

Vol. 21 No. 32 — January 22, 1977. — **RUPEE ONE**

TRIBUNE



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The Rates:

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PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE,

124, Kumaran Ratnam Road,
Colombo 2.

Phone: 36111

Letter From The Editor

BATTICALOA has been in the news in recent weeks. In December, it was struck by a gale, a (mini-cyclone), and the consequential floods caused a great deal of damage. The Minister of Education Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud, who hails from Gampola and was married in Puttalam, has been made the Chief SLFP Organiser for Batticaloa. This has naturally aroused speculation as to whether he will run for one of the seats in the area or for one of the two-member Batticaloa seats? In the past, Batticaloa had returned one Muslim and one Tamil, but in 1970 through certain fortuitous circumstances two Tamils were returned: one was a nominee of the Federal Party and the other is now a staunch SLFPer. Mr. Rajan Selvanayakam is the Political Authority for Batticaloa and there is also speculation as to whether Mr. Mahmud will supersede him. At the moment, Mr. Mahmud is an Appointed Member of Parliament and unless he is able to win a seat at the next elections he will have to go out of parliamentary politics. But, it is not the cyclone or the parachuting of Mr. Mahmud into the area that prompted us to choose the aerial view of the Batticaloa Fort as the picture for the Cover this week. It is known that the Dutch-built fort at Batticaloa was in the danger of crumbling through neglect. It is surprising why such a treasure of the Dutch period in Sri Lanka should not have been better cared for, and it is our hope that something will be done to preserve this as a national monument. It is unfortunate that, for a too long period, our understandable dislike for colonialism and the colonial rulers has induced many of us to destroy some of the best things of the colonial era either through wilful acts or wanton neglect. Sri Lanka is now deeply entrenched in her sovereignty and independence to be inhibited by the thoughts of the iniquities of the colonial era. The Dutch, like the British, have contributed a great deal to what is now the Sri Lanka way of life. Our furniture and our contemporary architecture have been greatly influenced by the Dutch. The Sri Lanka cuisine owes a great deal to Dutch ingenuity and resourcefulness in the making of curries, sambols and the like. The Dutch-introduced Roman Dutch Law is still one of the corner-stones of our legal system. The Dutch built straight roads and durable forts. And last, but not least, they left behind, the outstanding Dutch Burgher community, and although the vast majority of them have left this country under the hammer-blows of indigenous infantile nationalism, there is no doubt that the best of the Sri Lankan Sinhalese and Tamils have much of the Dutch ethos ingrained in their mental and spiritual make-up. From Dutch times to the present is no doubt a far cry. Many people, today, seem to need far more Dutch courage than earlier to do things. There is another important point of difference. Today, unlike in Dutch times, this country has a surfeit of trade unions and an overdoze of strikes, go-slows and work-to-rule campaigns. It was only on Monday, January 17, that one of the major strike campaigns in recent times ended, ingloriously for the trade unions which had called for a General Strike, but gloriously for the Government which had combined tough regulations with soft handling of even recalcitrant elements. Very wisely, the Government had extended the deadline two or three times until the point when it was clear to everybody that the General Strike had fizzled out and this enabled all strikers to report for work without violating the Essential Services Order. There is no doubt that it was a politically-motivated strike from the very start (at least on this point the government propaganda line was not far removed from reality). The demand for the staggering Rs. 500 festival advance was intended to provoke the Government into a sustained "no", but even after the Government had conceded it in two stages, the strikes were continued on the specious plea that the Government must negotiate with the strikers even to grant what they wanted. The strike was, thereafter, continued on this rather academic question whether the Government must negotiate with strikers under all circumstances (even the LSSP when in the Government had refused to negotiate with strikers), and this was considered sufficient a ground for a General Strike. It did not take long for the ordinary man to realise that the strike movement was only intended to enable the LSSP (and the UNP—with the CP tailing behind) to speak to the SLFP from positions of strength. Even among the trade unions there was not much enthusiasm for the strike. There was universal resentment among the public at large against the strikes which had caused hardships, shortages and difficulties in urban and rural areas. Without popular mass support any General Strike must fail. And this General Strike too failed miserably. The initial success in the Railways had created a false impression among some people that a general "revolutionary" situation had arisen and that a General Strike would enable the organised working class to compel the Government to do its bidding. It is time that our trade union pundits and ideologues realised that "revolutions" do not await them around every corner.

TRIBUNE

Founded in 1954

A Journal of Ceylon and
World Affairs

Editor S. P. Amarasingam
Every Saturday

January 22, 1977

Vol. 21 No. 32

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET,
COLOMBO-2.
Telephone: 33172

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SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Dec. 23 — Jan. 8

A DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror;
CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; DM—Dina;
mina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa;
SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadina.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23: The Fire Chief has asserted that the blaze at the Weaving Supplies Corporation was no accident: that this fire, which destroyed the supply of synthetic material for distribution in the first quarter of 1977 was reported to have been brought under control yesterday—CDN. Arab countries will soon step up their purchase of traditional and non-traditional items from Sri Lanka to cushion the effect of the oil price hike from January—CDN. The Government yesterday decided to grant an increased festival advance of Rs. 200 to all non-executive grades in the public service in view of the increased cost of school textbooks and textiles—CDN. Train services to and from Colombo were paralysed as a large number of railway employees came out on strike yesterday demanding a festival advance of Rs. 500—CDM. The secret talks held between the SLFP and Chelvanayakam will be out in the open soon says Dharmalingam MP for Uduvil. Mr. Bernard Soysa and Mr. Colvin R. de Silva said that they are not against MP's getting a pension but they ask why a worker has to serve 10 years in order to get a pension, and why MP's should have it so easy. Besides Ministers who have made many mistakes should not be entitled to a pension—JD. The price of oil will not be increased—ATH. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has said that if the UNP comes to power the capital will shift to Kotte—SLDP. A. Thiagaraja, MP for Vaddukoddai said that the government could solve the problems of the Tamil people through talks with the leaders of the TULF. Though the doctors held talks with the minister of health the work-to-rule continues—VK.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24: The rail strike causes Rs. 1 million loss a day, according to the railway sources. Train services which were disrupted on Wednesday evening were completely paralysed yesterday by strikers insisting on a festival advance of Rs. 500. The Bank of Ceylon earned Rs. 30 million profit before taxation last year, which was the highest recorded in 36 years of the bank's existence. The government has decided to accept an offer from the US to increase by 100% the supply of flour under the PL 480 agreement between the two countries. The funeral of Sir Richard Aluvihare, a former High Commissioner and the first Ceylonese I.G.P. took place at the General Cemetery Kanatte. Mr. L. B. Jayaseena, Deputy Minister of local government has said that 67,000 local government employees will be in the state sector soon—CDN. Bread and flour shortages affecting the country will make X'mas bleak this year. For the second occasion in recent times Air Ceylon has called off another inaugural, the Delhi flight fixed for December. 27 Santhosams and lists are tabco for Post and Telecommuni-

cations men according to a circular by the FMG—CDM. Two thousand harbour workers are on strike—VK. A substantial increase in tea crop figures during November amounting to 5.8 million kilos more than what was harvested in the corresponding period last year, has led to a welcome reduction in the deficit for January to November this year—CO.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 25: The railways remained paralysed yesterday with striking unions standing firm to their demand for Rs. 500 festival advance. The Transport Ministry in a communique explaining the circumstances of the current strike yesterday appealed to the workers to return to work. Deeply concerned by the decreasing application of fertiliser on coconut land in Sri Lanka and the resulting drop in production, the coconut cultivation board is making an effort to encourage inter cropping of coffee and cocoa on wet zone coconut land. If manuring is neglected, the board feels, soon there will be no coconuts left for export. The Police are enquiring into the political, technical and general aspects of the fire at the Weaving Supplies Corporation's main store in Colombo which destroyed 21 million worth of synthetic yarn. The NCGE Exams will begin on schedule. The Air Force and the Army will air lift the papers for distribution. The government has decided to make further reduction in the price of state owned land allotted to cultivators through land Kachcheris—CDN. Due to the floods, road transport has been cut off and so Batticaloa has been isolated: Many homeless people are sheltering in public buildings, there is a shortage of food, and a great deal of damage to crops—VK. Owing to the Railway strike, distribution of food and oil in the districts has been disrupted: the government is losing lakhs of rupees daily—ATH.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26: A formidable section of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and its trade unions have urged the party leader, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike to summon as early as possible, a meeting of the party's Executive Committee to discuss matters of urgent public importance: among the matters which they wish to discuss are the acts of commission and omission on the part of ministers, if any, and the bureaucracy, the streamlining of the party organisation and the taking of adequate steps to prevent the government from being brought into disrepute due to the shortcomings in the administrative machinery. The railway strike continued yesterday without the prospects of an immediate settlement. The Parliamentary Pensions Bill will become operative from the date the Speaker of the National State Assembly certifies it. The Mayor of Colombo, Mr. A. H. M. Fowzie has announced that there will be a continuous supply of water to the residents of Colombo on Saturdays, Sundays, Poya days and on festival days: on other days the water will operate from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.—ST. There was no change in the rail strike, though there is some talk of running a skeleton service from Monday evening. Mr. Justice D. Wimalaratne, the one man commissioner appointed to probe the incidents which occurred at the Peradeniya Campus on November 11 and 12 has already started drafting his report to be handed over to the President as soon as possible: evidently the evidence covers over 1000 pages and the staff are working overtime to finish it by December 31. While consumers in Colombo and other principal cities have yet to benefit from the

new price control order on beef and mutton, those in several small towns have been forced to pay higher prices than they earlier did: several Government Agents have complained to the Ministry of Trade about this problem and added that the public are dissatisfied with the new order: as cattle and goats are available at cheap prices in these areas and there are hardly any transport costs, they feel that these commodities could be sold at much cheaper rates in these areas: they have recommended that a fresh order be issued fixing different prices for each area taking into account each district. The Ceylon Oxygen Company Limited which was taken over recently will be re-organised to expand its activities: this British-owned company was taken over under the Business Acquisition Act and is now administered by a competent authority—CO.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27: The railway yesterday ruled out the possibility of a resumption of normal services of the paralysed CGR even today; apparently, no workers had reported for work during the weekend. The Chief Operations Manager of the CTB Mr. W. S. Wijemanne said yesterday that all available buses were being pressed into service to meet the situation caused by the railway strike. Police investigating the security arrangements at the Weaving Supplies Corporation on the night of the big fire believe that there is a strong case for a unified national security service for the guarding of public property. A consignment of yarn imported for the Textile Corporation caught fire in one of the warehouses in Queen Elizabeth Quay yesterday evening about 7 p.m. and several barrels of acid imported for the same corporation and which had been stored outside the warehouse were also damaged in the fire. Mr. S. M. B. Dalapillai, Chairman of the Port Cargo Corporation attributed the fire to a leak in one of the acid barrels which had been lying in the premises uncleared for some time. Twenty thousand persons, the entire membership of the Janawasas, will make a pledge to adhere to the principles of collective farming and profit sharing and the protection of the concept of Janawasas of January 3. The Commission now controls 170 Janawasas involving 50,000 acres but has to expand rapidly. The GMOA and AMS will meet on January 2 to take a decision on whether to call off their work-to-rule campaign. The majority of the members it is said, favour responding to last week's appeal to doctors by the Health Minister, Mrs. Siva Obeyesekere, to call off the campaign—CDN. The railway strike enters its fifth day today with out an prospect of a settlement. Although the government decided to give all public servants Rs. 200 in lieu of the present amount of Rs. 100 the striking unions wanted their original demand of Rs. 500. The Ministry of Transport said that it will cost the government over Rs. 80 million and as such it would not be possible to accede to the request of the railway workers. Bread queues were seen in most parts of the city on Christmas day and even yesterday. Since last week the explanation given by the Food Department was that the shortage of flour was due to the delay in the ships bringing flour. A completely modern and highly sophisticated Homicide Squad to tackle crime on an island-wide basis comes into operation from January 1. Apart from handling all cases of homicides in Colombo, the squad will inquire into cases from the outstations which the local police find baffling. This was required in view of the

