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TRIBUNE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE COVER we have a picture (from our archives) of Mrs. Indira Gandhi at Pasyala now re-christened Cadjudama. *Tribune* has not hidden its dislike for the brick, mortar and tile structures in our model villages that not only introduce an alien element into our traditional architecture and the rural way of life but whose cost has also tended to overheat our economy. Cadjudama, at least from the pictures we have seen in the daily press, shows a remarkable departure from the Western style cement tenements towards something on truly indigenous lines which makes for healthy living in our climate. What has been shown are only the "shops" for selling cadju to tourists, but structures on similar lines for residential housing is what we have been demanding for a long long time. Building a 150,000 expensive cement houses in the heart of ruralia is no doubt satisfying to politicians who want to get things done to go before the voters, but in our view there are other matters that claim greater priority. Every Minister and every parliamentarian now exhort all and sundry to increase production in order to curb inflation. Such exhortations are meaningless unless the government makes it possible for the people to produce more. It is not enough to fix floor prices, but the agencies that are supposed to buy the produce must function effectively. Whatever boasts were made by Ministers it is clear that onion farmers produced less in 1980 and 1981 because of imports and today red onions are available to the consumers only around Rs. 15 a pound. The prices of fruits have now gone out of the range of even middle class families. One reason, as we have often pointed out, why fruits are scarce and expensive is that many fruit trees are infected with virus and unless new seeds, plants, and seedlings are brought in, the production of fruits in this country will drop year by year. Such being the situation, the Department of Agriculture continues its stupid policy of banning the import of guaranteed virus-free planting materials by Sri Lankans whilst it has relaxed the rule to foreigners who come here to grow fruits for export. Why should Sri Lankans be discriminated in this way? The Director of Agriculture in a circular letter on 28th October 1981 (Ref. PA/DA/74/24) pretends he has relaxed the rules about importation of planting materials—only in small quantities "for research" in government farms. We will deal with this "memorandum" as he calls it in a subsequent note, but we would like to refer to a paragraph from the Political Commentary column by Chanakaya in the *Observer*. Speaking about waste and corruption in the administration, he wrote. "A research station was opened in Moneragala to assist the orange growers of the district in 1978. the cost was only Rs. 200,000. But the travelling expenses for officers who came occasionally from the divisional office in Bandarawela for the last three years could not be calculated. Nor the upkeep expenses of the station. Upto-date not a single orange seed has been planted in this 26-acre plot. There had been no assistance whatsoever to the orange growers. When we consider the wastage of money in this instance, we must also take into account the loss suffered owing to the non-performance of the project. It could easily be millions of oranges every year". Is this the kind of "research" that is being done by the Department? Has any effort been made to do "research" on the virus that has affected our pampkin (wattaka) or the papaw? What has been done to improve the quality of our fruits or local vegetables? How much has been spent on research in the last five years? What are the facilities available for any research on improving our fruits and vegetables? Have the Faculties of Agriculture in our universities been encouraged to venture on such research? If such research is not being done, why not allow the import of planting material certified virus-free by internationally recognised institutions?

Tumbling Rupee

One does not need to be a financial expert or a professor of economics to know that the continuous (and continuing) depreciation of the Sri Lanka rupee vis-a-vis the hard currencies like the dollar, the pound sterling, the mark, the yen, the franc and even the not-so-hard Indian rupee, will tend to increase (in fact double) the inflation rate in 1982. According to the Central Bank the rate of inflation now stands at 18% and that last year (1980) it had stood at 30%. These rates of inflation, according to many, are understatements of the reality. But even taking these figures as correct, an increase of the rate of inflation to 30 to 36 per cent next year will have fateful consequences for ordinary people in this country. Whilst a postmortem as to why the value of the rupee is tumbling down is now engaging the attention of local economists, the imposition of the BTT on all turnovers of over Rs. 25,000 has already led to a staggering increase in the prices of most essential consumer items. What it will be in a few months is difficult to envisage but it has become a nightmare to a large number of people with fixed salary incomes. The question is being asked whether some measures other than BTT could not have been devised to increase the revenue. **The BTT will in the view of many political observers lay the foundation for a major social and political revolution in this country a few years hence—unless corrective measures are initiated immediately.**

The Rs. 2 allowance for every point of increase in the Cost of Living Index is shadow boxing and a mockery. The Salaries Commission that suggested the Rs. 2/- per point in the COL probably thought of consumer prices without taking into consideration the new BTT or the impact of the falling value of the Sri Lanka rupee. Inflation is fast becoming a problem for the common man. An economist at the Marga Institute G. Kurukulasuriya who was formerly employed in this capacity at the Central Bank has explained in simple terms the phenomenon of inflation: "Inflation is caused by two factors—firstly, external rises in prices, which have been accelerated by the oil crisis, and secondly, by the increase in domestic rupee cash, brought about by an expansion in the outstanding volume of Treasury Bills. Between March 1980 and July 1981, Parliament approved increases in the outstanding volume of treasury bills in stages from Rs. 3,000 million, to Rs. 13,000 million. An increase in the volume of Treasury bills, which are ultimately purchased by the Central Bank puts the government in funds, through an increased supply of paper money. This means that the Government's cash balance goes up. It is now constrained to meet a good part of

its rupee expenditure out of this newly created money. The increased circulation of rupee cash which takes place as a result, has two effects. It tends to increase the rupee demand for goods and services—which leads to rise in the prices of locally produced goods, in so far as supplies cannot be rapidly increased. It also tends to increase the demand for imports. But imports too have tended to go up in price because value of the rupee in terms of other currencies, has been steadily dropping.

This pressure of demand for imports cannot go on indefinitely since it will lead to a running down of foreign exchange reserves. In so far as we are dependent on imports for essential commodities such as flour, sugar etc., and there is no price control or subsidy the prices of these items will tend to increase. Both wages and prices have shown an upward trend, but there is no indication of the different rates at which both have risen in relation to each other. What has to be assessed is, how the purchasing power of incomes has been affected. There is no adequate index for measuring inflation. In the absence of representative wholesale and retail indices, the Cost of Living Index is the only measure. Even though this is an inadequate measure the figures indicate increases in the Cost of Living as follows: December 1972—150.8; June 1974—183.8; 1978—227.8; 1979—252.3; 1980—342.1 and May 1981—370.6. (100 equals the cost of a basket of goods in 1952)".

REGARDING EXCHANGE RATES, it will be recalled that in his first Budget Speech on November 15, 1977, the Minister of Finance proposed drastic changes in the exchange system and a far-ranging degree of liberalisation of our export trade. He announced that "effective midnight tonight the exchange rate will be unified at an appropriate level and the F.E.E.C. scheme terminated. The unified exchange rate will be permitted to float in response to basic exchange market developments and our balance of payment objectives." The following table shows the selling rates for a basket of foreign currencies for our rupee, as announced by the Central Bank on the following day; (2) the corresponding rates as on 29.10.81; and (3) the percentage depreciation that has occurred in the exchange rate of our rupee against these currencies during the last four years:

Currency per unit	Rates on 16.11.77	Rates on 29.10.81	Percentage Depreciation of the rupee
U.S. Dollar	16.03	21.12	31.7 per cent
Sterling pound	29.11	38.47	32.1 per cent
Deutsche Mark	7.12	9.11	29.3 per cent
French Franc	3.29	3.67	11.5 per cent
Japanese Yen	0.065	0.089	36.9 per cent
Indian Rupee	1.85	2.24	21.0 per cent

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These were the figures at the end of October, but on November 30, the rates quoted by the Central Bank were as follows:

Currency per 100 units	Buying Rs.	Selling Rs.
U.S. Dollar	2,048.50	2,051.50
Sterling Pound	4,017.80	4,023.30
Deutsche Mark	925.85	927.05
French Franc	367.55	368.05
Japanese yen	9.5525	9.5655
Indian Rupee	230.13	230.59

This already shows an increase.

People with fixed incomes, even with the Rs. 107 increase announced in the Budget, are faced with great difficulties. Unless the Government is able to take corrective measures to bring down prices and the cost of living, the socio-economic upheaval will descend upon this country like an avalanche that gives no warning of its arrival. What is important is the purchasing power of the cash income and not the quantum of the wages. Increasing salaries which do not offset the drop in real income and the purchasing power of the cash income is meaningless. It may be true that the real incomes may have gone up for certain classes of people especially those in the gem and tourist (cum hotel) industry. But no statistical data are available about the categories especially those whose real income has dropped drastically.

Even within the "Brain Trust" of the UNP there is a great deal of heart-searching on this matter. Prof. Tilak Ratnakara, one of the dons who has propounded the UNP credo in the most enthusiastic manner, in a centre page article entitled "The Mess Which is the BTT" in the *Ceylon Daily News* on November 26, 1981 stated: ".....The increase (apart from decreases) in the amount and rate of the Business Turnover Tax (BTT) seems to have pleased nobody though unfortunately alternative methods by which the budget deficit could be financed have not been forthcoming. From the vantage point of an economist who is not involved in any decision-making in these matters, I felt that a few suggestions may be apposite. I feel it presumptuous on my part to offer these suggestions because more professionally qualified economists than I have been engaged in the task of preparing the budget. However, for whatever it is worth I am penning these lines. The Minister of Finance has exempted infant milk foods fertilizers, crude oil, manufactured exports and intermediate goods needed for local production for import. After all these exemptions, the BTT is expected to bring in Rs. 1,290 million into the Treasury. Here one must remember that the budget deficit is of enormous proportions.

"Now the BTT proposals have raised a hornet's nest. Consumers fear that the BTT will be passed on to them in the shape of higher prices. Corporations complain that they would be forced to raise prices of the goods manufactured by them because they cannot absorb the BTTs. The suggestions which I am making herein will antagonise a number of highly placed decision makers. But I can only say 'Here I stand. I can do no other, So, help me God'. There may well be corporations that are just out of chronic insolvency after decades of mismanagement. The mismanagement and inefficiency of public corporations were referred to by a committee appointed to inquire into their health. It was headed by the late George Rajapakse. They were highlighted time and again by the late Dr. N. M. Perera when he was Finance Minister and when he was not. But of these corporations I shall write later. The Finance Minister in his budget speech stated that the BTT will raise the price of rice by 10 cents a kilogram. I beg to differ. The present high price of rice in the open market is due to bungling by the institutions concerned. The following questions are posed in deep earnestness and the Ministers concerned should get the answer."

