters. The Marxists did not attend the meeting, and a couple of days later, the clash between DMK men and Marxists, in which the latter's taluq secretary was killed, took place.

THE OTHER constituents of the United Front are anxious to prevent the local rivalry from affecting the alliance adversely. If anything, the strain the clash has caused between the ruling party and the Marxists will harm the latter. Mr. Annadurai was implying this when he said, with reference to the Nagercoil parliamentary by-election, that "a triangular contest sometimes helps us."

The Marxists have threatened to set up a candidate of their own if the DMK does not set up one. But the alliance is based on the principle of the party claiming the widest support in the constituency setting up a candidate. And when a by-election occurs the party which was given that constituency earlier will be given at least the first refusal. With plantation labour, numbering over

From Madras

Background To Kisan-Landlord Trouble: Nagercoil: Steel Plant

This despatch was written before the big flare-up in the Thanjavur District, later in December 1968, when on Christmas Day a gang of landlord-organised hooligans virtually destroyed a whole hamlet of harijan agricultural labourers killing over 40 persons by arson. A report about this sensational episode appears elsewhere in this issue.

strength in two of the ten taluqs of Thanjavur district. This is what the agrarian unrest in the two pockets of the Cauvery delta, which grows one-fourth of the State's rice, is about.

LAST YEAR when the dispute over payment of harvest wages came up, the Government brought the kisans and landowners together at Mannargudi. Five and a half litres of paddy for every 48 litres harvested was agreed upon as the wage rate. This year the Marxists wanted a wage increase, and their demand was for 6 litres. The landowners met at Kumbakonam and decided that the Mannargudi agreement was only for last year and they were not bound by it this year. They decided to pay

Madras,

DMK landowners and Marxist kisans are engaged in a trial of

half a lakh, in their ranks, the Max-ists claim the constituency now.

These plantation areas came over to Tamil Nad from Travancore with the reorganization of States. Mr. Nesamoni, the Congress MP whose death caused the by-election, led the agitation in Kanyakumari for inclusion of the areas in Tamil Nad. Despite the poll alliance Mr. Nesa-moni was able to win, although with a narrow majority, because of sup-port even from the marginal Muslim electorate. The president of the Kanyakumari District Congress

Committee is one Mr. Mohammed Ismail.

FOUR OF the several Japanese iron and steel firms invited to the Bailadila inauguration visited Mad-ras last month. Their interest: the iron ore of Salem, which the State Government wants to exploit with an alloy steel plant. The Japanese are obviously on an iron ore shop-ping spree, to acquire captive mines with which to drive a hard bargain with their other suppliers of ore, and at the same time to have alternative sources of supply on tap. A leader of one of the firms hemmed and

hewed when confronted with this question about his country's real intentions.

One success for the DMK out of the Japanese visit is the agreement by the latter to load Bellary iron ore also from Cuddalore port. The Japanese, who are highly critical of the loading facilities at India's best port, Madras, have agreed to the revival of Cuddalore, from which they loaded ore a couple of years ago. Cuddalore is also the nearest port for Salem ore, and its expansion takes the DMK one step nearer the Salem Steel Plant.



At present with the Aeroflot emblem make regular flights to 45 states of Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America. Aeroflot accounts for about a quarter of the passengers transported by all the air lines of the world. Flying now on international routes is the new Soviet air liner, IL-62, which is the biggest Soviet-made turbojet plane, designed for deliveries of passengers on long distance routes, with speed of 900 km/hr. The new plane can carry 190 passengers for whom maximal conveniences are provided. Its four superpowerful engines are situated in the tail part of the fuselage. This helps to reduce the noise in the saloons and the cockpit, to increase aerodynamic properties, and make easier the operation of the machine. This is the new Soviet turbojet plane in flight.

In Kerala

Attacks On Police Stations: Juvenile Adventurism By Handful Of Extremists

Calicut

The attacks by extremists on two police stations in North Kerala within 48 hours of each other have claimed attention out of all proportion to their significance. The State's Government leaders have admitted that the incidents are of a serious nature but the impression created outside seems to be that they are something more sinister than an essay in violence by a ragged crew of political adventurists: that they are the first shots in a Mao-style revolution for the overthrow of the Government and seizure of power by a well-trained and led guerilla army of a few thousands, possibly tens of thousands.

Mr. Chavan sounded appropriately sombre when he told the Lok Sabha that the Central Government would wait and see what action was being taken against the "extremist revolutionaries" and then decide the steps that should be taken. The Centre, it appeared, was not merely concerned with the extremist trend which actually resorted to violence and has been roundly condemned by the CP-M but also by others, because this trend, it has been said, developed from a theory which advocated violence to change the Government.

THE SO-CALLED ATTACK on the Tellicherry police station had a strong element of the comic. If a calculated attempt to raid the station and capture firearms was the purpose, a more juvenile method of achieving that objective cannot be conceived. The police station is situated in the heart of Tellicherry town where four important roads meet and hardly fifty yards from the town bus terminal which hums with acti-

vity at all hours of the day and night. The men on duty at the police station, it is said, had advance information of the possibility of an attack. The "revolutionaries" evidently did not lay much store by secrecy. At about 3 a. m. a crowd estimated to number 300, and carrying lighted torches, came marching on foot from the local stadium about 400 yards away. Some explosives are believed to have been thrown at a sleeping sentry at the police station who raised an alarm. The patrol at the station rushed out to meet the attacks but at sight of so many policemen, they fled leaving behind crudely-made spears, bill hooks, sticks, chopping knives and some copies of Maoist leaflets. Thus ended a glorious half hour of attempted revolution.

The Pulpally raid was not a less clumsy attempt but the tragic killing of a wireless operator and injuries caused to a sub-inspector and a policeman made it a gruesome affair. Pulpally has a police picket—not a station—established there to deal with squatters on Government-owned forest land. It was about 50 miles from Tellicherry in the Wynad forest and slightly difficult of access. The nearest town is Sultan's Battery, at a distance of 20 miles. According to the DIG of Calicut, the objective of the raiders appears to have been to get hold of firearms at the picket.

At about 3 a. m. on 24 November, a group of about 70 persons came to the police picket. Some of them broke into the room at the rear of the picket which housed a wireless set. The wireless operator, Kunhikrishnan Nair, who was sleep in the room was hacked to death but a policeman

who was also in the room managed to escape. The wireless set was destroyed.

ANOTHER SECTION of the attacking crowd entered a front room and threw an acid bulb at the sleeping figure of Sub-Inspector Sankunny Menon. He was reported to have been beaten with sticks. The attackers then dragged a cot, bed, papers, files and other articles outside the room and set them on fire. Having accomplished this much, the raiders reassembled again and went marching towards the Pulpally police station, shouting slogans.

But on the way, one of them fell into a ditch and a country-made bomb he was carrying exploded in his hand. His severed hand is now reported to be in the custody of the police. After the mishap, the attackers decided to call it a day, and carrying their injured comrade, disappeared into the forest. But even while retreating, the extremists had dumped some Mao literature at the picket. As they finally fled through the forest, they broke into two farm houses and, as investigations are said to have revealed, extracted money, food-grains and utensils by threatening the inmates with muskets and daggers. The raiders are latter supposed to have escaped across the State border into adjoining Mysore territory. A thorough search of the Pulpally area produced some explosives and spears.

The local police are subsequently said to have turned over about ten persons as suspects to the police. They included a young mother, Leela, who has a three month-old baby and her husband, Vijayan, who was said to have arranged food for the raiding party at his house the previous night. Among the prominent names Leela mentioned to the police during interrogation are those of Ajitha, and eighteen-year-old girl and her father, Kunnikkal Narayanan, a well known Communist who was expelled from the

CP-M about nine months ago. Among other suspects whom the police are trailing, all of them expelled from the CP-M, is a leader of the CP-M-led wing of the Student's Federation, a peasant youth who is styled as leader of the Red Volunteer Corps and the head of a tutorial college at Tellicherry.

THE KNOWN details of these two amateurish attempts against police establishments show that the persons behind it were not interested so much in getting hold of weapons — which in any case it is doubtful whether many of them know how to handle — as in creating an effect. At Tellicherry, they did not get very close to the police station. The Pulpally picket did not have a large stock of arms and no report yet mentions the raiders having carried away any.

The "effect" they sought to create, according to the leaders of other breakaway sections from the CP-M who call themselves "Communist Revolutionaries", was intended to frustrate the convention the latter were going to hold at Thodupuzha. The convention was held from 24 to 27 November and at a rally held after the deliberations speakers roundly condemned the attacks on the police stations. Mr. K. P. R. Gopalan, one of the leaders of the "Communist Revolutionaries", speaking in the State Assembly a couple of days later, charged that "under the leadership of the CIA which spends large amounts of PL-480 funds, a secret group was active in Kerala and misguided revolutionaries might have been used by it". The CP-M too accused the "ultras" of aiming to wreck its State party conference which was being held at Palghat from 19 to 24 November. Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad conceded in the State Assembly that the attacks on the police stations confirmed the existence of a "determined and organized group" but the danger from it, though grave, was not beyond the capacity of the State Government to handle.

How large the group is, is a matter of guesswork yet, but whatever strength it might have had it must have shrunk considerably after the abortive raids. If more than 50 of their original number is left, it will be a matter of surprise. As long as political activity was confined to selling Maoist literature and talking violent revolution, extremism is attractive; but being hunted by the police for violent crime is a different matter.

The most extreme of the extremist groups which have been expelled from the CP-M, is led by Mr. Kunnikkal Narayanan, who is fifty years old and like another extremist leader, Mr. K. P. R. Gopalan, carries a strong streak of arrogance. He was the first among the rebels against the CP-M in the State to earn expulsion and even at that time was suspected of having connections with the CIA. An active figure in the ISCUS movement in Bombay in the late forties, he later moved to his home-town, Calicut, with his Maharastrian wife, Mandakini.

A Stalinist in his political convictions, he joined the CP-M when the united Communist Party split and then moved on to Maoism.