police inquiries replacing the usual non-summary proceedings in court. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's sale of super petrol shot up substantially last year. According to statistics maintained by the Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs, the sale increased from 18.6 million gallons in the previous year to 20.2 million gallons during 1975. Mr. Mahinda Pieris MMC moved a motion to the effect that a policeman should be posted at every city municipal market with price control powers to supervise the sale of beef at 3 Rs. a pound. A number of scorekeepers at the Health Department have protested to the Minister of Health about an extension given to an Assistant Superintendent of the Civil Medical stores: they have threatened to resort to Trade Union action if no action is taken in this matter—CDM. Long winding queues for bread seemed to be the order of the day in Colombo and the suburbs. The Department of Examinations yesterday began transporting NCGE question papers to various parts of the island under armed escort with the help of the Sri Lanka Air Force and Army. X'mas was a very busy day for Police and Hospital staff: they had to treat many who suffered burns due to crackers: there were also 40 casualties due to brawls caused by sudden provocation after liquor. The Sri Lanka Fruit Board is offering a whole range of incentives to fruit growers in a drive to establish itself as one of the world's major exporters of fruits and fruit products. A concerted effort by certain trade union leaders to cripple the bus services during the weekend was thwarted by pro-government trade unions in the CTB. It is reliably learnt that bus services would continue to be operated as usual—CO.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28: A 30-wagon goods train which the railway attempted to despatch to the hill country yesterday was halted by strikers performing satyagraha on the tracks at Dematagoda a short distance from the point of departure: police cleared the tracks but the CGR decided to call off its attempt and the train was sent back to the yard: it is understood that tracks have also been removed in some places. Bakers in and around Colombo were given their normal quotas of flour for last week as well as this week, a food Ministry communiqué said yesterday: it said those bakeries should be in a position to make available to the consumers at least the normal quantities of bread that they had made available previously. The shortage of textiles is now reflected more than ever in the prices that tenders fetch at the weekly tenders of the government owned business undertaking, the Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mill: in the prevailing shortage of textiles, many for which there is a great consumer demand will now sell at very much higher prices for consumers. The Ceylon Railway Guard's Union unanimously decided at a special meeting yesterday to commence a strike from midnight yesterday in support of the railway workers—CDN. The Ministry of Transport will not negotiate with the striking unions of the railway until the employees return to work: this was said by the Minister of Transport, Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, at a conference yesterday with top officials of the Ministry and the railway to review the situation caused by the strike: a goods train had to be cancelled yesterday because a railway line on the main track at Urugodawatte junction had been removed: ministry sources described this incident as a deliberate act of sabotage. The Tourist Board has instructed travel agents not to

take tourists to outstations as there could be a fuel shortage in the outstations. While the Food Department maintains that bakeries were supplied with flour for last week as well as this week, bakery owners say that the bread baked last week was on the quantities of flour supplied to them: what was witnessed in Colombo and its suburbs were long queues at the bread distribution retail points: in many instances the queues broke up when the people were told that the supplies would not arrive—CDM. An emergency meeting of the Ministers was scheduled for this morning to discuss the situation arising out of the strike by railway workers: the police have assured all non-striking railway workers that full security will be provided when they report for duty, a request which was made by the Minister of Transport, Mr. K. B. Ratnayake yesterday. Hard to get flour is being sold in the open market at Maradana at almost double the price: this was disclosed by Mr. Alavi Moulana, Chairman of the Janatha Committee, Maradana, who also asked how mudalalis got this flour despite stringent precautionary measures. Despite the railway strike all NCE examination centres—over 2000 throughout the island received the question paper packets through the Sri Lanka Air Force, Army and the CTB: there were no complaints from any of the centres: the examination began this morning. 235,000 school candidates will sit this examination: this is the second time this exam is being held under the new educational reforms: the Examinations Department has set up 277 co-ordinating centres in various parts of the island to service the exam centres, with question papers and other requirements: students sitting this exam will sit 10 papers in all: seven are compulsory papers: the three optional papers are language, religion and pre-vocational subjects: students will have a choice of nearly a hundred pre-vocational subjects, out of which they will have to choose two: Agriculture, Agriculture Science Home Science, Horticulture, Carpentry are among the popular subjects offered by students this year: a new feature of this exam is that language is to be an optional subject. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has authorised Government Agents in outstations to ration petrol and kerosene if it is necessary: this is because of the railway strike which has affected the transport of petroleum products to the outstations—CO.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29: The Prime Minister at an emergency meeting yesterday endorsed that the nation should be told of the full extent of the political and financial implications of the situation that has arisen from the six day old strike in the railway: the decision was taken after a three hour review of the present situation: the ministers also decided that the press should be fully briefed by the government daily until the present situation changes. The government has cancelled the leave of all security forces: personnel on leave have been asked to report back immediately, a Defence and Foreign Affairs communique announced yesterday. Lorry loads of flour were yesterday rushed to outstation areas by the Food Commissioners Department: this was apparently done because many lorries belonging to outstation co-operatives were unable to come to the city due to the fuel shortage. Examination authorities said the railway strike had not affected the NCE exam in any way and were thankful to the SLAF, Army and the CTB for assisting to transport the question papers safely. The Colombo Municipal Council

will start the re-afforestation of the catchment areas of Labugama and Kalatuwewa reservoirs soon with the assistance of the Forest Department: there has been a great deal of illicit felling of timber and this has been one of the reasons for the water crisis. The Colombo Museum is hundred years old on January 1, 1977 to mark the centenary the Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike will lay the foundation stone for the national Museum of Science and technology to be built in Colombo: date stamping the First Day covers bearing the special stamps to mark the Colombo museum centenary by the Minister of Cultural Affairs, Mr. T.B. Tennakoon will take place on the same day at 10 a.m. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Minister of Irrigation, power and Highways will ceremonially open the Huruluwewa sluice on the first issues of the Mahaweli waters to the fields under the Huruluwewa scheme on January 8—CDN.

The ministers who met yesterday at a special meeting of the cabinet gave the Prime Minister a free hand to deal with the current railway strike and any situation arising from it. Railway season ticket holders are likely to be permitted to travel in CTB buses: a final decision on this is expected to be announced today. The government has made all arrangements to ensure that food and fuel supplies reached the outstations in time despite the strike by railway employees: this was disclosed by Mr. Ridgeway Tillekeratne, secretary to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at a conference yesterday to brief the press on the current strike. In Panadura, although there is a scarcity of bread at co-operative sales points, buns and 'toast' bread are available. Springhoppers also cost more and are half their usual size. "In fairness to the frustrated Tamils, specially the youth, I do not think that under your leadership the UNP can offer them anything: nor do I wish to be a party to perpetuate deception on my countrymen and my community," so says Mr. M. Rajendram, MBE JP, in his letter of resignation from the United National Party addressed to its leader, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene: Mr. Rajendram who was a member of the UNP's Executive Committee for 30 years was also a member of the party's Nomination Board: he was on the Working Committee of the Northern DDC. The London Tea Trade Committee is considering the feasibility of conducting the London tea auctions in currencies other than sterling: the Committee feels that the alternative to the pound is the US dollar. The committee which according to advice received by the trade here, has had discussions on the question and is expected to make its final decision soon. Mr. W. Dahanayake, MP for Galle, urgently requested the leader of the National State Assembly, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake to summon immediately a meeting of the assembly—CDM. "The government cannot shrink from its responsibility of looking after the welfare of the whole community: it would not be possible to permit a small section, who already enjoy benefits to hold the rest of the country to ransom" the Prime Minister said in a message to the nation today: she was addressing the nation on the situation arising from the railway strike: she expressed the hope that a sense of reasonableness would prevail among the strikers and that they would return to work immediately: "if they continue in their strike, the government, as it cannot allow the public to be inconvenienced any more, will have no

alternative but to take such measures as are necessary to preserve law and order and maintain the services that are essential for the life of the community," the PM said. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's new coastal tanker, the 'Mahaweli' is doing yeoman service in transporting oil to the provinces in the wake of the disruption in distribution caused by the railway strike. The tanker sails to Galle today and will then go to Trincomalee; the possibility of sailing her to the North is also being explored. With the rush for synthetic textiles for the New Year the Price Control Department is keeping a close tab on the 'world market' in the port where pavement hawkers make a fast buck; the Price Control Department is now keeping a sharp eye on bakers and boutique keepers who sell bread; the price controller has said that they are doing their best to ensure that consumers are not exploited by unscrupulous traders and bakers. Large scale smuggling of Sri Lanka's most treasured antiques which include ancient statues, ola leaf manuscripts, antique furniture, ancient masks, coins etc continues to cause concern to the Department of Archaeology and the Department of National Museums; they fear that unless a complete halt to the export and smuggling of these treasures is effectively brought about without delay, Sri Lanka will be bereft of a large portion of her precious heritage. The water levels at the Labugama and Kalatuwawa reservoirs have risen in the past few days with the rain in the catchment areas, but the Colombo Municipal Council has decided not to release normal 24 hour water supply to Colombo—CO.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30. It was not possible for the Armed services to run the Trains because it involved a highly technical operation, Mr. Lakshman Jayakody said yesterday: replying a question whether the armed forces would be deployed to handle the unloading of essential import cargo in the event of a strike by workers of the Port Commission; he said that such action had been taken in the past. The Prime Minister has sent messages to the Prime Minister of India and the President of Bangladesh commending them for their statesmanship in agreeing to the resumption of talks in the Farraka barrage water dispute between the two countries: the talks are apparently in progress in Dacca. The Acting Minister of Finance, Mr. Neale de Alwis, yesterday signed an order under the Business Acquisition Act taking over JB Textiles Ltd. and JB Fishing Industries Ltd. Mr. Asoka de Zoysa, Director of the Bureau of Standards has been appointed Authority for both undertakings: it was stated in a press release yesterday that the government was taking over JB Textile Industries Ltd in order "to increase the availability of synthetic textiles in sufficient quantities." Police arrested a gang of five men after a two mile car chase and a gun battle at Dodangoda on Tuesday: one of the men arrested has been identified as a police constable—CDN. Advertising to an editorial in a newspaper, Mr. Lakshman Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs said at a Press conference yesterday that there was no foreign agency behind the strike in the railway: he said the strike was serious as the main transport services in the distribution of flour, kerosene etc. to the provinces was being held up. A second case of sabotage was reported yesterday: apparently at Tambuttigama in the NCP the fishplates along the railwayline were removed: the shuttle service from Maho to Palay which operated

upto Wednesday were cancelled. Employees of the Port Commission went on strike from 2 p.m. yesterday bringing the piloting and berthing of ships in the ports of Colombo Galle and Trincomalee to a stand still; however, arrangements are being made to do the tug services for the piloting of ships into the harbours with the help of Navy personnel. Railway season ticket holders were allowed to travel in CTB buses to and from the destinations specified in their tickets from yesterday. Government Agents in the outstations have been instructed to ensure that petrol supplied to their areas is equitably distributed in view of the railway strike. The Trade Union Co-ordinating committee consisting of seven major trade unions has urged the government to settle the current railway strike democratically through negotiations with the representatives of the various categories of workers on strike. The Ceylon Federation of Labour has urged the P.M. to settle immediately the "present dispute with the railway workers" and to give urgent consideration to the demands of the JCTUO. The Minister of Education Mr. Badruddin Mohamed, leader of the Islamic Socialist Front is tipped to contest the Batticaloa seat on the SLFP ticket at the next General Election. With the boom in the tourist industry of Sri Lanka a new class of rich has emerged in the recent past according to a spokesman of the inland revenue department: they are waiters in luxury hotels, tourist guides, tourist coach drivers and several others.—CDM. Over 70% of the employees of the port Commission were working in the Colombo harbour this morning and all intimidatory and pressure tactics adopted by anti-government trade unions to obstruct the workers from performing their duties have failed. Loyal workers with the plight of the poor masses of the country at heart, were convinced after the P.M.'s address to the nation that they defied all pressures brought onto them to keep away and returned to work, this was stated by Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalle, Minister of Shipping and Aviation and Tourism at a press conference this morning. Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, Minister of Transport, Parliamentary affairs and Sports feels that politics should be taboo for trade unions; he felt that it was the politicians, whatever party they belonged to who create unrest in the trade unions: the minister said this at a ceremony held in connexion with the distribution of certificates to over 300 apprentices of the CTB who were absorbed into permanent services of the board after serving for four years. Thousands of commuters continue to be inconvenienced due to the railway strike: meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Government Trade Union Federation will meet at the SLTUF Headquarters this morning. The secretary of the federation Mr. Alavi Moulana, has asked all striking unions to get back to work in view of the request made by the P.M. and the assurance given by the Minister of Transport, that discussions would start as soon as the strikers return to work. The UNP Unions are also expected to meet at an emergency meeting today. The price of vegetables in Colombo and the suburbs has skyrocketed while in the outstations vegetable prices have slumped: this is a direct result of the railway strike which has affected the transport of vegetables from the outstations into the city: thousands of pounds of vegetables perish daily in the producing areas due to lack of transport to the city. The Sri Lanka Navy today took over essential