Then Prof. Ratnakara asked a series of pertinent questions: "Do not these institutions like the PMB know that the lean period, where rice prices are high is during October, November and December? If they do know this obvious fact, why did they want to mill the rice till the 15th of October, when they should have started milling in September before the lean period ensued? *Did not the specifications for milled rice arbitrarily change from 100 per cent polished to 75 per cent polished giving rise to low quality rice? *Why did the PMB open retail outlets after May 1979 and close them down because of losses? What has happened to the redundant staff? *Because the farmers rejected selling their paddy to the PMB the PMB began to buy on tender from merchants at prices very much higher than the GPS price? *Why are the private millers who did yeoman service in the past being neglected? Why should an already overburdened PMB start new rice mills?"

Then, he attempted to answer some of the questions he had raised: "A complete investigation into all this will reveal to the Ministers concerned that the present high prices of rice in the open market is due to lack of rationalisation and bungling. I am not casting aspersions on the already overworked Ministers, I am merely stating that in a liberalised economy, old institutions started during periods of restrictions practices must either be done away with or their roles changed".

This is a rather pathetic appeal in the fifth year of the government. After further apologetic suggestions, he went on to conclude his piece: "What I have outlined or perhaps implied if feasible would

ease an explosive situation, if it is not feasible then the unfinanced deficit will rise to unprecedented proportions with its attendant affects. In an answer to a possible question, may I say that a liberalised economy is not a completely unmanaged economy where the law of the jungle prevails? The state guides and directs the economy but should not "own" the economy." Prof. Tilak Ratnakara it will be noted talks about meeting an "explosive situation". This is exactly what we have been saying that open liberalised economy in which the rich are getting richer and poor poorer will end up in a socio-economic revolution. Prof. Ratnakara also wants an open economy without some kind of "regulation".



FILM FOCUS

Publicity

NOT many weeks ago, the Golden Lotus award winner "Sankara Paranam", a Telugu Film, opened at the New Olympia and Concord cinemas simultaneously, with the blessings of the National Film Corporation, which had specially sponsored the release of this excellent production. For some reason or other, which become evident only later, this film failed miserably to push its way past the minimum hold-over figure, and had to be withdrawn in a couple of weeks. In Jaffna however, the film picked up tardily, but before long, the queues lengthened and many were seeing the film over and over again—having got around by word of mouth. Taking this cue, the NFC probably decided to re-release this film in a more centrally situated cinema like the Sapphire in Colombo South and before long several full houses were being registered. This column has focussed its mind on this transformation and after deep analysis has concluded, that besides the heralding of a film in alien tongue to the screen, adequate publicity should be given, apart from the short advertisements in the press, to the story value of the film in question.

There was yet another Hindi award winner "Ankur" which suffered a similar fate to "Sankara Paranam" and did not receive the patronage it deserved for the same reasons. Perhaps wiser counsel will prevail, and "Ankur" will be re-released in Borella or Sapphire, with adequate publicity for the pick-up boost it needs at box office. This column once again notes with regret that the Shivaji Ganeshan—K. R. Vijaya film "Nana Vaala Vaipen", has been released at the Kalpannaya Cinema, the shortcomings of which have been repeatedly spotlighted in this column with statistics. Here is an instance, where with all the publicity in hand, this new release would not

be in a position to hold its hold-overs for a costly film. In fairness to the Tamil picture-goers the NFC should not persist in this frustrating exercise—an opinion poll will bear this out. In the case of films in a foreign tongue, handbills could be distributed as in the earlier days giving a gist of the story in advance, there are many who do not pursue the newspaper advertisements for want of money or time.

Reverting to another aspect of film publicity, this column would wish to quote a few from the *Screen* magazine which states: "In fact one is aghast at the total lack of a scientific approach in film publicity. Public relations and publicity are a highly developed science that follow certain principles that have stood the test of successful image building and selling". In mentioning that a thorough advance study of a film release in relation to its milieu, and proper planning are two concepts that should always be kept in mind the *Screen* concludes: "that training in scientific publicity which is crucial to the total exploitation of a film, could well therefore be included as a subject in film training institutes". This column wishes to stress that an essential appendage to accurate publicity in the film media is interlocked with the distribution aspect of it, which if done at random would cost the country much money in foreign exchange where imported films particularly of the classic variety are concerned.

ARADHANA: (INVITATION) Sinhalese: By far the best Wijayasiri Dharmasiri creation to date, filtered through finely, in colour that pleases the eye, this film is full of the ingredients that mix well for audience receptivity. Affairs of the heart, with a touch of tragedy in a sea of sentiment have always been magnetic fare with masses and so is this film. Taken in triple flash-backs, the story unfolds with a handsome project surveyor, Halpi, a (Ravindra Randeniya) setting his disillusioned sights on UK and away from his wife Dhina (Malini Fonseka) with his marriage in shreds. This opening sequence is the sequel to a torrid romance that germinated at a projection site where Halopita surveys, and bloomed in the corridors of a hospital where Dhina nurses. This love at first sight is pursued by the star-crossed pair with ardour, till it bears fruit premaritally without the parental benediction at Dhina's end. The ensuing guilt is ironed out by a marriage, that carries the lovers over the threshold of a happy home which is bound further in a few months by a bouncing baby boy. The tranquility is shortlived as Leukaemia lurks, to steal the youngster and immerse the parents in a well of despair, suspicion and separation. All these tender moments at tragedy tug hard at the tear ducts with an air of fatal realism in the expert hands of the Director and Cameraman (Sumitta Amerasinghe but even they could have faltered without the brilliant histrionics of Ravindra and Malini who lifted the sentimental affair sky high.

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Dharmakeerthi as Malini's humble middle-class father gives a performance that needs special mention. "Aradhana" is an excellent film that packs a visual treat for families, worthy of the prestigious fifth circuit in which it is circulating now. It is well worth a visit.

ANKUR (SEEDLING) Hindi: A film steeped deeply in the classical grain, and on which encomiums were showered at a London Film Festival, the NFC has done well to import this excellent film for local viewing. Exploitation of the indigent majority in India is a theme that Satyajit Ray styled film makers emulate and thrive on, but the message in such productions carry film value only and is never taken in by the wealthy. "Ankur" is far removed from the formula run of the average Hindi film, sans dance and lilting melodies. A wealthy youngster (Sadu Meher) bows to the command of a dominating father to a marriage without love and seeks escape thereafter to the rural retreat of the family estate, leaving the bride behind. In these surroundings, his domestic staff includes a dumb husband and his little and lissome wife (Shobana Azmi), who live in a out hut. It does not take long for the master to bridge his loneliness by meddling around with the innocent but attractive housemaid, and having had her husband chastised out of his way, weaves his web of lust to a conclusion. His wife suddenly drops in on the tangled scene and he becomes a "heel" in search of a "hala". Excellent direction by Shyam Benegal and like acting by Shobana Azmi earned them awards, yet this film did not quite make it at the local box office—faulty choice of the correct cinema and lack of publicity being the shortcomings for a film in an unfamiliar tongue. Perhaps the NFC will do well to have this film re-released at the Lido, Borella or Sapphire, Wellawatte for better returns.

ALL THE KINGS MEN (English): A 1949 Academy Awards Winner for the best film, with the best actors award going to Braderick Crawford. I sat this film out all over again at the invitation of the United States Communication Agency and was happy I did, with so much putrefying linen polluting the local political scene these days in a flat out ride for power. Crawford roles a politician Willie Stark who becomes corrupted on his rise to power and finishes up the ruthless self-styled dictator of his home state. The film was an adaptation of the then Pulitzer prize winning novel by Robert Warren, which in turn was based on the career of Huey Long, a Presidential contender who was assassinated in the mid-thirties. The best supporting actress award too was claimed by Mercades McCambridge in this film. It may be informative for picturegoers and *Tribune* readers to know that it was the crusty and husky voice of McCambridge that was used as the Devil's in the film "Exorcist II."

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

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SHERLOCK HOLMES

Resurrected

Tribune revives its old Sherlock Holmes column again. With corruption and malpractices snowballing at a rapid pace, the time has come for us to resurrect the renowned investigator who had played an important role in the columns of this paper for many years in the past.

THE MLIKY WAY—Our sleuths have returned with heartening news after a short probing of the famous Milky Mess of Narahenpita. Security or otherwise, our team slipped into what was previously a junkyard of debris of mostly new equipment callously disregarded. The main compounds were clean and swept. The piles of junk were not there. The buildings need a painting but there was evidence of a reasonably good outward appearance. Less idling was noticeable. The majority of staff seemed more concerned but were unafraid to voice their sentiments. A better relationship between management and staff seems to have been established. *Action stations had begun*. But the hardliners were still muttering. Our team picked up a few snippets which, if confirmed, represent a good start. The clash between the CWE and NMB is said to be over, if it was ever present. In fact, certain employees spoke of CWE produce coming to the staff through the Welfare Society. Even Alice is puzzled.

We would like to have confirmation that the Centre Staff has been transferred. Let not the new stations be transit camps for the old methods. Our team made a revealing visit to Ambawela factory. Reference was made to a halving of outstanding debtors and if correct, this is truly remarkable. Large-scale ordering systems have been decaitated. An appreciable increase in the manufacture of butter at reduced rates was noted. But what Sherlock Homes would really like to know is this. has the new management totally settled the outstanding credit of a foreign bank and a part of the local bank (some say a total of between 8 and 9 million rupees) in three months. If so, hats off to Sherlock Homes' teams' first visit to the NMB installations is encouraging. Let the good work continue. But where is the promised deal for farmers? Or will we complete cleaning up the Milk Board when all the cows turn to steak and kidney pie? And, will the NMB revert to the bad days when the Emergency is over and the Competent Authority is packed off? Can there be no continuity?

SUPER PHOSPHATES—There are whispers going the rounds that a large quantity of expensive inorganic (imported) fertilizer—some 2,000 to 2,500 tons—have deteriorated and been rendered useless by bad storage. Is it inefficiency? Or is it corruption—are stocks being written off to cover theft or unauthorised sale? Suggestions have also been made

that disappearance of the stocks is a false tale to "fix" those who are out of favour. Can this "defence" be true or is it only a defence (counter-insurgency variety) to protect the guilty in advance? Our sleuths are sniffing around the fertiliser storage yards, but information and clues form readers will be welcome.