His energies, and those of his small group have been taken up largely by bringing out translations of propagandist tracks emanating from Peking and selling them—or making efforts to sell them—the whole purpose being to carry on an ideological campaign against the CP-M leadership. Narayanan went about his job thoroughly and his daughter, Ajitha, gave up a promising career at college to become a saleswoman of Mao tracts. Narayanan collected a hard core of students, teachers and workers whom he was able to convince that parliamentary democracy was a sham. In the civic elections in Kerala held earlier this year, the extreme groups actively campaigned against people participating in them.

The appearance of these extremist groups, both Mr. Narayanan's and others', need not be regarded as a frightening phenomenon. In the context of Kerala's nagging problems, which no Government has been able to tackle satisfactorily, extreme language has a special appeal. The parliamentary system can be blamed for the State's difficulties, perhaps convincingly, and Mao depicted as a prophet. Equally convincingly, they can be blamed on the exploding population. But will that make Malthus correct?

Nixon's Cabinet

Happy Days Ahead For The Pentagon : Hawks Forge Ahead

by I. F. STONE

Washington

Two days before Nixon was to unveil his Cabinet, the shape of things to come was pretty well pre-figured by the news that Senator Jackson was his first choice for Secretary of Defense and that Congressman Melvin Laird will have the job Jackson turned down. These are not the choices of a President-Elect hellbent for General and Complete

Disarmament. The voluble Jackson is the most faithful purveyor on Capitol Hill of the arms lobby's most melodramatic alarms. He would have provided a "liberal", Democratic and bi-partisan coverup for higher arms spending, and a way to divert fire from Nixon as this cut into welfare expenditures. Perhaps the reason Jackson turned the job down lies in Nixon's November 2 promise at the General Dynamics plant in Fort Worth to make that billion dollar bust, the TFX-F111, "one of the foundations of our air supremacy."

IT WOULD be embarrassing to Jackson to fulfil this pledge to perpetuate Mc-Namara's greatest procurement blunder when Jackson on the McClellan committee was a prime mover in the TFX investigation, and fought to get the contract for Boeing. At a time when the demand for cancellation of the F-111 contract is rising in the Senate and the McClellan committee is preparing to resume its investigation, it would have looked too unprincipled suddenly to turn up on the other side.

In Melvin Laird, Nixon has chosen a troglodyte Republican for the Pentagon post. This small town mid-Western lumber merchant has been an able and hard-working Congressman, and is ranking Republican on both the defense and HEW sub-committees of Appropriations, where his twin passions might be summed up as more money for defense and less for welfare. This may prove a succinct preview of the Nixon years.

Ideologically he belongs to the dogmatist wing of the Party, clinging with fundamentalist passion to a simple faith in free enterprise. Like Nixon he is a leading Gapper. Nixon raised the Security Gap, the Research Gap and the Submarine Gap in the campaign. Laird in 1962 published a book. "A House Divided: America's Strategy Gap." We have been unable to locate a copy and can note only that it was published by Henry Regnery of Chicago, a firm which specializes in the kind of political pornography designed to stimulate tired blood on the aging far right.

CLUTCHERS after straws are saying that Laird, unlike Jackson, is at least a fiscal conservative, but he is unlikely to rein in the military until their demands are really astronomical. Another straw is that while a hard-liner on Vietnam, he has come around to seeing the necessity for getting out. Last July he told the Republican platform committee that the US was in a position "Where the only route open... is in negotiation" and wanted the party to exploit the peace issue by declaring

that a negotiated settlement could only be reached by a Republican Administration "unhampered by the mistakes" of the past.

One of these, in Laird's opinion, was not hitting the North sooner and harder. His appointment may lengthen the talks and the war by encouraging Ky to play tough in Paris since Laird in the past has opposed any kind of coalition regime in Saigon. If Nixon now puts Henry Cabot Lodge, Ky's political thought out of wedlock papa, in charge of the negotiations, the talk might easily last until the 1972 campaign.

Evans and Novak, who are close to Laird, were given a scoop on the appointment in their column (Dec. 9) and repaid the news beat by portraying Laird as practically, though only in private, a liberal, albeit not flaming. Their most diverting encomium must have surprised Laird himself.

AFTER admitting that Laird had no administrative experience for "one of the world's toughest administrative positions" they reported that "Gov. Rockefeller (who wanted the job himself) advised Nixon in Palm Springs last week that a Mc-Namara-type administrator would be a mistake in the Pentagon today and what was needed was a student and practitioner of geopolitics". In Laird, they concluded, "Nixon has exactly what Rockefeller recommended".

Laird must have been as surprised to be described as a geopolitician as Babbitt would have been if hailed as a Guru. But Rockefeller's meaning is clear enough. "No Mc-Namara-type" translates as fewer inhibitions on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and "geopolitics" (how Hitler loved Haushofer, too!) means to be prone to those global nightmares so conducive to the propagation of ever larger military budgets.

Laird is a consolidation prize for Rockefeller. In 1960 Laird pushed through the Republican convention that Nixon-Rocke-

feller "compromise" plank on defence which suggested to Eisenhower's displeasure that he was not spending enough on the Pentagon. Another consolation is the appointment of Henry A. Kissinger as Nixon's Walt Rostow. Professor Kissinger's career has been described as a Horatio Alger story; an ultra-bright German Jewish refugee boy who became Rockefeller's house intellectual certainly has a sharp eye for the right little girls to save from the right runaway horses.

In the late 1950s he put into literature from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund blueprint for higher military spending and a wider variety of arms, including the small and clean tactical nuclear, for flexible response in brushfire fires on the periphery of the American empire in the nuclear age: like Vietnam. He is a smooth and flexible fellow, an ambidextrous academician, who will give Nixon what he wants, and make it sound intellectually respectable. Kissinger's deputy will be Richard V. Allen, who directed foreign affairs research for Nixon during the campaign, a contributor to Buckley's *National Review* and a favourite strategist of Young Americans For Freedom.

His training as a cold war Clausewitz began at the Georgetown Center for Strategic Studies, which Admiral Arleigh Burke helps direct in right-thinking. (*We blush to report that the Centre is known irreverently on rival campuses here in Washington as Bruke's Bughouse. Nothing is sacred anymore. — IFS*) Allen is now on leave from the comparable Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace which long ago got the goods on Vladimir Ilyich. Together Allen and Kissinger should easily fill the Rostow gap.

We can only conclude by suggesting, at the risk of getting into trouble with the SEC, that this is a good time to buy stock in the military-industrial complex.

Fiat-Citroen Agreement Means Superprofits, But Workers Get No Benefit

For Signor Agnelli as well as for Monsieur Michelin the Fiat-Citroen agreement means good business though it does not fulfil all their desires. Both of them exploit tens of thousands of workers and possess factories in several countries. And they are still not satisfied....

In the automobile industry, as well as in engineering, smelting and other branches in Western Europe industrial concentration is making fast headway. The setting-up of this new holding company is an important step on the road toward a company whose output (two million vehicles per year) would equal that of the biggest US trusts. For Agnelli and Michelin, it also means tremendous superprofits. As far as the workers are concerned, they do not stand to benefit by it. Exploitation will become even worse, and their future still less assured. Only daily struggle can put a stop to the bosses ever growing appetites....

EVERY YEAR 5 million more wheels rolling on the roads of the five continents, plus the wheels of tractors, the wheels of aeroplanes, the steel wheels of railway carriages; an all-powerful financial organisation, the IFI; decisive shares in 70 Italian companies, comprising steel mills and engines for steamers, thermal power stations and a nuclear-powered factory, the most important cement works as well as most profitable autoroutes as well as one of the most important daily papers (*La Stampa*) — all this is held together by four letters one can read on

land, at sea and in the air — FIAT.

First of all these letters mean the most important car factory in Europe the fourth in the world. Further, they mean a continuously increasing industrial and financial empire. Its emperor is Giovanni Agnelli, and its capital Turin. Today, in Turin alone every tenth inhabitant depends on Signor Agnelli owner of the Fiat works (this means some 105,000) and all over Italy, 150,000 workers are directly or indirectly exploited by him and have enabled him to achieve a 1967 turnover of some 11 milliard new Francs.

How? In what conditions? One of them replies to this question, commenting on his own experience as well as that of his comrades at work.

"I'm 46 years. I came to the FIAT works in 1944. At that time, I became a second-grade worker. During these 24 years, FIAT has increased continuously, but I am still a second-grade worker in the tractor and lorry factory. Promotion is a rare bird here. It is non-existent for those who refuse to bow and scrape and who have the cheek to be militant trade unionists and have political opinion the management does not like. As far as my wages go, they correspond to my grade and my advance in the trade....

"When my son Luigi was born, FIAT generously increased my wages by two lire per hour. Today, Luigi is 21 and so far he has never heard me say that the firm has given me another lire increase. (I am talking about personal increases and not these won by struggle). So, today, in spite of my long experience and my qualifications, I can just about make 570 lire per hour all benefits included.

My basic wage barely amounts to 258 lire. And when there is an increase, it only concerns this fixed basic wage.

"Working hours? The working week has dropped from 48 to 45 hours... but FIAT managed to cut wages too. Speed-up, on the contrary is continually increasing. In the factory producing rods, for example, production in 1967 went up from 20,000 to 40,000 per month. That means, that speed and fatigue are a real obsession at the FIAT works. In 1967 an investigation revealed that 74 per cent of the fellows had trouble with their digestion, 54 rheumatic pains, and 45 respiratory troubles. But the worst in this respect is no doubt found at the "Mirafiori" factory, with those who are called "pendolari".

"The Mirafiori is the factory that produces cars in long series, the factory on American lines, the last word in automation. In the workshops, there are 10,000 machines, 97 of them on conveyors. And 160 automatic furnaces. But in the final stages, which are not operated by machines, the boys have to run like rabbits to follow the speed of the conveyor-belt. At the belt where cylinder heads are produced, production more than doubled in 1967 and the staff decreased. But wages remain the same as before — no increase there.

"It's hard on everybody. It's harder still for about a third of the boys, the commuters, who have the pleasure of four hours travel daily. They come from the districts surrounding Turin on the high mountain valleys where agriculture does not pay. They travel 30, 50 or 80 km. Most of them do overtime. You can find them on the first shift (6.0 a. m. to 2.30 p. m.) getting up at 2 a. m. to catch the train and arriving back home by 5.30 or 6 p. m. They are sleepy in the morning and dull automatons in the evening. You count it: they have just about 8 hours in which to eat and to try to sleep. They live in order to work and wait for Sunday....