duties in the Port of Colombo normally handled by employees of the Colombo Port Commission who came out on strike last evening: the Navy Commander said today that the Navy will be handling the tug boat services, barge services and the pilot boats. Dr. Hildegunde Fellner, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, yesterday handed over to the Government of Sri Lanka a gift consignment of 6,622 metric tons of wheat flour and announced that a further gift of 13,245 tons would be arriving early in 1977. The recently concluded gem exhibition in Stockholm, Sweden has opened 'a new market' for Sri Lanka gems, according to State Gem Corporation Officials: nearly 73,000 US dollars worth of Sri Lanka gems had been apparently sold at the Exhibition—CO. People in the eastern province are eating manioc thrice a day because they find it difficult to obtain other things due to the railway strike: rice is selling from 4.25 to Rs. 5 a measure.—VK.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31: The Shipping Aviation and Tourism Minister Mr. P. B. G. Kaligalla yesterday released details of a conspiracy within the port of Colombo to sabotage the unloading of 21,000 tons of flour urgently needed throughout the country. He said that it was a conspiracy to starve the nation and bring about the downfall of the government. Prompt action taken by him to foil the conspiracy resulted in 70% of the Port's 8000 workers reporting for work yesterday morning. The unloading of 21,000 tons of flour continued uninterrupted and within the next two days there will be no shortage he said. "The government's policy of refusing to negotiate with representatives of striking workers and of trying to break strikes with the assistance of the leadership of the trade unions that are not on strike and are in collaboration with the government is the real cause of the present crisis in the railway" state seven trade unions on the railway strike in a letter to the P.M. It was not a loan of Rs. 500 from the Credit Council that was the original demand that sparked off the current strike by railwaymen, the transport ministry said yesterday: it said that there had been misrepresentation on this point: clarifying the position the Ministry said the original demand has for a "loan of Rs. 500 for the Christmas festival." The Ceylon Railway Station Masters Union yesterday decided to call off the strike of its members. The Leader of the opposition Mr. J. R. Jayewardene called on the minister of Transport at his office yesterday evening and discussed the situation caused by the railway strike. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation on Wednesday signed an agreement with two Japanese firms, Nissho Iwa Company and Unilika Ltd. for the establishment of a Rs. 275 million Nylon Plant near the Sapugaskande oil refinery: the foreign exchange component is nearly Rs. 160 million—CDN. Pro-SLFP trade union leaders were busy yesterday urging their rank and file not to lend support to the railway strike as it had now taken a political turn: the union leaders who addressed a series of meetings of railway workers and those employed in key departments and corporations actively connected with the day to day life of the community said that though the demand for an enhanced festival advance originated as a trade union issue, forces hostile to the government were now attempting to make political capital of it. *Aththa* the Communist party's Sinhala daily in its editorial columns cautions the government not to take any rash action in regard to the railway

strike because past experience has shown that the wielding of the big stick in workers disputes cannot always succeed: therefore it will be better it states not to take any decision that will leave room for regret. The LSSP in a statement on the current strike says that the government should view with sympathy the genuine grievances of the workers and respond in full measure to their demands. Mr. Justice, D. Wimalaratne, the one man commissioner who inquired into the Peradeniya Campus shooting incident and who was scheduled to hand over his report today has requested a ten day extension from the President. The P.M. will soon continue her dialogue with representatives of the Tamil speaking People's Rights Movements in a bid to reach a mutually satisfactory solution of the problem of Tamils. The issue of cloth at Thultex the retail shop of the Thulhiriya Textile Mill has been suspended until further notice.—CDM. Eighty five per cent of the outstation's requirements of Petroleum products is being met by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation despite the railway strike, the CFC Chairman said: there was no cause for a shortage of petroleum products in the outstations now that the Corporation had permitted the transport of petrol in lorries to ensure that there is no shortage of petrol in the outstations: earlier diesel and kerosene oil were the only products permitted to be transported by lorry. There is an acute shortage of cement in the outstations and this has seriously affected construction and development work: the production at the Gale factory has come to a standstill and the factories at Kankesarturai and Puttalam have raw material only for three more days, so said Mr. Ridgeway Tilakaratne secretary to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at a press conference held at the ministry yesterday. The current strike by railway workers is not only a serious threat to the economic development of the country but also a challenge to the poor masses; it has seriously affected the day to day life of people in all walks of life in every nook and corner of the island. More than the transport of passengers it is the transport of essential goods that has been badly affected: distribution of food, petroleum products, factory raw materials, agricultural products, mail and a host of other items essential for the smooth functioning of the nation is virtually grinding to a halt. Prices of essential food and utility items have gone up and keep increasing; vegetables, fish, meat prices have shot up: in Colombo yesterday a coconut sold from Rs. 1.50 to 2 Rs.—CO. The SLFP trade union leader has informed the P.M. that the railway workers who are in his trade union would be willing to return to work: the LSSP trade union has decided to bring about a general strike; it has appealed to all other trade unions to forget their political differences and co-operate with it to make the proposed strike a success. 14 postal unions have decided to go on strike in sympathy with the railway workers as from midnight of January 2—VK.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1977 The government yesterday took additional steps to maintain the essential services in the country following further trade union action to cripple these services. Departments dealing with services vital to the community were allowed to hire private lorries and military vehicles were also deployed to transport food and other essential items. Rules governing the transport of goods were relaxed. The Telephone Engineering Workers Union went on

strike from midnight on December 30 making demands similar to those of the trade unions in the railway and the port. The union has a strength of 500 in Colombo and 200 in the outstations. In a similar operation as on Thursday's port commission strike the government saw to it that there was no serious disruption of work in the Telecommunication service. There has been a fifty percent increase in attendance in the port, said the secretary to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting yesterday at a press briefing. The Government distributed 1743.8 tons of flour throughout the country on Thursday. Fuel supplies reached the 500,000 gallon mark, according to a Ministry of Transport spokesman. The Sri Lanka Navy called into the Colombo Port following a strike by a section of employees of the Port Commission have helped in the berthing and discharging of eight cargo ships during the past 48 hours according to Commander J. H. M. P. Elikawela, officer in Charge of operations. All employees, except the staff officers at the Galle and Mirissa fishery harbours have been on strikes since Wednesday midnight demanding a bonus of Rs. 425. The IGP has sent circulars to all police stations instructing them to operate strict police mobile services to protect the railway tracks and other government property. The leaders of the SLFP and the CP met at Temple Trees yesterday to review the prevailing political situation. This meeting was followed by an Executive Committee meeting of the SLFP at the same venue. "What is needed at the present moment is a genuine attempt to settle the present strikes through negotiations with the trade unions," says a statement from Mr. L. W. Panditha, General Secretary of trade unions on the strikes. The M.P. for Galle Dr. W. Dahanayake has written to the P.M. requesting that appointment of teachers be made on basis of merit and qualifications without reference to chief organisers of their agents—CDN. While the railway strike continues without any hope of an immediate settlement, several other trade unions in the public sector are threatening to resort to direct action either in support of the railway strikers or in support of their own demands. Four Railway trade unions affiliated to the SLFP controlled Sri Lanka Government Independent Trade Union Federation yesterday decided to call off their strike and return to work. Commenting on the prevailing rail strike the Ceylon Teachers' Union in a statement to the press said that the railwaymen's demands were justified because school books among other things are very costly; it appealed to the government to commence negotiations with the strikers forthwith and settle the rail strike so that the country would be spared the mass of hardships that they encounter now. The bread shortages, especially in the suburbs have become acute. Bread queues have become longer and consumers have to wait long hours in queues. The flour shortages will ease within the next few days according to an Information Press release. At present three ships carrying flour are being discharged in the Colombo port at the rate of 2000 tons a day—CDM. Once the government enters into negotiations with the railway workers to settle the strike satisfactorily, the workers will return to work say the leaders of the LSSP and CP trade unions—VK.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2: The Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike in a new year message to the nation yesterday said it now seems fashionable to launch

confrontations with the government; she further said that no government particularly those in the developing world are free from pressing economic problems; she said also that any attempt at irresponsible political partisanship would lead only to further postponement of essential solutions. The draft programme for the proposed United Socialist Front initiated by the LSSP is now ready. At present it is with the printers; it is also being translated into Sinhala and the Tamil version is expected later this month; the publication of the programme, a LSSP politburo member has said is intended to serve one immediate purpose—to provoke a wide ranging public discussion of it among all progressive forces. is Cardinal Coorey, former Archbishop of Colombo, trying to influence Catholic voters in a particular manner at the general election which is due this year? the question has arisen because of certain passages appearing in the Christmas message of the Cardinal. The control of the University Administration has been withdrawn; this, in effect means that Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud will have no 'say' over university affairs in the future. The AMS and the GMOA have urged the P.M. not to permit Mr. L. B. T. Jayasundera, acting director of health services to attend the executive board meeting of WHO to be held in Geneva this week as he is due to retire this month—ST. The Ceylon Shipping Corporation which now owns eight dry cargo vessels and a tanker, all bought second hand, will soon place an order with a shipbuilding yard in Norway for a brand new ship; the Corporation will make use of credit facilities offered by the Norwegian government during the P.M.'s visit to Norway last year, to pay for this ship; a Norwegian team is due in Sri Lanka shortly to discuss the deal. There is no change in the railway strike situation. According to the Information Department, 2,742 tons of flour had been unloaded at the Colombo harbour on Friday; of this quantity 2500 tons have been despatched to the outstations; 500,000 gallons of petrol were also sent to the provinces on Friday the spokesman added. Six doctors from Municipal Councils throughout the island will be selected for training in acupuncture in Peking—early this year; the Minister of Local Government, Mr. W. P. G. Ariyadasa, who has directed that acupuncture be introduced in all Municipal Dispensaries has taken this decision after studying the success of acupuncture in government Medical Institutions. The customs are perturbed at the high rate in the smuggling of precious stones into the country. During the past few weeks diamonds, emeralds, opals and diamond set jewellery worth nearly Rs. 1 million have been seized by customs men raiding private establishments in Colombo, and other areas—SO