TEA CENTRE—What is this story about the Sri Lanka Tea Centre in London being "on sale"? Is the story that an attempt was made to hand it over to a private firm owned by the son-in-law of a VIP? Has the Cabinet rejected the suggestion already or will it come up before the Ministers soon (or again)? We have, as yet, no investigators in far away London. Can anyone help?

Sherlock Holmes



REJOINDER

Subsidiary Food Crops

Sir,

I wish to comment on the "TRIBUNE" editorial of 26th Sept. 1981, which states 'inter alia' that: "*Many politicians and bureaucrats seem to think that an increase in the production of paddy was enough to override reduced production in all other sectors*".

I agree that agricultural development cannot be achieved by increased paddy production alone. Accordingly, this Ministry has taken several steps to improve the production of subsidiary food crops (s. f. cc.). Your contention that there has been a reduction in the output of s.f.cc. cannot be accepted; on the contrary there has been an improvement in the output of such crops during 1980 as compared to output in 1979 despite a liberal trade policy. Please see Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: OUTPUT OF SELECTED CROPS DURING 1979 & 1980 (000 m.t.)

Crop	Year		Percent + or — over 1979
	1979	1980	
Chillie	21.9	25.5	+ 16
Onion	62.5	83.3	+ 33
Potato	52.5	76.7	+ 46
Maize	26.0	31.4	+ 21
Groundnut	5.4	18.0	+ 233
Soya bean	1.3	1.1	— 15
Cowpea	18.8	23.5	+ 25
Green gram	9.7	12.9	+ 33
Black gram	6.0	5.5	— 8

Source: Implementation Programme Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research

This increase in output appears to have discouraged imports. From January to August this year, only

600 m.t. of chillies and 3,000 m.t. of onions were imported as against 13,300 m.t. of chillies and 17,000 m.t. of onions during the whole of the previous year (1980). If we compare the import volumes (by m.t.) during the eight month period January to August for both years, the data are as follows:

	Chillies (M. Tons)	Onions
1980	13,100	13,400
1981	600	3,000

Similarly, potato imports during the same eight month period each year have decreased from 11,000 m.t. (1980) to 1,500 m.t. (1981). Turmeric imports (during the same period of reckoning) remained constant at 200 m.t. not due to insufficient domestic production but due to inferior processing of our domestic produce. Sri Lanka is, indeed, very weak in her food processing activities, a problem this Ministry proposes to attack in the near future. There have been no significant imports of maize, sorghum, groundnuts, soyabeans and gingelly during 1980 or 1981. Please see Table 2.

TABLE 2: IMPORTS OF SELECTED CROPS DURING JANUARY TO AUGUST 1980 AND 1981

Crop	(000 m.t.)	
	1980	1981
Chillie	13.1	0.60
Onion	13.4	3.00
Potatoe	11.0	1.50
Turmeric	0.002	0.002
Maize	—	0.001
Sorghum	—	—
Groundnut	—	0.004
Soyabean	—	0.02
Gingelly	—	—

Source: Customs Department

Considerable amounts of gingelly and groundnuts have been exported during the past few years. Steps have been taken by this Ministry to influence policy decisions that would encourage the export of vegetables, fruits and eggs. Vide Table 3 below, such exports of vegetables, fruits and eggs. Vide Table 3 below, such exports are beginning to occur.

TABLE 3: THE VOLUME OF EXPORTS OF FRUITS & VEGETABLES DURING JANUARY TO AUGUST 1981

Crop	m.t.
Fresh Pine	54
Mango	8
Other Fruits	423
Vegetables	495

Source: Customs Department

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE to conclude that farmers are reluctant to expand the production of vegetables and s.f.cc. Nor are we of the opinion that floor

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prices are a solution to Sri Lanka's agricultural marketing problems. This ministry's floor prices are a form of security to farmers' an assurance to them of a minimum price in the event of market failure. If market price rises higher than the floor price, the farmer is free to sell his produce to the private trader. But, if the market price drops below the floor price, a government trading organisation is to buy the produce at the specified floor price for the specified quality of produce. The farmer is thereby guaranteed a minimum price per unit and also advised to produce quality output if he is to take advantage of this scheme. Twelve selected crops are under this floor price scheme today.

In view of this Ministry's successes in the modernisation and expansion of paddy production, we have reached a stage in our agricultural development where attention can now be concentrated on s.f.cc. Hence this increased attention towards encouraging farmers to take up these crops with increased vigour. Two hundred Agrarian Service Centres throughout the Island have been selected as purchasing centres for s.f.cc. under the floor price scheme.

This additional purchasing arrangement is to be operative from January 1982. It should cater to the farmers need for the quick disposal of his produce if the market price at the field level drops below the floor prices, especially during the harvesting season. *This ministry has also recognized the need for improving food technology in this country. It has been exploring possibilities for the setting up of a Food Technology Institute in Sri Lanka as a first step towards improving the scientific base for developing food processing activities and for the development of an extension education package thereafter.*

With the setting up of the Agricultural Development Authority (ADA), this ministry introduced the important notion of a market orientation in the expansion of the agricultural output of the small farm sector; an Agricultural Marketing Division was set up within the Authority. Several marketing bottlenecks and constraints have been identified by this Marketing Division of the ADA. It has brought into focus important market considerations that should govern our agricultural development efforts. As a result of the work of this division, this ministry has been able to induce the acceptance of several policy measures in regard to free exports. It has focussed attention on our archaic wholesale and break-bulk functions at Gasworks Street and the need to relocate the performance of such functions at the periphery of the city. Attention has been drawn towards the need for creating "self-reliance" and a "market orientation" among farmers either through group action to solve their problems or through a greater awareness and understanding of market requirements and conditions. Steps were taken by this division to set up a Market Research Unit. Presently, efforts are also being made by it to train the researchers in market research study

and to develop their capacities in analyzing marketing issues and problems.

"MARKETING" is not only buying and selling this is a vast subject which involves exchange, physical distribution, and facilitating functions, all of which have to be looked into if agricultural development is to take place. I have my reservations about the value of the recent Ceylon Daily News report about farmers burying tomatoes in Matale, which you refer to. There had been a glut of tomatoes in the Matale area. Consequently there has been a decrease in unit price. This glut itself is one indication of the successful propagation and introduction of high yielding seed varieties by the Department of Agriculture, and the success of this ministry's extension efforts through the combined work of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Services, the Fertilizer Corporation and the A.D.A. During the glut period, farmers were helped by the A.D.A. to sell around 185,000 kg. of tomatoes for processing. Also, steps have been taken to set up a canning factory at Pelwehera by 1982 as a long term solution to this potential problem. It was unfortunate that untimely rains and communal disturbances acted contrary to the interests of tomato cultivators in Matale during the period in question. This ministry, however, has done much to alleviate the problems of the Matale farmer. *The main problem here is due to our poor capacities in processing produce. If we are to cater for the export market, improved processing facilities are a pre-requisite. Improved process technology is of utmost value to this country. we will attack this problem.*

DO THE HILL COUNTRY cabbage and radish farmers really have a marketing problem? If so, why do they continue growing cabbage and radish? I am sure that if these farmers incur regular losses they will change over to some other crops in place of cabbage and radish. These are no irrational farmers the world over. This is a tested and well proven hypothesis. Our hill country farmers have many advantages in cabbage and radish cultivation; viz. very low cultivation costs, high yielding hybrid seed developed for their use by the Department of Agriculture, a good climate, etc. They need not spend much time on this crop. Low market prices are no indication of losses. Output expansion (at low production costs) and relatively weaker consumer preferences during peak harvest seasons may be factors contributory to price declines. But price declines are the very essence of growth and development. We should very seriously consider the shortsightedness of policies for manipulating agricultural market prices and the emotional nature of concepts such as "reasonable price", "fair price", etc. Price policy can play only a limited role in economic development. It is not just a question of the price that a farmer gets for a particular product; it is much more a question of the "real" income derived by the farmer over a period of, say, an year, or during a three or five year cycle.

The bias towards production is one of the drawbacks in agricultural produce marketing in this country. The overemphasis on the "supply" side (the "Production Orientation") and the lack of appreciation and even understanding by many about the purchasing power or real income side (the "market orientation") has, I believe, led to rather severe distortions and inefficiencies in our agricultural market economy. The central concept of marketing, i.e. "that the producer must produce what the consumer needs and let the market decide the rewards", should always guide any decision-making about agricultural marketing. All round increases in agricultural output *alone* does not seem to be the solution to our economic problem; production expansion must be at low resource costs. If we can drive these points home, I believe, there is much room for the unification of all the forces of economic growth and development towards the maximization of real income, the most crucial objective in raising the living standards of our farmers. To do this, we have to make the farmer, too, to work harder and more intelligently and scientifically rather than continuously ask for state support.

Ranjan Wijeratne
Secretary,
Ministry of Agricultural
Development and Research.

USSR-FRG:

Useful Cooperation

By A. Antsiferov.

Bonn, November 10: For several years now West Germany has held first place in the USSR's trade with the West. In the past decade, commodity trade between the Soviet Union and West Germany has increased by more than ten times and is coming closer to the impressive total of six billion roubles. Typical of Soviet-West German economic relations is the participation of West German firms in the implementation of major Soviet projects, particularly in the construction of the Atomash plant, the Oskol metallurgical works, and chemical plants. West German firms also contribute to carrying out the USSR's food programme.

Now that the economic situation is unstable and the industry of the West, particularly that of West Germany suffers from recurrent crises, trade with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries has become a major stabilising factor. In an interview, Kalus Lieen, Chairman of the Ruhrgas AG board, evaluated the prospect of further cooperation with his Soviet foreign trade partners. Said Claus von Manger, a member of the board of the Ferrostahl company of Essen: "The Soviet Union has a tremendous scientific and technical potential and that is why our partnership is, without doubt, mutually advantageous and both sides are equally interested in it". The partnership about which Klaus von Manger spoke has assumed clear-cut institutional forms. Technounion is develop-

ping operations in Essen. Technounion is a mixed Soviet-West German enterprise founded on the principle of parity by Ferrostahl and Litsensientorg of the USSR. Among the clients of Technounion, its director general Alexander Kudryashov told me, were the Thyssen concern which bought the latest Soviet method of the dry slaking of coke, and the Hemscheidt engineering firm which purchased documentation to manufacture the AK-3 coalcutter loader. With the assistance of Technounion, the Soviet Union has received licenses and equipment for its automobile, chemical, metallurgical and printing industries and other sectors. Another contract was signed with the Mannesmann concern. In exchange for the pipes Mannesmann supplies to the Soviet Union, West Germany will receive Soviet natural gas, which is very important for West Germany, poor in energy resources. Apart from that, the Soviet contract makes it possible to preserve thousands of jobs at the plants of the Mannesmann concern and at its subcontractor enterprises. This explains why Mannesmann workers energetically protested against US allegations that the gas-for-pipes transaction was a threat to the strategic interests of the West. Speaking on behalf of the Mannesmann personnel, activists of the West German trade union of metal workers, who are members of the concern's production council, resolutely denounced the attempt of the US administration to torpedo Soviet-West German cooperation. Jurgen Kujawa, a member of the Mannesmann production council and a trade union activist, said that "the course towards interference is our economic affairs is directed primarily against the policy of detente, although the peoples display a growing will to preserve detente and peace".