"In such conditions trade union work is not easy. In the three unions put together, only 14 to 15 per cent of the staff are organised.

"In order to launch the FIAT 500 on a large scale they brought thousands of peasants into Turin from the South, as cheap labour. They exchanged unemployment, bread and olives for a real wage and regular employment. The trade union and struggles did not interest them. The management used them in starting another witch-hunt against our organisation. Within ten years however things have changed. The boys from the South have come to understand

that 90,000 lire permonth, paying 30,000 for rent, is not enough to make ends meet in Turin. So they came to join the union. Now we can lead great struggles, in unity, like the one of March this year, for wages up-grading and a reduction of working hours. And this in spite of a particularly violent police repression.

"We still have hard battles in front of us, especially for wage increases. The preparations for the FIAT - Citroen wedding make the boys furious: No money to pay us decent wages, but enough to buy the Citroen works!"

LA VIEOUVRIERE

Primitive Barbarity Put To Shame

FORTY TWO HARIJANS BURNT ALIVE IN TANJORE DISTRICT BY A PRIVATE ARMY OF LANDLORDS

Madras

On the day Christ was born, on the day when earthlings were circling the moon in a stupendous conquest of space, a black horror that put primitive barbarity to shame was perpetrated in the backwoods of Tanjore district in Kilavenmani hamlet near Kivalur village.

Reports claim that a private army of landlords, made up of scum and thugs, surrounded a lone Harijan hut, poured petrol over it and set it ablaze. Twenty women, nineteen children and three invalid old men were locked inside that small 96 square feet house and barred all chances of escape.

It is alleged that the mad mob, equipped with pistols and revolvers, besides 'Bichuvas' saw to it that none escaped the flaming confines of that hut. All the 42 persons trapped inside where burnt alive in slow tortuous process, their flames eating up bit by bit of their flesh and bone.

This was by no means a display of NAXALITE wickedness or a KUNNIKALITE aberration,

it is alleged that it was plain bloody terror organised by a gang of beastly LANDLORDITES. They all belonged to the upper caste Hindus and their terror was directed against defenceless, downtrodden Harijan women, children and men. in that mean and cowardly order.

FROM ALL ACCOUNTS it was a Landlordite terror organised, planned and directed against Harijan farm-workers in the Kilavenmani hamlet. The only fault, if it can be called so, of the Harijans of the hamlet was that they dared to organise themselves into a trade union to secure better wages for their toil and sweat on lands which they do not own.

It was not, at the same time, any dispute over wages for harvest that was behind the century's blackest horror of Harijans being burnt alive in the land of Gandhi and Nehru. It was a senseless exhibition of brutality by landlords, prompted by their arrogance of wealth and caste hierarchy, and aided by the local police, under their influence.

It is alleged that the plan was to liquidate the whole hamlet. If it did not succeed to the extent anticipated by the criminals, it was not for want of efforts on their part. It was sheer sense of self-preservation that drove the 400 odd Harijans dwellers into the paddy-fields to escape the arsonists.

After the tragedy, the police leisurely set about arresting 'suspects'. By Tuesday, they had taken into custody 110 persons, most of them landlords and their henchmen.

An Intelligence Officer from headquarters has been deputed to conduct investigations as a partial concession to the people's demand that the local police should not be entrusted with the task of conducting investigations into the arson, loot and murder that heaped shame on the nation as a whole.

A separate Commission of Enquiry by a retired judge, Mr. Ganapathia Pillai, has been set up to investigate the problem of agricultural labour, the relationship between the labourer and landlord, and connected issues. The police have registered three cases, one in regard to the murder of farm worker Pakkiriswami, another in regard to the Kilavenmani arson, and the third in regard to use of firearms and rioting.

Without prejudice to this process of official investigations under way, *BLITZ* dares to come out with the victims' version of the circumstances attending on the tragedy, circumstances that read more horrid than horror fiction.

The Jute Press has lied to the people that the Kilavenmani arson was some kind of retaliation by certain "misguided" landlord elements against the "Left Communist menace". This is falsehood and fabrication without parallel.

ON THE BASIS of the information given by the local police, the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mahadevan, said that the arson followed a clash between left Communist workers and those

loyal to the landlords, in which a loyal worker, Pakkiriswamy, was murdered. Later the IG himself amended his statement to the effect that no wage dispute had led to the clash which provoked the arson.

Now, it can be told that the Kilavenmani arson was not a sudden outburst of anger, but the outcome of a pre-planned and well-hatched conspiracy. In fact, the reign of terror against the landless farm workers has a long history extending over two years.

It can also be told that the private army of landlords has been functioning in the whole of the paddy-growing deltaic districts of Tanjore and Tiruchy, making systematic attempts to cow down the landless workers to submit to slavery and exploitation.

The point is that in the whole Tanjore district, the dispute over harvest wages is a negligible factor, confined to certain pockets in East Tanjore. The majority of the middle class landowners has accepted the Mannargudi settlements of six measures of paddy as wages per quintal. Harvesting has been smooth by and large. The so-called labour unrest is played up in the Jute Press at the instance of a few goonda elements among landlords who could never reconcile themselves to bargaining with Harijan workers.

One of these landlords who is alleged to be the principal organiser of black terror against Harijan workers has been collecting from every land-owner in the district, by persuasion or coercion, Rs. 50 per acre for the *quid pro quo* of sending his storm troopers to "discipline or liquidate" trouble makers among farm workers.

His extortionist collections constituting the mainstay of his black army are known to exceed several million rupees. This big finance is used by him to hire goons and to obtain guns smuggled through coastal points of the district.

The arson took place on the night of December 25 around 9 o'clock. Throughout the day, on December 25, it was the spectacle of the landlordite private army roaming the areas, attacking Harijan workers and opening fire on them.

THE POLICE, which is always ready to rush to press about "left Communist activities", strangely enough, pretended ignorance about the activities of the goonda army and the landlord who was masterminding its operations !

According to Mr. P. Ramamurthi, MP, the goondas came to raid the hamlet in police lorries and private jeeps. This naturally created panic among the Harijan workers who have all along been initiated into the ways of the Police-Mirasadar combine in effecting wholesale arrest of them on the flimsiest of charges or even on mere suspicion.

They fled without offering any resistance. The field was laid wide open to the arsonists on the rampage. They proved merciless. They set fire to every hut they came by and committed mass murder of women and children, committing them to flames.

One of the trapped men made a feeble attempt to escape, but he was shot at, and left bleeding on the soil, taken for a dead man. He, however, survived to be told of the massacre of his wife and three children. There were 12 pellets lodged in his body. When all this was happening, there was no trace of a single policeman anywhere near the scene of arson. Just imagine the terror of goondas coming in a police lorry and opening fire according to their whims, Ramamurthi's pertinent question is: How did this happen?

HOW DOES this gross negligence and utter inefficiency on the part of the police, if at all the whole thing was as simple as that, fit in with the periodic and boastful

utterances of the police hierarchy about their bandobust arrangements in the whole district being "pucca" on the score of the apprehended or imagined kisan trouble ? It is alleged that the police bandobust had been, perhaps unwittingly, tuned in to help the landlordites in their ghastly designs on defenceless farm workers, after giving them the label of "left Communists".

If Ramamurthi's version were to be believed, it could not be said that the trouble of the nature that overtook the nation with a sense of shock and revulsion should have been fairly anticipated and prevented easily. This was not done, even though specific warning about the landlordite intentions and their targets had been given to the police authorities, times out of number. The chronology of events and warnings about the catastrophe in the making should prove the utter inefficiency of the local police and their bosses in Madras, to put it very mildly.

On May 14, 1968—that is, more than seven months before the Christmas killing of Harijans — hired goondas of certain landlords, including the one who had been masterminding the landlordite private army, raided Vipur hamlet in Nagapattinam taluk, largely inhabited by Harijan workers.

The burnt down every single hut in the hamlet. Forty-two persons had to be admitted to hospital for treatment of extensive burns. If that they escaped death, they did not make the sensational news, otherwise the Vipur arson was on the same proportions as the Kilavenmani tragedy.

NEWS of the arson was effectively suppressed by the police and the Jute Press, but on this score it could not become less serious than the recent tragedy the news of which just could not be suppressed because of the shocking proportions of its bland horror.

Soon after the Vipur arson, the kisan sabha leaders sent telegrams and appeals to authorities seeking

protection for farm workers. No action was forthcoming, but on a verbal complaint from a landlord active in the so-called Paddy Growers' Association, platoons of Special Armed Police were rushed to the district to terrorise workers. That this should happen in the DMK regime made it all the more strange.

The Kilavenmani tragedy, it is alleged, has an immediate history of two months of conspiracy and organisation.

First indication of the impending tragedy came into evidence on October 15. On that day, a local worker, A. G. Ramachandran of Kelkarai village, described by the police as a Marxist worker and by the village people as their leader, was murdered. He was stabbed to death.

At 1 p.m., on the fateful day, Ramachandran had complained to the police about his life being in danger. A few hours later he was murdered within the limits of the same police station where he had complained about the impending catastrophe!

On November 1, in Paducheri village, Harijans were beaten up, some of them stabbed and at least a dozen were admitted into hospitals. Mr. Gnanasambandam, the Marxist MLA, wired the Inspector-General of Police, seeking his intervention to stop the landlordite terror and ensure protection of workers.

Later, he submitted petitions to the Government in which he specifically made the allegation against a landlord conspiring to liquidate Harijan cheris in the whole of East Tanjore.

On November 2, the MLA met the District Collector and gave a petition to him making specific reference to a particular landlord's plans for organising an attack on Harijan cheris.

On November 7, P. Ramamurthi told a press conference in Madras, after a tour of East

Tanjore, that landlords were engaging goondas to attack farm labourers and there was no police protection to the victims. If this affair continued he would advise the landless workers to organise a volunteer force to protect themselves.

RAMAMURTHI'S statement was brought to the notice of the Inspector-General of Police. The IG took no time to dismiss all of Ramamurthi's fears and apprehensions as just "a pack of lies".