MONDAY, JANUARY 3: The three foreign banks to be nationalised shortly—the National and Grindlays, Chartered and Hong Kong and Shanghai—will be merged into one to deal with Sri Lanka's metropolitan and foreign banking. The two existing state-owned banks—the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank—will concentrate mainly on development projects, and will be geared to play a more dynamic role in the socio-economic development of the country. A Transport Ministry spokesman yesterday said that although 5090 railway workers reported for duty on Friday, train services continue to be paralysed, the Ministry said it expects the total workforce reporting for duty

to be around 8,000 to 10,000; the railway's entire workforce is 26,000; the situation will be reviewed this morning with the increased attendance. The Joint Front of Clerical services which comprises 15 trade unions including the GCSU yesterday announced a decision to call a strike 8 a.m. on January 6 in support of six demands—CDS. Leaders of the striking trade unions were busy over the weekend seeking the support of those trade unions which failed to express their solidarity—with the railway strikers. After these talk a number of trade unions are expected to meet today and on Wednesday to discuss what action they should take not only to support the railway strikers but also to win their outstanding demands. A committee to implement the nine demands of the JCTUO to which the cabinet agreed in January last year has not been set up according to a statement by Mr. L. W. Panditha, General Secretary of the CFTU. He states that this government and the public should know that the demand of the present strike had not arisen suddenly. The government should know that the working class and the masses are facing more economic hardships than at the time the demands were presented. According to an SLBC broadcast yesterday the government had so far despatched a total quantity of 2064.5 tons of flour and 155,000 gallons of kerosene oil to the provinces. Meanwhile several persons have been taken into custody for profiteering in flour. The GMOA and AMS are disgruntled over the fact that no positive steps have been taken to resolve their grievances: the Health Department is short of 150 Assistant Medical Practitioners; as a result the Health Ministry is in a quandary about finding adequate medical personnel to be posted to rural areas—CDM. The leader of the railway workers trade union, Mr. V. Gunaratnam has resigned from his post—VK.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4: A special meeting of Cabinet Ministers was held at "Temple Trees" yesterday to review the strike situation; the meeting presided over by the P.M. was held against the background of more unions in the public sector giving notice of trade union action in sympathy with the railway strike. Emergency measures that should be attempted to maintain essential services in the event of strikers not responding to a call to return to work were discussed at the meeting. The present railway and other strikes were neither anti-government nor were they designed to overthrow it. Instead they were staged by the oppressed working class with many economic difficulties to get some sort of solution to their long-standing grievance said Mr. P. A. Elaris President of the Railway Workers Trade Union Federation. He was addressing a meeting held at Hyde Park yesterday evening. Railway season tickets will not be valid for travel in CTB buses from today the government announced yesterday. Instead each department or Corporation will reimburse its employees the cost of bus fare every week for travel to their places of work provided they report for work on every working day. This applies to all state and Corporation employees who normally travel to their work places by rail. Four LSSP controlled Trade Union Federations—the CFL, GCSU, the Government Workers Trade Union Federation and the Technical Services Federation will meet at Hyde Park on January 6 to demand the immediate settlement of the present strikes in the government sector. There was no serious shortage

of flour and fuel in the provinces according to the reports received from the GA's said the secretary to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting when he met the press yesterday—CDS. All opposition parties will meet at 9 a.m. today to discuss the situation caused by the current railway strike; according to opposition sources the primary purpose of this meeting is to urge the PM to summon an emergency meeting of the National State Assembly to discuss the situation in the country consequent to the strike and the hardships now facing the people. Mr. A. William Singho, a communist Party trade union leader who is also the President of the Joint Front of Post and Telecommunication Department trade unions addressing a meeting organised by the striking Railway Employees Unions at Hyde Park yesterday said that the postal unions too would join the strike from midnight today. The 400,000 strong Trade Unions in the public and private sectors have urged the government to settle the strike immediately. Railway Security Men opened fire on a man who was seen tampering with an abandoned wagon in the Ratmalana Railway yard on Sunday: the man escaped. The same day a fire was reported in the Railway yard when a portion of scrub jungle caught fire. It was put out by Railway Firemen before any damage was caused. Railway Workers are trickling back to work; the secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said yesterday. However the Railway had not been able to operate any trains so far he added. The leader of the TULF yesterday cabled the PM to settle the Railway strike immediately. The Railway strike has adversely affected the outstations particularly the Northern, Eastern and Uva Provinces.

In provincial towns there is an acute shortage of flour, kerosene, oil, sugar and other essential items. Though the authorities are doing their best to alleviate the sufferings of the people in these areas, the people complain of terrible hardships. The TULF in a press release says that there have been no talks between the government and the TULF. The UNP leader Mr. J. R. Jayewardene had no authority to say that if the government sought to continue in office after May 1977, that the FP would join the UNP in a struggle against such a move. Mr. K. W. Devanayagam of the UNP had no right to make any plea to safeguard democracy as he is a member of the party that decolonised and defranchised half the Tamil people in the country and killed their democratic rights. The Joint Front of Railway Trade Unions has expressed their bitter disappointment over the broadcast by the SLBC of incorrect news of the Railway strike. In a letter to the Director General of Broadcasting, the Front says that an amount of 'black-legging' through the broadcasting of false news could break the strike of the Railway Employees. The Minister of Education, Al Haj Dr. Badhuddin Mahmud has been appointed electoral organiser of the SLFP in Batticaloa—CDM.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5: The Ministers at a special meeting yesterday decided to enforce the Essential Services Order in respect of the Government Railway Workers and all other essential workers on strike; the Ministers also set tomorrow as the deadline for all workers on strike in the essential services to return to work; those who fail to return to work will be considered to have vacated their posts and will be liable to penalties in terms of Emergency Regulations. Doctors adopting a work-to-rule were also directed

to resume work in the normal way tomorrow; if not the most stringent penalties would be enforced. In addition to the interest-free festival advances decided on earlier the government decided yesterday that a further sum of rupees 300 may be drawn in the form of a bank loan with normal bank interests. This will apply to public servants who are entitled to festival advance. Penalties for failure to comply with emergency regulations include forfeiture of all property, moveable or immovable. Persons can also be brought to trial before a Magistrate and if found guilty sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not less than 3 months and not exceeding five years; they can also be subject to a fine of Rs. 500-5000. The leaders of the Opposition groups in the National State Assembly met in the office of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday and decided that the Government should take immediate steps to settle the present strikes. The labourer's strike in the Colombo General Hospital was called off yesterday evening following the interdiction of the police officer concerned by the Police Commissioner, after the preliminary inquiry into the incident. The Posts and Telecommunications Trade Union Front comprising five trade unions which were poised for a strike decided last night not to strike today. The government is making every effort to reduce the inconvenience caused to the public as a result of the scarcity of kerosene following the Railway strike said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting yesterday. It said 550,000 gallons of fuel were distributed and a total of 2765 tons of flour were distributed throughout the island. One of every four persons in Sri Lanka's hospitals is the victim of water-borne diseases; in other developing countries the situation is worse. United Nations Water conference on water is to be held in March this year in Argentina to examine problems of water—CDN. A last minute bid was made by the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs and Trade, Mr. T. B. Illangaratne yesterday to avert the proposed strike tomorrow of the 30,000 strong Joint Front of Government Clerical Servants; the Joint Front of Port Commission Trade Unions repudiated an announcement made by the Minister of Shipping, Aviation and Tourism over the SLBC on December 30 last year. The Front denied that any of their members had damaged public property as alleged. The Front also claims that SLFP, and CP trade unions had joined the strike. Port workers unloaded 3,196 tons of flour from vessels that were in Colombo harbour on Monday; according to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting a further, 1,282 tons of rice has been unloaded. The Communist Party sponsored union has summoned all unions in the CTB for a discussion at 10 a.m. tomorrow to discuss the current Railway strike; the CTB announced yesterday that the leave of all the CTB employees had been cancelled—CDM. Trade Union leaders today began urgent consultations with their rank and file following last night's governmental invocation of an Essential Services Order requiring striking railwaymen and other essential service workers to be back at their jobs tomorrow. In the first editorial to be published in India on the current strike situation, the prestigious "National Herald" founded by Jawaharlal Nehru and edited by Mr. Chalapathi Rau says, that there is reason to believe that the Railwaymen strike is politically inspired, although no political party has openly supported the

strike; and that the strike is a deliberate attempt to hold the nation to ransom. The government is considering the take-over of the Ceylon Insurance Company, the biggest private sector insurance company now in business in the country; however, no final decision either way has yet been taken, authoritative Government sources indicated yesterday—CO.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6: All state employees drawing salaries less than Rs. 520 and casual employees with over two months unbroken service will be entitled to the bank loan of Rs. 300 approved by the government on Tuesday: the loan, which will carry a 12% interest rate will be guaranteed by the treasury and recovered in 10 monthly instalments of 36 Rs. from the paysheet: each applicant will have to sign a promissory note when he receives the money: this was disclosed by Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance at a press conference yesterday. Today is the final day on which all strikers must report to work in terms of a government directive. If they fail to do so they will interms of the Emergency Regulations, be deemed to have vacated their posts and liable to penalties under the Emergency Laws. The Action Committee of the GMOA and AMS decided yesterday that its membership should continue to work as "efficiently" as possible: the Action Committee was in session from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. yesterday in expectation of a letter from the Minister of Health, Mrs. Siva Obeyesekere on their outstanding demands, which she had promised to send them yesterday at her last meeting with the union leadership held in the last week of December. Mr. Batty Weerakoon, in a letter to the PM on behalf of the CFL stated that since the government had resorted to Emergency measures and had no inclination to settle the workers strike, they could only condemn the action of the government and call their entire membership to strike. Fuel and food supplies yesterday reached normalcy in all parts of the country, according to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—CLN. The Joint Front of Railway Unions which met yesterday decided to continue with the strike. The Joint Front of Clerical Services comprising nearly 12 unions announced yesterday that government clerks numbering over 30,000 will go on strike from today as scheduled. The Samastha Lanka Raisya Lipikuru Sangamaya and the Arasanka Eluthusevalar Congress will not join the strike. Yesterday United Front of Post and Telegraph Unions decided to reverse their earlier decision to strike from yesterday following the announcement of the government that public servants would be granted a bank loan of Rs. 300, in addition the festival advance of Rs. 300. The Arasanka Eluthuvainagar Sangam has in a memorandum to the P.M. detailed a number of grievances affecting its membership. The General Secretary of the sankam, Mr. R. Perinpanayakam has also informed the PM that their union will not however strike. Several grievances of CTB employees will be discussed at a conference convened today by the Ceylon Transport Workers Union (CP) Mr. K. E. Britto, general secretary of the union said that SLFP, LSSP and UNP Trade Unions were invited for the conference at which a set of demands would be formulated. University students have made two demands as a condition for the re-opening of the six campuses—the removal of the police post from the Vidyodaya Campus and the lifting of the restrictions on some students and release of students arrested—CDM. The Locomotive Engineer's