Trade and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and West Germany owes its birth to detente. It is part and parcel of detente. It is a manifestation of detente. That is why one cannot but agree with Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt who said in a TV discussion, referring to the relations between West Germany and the Soviet Union: "Trade is a major bridge to improve cooperation and mutual understanding between the two nations." The forthcoming visit of L. I. Brezhnev to West Germany will become a natural continuation of the line towards mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries and the effective development of Soviet-West German relations on the basis of the treaty signed in 1970. "I hope", L. I. Brezhnev said, answering questions of the West German magazine *Der Spiegel*, "that as a result of our talks and conversations with Chancellor Schmidt, other statesmen and politicians of the FRG, there will be an increase in the reciprocal confidence that our countries will carry on the tested line which lived up to expectations: the ability to reciprocate confidence with confidence, to safeguard what has been achieved to develop consistently and tirelessly bilateral cooperation in various fields."

TRUD.

TRIBUNE, December 5, 1981

November 15-21

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS- PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLDP—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IS—Island; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15: Private sector employees will also reap the benefits of the wage hike for the public sector announced by Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel among his budget proposals; Labour Minister Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne has instructed the thirty four Wages Boards to review private sector salary structures. A mob stormed the Sri Lanka Trade Mission's office in Fort, Bombay, yesterday and claimed they were demonstrating against the ill-treatment of Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka; the attack by members of an organisation styled Azai Hind Sena was repelled by the Trade Mission's staff and one of the demonstrators was apprehended; they had attempted to cut the telephone lines and set fire to the official car. From today a special desk will function at the Crime Coordinating Secretariat of the Police in liaison with prison authorities which will keep a close tab on about 500 hard core criminals in the country; this has been decided following the increasing number of burglaries, highway robberies and similar crimes executed by the hard-to-the core type—SO. President J. R. Jayewardene awarding Mahapola higher education scholarships to 412 university students at the BMICH yesterday told the youth that education would become meaningless if it was not combined with discipline and religion. President Jayewardene told a shocked audience of youth and their parents at the BMICH yesterday that ash trays and towels are being stolen from the BMICH; even equipment brought for the new Parliamentary Complex at Sri Jayewardenepura was being pilfered; oft he 65 baggage trolleys given by Singapore for the Katunayake Inter-National Airport only five remained today—ST. Sri Lanka has lodged a strong protest with the Government of India over the storming of the country's Trade Commissioner's Office in Bombay by "some persons claiming to be members of an organisation called Azad Hind Sena. A massive air and ground operation is to get under way shortly to wipe out ganja plantations in what has been described as the "ganja belt" in the eastern and southern areas of the country; with large tracts of land in thick

jungle areas now found to be under ganja cultivation, the Police assisted by the Air Force are to engage in an exercise to wipe out this menace—WK. A scheme to compel males over eighteen years of age to undergo military training for a specified period is in the offing —IS.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16: Corporations and other statutory bodies will have to find their own resources to grant the salary increase announced by Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel in his budget speech last Thursday; where this is not possible, the problem will be referred to the Cabinet, which will try to work out a solution drawing on the Treasury resources. President J. R. Jayewardene said on Saturday that discipline and a sense of civic consciousness and patriotism among the people were essential for any country to progress. The OPEC Fund has agreed to give a loan of US 11 million dollars for the Mahaweli Power Transmission project. Parliament meets today to debate the budget; the sittings will be from 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.—CDN. Foreign aid has been pledged to Sri Lanka to develop the health services, medical research and higher education by the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNESCO and British agencies. The budget was a complete reply to the criticisms of political opponents who claim that the UNP only helped the rich and was against the poor; so said, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning, when he opened the People's Bank branch at Kaduwela, Beliatta—CDM. United National Party's candidate for the post of President of Sri Lanka, if this office falls vacant before the expiry of the term of the incumbent, will be picked by secret ballot at a joint session of the Working Committee and the Party's Parliamentary group; provision to this effect is enshrined in a new Party constitution due to become effective from January 1, 1982. Sun. reliably understands that Upali Wijewardene, is to be asked this week to step down from his office as Director-General of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC). Oil exploration in the Gulf of Mannar will shift to a new area; the massive oil rig of the multinational oil exploration firm, City Services Corporation will be moved to a new territory for drilling operations on a second test well—SU. Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa threatened to resign and attempted to walk out of last Thursday's Cabinet meeting which was held a few hours before Finance Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel presented his budget to, Parliament; according to informed sources, the Premier had been arguing for more allocation for his Ministry but the Finance Minister had refused to budge. The Presidential election will not be held next year, top-most authorities told *The Island* yesterday which understands that President Jayewardene was not willing to go along with the suggestion that the Constitution should be amended to advance presidential elections, scheduled for 1988, to next year—/S.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17: Government will shortly re-examine the possibility of offering some

concessions to participants in the July 1980 work stoppage who are still without employment, authoritative governmental sources said yesterday; "This question will go up before Cabinet, possibly next week", these sources said. Two youths armed with revolvers broke in to the Multipurpose Cooperative Society petrol shed at Pachchipallai, Palai, in the Chavakacheri area and removed cash Re. 7,369 at revolver point on Friday night. The state of emergency promulgated last August has been extended by a further month. Five youths armed with revolvers waylaid a CTB bus bringing mail bags from the Jaffna Post Office to be delivered to Kaithady, Chavakachcheri, Kodikamam and Pallali post offices at Ariyalai on the Kandy-Colombo road on Friday morning—*CDN*. The government will insist that Chairmen and Directors of Public Corporations must be employed in only one State Institution; this is a sequel to reports that persons holding such posts are functioning in more than one State Corporation. An attempt to free Kuttimani alias Jogachandran the main suspect in the Rs. 8.2 million Neerveli Bank robbery from the custody of the Army at Panagoda Camp, Homagama was thwarted—*CDM*. The Police Narcotics Bureau is to launch a country-wide offensive against the illegal sale of psychotropic substances such as seconal, diazepam and luminal which can be sold only on prescription; this follows the finding that the conductor who had killed four persons after ramming a hijacked Transport Board bus into a row of shops at Mattakuliya had allegedly taken several tablets prior to the incident. Air Force pilots ferrying VIPs on special flights have been ordered arms with them: a directive to this effect has gone out from the Defence Ministry. The state is to produce and market pure bottled water for drinking under a novel scheme to be undertaken by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board—*SU*. A local firm of consultants has warned the government that the multimillion-rupee Sri Jayewardenepura parliamentary complex including the parliament building is in imminent danger unless a satisfactory storm water drainage scheme is implemented with immediate effect—*/S*.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18: A multimillion rupee container yard is to be constructed at Maradana by the railway department with foreign funding—*CDN*. Sri Lanka will ask for rice from the People's Republic of China when the delegation led by Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali goes to Peking today; the Minister said that at the moment all indications are that the next Maha and Yala crops will make the country self-sufficient in rice; he will therefore tell the Chinese government to postpone any decision on Sri Lanka's requirements of rice under the 30 year old Rubber—rice Pact till the rice harvesting is completed—*CDM*. Government has sought the assistance of a West Asian country to finance a multimillion rupee railway electrification project; the three-phase project will cover the Ragama-

Colombo, Fort-Kalutara South, Ragama-Polgahawela and Ragama-Negombo section—*SU*. It was announced in Parliament yesterday that the S.L.F.P. will be prepared to associate itself in the discussions that are being held between the Government and the TULF regarding the racial problems facing the country if invitations were extended all political parties; this was said by the M. P. for Medawachchiya Mr. Maithripala Senanayake—*VK*.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19: The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation yesterday signed an agreement with five US oil prospectors for the offshore drilling of a second oil well named Pedro I within Sri Lankan territorial waters in the Palk Straits. President Jayewardene in his capacity as Minister of Power and Energy, having reviewed the situation of power availability and projected growth has recommended the installation of a 80 megawatt of heavy oil-burning diesel plant costing approximately Rs. 800 million. Government has ordered top priority for the proper working of the development councils countrywide an official spokesman said yesterday—*CDN*. An Island-wide survey of the Food Stamps Scheme will shortly be undertaken by the Government Agents; the survey will determine the numbers of recipients of the Food Stamps who would be retired from the scheme and those who would be newly admitted to the scheme—*CDM*. The Criminal Investigations Department has been called in to investigate the movements of the Secretary-General of a well known social service organisation; this follows reports reaching here from the United States that this person had distributed photographs and publications containing a distorted version of the situation in the North. The issue of land grants to 430,000 families under the Land Development Ordinance will commence next month; this is to be completed before 1983; the Ministry of Lands and Land Development has issued requisitions for 82,700 copies of diagrams and 45,000 land markings for this purpose—*SU*. A tax on coconut products will be imposed shortly by the Government for the benefit of workers on coconut plantations who are deprived of optimum work during the lean period of the year—*/S*. T. Sivasithamparam, MP for Vavuniya said in Parliament that the District Development Councils which he believed would function without racial, religious and linguistic differences was only an eyewash and an inflated bag as could be evidenced now—*VK*.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20: A Rs. 240 million oil deal with China that has almost been finalised will strengthen Sri Lanka's hand to sell more rubber to the People's Republic under the Sino-Lanka trade deal for 1982; authoritative governmental sources said yesterday that although no agreement has yet been signed between China and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation a deal for the purchase of substantial quantities of baseoil and wax was "almost