On November 14, three Marxist MLAs, Gnanasambandam, Dhanuskodi and Barathi Mohan, met the Chief Minister and later the Law Minister, Mr. Madhavan, and gave a memorandum to them on lack of security for farm labourers and about landlords' plans to attack Harijan hamlets. No action was known to have been taken on this serious representation.

Just about this time, another worker, Pakkirisami of Sikkal, was murdered. The MLAs drew the Government's attention to the possible complicity of a particular landlord in this gruesome murder and urged immediate police protection to workers. Apart from registering a case, no action seemed to have been initiated by the authorities.

On November 20, organised groups of goodnas attacked Harijan workers in several villages of East Tanjore. Telegrams were sent to the ministers and top police officials by the local kisan leaders about the lawlessness created by the activities of the landlords.

Again, On December 5, there was a series of raids on Harijan cheris in several villages.

The police were warned about the impending catastrophe, the Government was informed of it by responsible members of the Legislature and Parliament, yet nothing was done.

Among the landlords arrested by the police for alleged complicity in the arson case is Gopalakrishna Naidu, President of the Paddy Growers' Association, the militant organisation of the landlords in

the district. The DMK press describes him as a Congressman. The Congress has disowned him, saying he is a Swatantra partyman.

The Kilavenmani tragedy underscores the need for quickly settling the basic issue of a wage settlement between landlords and agricultural workers. The DMK Government, which had been evading this issue, has shown rather belated awareness of this problem and is now trying to become to grips with it.

The DMK's leftist-socialist image is now seriously threatened. The promise of new huts in place of those destroyed made by the ministers will not do for the simple reason the DMK Government or for that matter any Governmental cannot adequately compensate for the loss of human lives on the score of criminal laxity on inaction by the police.

It can, to some extent, salvage its image only by quickening the pace of vigorous and impartial investigation into the case of arson murder and loot and by bringing to book the criminals who just now appear to be well-placed in society rungs.

BLITZ, 4/1/68

WINDFAL FOR RACIALISTS

Closure of the Suez Canal as a result of Israel's aggression has proved a gold mine for the South African racialists. Their two biggest ports—Durban and Capetown—have made about 50 million rands (approximately 50 million pounds) from refuelling ships, harbour fees and sales of food-stuffs. To this sum should be added the money spent by seamen and passengers on shore. The number of vessels that have called at South African ports since the closure of the Canal has reached 4,000, the record for one day going to Durban with 58 ships.

An Amazing Particle

Neutrino—Is It An Envoy From The Boundaries Of Space And Time ?

The neutrino is an amazing particle of matter with a special and, we may even say, unusual destiny.

Its very name is unusual. In Italian it means "a small neutron" The birth of the neutrino was also unusual. It did not take place inside an atomic reactor or an accelerator: it was simply thought up—a hypothesis. It wasn't until several years later its existence was proved. The experiment was very complex and arduous. And no wonder for the particle has no charge of mass. It is never in a motionless state but is constantly moving at the speed of light. The neutrino barely interacts with matter, hence its astounding properties of penetration. A castiron slab stretching from the Earth to Saturn is as penetrable for the neutrino as pure air is for a beam of sunlight.

The neutrinos freely escape into space, taking with them a tangible amount of energy, from the depths of giant stars, which firmly imprison all the particles known to man. Over 8 per cent of all the energy radiated by the Sun, escapes from it with neutrinos, invisibly and inaudibly, but with an elusive constancy. Even at night the flow of neutrinos from the Sun hidden beyond the horizon goes through the mass of the Earth unhampered. This flow carries 40,000 times more energy than moonlight. But no one has ever seen it, and not a single man on Earth knows as yet where this energy escapes to, or what happens to it.

According to the most guarded estimates, the human body is penetrated on its lifetime by 10^{23} neutrinos. And only one of them is likely to interact with the body and be absorbed.

SOME TIME after the discovery of the neutrino, it was found out that it has a double—an anti-particle. For convenience sake it is called anti-neutrino. As a rule, particles and anti-particles differ from one another by the sign of their charge. But the neutrino has no electrical charge. So in what way does it differ from the anti-neutrino? It differs—and this was proved in complex experiments—by its special "neutrino" non-electric charge. The neutrino and the anti-neutrino have a different direction of "helicity". The neutrino resembles a left-handed screw and the anti-neutrino a right-handed one.

Is that the only difference between the particles? This question is by no means a pointless one.

At present experiments with high energy neutrinos are going on in laboratories all over the world. With the help of these neutrinos the researchers hope to study the most mysterious thing of all—their weak interactions in the microcosm, to find out what mechanism is responsible for the increase or decrease in their intensity and in what way it depends on energy. Is the weak interaction a primary phenomenon, or does there exist a universal carrier—the hypothetical particle "intermediary boson"?

Scientists in various laboratories are trying to discover this particle, but with no results as yet.

Certain discrepancies in forecasts and observations brought Academician Moisei Markov, a Soviet theoretician and other researchers to the conclusion that there exist not two, but four types of neutrino. The fine experiments staged in Brookhaven, on large accelerators,

by US physicists Lederman, Schwartz and Steinberg, and those recently carried out at CERN, under the supervision of Professor Bernardini and with the participation of V. Kaftanov, a Soviet physicist, have brilliantly proved this seemingly improbable hypothesis. It appears that the neutrino and the anti-neutrino have pairs which are generated during the decay of the mu-meson, or during the decay of the electron. At the suggestion of Bruno Pontecorvo, a Soviet Academician, they were christened muon neutrino and electron neutrino.

In what way do these types of neutrino differ, apart from the method of generation? The answer to that question could shed light on the riddle of the mu-meson, which is an exact replica of the electron, but has a mass approximately 200 times greater. Why? What role does it play?

AT PRESENT it is all one big question mark. To solve the riddle the researchers must acquire powerful, controlled beams of high energy neutrinos. The Soviet physicists believe that not only accelerators, and in particular, the world's most powerful accelerator of charged particles at Serpukhov near Moscow, with a capacity of 76 Bevs, should be used for this purpose. They propose that a pulse neutrino generator be constructed. Such a generator, designed on the basis of a nuclear reactor, would allow the concentration of colossal beams of neutrinos in small areas. Some 10^{15} neutrinos would pass through one sq. cm. of the measuring instruments per second.

There's hardly any doubt that the neutrino might become the key for opening the door to the greatest secret of Nature—the laws of the composition of matter, the laws of the microcosm. And this magic key could also lead to the other tightly-shut door which leads to the secrets of the Universe.

You can judge for yourself. Since the neutrino can easily

penetrate the earth or any star, or planet, it is the only accessible source of information as to what is going on in the depths of the Universe.

THE CONNECTION between the microcosm and the cosmos is nowhere expressed more clearly than in the physics of the neutrino. Inside the stars the neutrinos are formed in large amounts during nuclear transformations. If a uranium atomic reactor with a capacity of hundreds of thousands of kw. loses scores of thousands of kw. in the form of anti-neutrinos, what happens in the case of a star? Philip Morrison, a well-known theoretician, thinks that neutrino irradiation provides all the heat to our Sun—a permanently operating thermonuclear reactor. In any case, the radiation of the neutrino is the factor which determines the regimen of the evolution of the Sun, and; hence, the development of life on Earth also.

If we could "see" the neutrino spectrum, we could determine experimentally the conditions inside the Sun, and learn precisely what reactions are taking place there.

It may be, as famous Soviet scientists Bruno Pontecorvo, Yakov Zeldovich and Yakov Smorodinsky,

and the American John A. Wheeler think, that there is as much energy contained in the intangible streams of neutrinos as there is in matter itself. And energy is pumped into this form during the processes of matter being born in the Universe. Bruno Pontecorvo does not exclude the possibility that the neutrino is connected with the expansion of the Universe, the cause of which may probably lie in the pulling out of a gigantic cloud of very low-energy neutrinos. This explains the seeming assymetry of our Universe. and also why particles and not anti-particles dominate our world. By the way, the neutrino is also the only possible source of information about the anti-world. No observations made from the Earth can tell us whether anti-worlds exist or not, because the light emitted by an atom of hydrogen is identical with the light of an anti-hydrogen atom.

The neutrino is an envoy from the depths of the Universe and the atom, and maybe from the very boundaries of Space and Time. It is an envoy by means of which Nature wants to tell us something important, only we cannot as yet fathom the meaning of the missive.

Elena Knorre

One of the matters the National Government gave priority immediately it came to power is the appointment of the "Jayawardene Commission" to go into the entire question of the functioning of the Labour Tribunals. This Commission is headed by nobody less than Mr. H. W. Jayawardene, Q.C., whom everybody would accept as both competent and capable to perform this task. While the report of this commission is still under preparation the Labour Ministry appointed another one man commission known as the "Rajanayagam Commission" to go into the question of the functioning of the Tribunals. It must be stated that this Mr. Rajanayagam is a practitioner before these very Labour Tribunal Presidents. We are not casting any aspersions on either the Presidents or Mr. Rajanayagam but only wish to point out the absurdity of affairs.

It would also be opportune to mention that there has been a trend in the recent past by the Labour Ministry to interfere with the Tribunals which we view with alarm and such interferences constitute, inter alia—

- 1) Requesting Presidents not to hear cases of particular Employers.
- 2) Requesting Presidents not to permit particular Representatives to appear before them.
- 3) Requesting Presidents to hear cases in camera.
- 4) Removing case records without any reference to the President hearing the case.

Of course, fortunately, they did not meet with success in these matters except in being able to remove case records without reference to the President handling the case.

It is a known fact that most Colombo Presidents have a backlog of cases both part-heard and new. In or about November 1968, it was revealed that the Colombo Tribunals are to be increased by two, i.e. the Hatton Tribunal and one of the

Executive Staff Association On

The Transfer Of The Colombo Labour Tribunal Presidents

We publish without comment the text of a letter sent to the Acting Head of Government, Mr. J.R. Jayawardene, by Mr. Vernon de Livera, General Secretary of the Executive Staff Association of Ceylon on the sudden transfer of Colombo Labour Tribunal Presidents.

Sir,

Although it is not the policy of this Union to interest itself on matters of this nature, in this instance it has advised itself to do so as the sudden transfers of the Colombo Labour Tribunal Presidents is expected to cause severe inconvenience, delay and financial hardship to both Applicant as well as

Employer.