Union consisting of 280 drivers has informed the General Manager of Railways that they were calling off their strike from 11 a.m. today, the Transport Ministry said. The area round the Dematagoda Railway Yard was heavily policed today and the move-on-by-law strictly enforced to ensure that there was no intimidation of any Railwaymen who wanted to report for work. The GCSU claimed today that the strike that they launched today was "A complete success". A spot survey of many government offices indicated that while many clerical employees were not at their desks, services such as stenographers and typists were functioning. 2300 employees of various grades of the Railway had returned to work by yesterday and the government was expecting the whole force to resume duties today according to the Secretary to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at a press briefing yesterday—CO. The Salu Sala has an outstanding bill of lakhs of Rs. with the Small Industries Corporation and the Weaving Mills Corporation: hence, these two organizations have decided not to send any supplies of cloth to the Salu Sala—LD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7: The entire public sector has been declared an essential service the secretary to the Ministry of Justice stated yesterday: he stressed that employees of any government department or any branch thereof are now an essential service, and would be liable to penalties in terms of the Emergency Laws if they did not report for work. The secretary was commenting on the opposition propaganda that the clerical service had not been declared an essential service. This statement came in the wake of an emergency meeting of the Cabinet held at "Temple Trees" yesterday. Several clerks of the hospital clerical service in the General Hospital Colombo defied the unions call for strike yesterday and reported for work as usual. Sections of public sector workers yesterday defied the Essential Services Order promulgated by the government and continued to be on strike despite the deadline set to return to work: they now face the penalties spelt out in the order which includes the confiscation of property, fines and jail sentence. Although sections of railway workers who were on strike reported back to work the majority of those on strike continued to hold out: according to official figures 2974 were at work in the Railways. The Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs has instructed the IGH to issue instructions to all police personnel to take firm and prompt action under the law in the following cases: against any persons who congregate near places of work and prevent employees from coming to work, against any persons who intimidate employees and thereby prevent them from going to work, against any persons who incite employees to strike, against any persons who commit acts of sabotage on public property. The Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs has written to the United Front of the Clerical Services Trade Unions that the Minister would meet representatives from unions that were not on strike. Port (cargo) Corporation workers and pilots of the Colombo port worked round the clock to unload and load a number of ships during the past few days: according to Corporation sources the total tonnage attended to on Wednesday amounted to 9136: of this, 6365 tons were discharged including flour, general cargo and fertiliser. 2771 tons of tea, rubber and coconut products were

loaded into ships. On Saturday Mr. Maithripala Senanayake will ceremonially open sluices for water to flow into the parched lands of Huruluwewa: this was one of the major reservoirs built by king Mahasena: it went into disuse many centuries ago and was restored in the early 1950's to irrigate 10,000 acres of paddy: but ever since it's restoration there was not enough water to fill it: today the tank is at spill level for the first time with the diverted waters of the Mahaweli.—CDN. The CTB will strike from Sunday at midnight: the CP, LSSP and UNP unions will participate together with the SLFP union led by Mr. Nanda Ellawala. The SLFP union led by Mr. Alavi Mollana will not join the strike. Mr. Batty Weerakoon, Secretary of the Ceylon Federation of Labour said at a meeting at Hyde Park yesterday that the members of the CFL in the private and corporation sector have decided to launch a strike: the first batch will come out on Sunday and the others on Wednesday he added. Storekeepers and labourers at the Civil Medical Stores and 14 divisional drug stores in the outstations will strike on Monday: this would greatly hamper the working of hospitals and dispensaries as all drugs are despatched either from CMS or the divisional drug stores. The police yesterday went in search of Mr. Batty Weerakoon, general secretary of the CFL for allegedly violating the ban on the use of loudspeakers at the trade union meeting held last evening at Hyde Park. The GMAO and the AMS will hold an Emergency General meeting on Sunday January 9 to discuss calling off the "work to rule"—CDM. This morning at 8.52 the first train since the Railway strike left Trincomalee station for Galle and at 9.20 a.m. another left Anuradhapura for Maho: and another train left Maho for KKS at 11.38 and at 11.55 a.m. a train left KKS bound for Maho. The Ministry of Transport said that upto this morning 4,400 employees had returned to work and by evening the Ministry hopes to get a few more wagons moving with essential consumer and utility items: the deadline under the Essential Services Order requiring strikers to return to work expired yesterday. There was no immediate indication of what action will follow against strikers whose work stoppage is now an illegal act. The CWE has taken all measures to ensure that consumers receive this month rations of essential foodstuffs including dried fish without any delay, despite the rail strike—CO.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8: The government yesterday banned all public meetings in the district of Colombo. The leave of all public servants has also been cancelled during the period of strike and those on leave will be recalled: these decisions were announced yesterday evening shortly after the PM had briefed SLFP MPs at Temple Trees of the situation in the country. A Press censorship is also likely to be imposed and a Competent Authority will be appointed to handle news concerning the strike published in the press. The GSTUF has expressed its appreciation of the work done by this government: it has listed the achievements and has said that so far no other government was able to do this. The CTB revenue has increased by about Rs. 400,000-500,000 a day since the railway strike on December 21 said the chief accounting officer. For the first time since the railway strike was launched the railway operated trains in the NCP and the North.

yesterday: the operation which was a well guarded secret took the Railwaymen still on strike by surprise. The General Manager of the Railway, along with senior officials conducted the control room in Colombo. In reply to a letter by four CTB unions to meet him to discuss their 25 demands, the Minister of Transport called for an immediate report from the Chairman of the CTB on their demands. Sections of government workers mostly clerical servants continued to defy the Essential Services order and stayed away from work yesterday too: minor employees too were absent from work in a number of government offices, in some government offices which have dealings with the public, persons having transactions with the department were asked to call over on another day for their business. Attendance among clerical and Allied grades in the Colombo area yesterday was most encouraging: more than 2/3 of the nearly 30,000 cadre were at work with only 2950 absentees, according to the latest statistics available said the Secretary to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Nine trade unions in the trade union's co-ordinating Committee have condemned the government's invoking of the Essential Services order: an emergency meeting of the committee this week requested the government to settle the strikes by negotiating with the unions. It also demanded an immediate end to the Emergency and the restoration of all democratic and civil liberties including the right to strike. The United Front of Railway Workers' Unions has turned down an invitation from the secretary to the Transport Ministry to meet him for further clarification on the government offer of an additional Rs 300 to be loaned through the two National Banks. The front's President Mr. P. A. Elaris yesterday told the Ministry that the striking unions were not prepared to meet anybody other than the Minister. The Kandy Petty Trade's Association in a resolution unanimously

adopted at a meeting of the association requests the government and the striking trade unions to start discussions and resume work simultaneously—CDN. The SLFP's Parliamentary Group which met yesterday at "Temple Trees" to discuss the situation caused by the strike branded the present strike launched by unions as politically motivated: the group gave full authority to the PM to deal with the situation arising from the strikes. There had been panic buying of petrol by many motorists: this has resulted in many petrol sheds running out of their stocks in a few hours. The Acting Chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation said that a rumour had been spread by certain quarters that Petroleum Corporation Workers had gone out on strike: there was no truth at all in these rumours. The Sri Lanka Administrative Service Union has appealed to the government to settle the strikes through negotiations. The Minister of Transport is due to meet a deputation of the Sri Lanka Jathika Pravahana Sevaka Samithi (SLFP-controlled) today to discuss certain demand submitted by the union to the CTB Chairman last month. Medical institutions both in Colombo and the outstations sent SOS messages to the Civil Medical Stores to despatch their quota of drugs for the first quarter of the year: according to the Health Department sources no drugs, dressings, equipment or oxygen cylinders were despatched to any of the institutions this year. Additional police re-inforcements were put out yesterday to guard work places where employees were on strike in Colombo and the suburbs. Mobile patrols were also out and the move-on by law was enforced in all parts of the city. According to the GA Vavuniya the temporary flour shortage in the district has been overcome—CDM. The MP for Galle, Dr. W. Dahanayake has sent a telegram to the PM requesting her to dissolve the National State Assembly immediately and to hold General Elections—VK

LETTER

• Jaffna Hindu College

Sir,

I refer to Dr. D. D. Nevins Selvadurai's letter in the *Tribune* of Dec. 11th, 1976, on the above. Before it goes deep down in the minds of your readers I wish to point out certain inaccuracies that appeared in that letter.

Hindu College. In 1886, William Nevins Muttucumaru Sithamparapillai founded the 'Native Town High School' at Main Street, Jaffna. The management and proprietorship of this School was handed over to S. Nagalingam, Advocate in 1889, and the school came to be known as Nagalingams School. He shifted this school to a site at Manarponnai. This school was later taken over by Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabai, who named it as 'Hindu High School'.

The "Young Hindus", 75th Anniversary issue of Jaffna Hindu College, describes Nagalingam and not William Nevins as its founder.

Secondly, according to the same source, it was St. M. Pasupathy Chettiar (described as Co-founder) and not Nadaraja Chettiar, who was instrumental in Shaping the destinies of the Hindu High School.

J. M. Nevins Selvadurai: Headmaster/Principal from 1892-1909 and later from 1914-1926. In between for 5 years he was on the staff of Trinity College, Kandy. Thus you will observe that Mr. Selvadurai's assertion that he was "the Principal from 1892 to 1925 and after 5 years he came back as Principal till he retired" was wrong.

K. Arumainayagam

Colombo.
17.12.76

• Summit

Sir,

In August last Sri Lanka appeared at her glorious best, hosting 85 nations at the Non-aligned conference held in Colombo. During the 10 prestigious days and the months which followed, we the citizens have been bombarded with massive outbursts of third world rhetoric from many platforms and what more, promises, dished out in lavish quantities, promises for a brighter future etc. Today Sri Lanka remains, devoid of prestige and radiance it had gathered during August '76. The vainglorious action in organising the conference has only aided in debilitating our progress effort. Glory, at what price?

S. D. Ebenezer

Nugegoda.
16.12.1976

IS US FOREIGN POLICY
"IMPERIALIST"?—2Foreign Investment
And Multinationals

By Jerome Slater

This is the third and final article by Prof. Jerome Slater which appeared in the *Political Science Quarterly*.

Jerome Slater is Professor of Political Science at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is the author of several books and many articles concerned with U.S. Foreign Policy, especially in relation to Latin America.

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POLITICAL CONTROL? None of this analysis denies, of course, that economic power carries with it political leverage. But is this political leverage sufficient to give it political control over the Third World? The evidence from events in the real world, particularly during but not limited to the past few years, hardly suggests that this is the case.

If economic power carried with it considerable political control, one would expect that at a minimum such control would be sufficient for the Imperial power to protect its major economic interests, particularly in areas of the world where its economic power is greatest. That is, the United States could exert sufficient political control to at least preserve the position of its major multinational corporations in Latin America. And yet over the past decade there has been a wave of nationalization of United States corporations around the world in general—Eg., in Ceylon, Egypt, Indonesia, Algeria, Libya,—but particularly in Latin America. Thus, Peru nationalized the International Petroleum Corporation; among many other U.S.-owned multinationals; Bolivia expropriated the Gulf Oil Corporation; the Allende regime in Chile expropriated without compensation the Anaconda Companies; and Venezuela has fully nationalized most foreign (mainly U.S.) oil

Corporations. In addition, Argentina and Brazil have tightened controls over U.S. enterprises. The United States government has not had the political leverage to prevent these actions against its corporations and, with only several partial exceptions, has all but ceased to try.

It is now increasingly recognized that as the host countries gain in knowledge, confidence, and experience, and as European and Japanese Multinational Corporations seek to compete with American business for access to the Third World, the bargaining relationship between Multinational Corporations and Indigenous Governments is rapidly shifting in favor of the latter. The "dependence" pattern, under which local elites collaborate with foreign investors against their own national interests, is rapidly disappearing and was probably always exaggerated anyway. Without local allies, more direct action on the part of the "metropolitan" countries would be required; yet, aimed force on behalf of private interests is practically out of the question in this day and age. Economic pressures can be relatively easily resisted by proud nationalist regimes and only worsen the situation for the Multinational Corporations. In the past few years it is clear that most corporations have come to grips with the new realities, seeking to adapt to rising nationalism as best they can, with no recourse to threats of economic retaliation or to governmental assistance.

Even short of outright nationalization, the terms of both trade and investment between the Third World and the advanced industrial world are rapidly shifting. The rise of OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) in the Middle East is the most dramatic example, of course: in the 1920s host oil-producing countries received in taxation only about 10-15 per cent of oil corporation profits on production; by the mid-1970s the general figure was over 80 percent and that of a far larger pie. Other raw materials producers are now seeking to form price cartels in emulation of OPEC, and while it is doubtful that any will achieve quite the fantastic success of the oil producers, the fact is that collaborative action to restrict production has led to dramatic price rises for Third

World producers of bauxite, tin, copper, and other raw materials. Once again, the U.S. government has been powerless to prevent these developments, even though they inflict varying degrees of damage not only on the United States-based multinational corporations but on the economy as a whole, and there are increasing indications that adaptation rather than coercive resistance will be the general American response.

AN AMERICAN "EMPIRE"?

Obviously no one would wish to deny that the United States has enormous economic, political, and military power, and that this power must have a significant impact on other states, both intended and unintended. The question, however, is whether this power is so great as to warrant calling it either "Imperialist" or "Imperial". Even if these terms or the notion of a States United "Empire," are meant to be understood metaphorically rather than literally, we still must decide whether the metaphors are insightful and enlightening rather than misleading.