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final". A movement to demand that all 63 Hindu temples in the Jaffna district be open to the minority tamils is gathering momentum; the Non-Violence and Peace Movement, unanimously decided at its recent annual meeting to request the Minister of Regional Development and Hindu Affairs to move in this matter—*CDN*. The President directed that all concerned should get together and formulate a plan within 2 weeks to stop the ever increasing traffic jams in the city; this directive was issued by the President last morning when he attended a top level conference of the Defence Ministry to discuss ways and means to find a solution to the present impasse due to the heavy traffic—*CDM*. Five hundred and ten foreign experts are stationed in Sri Lanka at a cost of Rs. 300 million per year, a study on foreign experts, consultants and advisors in public sector institutions conducted by the Ministry of Plan Implementation has revealed; of this number, 33 were recruited direct and paid for by the Sri Lanka Government. John H. Reed has been appointed United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka in succession to Donald Toussaint, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday—*SU*. The exodus of northern youths in search of that elusive pot of gold in Western climes continues, but they have switched their destinations from France and West Germany to Madrid in Spain; Customs sources said today that an average of 100 of these young men, largely farmers who had been promised employment in Spain, were now travelling to Madrid via Bombay each week—*CO*.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21: A long-standing Rubber For Rice barter agreement between China and Sri Lanka today became a virtual Rubber For Oil accord as the two countries signed a renewal protocol for 1982; Sri Lankan Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told *Reuter* the rice element had been left vague because of a promising Sri Lankan harvest which was expected to lead to self-sufficiency, next year. Formal agreement to further develop a permanent television production training centre was confirmed by the signing yesterday of a Memorandum of Understanding between the government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Canada—*CDN*. The Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel announced in Parliament yesterday that all necessary steps to bring to book Mr. Upali Wijewardene for alleged frauds like draining out the country's national wealth for investment abroad had been taken, Mr. de Mel said if necessary the government was even prepared to summon interpol to assist them in the investigations—*CDN*. Public sector manufacturing corporations under the Ministry of Industries are faced with the insurmountable dilemma of raising over 110 million rupees to pay the increased salaries to its 46,000 employees; these corporations, most of which are running at a loss or making just marginal profits have found it impossible to pay the revised salary structure provided for in the budget, Government sources said. Three more paddy mills, with a

monthly milling capacity of 136,350 bushels are to be constructed by the Paddy Marketing Board (PMB) next year—*SU*.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

November 14-20

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA: Opposition parties have agreed to request the Government to reveal the conditions under which it succeeded in getting the 5.8 billion dollar loan from the IMF. India has welcomed the Saudi Arabian peace settlement as a "declaration of basic principles of peace in West Asia". India and China will discuss their border disputes in Peking from December 10. Indians claim that China occupied 14,000 square miles of its territory while China had made claims in the North-east of India. India's third satellite 444 kg. Bhaskara II was launched into space from a Soviet launching pad. This will provide data on forestry, hydrology and land bodies. Assamese continued with their 36 hour general strike in spite of a government ban on strikes in essential services. They were agitating against the infiltration of foreigners into Assam. **PAKISTAN:** The Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) consisting of banned political parties has requested the United States to link the 3.2 billion dollar aid to Pakistan with a request to Zia to restore democracy. **BANGLADESH:** Abdus Sattar of the ruling Bangladesh National Party was elected as President. Dr. Kamal Hossain, the unsuccessful candidate of the Awami League claimed that election was rigged and there will be demonstrations. Sattar received 14,217,601 against Dr. Hossain's 5,694,884. About 300 alleged demonstrators marched through Dacca protesting against the alleged rigging.

EAST ASIA

MALAYSIA: In an address before the Harvard Law School, Malaysian Foreign Minister Ghazali Shafie said that ASEAN will not develop into a military grouping. However, he expressed ASEAN anxiety and concern over US military assistance to China. Though this may be warranted from the point of view of Sino-Soviet confrontation, it should not be allowed to jeopardise ASEAN security and integrity. **SINGAPORE:** Singapore's Deputy Premier S. Rajaratnam and Foreign Minister S. Dhanapalan were going to Bangkok to meet and convince Son Suan, leader of the Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front, not to break from the proposed coalition; that ASEAN would help him to build up his forces. Son Sann recently opted to stay out of the three Kampuchean resistance forces.

WEST ASIA

IRAN: Abolfazi Qassemi, a leading politician and historian was sentenced for life for his alleged connections with former Premier Shapur Bakhtiar. According to US *Time* magazine Soviet KGB agents have arrived in Iran to help in the creation of an efficient intelligence and security system. This has been denied by Teheran. **SAUDI ARABIA:** The Independent Gulf Development Fund has agreed to grant ten million dollars to the UNICEF to be spent in 10 Asian, African and Latin American countries. Saudi Arabia has intensified its diplomatic move to win the support of Arab countries for its West Asia peace proposals. It was trying to win over Syria, a member of the hardline steadfastness and confrontation front of the Arab States. **SYRIA:** The PLO and Radical Arabs appears to be sceptical of Saudi's Middle East peace plan. They were suspicious of Saudi Arabia's connections with the US. **SOUTH YEMEN:** The Arab Radicals have failed to reach a consensus on South Arabian peace plan. Libyans backed by left wing PLO were campaigning against Saudi proposals. PLO leader Arafat cautiously welcomed the proposals. **JAPAN:** Prof. Makato, Japanese leading Strategist feels that the Soviet Union has changed its strategy in Far East and was making a new threat in the Kamchatka-sea of Okhotsk area. The Soviet Union, according to the Professor will deploy new submarines armed with long range ballistic missiles. Japan has turned down a US request to cut or end tariffs on 29 items of trade. The trade between Japan and US is now in Japanese favour. **AUSTRALIA:** Constantine Giannaris Greece's Consul General in Australia was stabbed to death. The motive of the murder was not known.

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM The Irish Republican terrorists attacked the London residence of Attorney General Sir Michael Havers. As the occupants were away the only casualty was a woman Police Guard. An opinion poll held by the Institute Francois D'opinion Publique showed that the majority of Frenchmen supported the anti-nuclear peace movements held in West European cities. **IRA** guerillas killed a Protestant Member of Parliament and this brought Northern Ireland into a stage of civil war. In Belfast Protestants were preparing themselves for a "do or die" battle with the catholic minorities. In spite of the reinforcement of the British troops preacher-politician Ian Paisley claims that he could mobilise 50,000 men to act as a third force to combat the I.R.A. **KINGDOM** The third world textile exports have thrown nearly 800,000 textile and clothing workers out of employment in EEC countries. The wanton destruction of forests in Asia is causing concern to experts. They were considering how best UN funds could be made use of to safeguard world supply of tropical timber. **FRANCE:** A joint Franco-Indian declaration

expressed concern over the widening gap of bloc confrontation. A hand grenade exploded near Eiffel Tower was suspected to be thrown by American guerillas. **SPAIN:** Nearly half a million peace-demonstrators gathered at Madrid University in a mass rally to protest against armament and proposed entry of Spain into the NATO. **SOVIET UNION:** Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev has declared that the chief concern of the Soviet people should be food. Three bad grain harvests had caused problems to the economy. Soviet scientists are investigating the use of hydrozen as a car fuel. Soviet Union has rejected President Reagan's peace proposals as a propaganda action. Soviet President Brezhnev will visit Bonn on next Sunday. It was suggested that Reagan's recent offer to drop deployment of medium range missiles if Soviet responds with scrapping her arsenals came at the insistence of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. This would put the Soviets on the defensive. **WEST GERMANY:** A West German firm Ruhrgas Energy has contracted to buy natural gas from the Soviet Union. The gas will be supplied from Siberia through a huge east-west pipeline.

AMERICAS

The space shuttle Columbia, ordered back half way through the mission returned to earth. President Reagan's chief foreign policy adviser Richard Allen denied suggestions that he had solicited or received any payments for arranging an interview with Mrs. Reagan from a Japanese magazine. John Hinckley who attempted to assassinate the President tried to hang himself. A militant belonging to the Jewish Defence League appeared to have fired many shots at the compound housing Soviet delegates to the UN. The house was empty at that time. The White House has denied a *Time* magazine report that President Reagan had conferred with high ranking French officials to kill Libyan leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi. A tussle is predicted between the Congress and Administration over the sale of sophisticated communications satellite equipment to a consortium of Arab States by Ford Aerospace. Thirty three writers and scholars will share 848,052 dollars granted by Ford Foundation to help them write on social issues. Having sensed an unreceptive European mood for US foreign policy, often contradictory in recent weeks, President Reagan suggested to Soviet Union that it scraps nearly twice as many of its warheads in Europe so that NATO can drop its new nuclear plans. **UNITED NATIONS:** A UN committee agreed to recommend an International Conference on the demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean. UN Special Committee against apartheid had planned to mount a worldwide campaign to canvass support to isolate South Africa politically, economically and militarily. The success of any such venture depends much on western countries like Britain, France, Canada West Germany. UN General Assembly has once

again called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan. **CUBA:** Only a negotiated political solution would end the civil war in El Salvador said Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

AFRICA

CAIRO: An outspoken critic and self-exiled former chief of staff of Egyptian armed forces Gen Saadedin Shaghi's properties were impounded. **ETHIOPIA:** Ethiopia considers the US activities in the region as provocative and had written to US Secretary of State that it may consider severance of diplomatic relations. **LIBYA:** Libyan officials denied rumours that Col. Gaddafi was shot. Libyan oil workers union has called on Libyan authorities and other Arab leaders to impose an embargo on oil supplies to US. On the other hand news reports from US indicate that US officials too were considering a boycott of Libyan oil.



THE MEDIA

• Lanka Guardian • The Nation

The *Ceylon Daily News*, no doubt, to meet the challenge from *The Island* seems to be making an effort to streamline itself. A belated attempt is being made to brighten its pages. For one thing, a new type face, a wee bit bigger type, has made the paper more readable. But it is still hamstrung with a 60 to 70 percent advertisement in its columns. This is scandalous. How the government, which owns the paper, can justify this is not easy to understand. At one time all political parties had wanted advertising space restricted to about 25%. People are now paying Rs. 1.75 for a copy of the *Daily News* mainly to read advertisements. This is one way of subsidising advertisers.