Galle Tribunals to be brought to Colombo and everyone felt it was a good move. The present Colombo Presidents fixed two days (December 1st and 2nd) and called parties in part heard and new cases and fixed dates of hearing.

Quite suddenly and amazingly the next thing we heard was that the Colombo Presidents are all transferred. Besides, the delay that would be caused does not the Labour Ministry apprehend the expense it would have to meet when these four Presidents come down to Colombo to continue to hear the part heard cases. The delay will be for them to

find suitable dates that the then Colombo Presidents would not be sitting in order to find accommodation.

There are two spectacular disputes sponsored by the Ceylon Mercantile Union which are presently before a Colombo President - Malibans Ltd. and Jafferjee Bros. Ltd. Generally when Arbitrations are referred to Labour Tribunal Presidents for settlement they are referred to the President in whose administrative area the dispute arose, but strangely enough these two disputes were not referred on that basis. There are disquieting rumours about these

two disputes to which the Government should pay attention immediately.

Please, Sir, intervene in this and cancel the transfers at least till the part heard cases and the many references are concluded.

An early reply, and you yourself handling the matter will be much appreciated.



The resorts of the Crimea are called Soviet Riviera, for every year they provided rest and health treatment for more than 500,000 working people. This is one of the beaches on the Crimea's northern coast.

Through The Hongkong Peephole

Enter The Son-In-Law: Mao's Heir?; Blast Against Chou And Lin?; Party Congress Soon ?

Reliable information has reached political circles in Hongkong that the long-postponed Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of China will be definitely held this year. It is believed that the scope, progress and usefulness of the Cultural Revolution in the context of world events will be examined and reviewed. But more than this, it is said that a major attempt will be made to re-organise and streamline the Party — now that Liu Shao-chi and other leaders who did not see eye to eye with Mao have been thrown out. Pro-Maoist circles here have been at pains to emphasise that the Party Congress will be held earlier than expected.

Hongkong

In the second half of September, a meeting of the Revolutionary Committee took place in Shanghai at which Yao Wen-yuan took the floor. This 30-year old Chinese is quite a phenomenon in the so-called Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. In the past two years he has succeeded in making a great leap upward in the hierarchy of Communist China: from the 198th place he moved to the ninth.

The well-informed Hongkong newspaper *South China Morning Post* believes that the mantle of the great Mao Tse-tung will fall on the shoulders of Yao Wen-yuan. The authoritative Japanese paper, the *Mainichi Daily News* shares the same view. Apparently this young man, like the great ancient Chinese strategist Chu Ke-lian, is indebted for his speedy rise to his 25-year old wife Li Ming,

the daughter of Mao Tse-tung, and his wife Chiang Ching.

SINOLOGISTS believe that the relative obscurity of Yao in China is not an insurmountable obstacle on the way to Chairmanship. In the course of centuries the Chinese people have become accustomed to the kaleidoscopic changes of governments which by now have become a norm in China's history. Those who decided to attempt taking power in their own hands and failed are simply rebels in the eyes of the people, while those who succeed become emperors. Today any contender for supreme power may be a high-wayman and tomorrow he may rule supreme. All depends on what power he wields. The rest does not count. Such is the psychology of the people of China.

Mao's own life is a vivid proof of the point. When the remnants of his shattered detachments reached Tsingangshan in 1927, in the eyes of the Chinese people, he differed little from the two bandits who owned this mountain — Yuan Weng-ts'ai and Wang Ts'ao. Even Mao himself wrote that wherever he went with his units he was given a cold shoulder. At that time no one could even imagine that 23 years later Mao Tse-tung would become the ruler of China.

The report which Yao presented in Shanghai merits attention because this particular Chinese "shoots his arrow only when he has a target before him." It was Yao who by writing his critical article on Wu Han's play "Hai Jui Resigns" (1965) started a movement which in 1967 led to the removal from their positions of the Party and State, such leaders as Liu Shao-chi, Teng Hsiao-ping, Peng Chen, Tao Chu,

He Lung, Lo Jui-ch'ing. In honour of Yao's last article captioned "The Working Class Must Be the Leader of Everybody" published in the second issue of the journal, *Hungchi* the drum-beats and demonstrations took place in Peking throughout the night of August 26.

SPEAKING to the Leftists in Shanghai, Yao said that in order that the Cultural Revolution should win final victory it must go through several stages. If no proper work was done at the subsequent stages of the revolution one might stop half way and get into the bog. At the first stage the workers must take power in their own hands. So far out of the 28 Revolutionary Committees in the provinces, 23 are headed by military officers. One is tempted to ask what the man power of the revolution is and on whom does it rely. In confirmation of his idea Yao quoted from Chairman Mao: "It is the working class which is the leading class. It is necessary fully to allow the working class to play the leading part in the Great Cultural Revolution and everywhere else. Will the present military leaders have courage to fuse with the workers and help them to come out on the political arena? This is the main question. If power is preserved by generals, many 'hornets' nests' will appear in China which will endanger the country's unity. We have already encountered the same phenomenon in Sinkiang, Tibet, Inner Mongolia, Yunnan and Wuhan."

In the opinion of Yao Wen-yuan, the subjugation of the organs which are conducting active political, public and administrative work to the military and also the slogan calling for the "spread of military power over the non-military activities", are fraught with the danger of alienating the masses, establishing the control of the Army over the organs of power, thereby ending proletarian control over them, and thus embarking on the militarist road characteristic of the Kuomintang Army.

YAO WEN-YUAN also pointed out that some of the "new military feudals" in order to suppress the re-

volutionary workers' movement set up their own prisons with torture chambers in which they persecuted those who disagreed with the Army's leadership. It was in one of such prisons in Canton that the prominent trade union leader Huang Hua-chu has been tortured to death.

"The situation is aggravated by the fact", Yao said, "that the military enjoy the support of an unprincipled and soft leader who still actively works close to the Chairman and who makes vicious attacks against the workers. He accuses the workers that they allow a high-rate of absenteeism. He is in collusion with the military feudals and under the pre text of 'providing good work and order' sent troops to factories and plants. All this harms workers in their struggle for the leading role in everything. Why did it happen that the comrades in whom Mao had unlimited trust have committed such errors? Chairman Mao says: "The room must be swept and tidied daily otherwise rubbish will accumulate in it; one must wash regularly in order not to be covered with dirt. In the heads of our comrades and in the work of our Party, rubbish also accumulates which must constantly be cleaned. No one but workers will perform these sanitary duties."

News men here who read Yao Wen-yuan's speech do not rule out the fact that this young man, not without the knowledge of his wife's parents, has started an attack against Chou En-lai ("the soft and unprincipled leader") and against Lin Piao who is striving to install the Army in the leading positions in China everywhere. If one takes into consideration the fact that apart from his in-laws Yao enjoys the support of the celebrated hatchet man Kang Sheng, one can see that the young aspirant for power has quite a number of good chances of going up—may be one day to become the Party's Chairman.



Great Expectations

High Protein Rice Successfully Developed In Japan

A joint research by the Radiation Plant Breeding Farm and the Food Research Institute, both of which are organs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, has recently revealed that irradiation of rice plants can produce rice with twice as much protein content as that of the present species.

If this "high protein rice" is produced on a commercial scale, rice can also become an important source of protein like meat and fish. Therefore, this discovery is of great significance for the rice-eating Japanese people from the view points of both nourishment and national economy.

The "high protein rice" has been developed at the Agriculture—Forestry Ministry's Radiation Plant Breeding Farm, located in Omiya about 25 kilometres north of Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture (120 kilometres northeast of Tokyo). The farm has a gamma field to study plant breeding by means of irradiation.

The Omiya Gamma Field, built in 1960, has had some remarkable achievements. Among typical examples are rice plants with a short stem, which do not fall even in a strong wind; rice plants which produce a large amount of rice grains; and mulberry trees with leaves 30 per cent broader than those of conventional varieties. The radioactive farm has also successfully developed peach trees with fruit ripening a week earlier than in the past.

These plants are irradiated with gamma rays night and day except for four hours weeding and fertilizing in the morning. The cobalt 60 in the irradiation tower, emitting 3,000 curies of radio-activity, is remote-controlled from a room about 100 metres away to prevent the health of human beings.

"The high protein rice" plants have been grown at this experimental farm. Mr. Yukihiko Tanaka and other experts of the farm planted several hundred varieties of rice plants from 1962 to 1963 and exposed them to gamma rays for 20 hours a day during the whole period of their growth.

This produced diverse mutations, such as short-stem rice plants and circular rice grains. The experiment even evolved rice plants which grow in a prostrate condition.

About 70 varieties of rice, harvested from these mutants, were tested by the amino acid analyzer at the Food Research Institute of the Agriculture Forestry Ministry in February last year to measure their protein content.

This confirmed that the fourth, fifth and 177th rice planted since the start of the experiment in 1962 — all of the "Norin No. 8" variety-contained usually high percentages of protein.

The original "Norin No 8" rice contains 5.5 grams of protein per 100 grams. By contrast, No. 4 Rice contained 10.2 grams, No. 5 Rice 9.5 to 11.3 grams, and No. 117 Rice 8.9 grams—that is—1.5 to two times as much 'protein as that of the original "Norin No. 8".

Moreover, of the three mutants, No. 4 Rice and No. 5 Rice were found to ripen earlier than usual. The ears formed as many as about two months earlier than did the original "Norin No. 8". The two mutants, therefore, are fit for two crop farming.

Five or six years hence, these mutant rice plants will be improved and will become as fixed varieties, and their seeds will be distributed to farmers in general under the Govern-

ment's rice-improving programme. The day is not too distant, therefore, when "high protein rice" will be used for the daily meals of the Japanese people.

The significance of "high protein rice" is not limited to Japan alone. For half of the world's population, mainly inhabiting vast Asia as well as Latin America and Africa, lives on rice.

Furthermore, it is believed likely that the world will enter a period of acute food shortage sooner or later in view of the rapid pace of population expansion and the present rate of agricultural production growth. In particular, there are indications which point to a dire shortage of protein. Since there is a limit to seeking protein from animal products, the world will have to undertake the utilization of vegetable protein on a larger scale.

From this point of view, great expectations are placed on the emergence of "high protein rice" to make a great contribution to the nourishments of people all over the world.