Benjamin Cohen's definition of Imperialism seems reasonably appropriate: "any relationship of effective domination or control, political or economic, direct or indirect, of one nation over another". Such a definition clearly implies that Great Power is involved, not merely inequalities of power, and that the relationship is nearly wholly one-sided. However, it is possible to distinguish three different dimensions of power: control, defined as the invariable capacity to achieve objectives even in the face of opposition; domination, implying great power but falling somewhat short of outright control; and influence, meaning the capacity to affect, to a greater or lesser degree, the policies and behaviour of other states. The term "imperialism" and all its usual variant should be limited to cases in which the power of one state over another is sufficient to establish control or at least a high degree of domination; it has no place where the relationship is simply one of influence, even of asymmetrical influence. Given the invariable connotation of the term "imperialism," the scope and degree of control must approximate the kind of control exercised by nineteenth-century European powers over their colonies.

Where in the world, even in the Third World, does the United States actually enjoy control? In Asia? In Africa? In the Middle East? A moment's reflection, without further argument, should suffice to reveal the very suggestion as being without foundation. Perhaps in Latin America, then? in which the United States exercise control or domination: Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico? Hardly, for the United States has clearly been opposed to many significant policies and actions of those states and has been unable to affect them. What about Brazil and Chile since Allende, where the general drift of affairs is apparently pleasing to Washington? The bulk of the evidence as well as plain common sense suggests that indigenous forces in such large and complex societies were surely far more important than any U.S. Actions or pressures. What, then, about the Caribbean area? Here, indubitably, the United States has considerable leverage, though not control and only doubtfully even domination, except for some extreme cases, such as Cuba before Castro, and the Dominican Republic in the 1960s. Certainly countries like Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua are economically dependent on the United States and make it a practice to support American foreign policies; on the other hand, even leaving aside the rather dramatic Cuban case, other Caribbean countries (such as Panama, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago) have charted a clearly independent economic and political course.

LIMITED INFLUENCE: We may boldly but confidently conclude that the United States today does not "control" any country anywhere, and in only a slightly more qualified manner we may also reject the notion of United States "domination." That the United States has varying degrees of influence in the Third World is of course undeniable, but it is a declining influence, and limited in scope and effectiveness to only certain matters. The United States has hardly been successful in stemming the rise of nationalism and radicalism, or of attacks on its interests and policies around the world. How does the United States today typically react to the nationalization of property, to drama-

tic increases of the prices of critical raw materials, to demands that it remove its military bases, to anti-American riots? On increasingly rare occasions with suspension of economic assistance to the offending state, more typically with diplomatic protest, and, increasingly, simply with silence. "Imperialism" should be made of sterner stuff—and certainly it used to be.

Thanks to its growing wealth, the rapidly increasing availability of external aid, trade, and investment from sources other than the United States (Japan, Western Europe, the Soviet Union); and the increased domestic and external constraints on American use of military force, the Third World today is less vulnerable to power of any kind than at any time since world war II. The relationship cannot be plausibly described as "imperialist" or "imperial" at all, and only doubtfully and decreasingly as "dependent". It would be more accurate to see the relationship between the United States and the Third World in terms of mutual dependence, mutual power and mutual vulnerability. To be sure, there are still considerable asymmetries of power—the United States has more potential power than the Third World, but it has become increasingly costly for it to actually employ that power. Still, so long as inequalities remain, we may expect the attacks on United States "Imperialism" to continue, however inaccurate and misleading they in fact are, both because the shibboleth of "Imperialism" provides a convenient myth to deflect attention from the indigenous problems of Third World countries and because inequality per se—rather than domination or control from without—has become the real focus of resentment in many developing nations of the advanced industrial societies.

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POINT OF VIEW

Third World Summit

by Lankaputra

The non-aligned movement has witnessed many attempts by hostile forces to undermine it and to lead it away from the anti-imperialist path through both frontal attacks and outflanking manoeuvres. Such attempts will be apparently made also in the future. Western powers now seem to prefer to act not openly but through developing countries themselves. An example of this is the proposal of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, on convening a conference of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America at the summit level to discuss international economic problems.

There has lately been a noticeable activation by Pakistan aimed at convening such a conference within the next few years. To substantiate his proposal Prime Minister Bhutto wrote an article entitled "The Third World—The Imperative of Unity", which has been sent to many countries, and it has also been published as an official document of the United Nations sponsored by interested parties.

In this document, Pakistan has tried to enlist support for the proposal at the conference of the "group of 77" which was held September last in Mexico City.

The reasons for the increased activity by Pakistan on this question are obvious. It is no secret that Islamabad has long been trying to penetrate the non-aligned movement through, one may say, the "back entrance" because Pakistan's participation in military blocs of Western powers prevented it from joining the movement through the front door. Since all such attempts made by Pakistan in the past ended in failure, today it has sought to organise a summit conference of developing countries as a challenge to the non-aligned movement. Islamabad no doubt hopes that it can become one of the leaders of the Third World in this way.

However, it is not enough to refer only to the ambitious plans of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The idea of establishing a new orga-

nization within the Third World has far-reaching objectives: that of diluting the non-aligned movement, of weakening its anti-imperialist ideology. In short, under the pretext of convening "an economic Bandung conference an attempt is being made to substitute the non-aligned movement for the "group of 77" and to strengthen within the "group of 77" the influence of reactionary regimes and countries—members of blocs, which aspire, of course, to seize in due course the leadership of the Third World as well.

All this is quite clearly seen in the said article in spite of the author's efforts aimed at concealing the true contents of "his" proposal behind numerous appeals for unity. It is asserted, for example, as if the new discussion would not detract from the value of the resolutions on economic issues adopted by the non-aligned countries in Cairo, Georgetown, Algiers, Lima, and Colombo. However, after this there follows a statement to the effect that the non-aligned movement is not "organized", and the author attacks the basis of its membership which "cannot bear an organic relation to the basic objectives and struggle of the Third World today". Naturally, some people would like to have all the developing countries take part in the proposed conference, be they aligned or non-aligned. And that is, as the saying goes, the crux of the matter. For it is exactly for the purpose of obliterating the distinction between the non-aligned countries and those which are members of blocs that one promotes the proposal, which impliedly casts doubts on the advisability of the existence of the non-aligned movement.

The article also suggests that developing countries should confine themselves only to the economic struggle. But can one agree with those who deliberately minimize the importance of the participation of developing states in solving the vital problems of the world? It can be shown that such participation has helped these countries to achieve economic progress. Incidentally, the entire experience of the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for independent economic development convincingly show this.

The proposal to convene a world conference of the Third World countries is not only an exercise to undermine the non-aligned movement, but also represents an attack against regional organizations of developing countries. Prime Minister Bhutto's articles states as if the existence of regional groupings of developing countries betray only disunity in the Third World, and asserts that "associations like the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity and the economic organizations of Latin American countries" are "self-limited" and cannot address themselves to the problems which transcend this or that region. The very fact that the Prime Minister of a developing country, which Pakistan is, did not utter a single kind word about regional organizations of the developing countries, which champion the interests of those countries, cannot but provoke surprises.

SAFARI

In A Coconut Estate

By Alkardi Mugane

A fall in the pick of several thousands from the corresponding pick a year ago; a discrepancy of over a thousand nuts between the previous pick and the number of nuts of that pick that was sold, after making the usual allowances, such as subtracting the nuts that were used, and the rejections that were collected; and one is left asking oneself, where did I fail? or did I not exercise sufficient vigilance? One of the reasons for the shortage might be that the pick was two weeks early, and that the head picker was asked, because of this, to pick carefully, so that we do not have a great number of rejections because of nuts that were picked before they had matured. The nuts are picked every two months. Rain, and pickers not turning up for one reason and another, might delay a pick starting or draw it out. Two bunches of coconuts are picked from each tree. If the pick has been delayed a week or two, the pickers might cut down three bunches from a tree. Trouble starts when you try to come back to the old sche-

dule, and I am inclined to think that this was the cause of the decrease from the corresponding pick last year. Or were we just robbed of nuts without our knowledge?

A man comes along saying he is a milker. We had recently to lay off a number of casual workers while there was still work for them to do, as the wage bill alone was taking all the income. This left nothing for sundries or for capital investment, and no estate can do without either from time to time, if not from day to day, the man who came wanted to bring his family. Just now we have 10 vacant house. We have a surfeit of milkers, but not of plain stockmen, and the stockman has difficulties about milking. To have brought this man in would have entailed taking one or two others off the dairy, and I had not the heart to do this. Then I remembered the buffaloes. First sent him out to look at the animals. They were wild. I told the man he would have to do without the aid of a trained buffalo. He was willing to take on the job of training these animals. The man's wife is ready to work. He has two sons, both of whom can work. We are chock-a-block with workers without this family. Our single constant occupant of our bachelors' quarters was sent for, yes, he said he was prepared to share the house with a family. He could move into the back room. They would have to share the kitchen and live almost cheek by jowl. So the man is coming, if it is with his family we just do not know.

There were two mishaps. I was not there, and so I am going by hearsay. A small cart was used for removing stones, and the cart bull fell forward on to his knees, and he had to be cut loose from the cart to get him up again. He was young as far as our bulls go, and he was put between the shafts again. Word came that another of our cart bulls had fallen forward, an old one this time, I thought he had looked thin in the morning when he was being hitched to a cart. Providence kept him going till our young bulls were ready. That old bull will have to be pensioned off. The line on this page means that I have been almost dead with sleep, and I just dozed off, leaving a mark on the paper.

It is only 10.15 p.m., but that early hour is a measure of my tiredness. I have only a page and a half to go and I do not want to leave it till the morning.

Our drinking water has been discoloured. The tank needs clearing now that the water in it is low. The tank, right down in water, I have been told, was filled up yesterday, and the water pouring into the tank disturbed the water that was already there. Anyway, I have been told the level is right down again. These last few mornings on the estate, I have been up with the milkers at 4.30 a.m. It seems an odd interpolation to make here. This surely should have belonged to the previous paragraph.

There are six of us in this house, the No. 1 and the No. 2 on the estate, a house boy, an estate worker, one of the milkers, and me, making six in all. The house boy and the general estate worker sleep on the verandah. The No. 1 and 2 have each their own room. The milker shares my room and sleeps on the floor. Just now he is snoring. Four of us eat at the table; the house-boy, and the estate worker, who serves as an alternate house boy, eat, I presume, in the kitchen. My cousin's African house boy, in Nairobi, had tea with her at the same table at the airport, when she was on her way back to Ceylon for a while. When she and her husband engaged him, he took them on a three months trial. To judge by his photograph, he seems quite satisfied with them, to judge by that happy African smile on his face. My sleepiness has passed.

IN A TEA ESTATE — 16

Strange Old Man

Continued From Last Week

They met the next morning at breakfast, Mrs. Geary presiding over the porridge rich with cream, home laid eggs, fresh butter straight from the churn, home made bread hot and fragrant, which they ate with a sour cream cheese also turned out from their dairy, and delicious golden marmalade.

"Wonderful marmalade," said my husband as he took a second helping. "Best I have ever eaten."

"Made by her," said the old man pointing to his wife. "Finest cook in Ceylon."

She smiled in acknowledgment of the compliment.

"We German women are all good cooks. There's a bitter orange tree in our garden always full of fruits so I make my own marmalade....."

They had coffee aromatic and appetising, "not the wishy washy brew they were satisfied with at tea time," said my husband. "I am no coffee fan but I enjoyed it."

However, it was with a feeling of depression that he set out later to inspect the estate. He had no desire to dispossess this couple of their home. Already he had decided to refuse the unpleasant situation.

"Did you tell the agents when you got back?" I asked.

"Oh yes! I made no bones about it, but the old man had to go in any case, I was told, and would I act till they found someone suitable. My part was to reorganise the whole caboodle and then I was to bow out. But—as you see I am still here."