The Island in fact catching up with the *Daily News* in the matter of advertisements. It now has about 50% advertisements. Its sub-editorial display with big headlines, though making the paper easier on the eye, has reduced reading matter. The (daily) *Island* has precious little foreign affairs--and most items are stale and nothing at all of (Sri Lankan) outstation or provincial news. In a newspaper readers expect interpretative analysis of local and foreign events because the other dailies do not have these. Whilst a government paper will be cautious about "interpreting" local happenings, it is free to analyse foreign events. The (daily) *Island*, unfortunately, has been invariably late and it reaches most

readers, even in Colombo, only in the afternoon or the next morning.

The *Lanka Guardian* of November 15, 1981 had an excellent piece about the new situation in the Fourth Estate in Sri Lanka today: "... If the *Lake House* had been fighting fit, it could have been set out to take on the upstart *Island*. Then we could have had a real newspaper war (like *Lake House* vs *Times* in the old days) and not this one-sided shadow-boxing and poor man's proxy war we are watching now. Had *Lake House* retained anything of its old professional fire and style it could have reduced the rival tyro to pulp and sunk the *Island* in the Beira. But *Lake House*, the one-time Champ of Champs, and Defender of the Faith, cannot move. The poor fellow has been struck down by a disease called elephantiasis."

The article further analysed the *malaise* afflicting *Lake House*: "The strength of *Lake House* was the strength of its foundations, the organisation-cum-business genius of its founder, the professionalism he promoted skillfully, and which, in the next generation, was modernised by his able, imaginative, if sometimes gadfly, successor. To crush the challenge of powerful proprietors who use the press in the political power-game (in effect, the abuse of press freedom) the State moved in. But by the conversion of the Press into a crude propaganda weapon and a servile instrument of the ruling party the government drains away the spirit of professionalism. Credibility is the first casualty. And so, the government does the press, the public and itself a great disservice. This is the lesson of the recent past—a lesson which every party knows but rarely learns."

And about the current paralysis that has gripped *Lake House*, the *Lanka Guardian* further said: "No administration has shown such an outrageous appetite for publicity—not publicity for its work but personal publicity. Every important figure has set up a P. R. operation of his own. The new media managers, editors and executives have not the strength to resist this relentless daily pressure from publicity-hungry politicians on whose tombstones it may be engraved 'Sudden death through an overdose of self-served publicity.' Any self-respecting journalist who resisted these 'requests' ran the risk of becoming a 'political suspect'...."

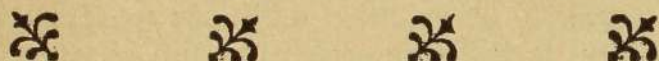
The *Island* had an interesting expose of the housing scheme in Crows, Island off Mattakuliya, but these stories will have greater credibility if there are similar exposures about short-comings in other Ministeries. The Anuradhapura Diary in the Sunday *Island* of 22-11-81 was even more obscure than ever and only a handful of those in the inner gossip circle could have understood what it was all about. Even usually knowledgeable "intellectuals" and politically

alert persons kept ringing up *Tribune* to find out what the "references" were about. *Tribune* could not help them. The Anuradhapura Diaries, as one reader told us, is a Crossword Puzzle with clues that only its creators can unravel. And with "dead" telephones, even clues wither away.

The weekly (SLFP) *Nation* of November 20, 1981, had a top scoop publishing what it claims to be the secret agreement between the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and Coastal (Lanka) Ltd., a subsidiary company of the American multinational, Coastal (Bermuda) Ltd., "Due to exigencies of space", the paper said, 'we regret that we are unable to publish the agreement in its entirety and instead reproduce its significant clauses.'

The ball is now in the Government's court to declare whether the story *The Nation* has published is true or a fabrication. If the government does not immediately deny its authenticity, *The Nations* scoop provides a great deal of meat for the citizens of this country to think about. We will not comment on it until the government's reactions are known. *The Nation*, the previous week, November 13, published an interview with Ranil Senanayake pointing out the dangers of bringing multinationals like Gurthie, into the Mahaweli, especially its irrigated regions.

VALMIKI



IN PRAISE OF

The Kaluthavalai Betel

Ry K. Kanapathipillai

Here is the story of the quid that charms but taken with lime breeds squalor and cancer.

When Primal Nature Moola Prakrti awoke from her long torpor and brought orderliness in the state of chaos that supervened at the dawn of time and created the myriad worlds and the multicoloured stars and sprayed the heavens with her tears, there, in an interminable train came the micro-organisms half plants, half animals; then came the animals and the plants, and last of all came the much-extolled and much-maligned betel vine of *Kaluthavalai*: a tiny village in the Batticaloa District in Sri Lanka where the first thing that greets a visitor's eye is "sand, sand, sand and nothing but sand" a fit substratum for the betel vine. The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines it thus: "Betel: leaf of ever-green plant *Piper betel*, chewed in the East with arecanut, parings. Port. of Malayalam *vettala*."

And a very popular folk song has it: "*vehtala vethala, vethala*" Colombu vathalayo. It won't be considered bad odour to vary the tenor of the song by the insertion of "*Kaluthavalai*" in place of Colombu'; for, to the common run of humanity in Tamil Nadu, Colombo was Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka was Colombo. Such a confusion reigns supreme in man's head in those regions when he begins to think in terms of Sri Lanka. Perhaps the betel juice has turned his head and held his thoughts in thrall And the leaf of enchantment had spread in far off days perhaps long before the vedic hymns were chanted, from Hellespont to Hong Kong, from Deuvendra, Head in Sri Lanka to distant Lhasa in Tibet. Little do we know that in the dim past the betel leaf had found its way along the overland Hanseatic tea trade route all the way from Moukden in far eastern Cathay to Warsaw in Poland, and from Araby to Babylon. What a vast domain that of the *Kaluthavalai* Betel! Even vaster than the domains of the ill-famed Kubla Khan and those of Emperor Asoka: sprawling and far-flung: splayed like a sheaf of betel, and tremendously tentacular in effect like an octopus.

So flimsy and so slender, so tender and so elegant, so delicate and yet so persistent, so enticing and so enduring a weed that the betel is, it held in thrall the insatiable cravings of man in the East just as much as the hempen weed and poppy and tobacco had ensnared the imaginations and desires of men at a much later time in the West. Although some odium clings to the leaf in the West, it has earned considerable approbation in the East. It would appear that Chlorophyll, the green corpuscle in the green leaf; has in it the power to grip the energy of the sun and lock it and make it available for man and beast. The chlorophyllian trend in plants is akin to the nerve impulse in animals. It is no wonder that the betel leaf had in it the magic charm to enslave man by the potent of its juice. This king of weeds is as powerful as the forbidden fruit of the biblical myth. What De Quincy has said in praise of opium may justly be said of the betel. "*Oh! just, subtle and all-conquering opium! that in the hearts of rich and poor alike, for the wounds that would never heal, and for the pangs of grief that tempt the spirit to rebel bringest an assuaging balm; eloquent opium; that with thy potent rhetoric stealest away the purpose of wrath, pleadest effectively for relenting pity, and though one night's heavenly sleep callest back to the guilty man the vision of his infancy, and hands washed pure from blood; O just and righteous opium!*"

In the East the betel has an iron grip on man's feelings, his beliefs, his faiths and his convictions, his style of life and his way of thinking. It has laid seige to his imagination in the same proportion as the heavenly bodies—the stars and the planets and the signs of the Zodiac, have done on his deep-seated faith in life and its machination and manifold jugglery.

It would appear that to get out of the clutches of star-strung time and earth-bound cravings is almost an impossibility for man in the East. Likewise he has got so intoxicated with the betel juice—the soma juice of our times—that he dare not part company with it till life's frefel fever comes to an end. It has become part and parcel of the oriental style of life. In fact man's life style in the Orient may be said to have been smeared with the betel juice, for it he wants to honour you he does not crown you with laurel leaves; he brings a present of a sheaf of betel leaves and sufficient tobacco to form a hundred quids. If he wants to be friendly with you he offers you his wallet of betel nuts and settles down by the wayside under the shade of an umbrageous tree for an intimate chew. **Perhaps the baneful practice of accepting bribes and perks and kickbacks and expecting fringe benefits and santhosams must have stemmed from this ageold custom. If an Easterner wants to show his abhorrence of you, says George Orwell, especially to a European, his anti-European feeling finds expression in the form of betel juice splashed on the dress of a European woman. The innocent tender vine has at one and the same time become the instrument of awe and reverence as much as the object of hatred for performing charms and black magic and chanting incantations to make one or to mar one.**

In this respect mankind, not only in South East Asia, India and Sri Lanka, but all over the Far East and even Middle East, from the grilling tropic plains to the chilling heights of the roof of the world—Tibet and Gobi and Shamo—should be infinitely grateful and adulatory to the little vine, for it is believed to ward off all evil influences and bring wealth and prosperity and usher good times and bring good luck and a host of beign influences. On a New Year's day it is by the presentation of a sheaf of betel leaf that one greets one's most revered and beloved ones. It is symbolical of Sri Devi the goddess of good luck and prosperity. When rolled into a cone it assimilates a cornucopia - the horn of plenty. And when you visit your neighbour on an auspicious occasion - a wedding or the attainment of pubscence of your neighbour's daughter the first thing that greets you is a 'kumba'-pot of plenty-symbolizing fulness and wholeness of existence (poornam), and beneath it is a sheaf of betel leves spread out in a perfect conventional lotus pattern.

AND TODAY this leaf from *Kaluthavalai* with its mighty and weighty potency has become almost a nuisance to man. The image of our cities and towns and even of our villages has been completely despoiled by being splashed with the brick-red juice. Man in his arrogance and crass ignorance has gone on through the centuries spitting and splashing, chewing and spurting, little knowing that he is not only spoiling

the beauty of the streets and roadways and parks and paddocks and buildings but spreading disease at a hell of a rate. And these words of Mr. Paul Bowles, an American visitor to Sri Lanka some 25 years ago may be noted, "Layers of dried betel spit coat the walls and pavements; it ought to look like dried blood, but it is a little too red." He ought to have said: "It is far too bloody a deed for an island people."

And Samuel Fisk Green has forewarningly pointed out its lethal nature; thus: "Cancer of the mouth is a very common disease here arising from the habitual use of quick-lime with betel quid". Then there is the popular belief that the betel chewers are the most proliferous people of the world. They eat rice, they chew betel and they propagate like hell. And it may be said with prophetic certainty that hell wont be far from them, if they fail not to put a stop to chewing betel with quick lime and tobacco. Betel in itself has its untold medicinal properties: its infinite charms and soothing balms. Then, why not make a firm resolve brimful of solidity of purpose to give up the pernicious habit of chewing betel with quick lime and tobacco. It may be chewed with impunity with tender arecanut, for them it is, said that the styptic juice strengthens the gums, prevents gum bleeding and dental caries and keeps away amoebic bowel diseases.