Japan News

Relentless Struggle Against Enemy

Amazing Success Of South Vietnam's Guerillas

December 20 is a sacred day in the history of the Vietnamese nation. It marks three anniversaries. On that day this year, South Vietnam's National Liberation Front, formed to resist the tyranny, under American tutelage, of Ngo Dinh Diem, is eight years old. The date also marks the 22nd anniversary of the outbreak of the war of resistance against French imperialism. By a strange coincidence, the Vietnamese People's

Army formally came into being on the same date two years earlier and within a short time had begun taking over control of the areas abandoned by the retreating Japanese

THE VIETNAMESE nation has literally been forged in the fire of struggle—first against Japanese occupation, then against the colonial French who tried to re-establish their authority when the Japanese withdrew and, during the last eight years, against a super-power using the most modern engines of destruction and possessing enormous resources to carry on a war indefinitely.

The Vietnamese have known no peace for more than a quarter of a century. The French hoped to subdue Vietnamese nationalism in a swift campaign but found themselves embroiled in a bitter and tenacious struggle which dragged on for seven years. A liberated zone came into being in the North of the country. Gen. Giap, the Vietnamese army leader, chose its own time and place to strike the enemy and created, in the course of several decisive battles, a new body of doctrine in revolutionary warfare.

The Geneva Agreements of 1954 and the defeat of the French in Dien Bien Phu brought to an end one phase of the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence and unity. Under the Geneva Agreements, the 17th parallel was to be a line of demarcation to enable regrouping of forces and was never meant to be an international boundary.

But before the end of 1955, Diem had staged a coup and the elections which were to be held for unification of the country within two years never came to be held. The American started moving in, a Military Assistance Group to begin with which expanded steadily, in the course of 12 years, to an expeditionary force of more than half a million men.

THE AMERICANS have taken the most severe beating that a modern army has, in its efforts to

crush the guerillas in South Vietnam. The Pentagon's war strategy changed from time to time, as its ineffectiveness was proved against the Viet Cong guerilla army supported by the people. The creation of 'strategic hamlets' was followed by 'pacification' and later by the search-and-destroy tactics.

Napalm and toxic chemicals were rained from the air to destroy areas and acres of crops and vegetation. When the tide of war began to turn in favour of the liberation forces towards the end of 1964, frantic warnings went to Washington from Saigon that unless North Vietnam was bombed to interrupt supplies coming to the south, a Viet Cong victory would be certain.

For forty-five months, the US air forces poured death and destruction on North Vietnamese cities, towns and villages, but for all the wreckage and devastation it caused, the killing of children and women and bombing of schools and hospitals, it remains a chapter of colossal military stupidity. It failed to achieve any of its aims, whether military or political. When President Johnson agreed to terminate the bombing on 31 October this year, he was a saddened man and America, a divided nation, ashamed of the barbarity its military leaders had perpetrated on a people fighting for their right to live as free men.

THE LESSONS of four years of fighting were summed up by the Vietnamese People's Army High Command, whose leader is Gen. Giap, in a communique issued the day after US bombing was ordered to be stopped. "By defeating the US war of aggression", it said, "we have foiled a new form of war in the US imperialists' war of aggression. . . . We have brought into full play the combined strength and great effectiveness of people's war. . . . While on the South Vietnam battlefield more than 1,200,000 US puppet and satellite troops are sustaining heavy setback, in North Vietnam the so-called 'super-

iority of the US air force' has been blasted".

'People's war' is literally involvement of all the people in a war of resistance. General Giap's treatise on revolutionary warfare is entitled "Guerilla war, war of the people". It is well-known that the areas liberated by the Viet Cong comprise four-fifths of South Vietnam and US troops and the puppet soldiers of Saigon are confined to the towns and bases where they are constantly attacked and harassed by the guerilla forces. A new source of political power has taken shape in the liberated areas under the National Liberation Front. Over two million out of three million hectares of cultivated land, it is claimed, have been distributed to peasants. New methods of cultivation have been introduced in some areas. Educational and medical services are run.

THE REDUCED scale of fighting in South Vietnam because of the prospect of a cease-fire agreement at the Paris negotiations. has given the guerilla forces in Vietnam a brief respite, time to take stock of the amazing successes they have achieved. The Deputy Commander of the Viet Cong is a 49-year-old woman from the Bentre province, Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh. She has been involved in the revolutionary struggle from the age of 14. In her report to the 4th All-South Vietnam Guerilla War Conference held in October this year she listed the main achievements of the movement.

The Guerilla movement, she pointed out, had attacked the enemy relentlessly, wiping out much of his live force and a large quantity of his war materials. The guerilla war "is expanding in almost all the towns and townships, thus creating favourable conditions for development of guerilla activities in the last strongholds of the enemy". In the still occupied areas in the countryside, the enemy

was being attacked by the guerillas, in coordination with the uprising of the masses and revolts by the puppet soldiers. Lastly, guerilla attacks were being launched on strategic communication liners which tied up enemy troops in guarding supply routes to the towns.

AGAINST the background of this brilliant military achievement, the petti-fogging disputes over seating and the shape of tables between Mr. Cao Ky and his American masters in Paris will appear a miserable pantomime to the brave Vietnamese people. US Defence Secretary Clifford's warning that the US Government and N. Vietnam may independently negotiate a reduction of troops may bring Mr. Cao Ky to reason — if indeed his intransigence also is not US-inspired.

If honest negotiations are undertaken at Paris, a cease-fire may be agreed upon without much further bloodshed. But any agreement on a cease-fire will have to start on the basis of acceptance of the National Liberation Front's five-point programme for a political settlement.

While celebrating the anniversary of the National Liberation Front, the Vietnamese will recall the words of President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, made on 3 November, soon after the US bombing was ended. "It is the sacred duty of the entire people now", he said, "to increase our determination to fight and to win, and our resolve to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed towards peaceful unification of the Fatherland.

"As long as there is a single aggressor in our country, we must fight on to sweep him away".

The Americans, after their bitter experience of eight years of fighting, have good reason to heed the warning contained in the appeal.

London Commentary

Harsh Words For Bonn: Play-Acting By Premier Wilson

by Iqbal Singh

Students of contemporary *mores* in the Western World say that spouse-swapping is the very latest thing in love *a la mode*; and some eminent avant-garde psychologists have gone on record to welcome the cult because they believe that it is likely to stabilize rather than undermine the institution of marriage. In the international power game, of course, periodic swapping of partners is an old established custom, though it is debatable whether it has always led to stability and harmony in international relations.

JUST NOW for instance, there is much loud talk that in the alliances within the Western alliance new liaisons are being contracted while old attachments are losing their warmth, if not actually dissolving. In particular, there have been suggestions that the Americans and the British have lately cooled towards the West Germans whom they had wooed with such persistent (and presumably rewarding) passion over the Cold War decades and that there is a corresponding, if still incipient, thaw in their relations with France.

Is there any solid evidence to substantiate this view? So far as Franco-American relations are concerned, certainly, there was the statement by Mr. Fowler, Secretary of the US Treasury, that he approved and "heartily" applauded the decision by the French President to maintain the parity of the franc which, he claimed after the event, had come as no surprise to him. There was also President Johnson's telegram to President de Gaulle in which

he said: "We are willing to cooperate to the full extent compatible with our national aims so that your goal is reached."

But both Mr. Fowler and President Johnson are on their way out and it remains to be seen how the new American President conducts himself in his dealings with General de Gaulle. Undoubtedly, Mr. Nixon's election has generated some optimism on the Gaullist Right, but whether it will be justified by events is problematical. Quite apart from the larger aims of President de Gaulle's diplomacy, even in the narrower sphere of international monetary policies, there is nothing to suggest that Washington is willing to agree to raising the price of gold or even holding a world monetary conference in the near future.

BUT WHAT of a renewal of the *Entente Cordiale* which has been virtually defunct since General de Gaulle barred the Common Market door to the British at Brussels? It is on the point of being given a kiss of life and have London and Paris been brought together by common economic adversity? Certainly, on the surface there is much to support this assessment. At the Basle meeting of international bankers, the British are said to have ganged up with the French in pressurizing Bonn to revalue the West German Deutsche mark and, again, at the gathering of Finance Ministers of the group of ten in Bonn which followed, Mr. Roy Jenkins, as we know from what has appeared in the West German Press, was apparently very rough with the West Germans and demanded sternly that the Federal Republic owed it to its allies to make the mark dearer to neutralize at least part of the advantage which it enjoys as their trading rival.

It seems that even before Mr. Jenkins took the plane to Bonn, Mr. Wilson had joined in the

argument and summoned the West German Ambassador to No. 10, Downing Street, and told him in no uncertain terms that Britain expects Bonn to obey the orders and further that, if it did not, the British Government might be compelled to review its defence commitments in West Germany. There are, it is true, two versions of this incident — the British and the West German. What is significant, however, is that the British Press and the Opposition has been more inclined to accept the West German version of the midnight interview between Mr. Blankenhorn and Mr. Wilson and the Chancellor of the Exchequer which was deliberately leaked out by Bonn to the West German Press.

WHAT IS equally significant, moreover, is that the British Prime Minister, far from feeling penitent and appearing in sackcloth and ashes, stuck to his guns in the Commons, speaking quite out of context (while answering a question on Rhodesia) publicly chided the West Germans for leaking out what had passed in confidential talks and correspondence — something, he added, which he had not experienced in his dealings with "100 Heads of Government" during the past four years.

This in turn has led to Mr. Wilson being rebuked not only by the Right-wing Tories who cannot pass a West German without an automatic genuflexion, but even the *Times* which has delivered a whole series of editorial admonitions, to warn Mr. Wilson of the folly of arrogance towards the West Germans and "disregarding the new balance of power".

If these appearances were to be taken as reflecting the true state of Anglo-West German relations, then, there would be some ground for hoping that British foreign policy is at last turning away from adventure to a more

sensible course in line with promises that the Labour Party made to the electorate and to its own following in the wake of Mr. Wilson's election to its leadership. But can they be so taken? There has always been an element of deep ambivalence in Anglo-German relations which goes very far back in modern history and which the Labour administration like its predecessors, has not outgrown.