So they set out, those two, that morning, to walk over Brae division, the old man striding ahead, his rather long white hair floating in the breeze, strong and stalwart in spite of his age, faded grey trousers tucked into long, home-spun grey socks, an old gray jersey pulled low over his hips. He looked like a misplaced Viking, or perhaps a more modern anachronism, a left over from the coffee days

when "shorts" were unknown and planters wore strange garb such as this.

They climbed high, the old gentleman panting hard and leaning heavily on his long, stout, knotted stick, like a shepherd on the Cambrian mountains. Suddenly, he stopped dead in his tracks and faced my husband.

"Mon, d'ye see this tea? Look Mon, look round these. Ain't it ghr-r-aand. Ye n'eer hae seen sick tea in yer life. It's ghr-r-aand indeed! My care these many years. My care alone! And now they want to send me away. I wad gladly bury me bones here, but they say I am too old and must go. It's the two young sons the auld man left behind wi' new fangled notions. Nae! Nae! I'm as strong as when I first came here."

My husband listened speechless. It was pathetic to say the least.

From the height on which they stood the whole top division lay before them. Heaven forfend the tea the old man raved over! Slopes of undernourished bushes sparsely dotted on the hill sides like cloves on a gigantic ham, or rank with root growth, no visible rows, a jungle wild, uncared for. Flush was noticeably absent. Coarse leaves hung to twiggy branches.

The Scotsman broke in on his meditations.

"Hae ye sun suck tea? I hae gi'en my life to this place."

My husband wondered what to say. Speak the truth and break an old man's heart, or dissemble.

"This tea," he said waving an arm over the field in which they stood—"is a bit-er-r-well, I would say it's in a state of manition."

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The old gentleman spun round.
"What do ye mean by that word?
Are ye speaking against my tea?"

His voice rose. His shaggy white eyebrows bristled.

"Man don't ye go changin' it. I get 5d per lb. below market price for my tea. Bhr-r-ae tea! Five pence belcw other teas. Don't ye try to change it. Ye canna change it. Ye canna change it. My prices! My tea! My br-r-and! They all know it! High grown, medium, low grown B-r-r-ae!"

My husband tactfully changed the subject.

"How d'you get cooly pay here? Must be difficult."

"Ha! That's another thing. Ye canna tackle that. O'ften I have come from Wattegama railway station, riding on my horse, a cooly carrying the pay box on his head and running in front, with a rope round his neck while I held the other end."

"What!" almost shouted my husband. "All that way! Must be about fifteen to twenty miles!"

Old man nodded his head proudly, his gray hair standing up like a halo.

"Aye, aye! Quite that, even more!"

"What about the poor cooly? Suppose he cut through the rope and ran away with the pay."

"Speak again man. Try another thought. He canna cut through a hawser—that's what he was tied wi'. And I held him—held him! Don't ye teach yer grand mother to suck eggs."

One night the old Scotsman disappeared from his home, so a neighbouring planter related to my husband.

His wife missed him after dinner. It was raining, pitchdark, blowing great guns. In these days leopard roamed the hills, even elephant and other wild animals.

Into the leech-ridden jungles the gentleman had gone.

How he scaled these heights, and how he found his way no one knows, but several hours later, about 4 o'clock in the morning he appeared in the factor of one of the estates on the Rattota side of the range which is the northern boundary of Brae.

An apparition indeed to the teamaker who was on an extra early session.

Bursting in on the astonished men he announced in stentorian tones: "I am Jesus Christ! D'ye hear me? Jesus Christ!"

"Ye-e-e-s," stuttered teamaker gazing horror stuck at the old Scotsman, an awe-inspiring figure in spite of the torn clothes that hung about his stalwart frame.

"You are Mr. G-G-Geary from B-B-rae."

"Ye are wrong. I am Jesus Christ." Solemn and sonorous came the voice.

"Ye-es si-i-r," quavered the teamaker, frightened out of his wits. By now he had put the roll breaker between them.

There was a flurry of steps outside and another figure appeared, wild-eyed and disraught woman with streaming hair, with clothes tattered and torn, blood stained with leech bites, and leeches hanging on to her arms and feet.

It was the Scotsman's young daughter who having missed her father, had chased behind as closely as she could, fighting her way through lantana and brushwood.

The tea msker took one look at her. He made a bee line for the telephone.

Whirr-whirr-whirr. He turned the handle of the old fashioned telephone that connected the factory with the Peria Dorai's bungalow, violently and with urgency, looking fearfully over his shoulder at the father and daughter he had left behind. With trembling hands he picked up the receiver.

"Sir..sir", he called, "Come quickly. Jesus Christ is here!"

"Who?" asked a sleepy voice at the other end.

"Je-sus Ch-r-r-rist, sir."

"Wh-at are you talking about man. Who is there?" thundered the Dorai, now thoroughly awake. "Tell me. Who is there?"

"Je-je-jesus! He says he is Jesus Christ."

"M-M-Mr. G-G-Geary, sir, Mr. Geary quite mad, also Miss Geary not so mad, but anyway mad."

IN JAFFNA

Hindu Temporalities

— 19th Century —

by K. Arumainayagam

THE ONSLAUGHT AND WANTON destruction of the Portuguese on places of religious worship had nowhere been thorough and complete as it had been in the northern districts of the island. Added to this situation was the religious policy of the Portuguese and Dutch which prohibited the worship of indigenous deities and ceremonies connected with them. Since the Dutch relaxed some of their restrictions, few temples were restored towards the tail end of their rule in Ceylon. However when the British took over the Northern districts of the island, the temple restorations had not been complete. Since the English captured the territory from the Dutch there was no necessity to offer any religious guarantee as they did when they annexed the kingdom of Kandy in 1815.

In the Kandyan provinces, British made it appear that they succeeded a wicked king, and guaranteed to protect Buddhism in all its essentials; hence the incorporation of clause five in the Kandyan Convention of 1815, and clause sixteen in the Proclamation of 1818. Thus under British rule Buddhism enjoyed at least four privileges.

- (a) British Government became the custodian of the temple of Tooth.
- (b) Principal priests of the Dalada Maligawa were confirmed by the British Government and subjected to removal at its pleasure.
- (c) Granted financial help for the support of the priests and for traditional ceremonies.
- (d) Took charge of the rich endowments of the Buddhist Temples indirectly.

These were necessary to win over the priests and Kandyan chiefs and pacify the people. A policy adopted for the sake of political expediency proved to be very embarrassing for British Government both in Ceylon and in England.

By the time the Hindus completed the first phase of temple

Hindu Temples

restorations in the 1870s the British Government was in no mood to interfere in the management of their affairs because its association with Buddhism had been a subject of persistent criticism in England.

The problem of the Hindu Temples was entirely different from Buddhist temples and Indian Hindu temples. The temples that were restored during the Dutch period and early years of English rule were the result of the initiative taken by private individuals and Hindu priests. The temples that were re-erected were not the original temples with their endowments. These temples were entirely new and hence they were treated as private properties of the founders. The fact that some of them were re-erected on the same spots or closer to where the old temples stood is entirely a different matter. Though the initiative had been taken by individuals, the resources at their disposal was not sufficient enough to complete the buildings and conduct daily poojas and annual ceremonies. This compelled the temple proprietors to appeal for public help to carry out repairs, improvements and complete buildings. Besides this each temple collected revenue in the form of "thedchanai"—offerings for the performance of various rituals in the temples. Pious ones, in order to get respective deities, blessings and merits, spontaneously donated income yielding lands and gardens to support the temples, gold jewelry to adorn the deities, and silver and copper utensils to be used in the temples. These collections were never accounted for and not fully expended for the maintenance of temples but went to support and maintain the private life of the managers of the temples. Temple management turned out to be a source of revenue and a "lucrative profession". The people who contributed did not want to question as they felt that they will lose all merit. Much more important was the doubt whether these temples were private properties or public properties. The uncertainty in the matter prevented any meaningful legal action against the temple managers.

Earliest to make this as an important issue in Ceylon was Arumuga Navalar. Though his main

target of attack during this period was the Nallur Kandasamy Temple, the criticisms were equally applicable to all other important temples. He maintained that the Government can interfere in the matter and declared that "sinners are those who do not bring pressure on Government to have the temple funds and properties protected in the hands of the predatory managers." He admonished the Hindu public for being dormant and explained to them through tracts that they have a claim on the temples and could fall for the accounts. He based his claims on a host of factors which went to prove that temples were actually managed with public contributions, and therefore they were public institutions. He cited examples from Indian and English sources and illustrated how the contributions made to temples are recorded. In India when an individual undertakes the construction of temples his name is inscribed. English practice was to issue a statement of accounts showing all receipts and payment indicating the sources of receipts with names and amounts. Arumuga Navalar encouraged the appointment of Committees to manage the varied activities of the temples. The appointment of the Nallur Kandasamy Temple building Restoration Committee of 1873 was the result of Arumuga Navalar's campaign. As a result of this campaign many of the temples formed their own Committees to look after the temple affairs. A close study of the events connected with the Mavittapauram Kandasamy Temple will show that such an arrangement was attempted as early as in the year 1875. This took the form of a joint notarial deed

signed by the high Priest and then Manager of the Temple, Sabapathy Kurukkal and thirty four leading elders of the locality and other elders of Jaffna. The deed no 166 of 17-11-1975, attested by S. Mandalanayagam, Notary Public not only fixed succession to the management of the Temple, but also placed the new manager under the supervision of the executors of the deed and to render them accounts whenever required. (See Report of the Mavittapauram Temple Commission of 27-9-1941). Though this deed was described as a "hoax played by the vellalas" and was revoked within ten days, yet it shows the attempts made by the devotees of the Temple to control the Temple affairs, both succession and financial, in the interest of the Temple concerned, however they did not possess any legal status. The temple disputes also arose when several descendants laid claim for their share in the temple revenues. Contemporary newspapers like the "Sivite Udayabhanu" (Sivite Rising Sun) were full of such incidents. There were disputes over the management of almost all the prominent Hindu Temples in Jaffna.

The mismanagement of Temple funds and laxity on the part of Temple Managers reached such alarming proportions that Hindu reformers of the period openly campaigned against it. Encouraged by the Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance of 1889 they appealed to the Government to enact a similar legislation to regulate and supervise the management of the Hindu temple funds. In 1890, Messrs. T. Chellappapillai and T. Kailasapillai organised a meeting, collected

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enough signatures and sent a "bulky" petition to the Legislative Council. The petition dated 22nd March 1890 was laid before the Legislative Council by the Hon. P. Ramanathan on the 17th December 1890. The petition read as follows:—

"That it is not known to your Honourable Council that there are several Hindu temples of importance throughout the Island and especially in the Northern Province that the aggregate annual income of several temples is upwards of a lac of rupees; that under proper management and efficient control this sum could be considerably increased and that it is simply squandered away at present, contrary to the object of the trusts and interest of the temples.

(2) Your memorialists fully appreciate the spirit that prompted your Honourable Council to pass the Ordinance No. 3 of 1889 entitled "The Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance," in spite of opposition from certain quarters and beg most respectfully to suggest that a similar Ordinance relating to all the Administration of Hindu temples will confer a lasting boon upon the Hindu population of the Island and will be most cordially welcomed by them.

(3) That your memorialists humbly venture to state that one of the chief causes which have led them to approach the Honourable Council with this memorial is that a portion of the funds now sadly wasted might with advantage be diverted to the spread of education—especially higher—as regards the Island generally and Northern Province in particular which is in a very backward condition.

(4) It remains for your humble Memorialists only to add that a similar enactment had been in operation in India since 1863, and that your Honourable Council will be pleased to extend to them those blessings which the British Government bestowed on their Indian fellow religionists more than a quarter century ago.