USA & USSR

And Third World

New Delhi: The US Secretary of State Alexander Haig's allegation at Cancun that the Soviet Union brought nothing to the development of the world's poor but arms and subversion is a wild and baseless charge so typical of the 'wild west' style of the new US Administration. The developing countries are fully aware that the accusation is true of US itself. India's experience in this connection will demonstrate the friendly attitude of the USSR towards the developing countries. In the last 25 years, nearly 80 industrial, agricultural and educational projects were built in India with Soviet aid and today their significance to India's national economy is that they account for 80 per cent of its heavy electrical equipment and 35 per cent of its oil products. The total power capacity of hydroelectric stations has reached 4,000,000 kw. In this connection it is worth recalling that the Soviet help was sought only after the Western countries' refusal to aid the construction of heavy industries in India under the plea that it does not need them and after they stated that Indian soil possesses no oil at all. It is significant that today India stands as the tenth country in the order of the industrially developed nations in the world.

The figures are also available on Soviet aid to the Third World. About 1,200 developmental projects of which 680 were already built and the rest are either being built or planned to be built with Soviet assistance in 64 developing countries. Another pointer to the rapidly growing trade and economic cooperation of the USSR with the Third World countries is the growing trade turnover which has increased from 800 million dollars in 1960 to 12,000 millions in 1980. The main aim of the USSR in setting up these projects in the developing countries is to strengthen their economic self-sufficiency, to help them create more jobs and train their own national personnel. While such is the Soviet help, how could Mr. Haig indulge in mudslinging attack against the Soviet Union? For that matter what is the attitude of US to the Third World countries? Mr. Haig himself has not minced words in this regard. In his view the growth strategy which relies on the increase of the transfer of resources from developed countries to the developing states is unrealistic. It is a known thing that the US is against the new economic order and it is the strategy of US administration to use the economic aid as a tool to impose their will and political views upon the other countries. Figures published in the press reports show that it is actually US that exacerbates arms supplies to Third World countries as part of its aid. This is so because for US military-industrial complexes are the main industry. The US Secretary of State should not throw stones at others while living in a glass house.

It is also well to remember that the Soviet Union has always come out in support of the just demands of developing countries for the establishment of a new international economic order. At the 26th Congress of the CPSU the leader of the Soviet Party and State Leonid Brezhnev stressed: "We are prepared to contribute, and are indeed contributing, to the establishment of equitable international economic relations." During the past twenty years the number of developing countries with which such relations have been established has grown from 14 to 64. The USSR abolished customs duties on all goods imported from developing countries in 1965. Soviet trade with developing countries is also growing.

And what is the attitude of the Western countries headed by the United States to the proposals of developing countries to establish a new international economic order? At all sessions of the United Nations General Assembly they invariably voted against. Thus, at the 11th special session and then at the regular 25th session of the United Nations General Assembly last year the United States, Britain and countries to hold so-called "global talks" within the framework of the United Nations on five major problems—raw materials, energy, trade, development and monetary and financial relations. Alexander Haig spoke at length about the "spirit of cooperation"

in Cancun. But how could such a spirit exist when the "partners" in the conference of the 22 countries were divided by an insurmountable chasm? Because of the unequal trade and the terms on which the West grants credits to the young states the latter's external debt to the western "partners" has grown from 68 billion dollars in 1971 to 580 billion dollars at present. At the same time, as it was stated recently by the Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement Fidel Castro at the 68th Conference of the Interparliamentary Union in Havana, the profits of multinational monopolies operating in developing countries have reached the fantastic figure of 100.2 billion dollars. In other words, he said, in the period from 1970 to 1978 for every invested dollar the monopolies netted on the average 2.4 dollars. As to the Cancun Conference, it developed into a confrontation between "civilised" plunderers and the plundered peoples who will never put up with such a state of affairs for long.—*Patriot*.



FOR THE NATION'S HEALTH

Drinking and Smoking

By G. T. Herath

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT does not smoke. EXCELLENT. Hon. The Prime Minister does not consume liquor. An honour to Sri Lanka. Keeping these admirable example always in our minds, let us study the subject and solve any problems that alcohol and tobacco may create for us. For, the miserable minority of the so-called "addicts" and the misguided majority of the "occasionals". None would dispute that there are only two ways which would help anyone to overcome difficulties created by these two—alcohol and tobacco. *One is to stop producing both i. The other way is—even if produced—not to indulge in them.* For some these two ways are attainable. And all the priests in the world, from all the religions, would welcome such a person as being a member of this or that faith and even compete to get him or her enrolled to their individual faiths. So much for the best amongst us. No two human beings are the same. Science and biology have proved this long ago. Now let us consider the human beings who indulge in either alcohol or tobacco or both. The purpose of this article is to help them in a practical way. Rational hints sans advice. Health education, starting from the lower classes in the schools, definitely generates more power than we think: to overcome most problems resulting from the use of alcohol and tobacco. Adult education by the various departments such as Social Services and Health, comes next in importance. In both, audio-visual education along with simple lectures (not

sermons) which interest the elderly, and discussions following them, would be the most practical. Scenes in hospitals of victims of cancer, inebriation and insanity not to mention malnutrition and diabetes, could create a better impression on the minds of the young and old alike, if properly explained and discussed.

SUCH NOTICES as DO NOT SMOKE, STOP SMOKING, SMOKERS DIE YOUNG, ALCOHOL YOUR WORST ENEMY, TABOO ALCOHOL AND HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY FAMILY, ALCOHOLICS BEGET MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN etc., could be displayed in public places such as offices, cinemas and on TV. Indirectly, such posters would make the average person in all three languages as well, helping a homogenous society to let each other live peacefully. Newspaper advertisements about both items in any form should be stopped. Mere temperance societies, movements and meetings, unless they are on an "Area basis" and affiliated to Welfare Societies, schemes or Associations (e.g. CNAPT and Cancer Society would not go very far. Similarly, taxes imposed on both items tend to increase corrupt practices and also pave the way for the manufacture of illicit and inferior products for sale undermining the health of consumers and even their offsprings (spread of TB). Here, the state could enforce rigid anti-pollution laws such as a ban on the use and sale of the two items in particular places. offices, cinemas, schools, hostels and bars, bus and rail way stations, libraries, factories, markets, hospitals and sanatoria, carnivals, sports clubs and stadia are such places where the public gather in large numbers. Heavy fines and/or a few hours detention could be enforced as deterrent.

Placebo devices to prevent the indulgence in alcohol and tobacco in the form of chewing gums and non-habit forming lozenges could be made available cheaply—say, along with the FPA schemes of distribution. Alcoholics Anonymous could join hands in such a venture to help mostly the poor and illiterate people. Lastly, let those who badly desire these two items, have them on a permit and quota system, checked and certified by the local health authority (i.e., MOH or DMO): somewhat on the lines of the issue of opium and ganja. Let there be a precedent created at socials, functions and school PTA gatherings without alcoholic drinks and tobacco. One may ask here—how is the poor person addicted to one or both get away from them? If we explore this issue further we note that "artificial", "synthetic", or "manufactured" products are the ones that harm us more. For example, natural products like toddy or the cigar are certainly less injurious; in the same way as the correct quantity of opium or ganja used in Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani or homoeopathic formulae are beneficial. It is the refined tobacco that gets its carcinogenic matter into the cigarette, in the same way as the distillate (especially illicit) adds the poison to the bottled spirits. These methods to develop

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auto-suggestion among us on the abuse and dangers of alcohol and tobacco, would be more rational than the sermons at temples, churches, kovils and mosques. Self-education on these lines help the individual much more in the long run. While the society can help indirectly it is the individual who can solve the problems for himself or herself.



EDUCATION REFORMS

Do New Proposals Eliminate Wastage ?

By Mrs. Poomani Gulasingham

THE INTRODUCTION to the Reform Proposals briefly outlines the weaknesses in the school system. These same weaknesses find a place in the Reforms of 1972 and the National Education Commission Report. The report aims to amend the weaknesses. Another aim of this report is to cut down the expenditure on Education, since 80% of the vote for education is spent on the school system. This means that the country's economy cannot afford to support our education which is free from Grade One to the University. In attempting to minimise expenditure it has evolved a school system with (1) cluster schools, (2) unitary schools, (3) private schools, (4) open schools and (5) isolated schools.

Before examining these it would be best to go into the purpose of and aim of education in our total socio-economic development. The purpose of economic development is to enable people to lead a better, fuller and more satisfying life. Investment in education has brought to light the colossal waste in education. An educated population becomes a national asset only if it is able to fit into the productive occupations that our economy is able to provide. The report says: "Modern sector employment was unable to absorb even the fraction of the large number of educated youth seeking employment". This inability of the economic system to provide a meaningful and productive role for the output of the educational system has resulted in fear, frustration and even despair rather than an increase in social cohesion and satisfaction. New education therefore has to be looked upon as an investment in human resources and should contribute to the total productivity of the economic system. It would therefore become apparent that the training, skills, aspirations and even attitudes produced by the school system has to be related to the socio-economic environment. The expansion of education in a non-expanding economy has produced competition for the few jobs available.

To meet this situation there was a parallel rise in the level of educational qualifications needed. Selection based on certificates and examinations have all resulted in wastage in education. Instead of relating education at such level to the needs of the terminal students the curriculum becomes more preoccupied with the needs of those who will continue their education into the next cycle resulting in wastage.