The *Times* was really preaching to the converted when it urged

NOVEL MACHINERY FOR POULTRY BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Soviet poultry breeding factories and poultry breeding farms, on collective farms and state farms, have been provided of late with some new mechanisms. One of these is a noiseless egg-grading machine, YaS-1, manufactured by the Kiev Experimental Plant of Grading Automatic Machines, Ukrainian SSR. The machine grades 4,200 eggs per hour, including those intended for sale, and those for hatching in incubators. It simultaneously checks the quality of eggs, labels them, marking the date and the quality category. Another mechanism — UPUS-2 — automatically controls the lighting regimen. A single installation of of this type makes it possible to regulate the lighting regimen simultaneously in 18 poultry yards. Depending on the season, the mechanism regulates the daily change of lighting, imitating dawn, dusk, day lighting, and so on. The instrument is faultless in control; it works on the basis of a photo cell relay device, and weighs only 10 kg. Very popular is also the new Soviet machine M-4, for cleaning eggs. It processes 1,500 eggs per hour.

Mr. Wilson and his colleagues to show some deference to the Federal Republic because, "on most of the large issues facing them, the two countries find their interests are roughly parallel, and very often they are identical. In Europe both countries wish Britain to be let into the Common Market. Both react against General de Gaulle's idea (or what used to be his idea) of Western Europe as an exclusive anti-American club.... And in Europe itself, the way forward for Britain and her EFTA partners would seem to lie in closer consultation with Germany (that is, West Germany)...."

AS IT HAPPENS, these are precisely the considerations which account for the enormous effort which British diplomacy, especially under Mr. Wilson, has made to ingratiate Britain with the rulers of West Germany and, if possible, to set up a Bonn-London axis around which the so-called "European caucus" inside NATO would eventually revolve. As Mr. Peter Jenkins, a political columnist of the *Guardian* who has access to No. 10, Downing Street, remarked last week, "since it became clear that nothing was going to persuade President de Gaulle to open the European door to Britain, the emphasis in our policy has been on the development of our relations with West Germany. In the long term Germany holds the key even if in the short term it cannot turn the lock".

Why, then, the ostentatious public tantrums on the part of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Jenkins' more discreet demurs? The answer to this question cannot be simple. Almost certainly, they are partly play-acting to impress the French President, if he can possibly be impressed, that it would be to his advantage to have Britain in the Common Market as a counterweight to the overwhelming economic power of West Germany in Little Europe. In any case, the British stood to lose nothing by this dissimulation; after all, a revaluation of the West German mark would help them in correcting

their balance of payments deficit.

Partly, it must be seen as a lovers' quarrel, if so inappropriate a phrase can be used in this context. Britain having expected "too much room soon from the Germans", as Mr. Peter Jenkins has it, is not averse to trying a bit of blackmail to extract

the last favours from Bonn by pretending to take its suit elsewhere. Whether Mr. Kiesinger and his Government are impressed or not remains to be seen. But no serious observer of the European situation will be taken in by the act, although the British are excellent actors.

COST OF US AIR WAR AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM

Now that the bombing of North Vietnam has ended, at least temporarily, we phoned the Pentagon press office for some figures on what it all cost. The Pentagon tries to hide this by lumping aerial figures for both Vietnams. The figure which startled us most was for the total bomb tonnage dropped on Vietnam, North and South, up until the end of October. This was given as 2,948,957 tons. When we asked for comparative figures, we were told that the total tonnage dropped in World War II was 2,057,244, the grand total for both the European and Asian theatres. So we dropped almost 50 per cent more bombs on Vietnam than on all Eurasia and the Pacific. The total dropped on Korea, North, and South, in the Korean War was 635,000. We have dropped five times as much on Vietnam. We asked the Pentagon how to figure the cost and were told about 50 cents a pound. This means the bombs alone cost about \$3 billion. When we asked whether most of this was dropped on North Vietnam, we were told only about a fifth was dropped on the North. So that would run to \$600,000,000. As of Oct. 29, we had lost 914 fixed wing planes and 10 helicopters over the North. (The combat losses in the South during the same period was 315 fixed planes and 906 helicopters.) An attack or

fighter plane averages about \$2 million, a helicopter about \$250,000. So you can add another \$2 billion for planes and helicopters lost in combat over the North. That brings the total to \$2,600,000,000 for the bombing of the North.

But that is not the whole story of plane losses. There is another category of air losses not due to ground-to-air or air to air fire. This includes planes hit by mortar fire, damaged in accidents, or lost in Vietnam through other causes. The grand total of these for both Vietnam is 1,198 fixed wing and 1,214 helicopters. These may be worth roughly another \$2 billion for the fixed wing and another \$300 million for the helicopters. If half of this is allocated to the air war against the North. It would bring the total cost of the attacks on the North to \$3,750,000,000. To this must be added the cost of pilots lost. The Pentagon has given out a figure of "more than" 450 pilots killed or missing in the air war over the North. The mean cost of training a modern combat pilot is \$450,000. That would add another \$202 million to the cost bringing the total up to almost \$4 billion. Never was more money blown away in a more wicked cause.

—From *I. F. Stones Weekly*,
November 18, 1968.

In Nixons Era

Latin America Entering A Period Of Shift To The Right

Latin America's economic results were very slim in 1968. Mexico in the first place and slightly less Venezuela and Chile and bright but merely rare exceptions in this respect Latin American economy as a whole was developing along the lines of stagnation once again. Taken in general, industrial production grew only 2.8 percent in 1968, agricultural only 2.3 percent and the population nearly two percent, (to be more exact: 1.95 percent). The efforts of investors, employers and workers throughout the "green continent" could not offset the natural population growth and they achieved an increase of hardly one percent. The main economic instrument of development, the so-called "Alliance for Progress" inaugurated for the whole of Latin America by President John Kennedy at the Punta del Este Conference eight years ago, therefore suffered a complete failure in many parts of the continent. Out of the promised total of two billion dollars a year as assistance for the development of the Latin American countries, Kennedy's successors in the White House devoted very little attention and even less money to the project. For 1969, the total American assistance is estimated at only 287 million dollars.

AS has already announced, the President-elect, Richard Nixon, does not intend to enlarge this assistance. As distinct from Kennedy who saw in the "Alliance for Progress" an instrument of "peaceful competition between Latin America and Communist Cuba", Nixon plans to intensify "the boycott and blockade of Cuba", Openly and clearly he said he could not "promise anything in new conditions because of mistakes of the past Administrations about new military actions" against small Cuba for this might enlarge the "risk from a new world war", but added that there were "other measures to free Cuba from Castro's regime." Most observers therefore hold that Latin America is entering

a new period of the shift to the right in Nixon's era. There are only a few countries in which Army Majors, Colonels and Generals have not taken, not only military but also civilian power, into their hands. Two coup d'etats in 1968 — in Peru and Panama — increased the number of military juntas in the "green continent", precisely at the moment when two Constitutional Governments, in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, offered fierce resistance to a return to the "old empire of Colonels".

THE YOUTH revolt in Mexico, at the climax of the really magnificent Olympic Games, is by many elements specific for the whole of Latin America. Che Guevara's death in Bolivia towards the end of 1967 seems to have put an end to the popularity of guerilla actions. As distinct from this, students' unrest has shattered not only the "eternally" and potentially rebellious nations, such as Brazil and Argentina, but also the "respectable" Christian Democratic regimes in Chile, Venezuela and Peru and spread even to the northernmost point of the "green continent" — Mexico.

In a country which spends 1.8 million dollars a day for schooling and education, three times more than for the Army and police, students have now opened a new era of political life. The broad youth movement for the democratization of political life, for a more just distribution of the national income, greater civil and personal freedoms is disfigured because of violence and rough methods in the squaring of accounts of political and other factors into a cloaked struggle for power of the militarist right wing. The return of 150 University and secondary school students to their classrooms in the first days of December did not mean, however, the end of the youth movement. On the contrary, a new period of much livelier and unusual political struggles in the country has

been opened which — although the only direct Latin American neighbour of the United States along a border which is over 2,000 kilometres long — has offered the most decisive and the most principled resistance to all the past pressures from her northern neighbour.

More than ever before, the whole of Latin America is seeking political friends, together with economic partners all the world over. Demands for the diversification of relations which have traditionally been linked with the north, with United States, have greatly ceased to be academic in nature. A way out of one's own economic difficulties and unpleasant position is no longer sought with the consent from outside or is restricted to the capitalist world only. Even the unanimous condemnation of Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia could not divert Latin America from this battle for broader relations with all, especially socialist countries, as an instrument of defence of her own national independence. The normalization of relations with Cuba is becoming to an ever greater extent a general continental imperative. More than economic results of Cuba's socialist development which can perhaps be compared only with the failure of Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress" the political balance of socialist Cuba and the interests of Latin America in general lay emphasis on the need for genuine coexistence and mutual co-operation.

Scepticism in front of the "unknown rocket" of Nixon's plans and projects therefore gives way to more sober concepts that the problems of the "green continent" — so long neglected because of foreign interference or local considerations for the attitudes of the northern neighbour—have now acquired proportions which necessitate new and decisive solutions to one's own needs even for countries which — as the Mexicans often say of themselves — "are so far away from God and so close to the United States."

Boza Rafajlovic
Tanjung

FILM PAGE

● **CHEMMEEN**, Kanman Films Malayalam movie in Eastman-color, released through Cinemas Ltd. now showing at the *LIDO CINEMA*, is the distinguished work of Thakashi Sivasankara Pillai, an eminent luminary on the literary firmament in Kerala, South India. Harmoniously blending progressive realism with a new romanticism, this novel, set in Kerala, has the gripping qualities of a fable or a fantasy, in which the lives, superstitions, the inner beliefs, the traditions and the sufferings of the fisherfolk are portrayed as a way of life with a deep and significant moral. The novel has the distinction of being translated into all the 14 languages of India and in all the important languages of the world — English, Russian, German, Italian, French, Czech, Spanish, Polish, etc. Since its publication in Malayalam in 1956, the novel has run into several editions setting an all-India

record for all time. The film, a tragic tale of great emotional appeal, won the President of India's Gold Medal, Filmfare Award, Madras Film Fans Association Award, Kerala Film Fans Association Award and the Certificate of Merit for Artistic Excellence at the Third Chicago International Film Festival. The movie's visual charm is mostly derived from the superb colour photography by Marcus Bartley, along the beautiful sea-coast and provides a feast of scenic beauty. The outdoor locales are beautifully picturised. The film is also helped in a very large measure by the music that is delightful to hear and suits the scenes. The tunes for the songs composed by Salil Chowdhury are quite attractive. The picture produced by Easa Ismail is a commendable movie, and the skillful, artistic and creative direction by Ramu Kariat makes it a film of exception.