Local Newspapers like "Ceylon Patriot" and "Hindu Organ" too campaigned for such an enactment. The "Hindu Organ" which actually

voiced the opinion of Hindu reformers of the period, suspected that Christian pressure may be the cause for the inactivity and apathy shown by the Government. It explicitly pointed out that enactment of an ordinance to give a legal status to Hindu Temporalities does not necessarily mean that Government was fostering Hindu Religion. What the Hindus demanded was not Government interference nor Government control. Being alien to Hindu culture it will not be possible for the Government to undertake that task. In plain words the question which the Government was called upon to solve was not an ecclesiastical question but one which affects rights to property and the mode of defending against wrong doers

The temple disputes also contributed a fair share to the serious crimes of the period. Very often the temple succession, poolah rights and other disputes led to open fights when sometimes people took sides of the various claimants, which finally ended up in severe riots and man slaughter. When Ivers was the Government Agent of the Northern Province he tried to bring about a settlement by calling a meeting of the "wound reformers and of persons to be reformed (the petitioners and the managers of the temples) and a Committee too was appointed. But the Government Agent could not effect any settlement due to the recalcitrant attitude and crude handling of the matter by the people in whose interest the committee was appointed. However the Government Agent recommended to the Government to place the temple managers under the ordinances dealing with trusts". The Government Agent for the Northern Province wrote in his report for the 1889 that "this is not merely a sentimental grievance, but a very real one. The disputes over Temple managements constantly cause riots and crimes. For instance, there was a serious riot at Tavadi and several persons were put on trial for murder—the conviction being for manslaughter. It was only sending for and personally warning the rival claimants to the management of Kandasami Temple, that a riot (for which the respective supporters were in readiness) was

averted". Such a step was no guarantee against similar happenings in the future. Solution to the problem could be found, not on the strict enforcement of criminal procedure, but only on the strict enforcement of a law of Temple property and that conclusion had been arrived at the end of the Nineteenth Century.

LATIN AMERICA

Who Helps Whom?

By Roberto Alvarez Quinones
Prensa Latina

In the first and second development decades of the United Nations (1960-70 and 1970-80), a minimum of one per cent of the Gross National Product of each industrialized capitalist country was fixed as an annual contribution of "economic aid" to the underdeveloped countries. This has not only not been fulfilled but the figure has also been reduced year after year.

These quotas should have been broken down into: 0.7 per cent in "official aid" and 0.3 per cent in "private aid" which includes normal capitalist bank loans and the direct capital investments of the transnationals.

In reality, this structure established by the United Nations has been inverted. In 1975 "official aid" was 0.35 per cent while private aid rose to 0.65 per cent.

It is well known that the big powers utilized "aid" in order to adapt the economies of the underdeveloped countries to the interests of the world capitalist economy.

FOR EVERY DOLLAR received as "aid" the underdeveloped countries have had to invest eight dollars of their own. This means that the industrialized capitalist countries mobilize large amounts of financial and material resources of the underdeveloped countries to develop those sectors or economic branches that respond to their long-run interests; at the same time, contributing with this to create a "new" division of labor in the capitalist world.

The strategic objective of this "new" division of labor is none other than using the underdeve-

developed countries sources of raw materials and of some industrial products which cannot be profitably made in the imperialist metropolis.

These manoeuvres allow the imperialist powers to concentrate their efforts and resources on the development of the scientific-technical revolution while, at the same time, they guarantee a supply of machinery, equipment and new technology to the so-called Third World.

Recently, some Western economists publicly admitted that one of the most negative features of this aid is "the stress on the development of the infrastructure in detriment to the productive branches of the economy." In other words, roads and other communications networks are built, transport is developed as well as the basic services required by the few productive branches of the economy, basically, the mining and agricultural sectors, with a view to exports, but no capital is invested in industrial development in general, nor in the qualitative and quantitative growth of productive forces.

Professor Harry Johnson of Chicago University said that the "aid" is granted "with political and military purposes in mind" and he admitted that "from the point of view of economic development, the aid given to the emerging countries has been truly unproductive in terms of contributing to that development."

THE CONSORTIA invest their capital in the underdeveloped countries with the clear aim of taking advantage of the vast labor market and the low salaries, that is, obtaining more profits with less capital invested in salaries. In this way, production costs are lowered and profits well above the "normal" average are obtained by the metropolis.

An eloquent example of this is the extraction of superprofits by the transnationals in the Third World countries, according to figures published by the United Nations. In 1970, the consortia invested 200 million dollars in Asia but in that same year they took away net profits of more than 2,400 million dollars from the same continent. A fabulous case of plunder! In Africa, they invested 270 million

dollars and took away 1,000 million; in Latin America, they invested 880 million and took away 2,900 million.

On the other hand, one of the arguments used by the proponents of economic "aid" is that it contributes to diminish dependence on resources that come from abroad and that it opens the way to self-financing. This argument is hypocritical and false.

So-called aid has been and is one of the main instruments used by the imperialist powers to oppress the Third-World countries in terms of financing. The underdeveloped countries have been getting into debt more and more. At the beginning of this year, according to the US Secretary of the Treasury in May, the global debt of all the underdeveloped countries already exceeded the sum of 150 billion dollars, 50 per cent of which will have to be paid before 1978.

The foreign debt of the Third World countries is so great that most of them must ask for new loans, not only to confront the critical economic situation, but also to amortize the loans granted earlier and to pay the interest rates on them. IDB revealed that in 1974, Latin America had to spend 1,848 million dollars on interests.

This vicious circle, in which capitalist economic "aid" is one of the most important factors, has dramatically aggravated the socio-economic problems of the underdeveloped countries, which must use a larger and larger part of their scant income from exports to pay the foreign debt contracted with the imperialist powers that thus profit on the hunger and death of millions of human beings.

Inania of this, that and the other

Julian's Pen-Itch

By INNA

Without answering a relevant question addressed to him some months ago, regarding his "double-dealing" Jekyll-Hyde ways as to birth control, sterilization views in one paper and opposite views in another, Mr. Julian Senanayake

of Dehiwela has once again come out with another canard! The Daily News of October 2nd shows in a Letter of his that he is alarmed, shocked at the way the "Catholic Gessenger" is trying to discredit Government. He then puts on a fast one: "this paper of a religious community has nothing to do with politics". Perhaps this will silence him for another few months till he gets courage to find and learn by condemning what he does not know.

Christians who are acting like imbeciles may not agree but the normal adult reflexive christian would agree that there is the need to retain a religious thread through every aspect of the political order. Julian might next be saying that Buddhism has nothing to do with the political order and history would prove him wrong. If politics are about the nature of society, then very little lies outside it. Everything is 'political' but 'politics' (the type you probably intend to decry) isn't everything. Or is he against Cardinal Newman who says: "Whoever says that religion is not political, speaks as erringly and offends with his tongue as certainly as if in Paul's time a man said it mattered not whether he was a christian or a heathen" (quoted in David Leig in Month, Feb. '76, vol. 9, n. 2). Now, while I have a distaste for the use of "christian" as opposed wantonly to "heathen" (extrapolated out of the century in which it was used), I still think that Pauline scholars would know the radical opposition meant here. It almost amounts to mean a sinful, laukika person. Translated into our terms it would be 'lokottara', 'laukika'. Politics is very necessary. It is only the deeply religious man who takes politics seriously, who is worried about the way he and his fellowmen are governed so that they can truly become themselves. This is why in remote regions of Sri Lanka, some monks are constantly helping the people to uplift themselves, guiding the villager, helping him to be more truly himself, and trying to obtain whatever the present government can offer so that all may get the best possible benefits of government. Lord Buddha himself would not have done otherwise. Did he not say: "he who sees me sees dhamma and he who sees Dhamma sees me"? (Samyutta nikaya). The

cry "keep religion out of politics" or "keep education out of politics" thus; has no meaning. The right use of the vote, the defending of the rights of the human person, the maintaining of freedom—all from part of the political. Every citizen is a "political man". "La politique" is the art of living well together; it is the preoccupation, the solicitude of each and all to unite to modify and make perfect the general conditions of life in view of what is called "the common good" it is essentially collaboration for progress and development of the human "city" (the "polis"), that is the society of men. Any man, including Julian Senanayake who is not at the same time a "political" man basely betrays his mission. Can you then expect the catholic messenger (Catholic means "all things to all men", as catholics describe it; I believe) to betray its mission of being the critical conscience for catholics in regard to its total mission? Catholic or no catholic if you are suddenly up on the road and hustled into a car and taken to the Police station and beaten up, as happened to a friend of mine recently because he said he loved a constable's niece, then you'd wonder why no one took up your cause had you written to all papers including the Messenger, about, "condemnation without trial" about "increasing torture in the world", and about "brutal police power in some countries by some police officers" And this is a political question. Julian Senanayake would then come into the limelight from being a pen-itch sufferer in a quiet corner of Dehiwela to someone who suffers political torture for a moral reason: the freedom of the marriageable individual to marry whomsoever he wishes, without fear of physical torture by state machinery.

REVIEW

Men: The Expendable Sex

By Jayantha Somasundaram

Woman's Evolution by Evelyn Reed Pathfinder Press, New York.

When Karl Marx wrote the Communist Manifesto in 1848, anthropology as a science had not yet come into being. Marx therefore only briefly dealt with the differentiation between the sexes.

It was left to his disciple, Engels, to interpret the discoveries of L. H. Morgan and identify primitive society in Marxist terms.

Today, anthropological discoveries have given us a welter of data with which to approach inter-sexual relations. Evelyn Reed has drawn on all of this knowledge and information, to charter the role of women across thousands of years of pre-history. Her monumental work, *Women's Evolution* traces human society as it progresses from the matriarchal clan to the patriarchal family.

She claims that the functional difference between male and female, with the female having to provide for their offspring, necessitated the socialisation of the species. The need and desire to protect her offspring, and thus mankind, from cannibalism, led to the introduction of the first social conventions—the sex and food taboo.

The incest taboo, as we mistakenly call it, is found among even the most primitive people, where it goes to restrict sex between a man and the woman in the clan, his social mothers and sisters. Contrary to popular belief, there are no harmful effects of inbreeding, as laboratory experiments with most animals has proved—then why this deep rooted horror of incest? L. H. Morgan was the first to discover that "from the precarious nature of food sources, cannibalism became the dire resort of mankind."

All species are prodded by hunger for food and hunger for sex. The social imperative in man led to the taboo against mating with any woman belonging to his totem-kin or eating totem-kin animals.

Unable to draw the dividing line between humans and animals through biological criteria, our ancestors were obliged to invent the social kinship system—those of the same kin, humans, non-kin members, animals. Sanctity of life was restricted only to the community.

Through the sex taboo men were prevented from competing with one another for access to women of their kin, and thus ensured less friction with men and women within the totem with whom they worked in primitive

communal society. But more important in the era of cannibalism, they were kept separate from the women and children of the clan and therefore minimised the risk of internal cannibalism.

This is why at times when women are 'bloody', during menses and childbirth, they are taboo to men. Primitive people could not differentiate between harmless and fatal bleeding, thus a man caught near a woman in a bloody condition ran the risk of being accused of cannibalism. From time immemorial women confined themselves during childbirth, often away from their normal abode. In the repressive male-dominated society that subsequently developed, she was cast out among the animals. "The sheep, horses and cows provided the comfort denied by fellow humans. Mary, the most famous of mothers, gave birth in this fashion."

Evelyn Reed sees women playing the pivotal role in the process of human civilization. Through food gathering, cooking and cottage industries, women shaped human progress.

Equality of sex was a concomitant to a communal society. "The inequalities and discriminations that came forward in civilised society did not and could not exist at a time when human survival depended upon the closest solidarity among men."

Society moved out of its matriarchal stage, into a fratriarchy, through the crystallisation of the male-female bonding, which gave rise to marriage between cross-cousins, something still popular in our country, even while marriage between ortho-cousins is regarded with horror. The dominant male in a child's life was not his father, but his mother's brothers.

Evelyn Reed meticulously unravels the development of more complex social systems, more productive labour relations and the consequent re-arrangement of cultural prerogatives. Thus, with the emergence of private property we end up with not only marriage and the nuclear family, but also a male dominated patriarchy.

"Marriage from its inception did not hinge upon the sexual relations between a man and woman: it was centred entirely on economic and social relations."



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