The story in brief, centres around an arrogant and ambitious fisherman whose aim is to own a fishing boat and net. Sacrificing the pleasures of life and of the family he succeeds in buying what he desires with the help of Pareekutty, a young Muslim trader, and promises him to sell his entire catch. Later, refuses to sell the fish to Pareekutty as he has no ready cash, and drives him to bankruptcy. Chembankunju even forsakes his good neighbour and childhood friend Achankunju. Chembankunju's daughter Karuthamma and Pareekutty are in love with each other. Karuthamma's mother Chakki, knows about the affair, and reminds her, to violate the customs would be to anger the sea gods and bring destruction. Realising the traditional belief, Karathamma forsakes Pareekutty and marries Palani, who her father discovered during a fishing trip. Soon after the marriage Karthamma accompanies her husband to his village, despite her mother's sudden illness and her father's request to stay a few days. The father in his fury disowns Karuthamma. The couple live happily, but a scandal about

Air Conditioned
LIBERTY

TONY CURTIS
ROSSANA SCHIAFFINO

in
**Arrivederci
Baby**

Technicolor From Paramount

4th Week

CENTRAL

Sivaji — Sarojadevi
Nagesh in

**EN
THAMBI**

4th Week

**GAMINI
SAPPHIRE**

2, 6 & 9.30 p.m

CINEMAS'

**ATAVENI
PUDUMEYA**

LIDO

10.30 a.m. 2.30, 6 & 9.30 p.m.

President's Gold Medal
Winner

CHEMMEEN
(Eastmancolor)

Music:- Salil Chowdhury

25th Week

PLAZA

1.30, 6 & 9.30 P.M.

WELLINGTON—JAFNA
1.30, 6 & 9.30 p.m.

Raj Kapoor's

SANGAM
(Technicolor)

5th Week

KINGSLEY

2, 6 & 9.30 p.m

Neelavanam

4th Week

CAPITOL

2, 6 & 9.30 P.M

**Alibaba & Forty
Thieves**
Gevacolor

* *

her old love affair spreads among the village. Palani believes her. His friends fearing disaster according to traditions for mixing with other castes, refuse to take him along for fishing. Palani buys a boat and starts on his own. After the death of his wife, Chembankunju marries Pappikunju, widow of Valakkaran, from whom he bought the boat. Unable to bear her father's treatment and disliking her step-mother, Panchami, Chembankunju's younger daughter, leaves the house and goes to her sister, Karuthamma. The father now deserted by all becomes mad. On a moon-lit night when Palani is away on the rough seas, Pareekutty meets Karuthamma. While Palani is baiting a big shark, the true lovers find bliss in each other's arms. The tradition is defied and Katalamma, the Goddess of the Sea exacts a terrible vengeance. Palani is caught in a whirlpool and dragged to his death by the shark, when the storm breaks out followed by thunder and lightning. Next morning the lovers are found dead hand in hand, washed ashore. At a distance, lies a baited dead shark.

● **THE BLUE MAX**, 20th Century Fox release, now showing at the *SAVOY CINEMA*, tells the story of winged warriors. During the four year span of World War I, the introduction of air power into warfare brought about a new breed of man, the fighter pilot, a daredevil who duelled in the air in the earliest forms of aircraft. This mighty air drama recreates World War I era, starring George Peppard, James Mason, Ursula Andress, Jeremy Kemp and Karl Michael Vogler. John Guillermin directed the movie and Christian Ferry produced the CinemaScope Deluxe colour attraction. The screenplay by Gerald Hanley, David Pursall and Jack Seddon is based on the best selling novel of the name by Jack D. Hunter. Peppard plays the role of an ambitious young flyer. In addition to the drama of war-torn skies, the film focusses on Peppard's love affair with Ursula Andress. The Blue Max was a Maltese soc-

excuted in blue enamel and edged in silver, with the German imperial eagle in silver laced between the bars of the cross. It was dangling from the neck on a black ribbon with a white stripe. The medal dates back to the days of Frederick the Great, who gave it the title, Pour le Merite, because the French was the German court language of the time. It was awarded to flyers when they had downed 20 Allied planes, and the pinning of the medal was always an impressive occasion. The film was shot on location in Ireland, and for air battle sequences, nine meticulous reconstructions of World War I planes were built at a cost of Dol. 250,000.

● **GUNLIGHT IN ABILENE**, Universal release, in Technicolor, now showing at the *NEW OLYMPIA*, is a top-grade western adventure, with Bobby Darin heading the cast which includes Emily Banks as his romantic interest, Leslie Nielsen. Don Galloway and Donnelly Rhodes. In this outdoor action drama, the gun-fights evolve around the efforts of cattle ranchers to evict the land farmers in the frontier Kansas town of Abilene. As the sheriff, Darin displays another facet of his extensive dramatic ability in the role of soldier whose Civil War psychological trauma makes it impossible for him again to fire a pistol, yet who summons his last ounce of courage to overcome the obsession when his work as a peace officer demands it. As Bobby's sweetheart, who got tired of waiting for him and became engaged to his best friend's brother, Nielsen, Emily Banks finds she still is in love with the sheriff. Nielsen is a different type of cattle baron. While he has managed to get his big spread with a certain amount of skulduggery, he violently opposes the ruthlessness of his foreman, Rhodes, and pays with his life. Galloway is Darin's deputy.

In addition to handling the leading role, Darin has written the musical score for the picture,

and sings the title song. William Hale directed the movie from the script by Bernie Giler and John D. F. Black. The film is produced by Howard Christie.



<p>EMPIRE Air-Conditioned Gina Lollobrigida in Death Laid An Egg in Colour — (Adults Only)</p>
<p>MAJESTIC Air-Conditioned From Thurs Jan. 16 MGM's GRAND PRIX in 70 m.m.</p>
<p>Extending 5th Week REGAL Air-Conditioned Columbia's BORN FREE in Panavision & Colour</p>
<p>ELPHINSTONE-ROXY Samanala Films' SENEHASA Directed by: Herbert M. Seneviratne</p>
<p>Extending 5th Week SELLAMAHAL M G.Ramachandran in Rahasiya Police 115 in Eastman Colour</p>
<p>CROWN 2nd Week Mala Sinha—Manoj Kumar in HIMALAY KI GODMEIN in Eastman Colour</p>
<p>Extending 3rd Week SAVOY Air-Conditioned George Peppard—Ursula Andress in The Blue Max in CinemaScope & Colour</p>

Over Two Million Die Every year

Cancer - The Scourge Of Mankind Is On The Increase

OVER TWO MILLION people die each year from cancer. The total number of cancer sufferers in the world is more than five million. In addition, for every cancer patient there are four or five more with some form of precancerous disease — although it does not necessarily follow that every one of these cases will develop into cancer.

What is this terrible disease? Many of the great scourges of mankind — leprosy, syphilis, tuberculosis, malaria — are less frequent than they used to be, and may possibly disappear altogether. But cancer is increasing. Certain forms of cancer are certainly more "common" than they used to be, because the physician has learned to recognize them, and also because life has been extended by advances in preventive and clinical medicine, and we know that cancer more frequently attacks the older age groups.

The cells of the human body, under the influence of a regulating mechanism, are born, live, divide, and die at a rate that varies according to the organ of which they form a part. It so happens that sometimes a malfunctioning of this mechanism occurs, the rhythm of cell division is upset and cell division occurs more rapidly than it should: a tumor begins to form.

Some of these tumors remain strictly localized at the site where they arise and are called benign: others spread and become malignant. Sometimes, if treatment is not started during the early stages, the cancerous cells erupt into the blood and lymph streams, which carry them to different organs of the body. We do not

know yet how the regulating mechanism is upset, nor what causes the tumor to become malignant. We do know, however, a considerable amount about the variety of cancers, and how they occur in different parts of the world. For example:

SKIN AND LIP CANCERS are twenty times more common among white people in the southern half of the USA, while in the USSR they are four to five times more common in the south than in the north. Breast cancer is over eight times more common among women in Israel than among women in Japan. Lung cancer is the most common in cause of cancer deaths among men in England and Wales; in Iceland it is a much less common cause of death. Liver cancer causes half of all cancer deaths among the Bantu in Africa. In Europe and North America it accounts for less than four percent of cancer deaths. Cancer of the cervix accounts for half of all cancer deaths among Hindu women. Stomach cancer accounts for fifty percent of cancer among men in Iceland, fifty percent in Japan, ten percent in the USA and even less in Indonesia. Sex differences too are very noticeable.

HOW CAN we explain these differences? This is one of the tasks of the epidemiologist, who studies health and disease in relation to man's varying environment. The aim is to identify the factor which are crucial in the cause and prevention of disease and the maintenance of health.

The study of cancer epidemiology cannot explain the exact processes by

which normal body cells become malignant. The understanding of this process lies in the research laboratory where chemists, biologists and physicists carry out experiments. Epidemiology can, however, identify the trigger factors which are responsible for certain cancers.

Therefore, by removing or modifying these crucial factors, the incidence of many cancers can be substantially reduced. Information thus obtained allows programs of preventive medicine to be designed and applied. This is one of the major ways in which present knowledge can help to reduce human cancer.

A population may live in an urban or rural area. Environmental and geological influences differ—for example the chemicals in the soil. The incidence of cancer of the skin among white people is potentially higher among those living in the tropics where they are subjected to a far greater intensity of sunshine, than those living in higher latitudes.

A variety of food is eaten by people all over the world. The soil and rocks below the surface of the earth are composed of different minerals. Some of which give out a very small but persistent radiation.

Furthermore, all life on this planet is subject to cosmic rays, which come partly from the sun and partly from outer space. These rays have extreme penetrating properties and have been found deep below the surface of the earth in mines.

All these external factors have an influence upon human life.

—World Health Organisation