IF THE AIM of the Reform Proposals is to cut down expenditure on education it will be necessary to cut down this wastage in the first instance. What is being wasted? Human learning efforts of the students, parental money and advice, school buildings and equipment, and the labour of teachers. Wastage occurs in the failure to reach objectives—failure to reach target achievement levels, in repetition in grades, in premature school leaving and in unemployable school leavers. Due to poverty about 40% drop before or by Grade 5 stage and then at Grade 8 stage. Of the total enrolment at Grade 1 only 15% or less succeed at grade 10 to get into the next stage. Of this only about 3% enter for higher education. As movement from one stage to the next is through exams, examinations increase wastage. The negative attitude of teachers towards students is another cause. Instead of counting on mistakes teachers should lay stress on what is correct. Much research by psychologists have shown that the pupil's performance is improved if the correct answers are appreciated. Such negative judgements, lazy, inattentive, untidy, stupid, "dud", foolish, silly which are always directed at the same pupils are partly responsible for wastage. The last area of wastage is in the selection to the University for Professional and Academic studies, where places are limited. Due to areawise selection high ability students are rejected which tends to reduce the excellence at the University. The Report aims to allocate places on the basis of excellence which is a praiseworthy move. Present selection methods lead to repetition and then frustration among students who are fit for admission and do not secure places. While increasing wastage, youth frustration can become a social evil. Evolving ways and means of overcoming this wastage can result in real savings. *Education by necessity has to be a response to the growing wealth of a nation or it should pave the way for economic growth and development. We should be realistic and ask ourselves: How much education is needed at the different stages? Where is education to be most developed—Primary, Secondary, Higher or Tertiary? What sort of Education is needed for economic growth? Is there a conflict between educational ideas and the conditions necessary for economic growth?*

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM is one which we have inherited from Colonial times and is elitistic and produces wastage. The cluster schools, unitary

and private schools and isolated schools will never achieve equality of educational opportunity, on the other hand it would tend to accentuate the disparity between rich and poor schools. The zoning system of the National Education Commission resembles the cluster system. The Core principal with very wide powers could override the decisions of the advisory councils and favour his own school. Even today the advice of the school development councils are never heeded and it exists purely to collect funds. In practice the total resources could be in practice be utilized by the core school and result in the disappearance of the small schools, the central school system was evolved to solve rural urban disparity and the movement of children to urban schools. Educational history shows that even this attempt has failed to solve urban rural disparity which produces wastage. Prof. Mrs. Swarna Jayaweera in her study of "Regional Imbalance in Education" finds a close relationship between education and socio-economic development the cause of the imbalance in education.

Educational research in the developed and developing countries have shown that schools alone are inadequate to meet the country's educational needs. In Britain itself D. Wardler's study in "The Rise of a Schooled Society" wastage in Education is clearly revealed. The working class children disapprove of schools which favour the affluent. In the Third World countries the output of the schools is not in conformity with the country's manpower needs. This is an age where institutionalised formal schooling is questioned by the De scholars and pedagogues of the oppressed find a place. Even the UNESCO study "Learning to be" focusses attention on alternatives in addition to the school system. Today the crisis in education has made educationalists to think of new strategies in education. C. S. Brembeck, Philip Coombs, F. Harbist, Philip Foster, A. Callaway and others have advocated their strategies which have as their core non formal education programmes as a solution to the nations socio-economic problems. While educational thinking is in these directions it would be futile to waste time and money trying to attempt changes in the school system which will necessarily be elitistic. Curricular changes within the school system from time to time in keeping pace with the growth of knowledge and socio-economic needs of the country would be welcome. New elitist systems at the expense of our younger generation should be replaced by sound and systematic planning in the Tertiary education which finds a place in this report. This would enrich and make more meaningful our educational system while paving the way for economic growth and development. All those who fall out of the school system would be absorbed into this. Since experience, proficiency and skill are the criteria for upward mobility the wastage that results from examination and certification

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cates would be eliminated. Through knowledge gained by practical experience this cohort can come up to the same status level as the University and Professional graduates. Besides it would give them a second chance of re-entering the Formal Education system. About 87% of our school going population who fall off between grade 5 and 10 would be catered to. Today 70% of our population between ages 15—24 is unemployed. Our educational programme should aim at solving this problem. Hence the solution to our economic ills and unemployment lies in the development of the Tertiary or non formal education, and providing an effective machinery which should best be non political for its proper implementation.

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1982 BUDGET

More Inflation ?

By R. Kahawita

WHEN THE DEFICIT in a budget is several times more than the realisable Revenue, there can be no budgeting. In this situation, budgeting becomes an exercise in adding up of figures in expected revenue, possible loans, and grants and compare with figures necessary to keep us and the economy going. These figures may tot up to millions, billions or trillions, it makes no difference. The budgeting process today does not even look into the future to ascertain when we would be rich enough to service and repay the loans from income from our present investment programmes and give our people a chance to LIVE. Our hopes may be that we will not be there to carry the baby, or the loans may be written off as bad debts like what the Government is doing with the Paddy Cultivation loans. If we can do that at a national level, why not at an international level? This is what we can surmise from the statement of Finance Minister: "No future Government can run the country without massive loans".

The 1982 budget reveals one truth: "We have come to the end of our tether in our financial resources. In the past, we have introduced to our fiscal policies all manner of direct and indirect taxes: tax on capital, income, assets, holdings, sales business etc. One area we have not yet touched is a tax in "family growth". This may be a more rational way of controlling population than Family Planning. Like tax on luxuries, let there be imposed a tax on pleasure. This year's attempt at balancing the budget is like a stale game of chess. Various taxes and excise duties are pawns. We keep them moving up and down with

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no purposeful strategy, just casual moves. to collect a few millions. It is not that they will help to reduce the gap between revenue and expenditure, but only to say—"We have a budget". Very often these moves are made outside the budget as well, like excise and customs duties. Whenever the Government is in a tight corner to meet the day to day expenditure up goes excise on tobacco which the Finance Minister has called: "Our perennial spring to take us out of a financial difficulty". The consumer has taken to this kind of collection kindly. He too is not worried about it. The only individual who is benefitted and glad by this mode of "tax play" is the retailer who collects the difference on the goods he has and the new tax on them. He controls the consumer's budget. On rumours of ad hoc tax increases, he creates shortages and raises his prices to the consumer without a wink. We have a Consumer Protection Society "somewhere"—but unable to help.

In recent years a very important "tax gathering tool" we have devised is the Business Turnover Tax. It is a tax on "Working Capital" and "Gross Profits". In addition there will be a tax on profits too. The business man who is caught in the BTT is the one who has to maintain correct books for accounting and auditing. There are thousands who do business without any documentations—"arth maru" is the Sinhala word for it. In all these cases, the tax is passed on to the consumer—"The Trader" collects the tax and more. In theory the BTT is to be absorbed by the business. In practice it is not so.

In the 1981 budget, there was a BTT levy on Corporation-manufactured Cement which was not to be passed on to the consumer. This was good for the Budget Speech. The Corporation raised the price to the consumer for "other reasons". Man is too cunning to be caught in a simple financial trap. With the present inflation and inflationary trends, business turnover is relatively low in real values. A man who sold ten bottles of aerated water a decade ago would have collected Rs. 10. Today his collection is around Rs. 25/-, whilst the quantity purchased and sold remains the same, his turnover is two and a half times what it was a decade ago. It is the same coloured water in quantity—may be poorer in quality, but he will be taxed on this bloated value of the rupee. His tax is not on increased production or higher costs due to better quality but due to the falling value of the rupee. It is this bloated rupee the Government is collecting as BTT to put it back into circulation so that the rate of inflation may be "steadied" and not put more new notes into circulation. **This, to us, seems the only validity for higher BTT. But from the consumer's point of view, he has to bear the full burden, with increasing adjustments to his living standards to absorb the full effect of the BTT at the end, it is the consumer who bears the full burden.**

The budget did not cover much ground as to how production can and should be increased. There are the various incentives and subsidies which are also moved up and down in keeping with deficit but for the producer to take advantage of these, he must be able to feed himself and his family within his means: his first call on his resources is his family. At the end of this exercise, he may not have the "spare cash" to take advantage of the subsidies, etc. He must be able to put his share of the Working Capital, which, after he meets his domestic obligations, reduces to his labour only. His production levels drop and we are back in the same hole.

This has been our record since 1977. To keep us going and to keep to our promises, we put more "paper money" into circulation, and we duplicate services to provide employment instead of more goods and production—so the prices keep on mounting. This will be the end result of our 1982 budget. This kind of price escalation has already overtaken us even before the budget debate is over. **It will be the worse by April 1982, when we will be able to sort out our figures and the retailers work out how to maintain their share while passing the taxes to the consumer. The consumer has no backbone to be broken now: we saw to that a couple of years back. His hope now is in the next budget.**



SHORT STORY

Overhead Crossing

By Soceyo

Grey haired, gaunt faced and clad in faded clothing, an ancient umbrella clutched in a wrinkled fist she resembled a muddy mushroom as she stood on the pavement trying to cross Galle road. The morning traffic thundered past her like metal racehorses hurtling towards a finishing line, and she glared resentfully at the vehicles whilst her bare feet ached from the heat of the sub-baked cement. "How do you expect me to cross this road Modaya?" her voice was thin, reedy and querulous. "Who will be able to stop all these madmen who drive the cars and buses? Can you answer me?" Her questions were unanswered by the sturdy, well built man who stood by her side.

Heen Banda sighed again as he glanced at his grandmother. She was becoming impossible, he reflected. Two hundred yards more and they could cross the road in complete safety by using the overhead crossing, but here she stood, insisting that her feet were worrying her and refusing to go any farther. In addition to this, she kept on calling him a fool. Perhaps he was a fool to tolerate her jibes. "We cannot cross here Achchi", he remonstrated gently. "If we walk a little more

we can cross safely away from all the cars and buses". "Hah î You expect me to believe that story? You think that you can do 'huniang' and get rid of all the cars and buses? You are a bigger fool than I thought", she snapped back, shifting her feet on the hot pavement. "Why your mother opened a kaddey on the opposite side of where we live is something I will never understand. She should have had it on this side then we need not have crossed at all. We will all get killed trying to reach your mother's kaddey and it will be all her fault î"

Heen Banda compressed his lips tightly and bit back a retort. Since the death of his father years ago, his mother had supported him, his two sisters and her mother on her earnings from the sale of hoppers, string-hoppers, cutlets, vadais etc. As the children grew older, she had managed to find employment for them in the various houses and shops around Wellawatte. She had put him into a Mudalali's shop and with his natural talents for keeping accounts, he soon became the favourite. Schooled by the old Mudalali, he laboured slowly and skillfully saving a little each month towards his own little kaddey. Now, finally the dream had materialised and his mother had been able to get a little space by the old Mudalali's shop where she and Heenbanda could manage to live comfortably. His sisters were domestics and they came along to the shop to see him occasionally, so life was not too bad. But now here was his grandmother trying to wreck the new venture on the first day of opening the kaddey. She was supposed to help his mother until he had finished at the Mudalali's but already she was creating problems.

"We could not have a kaddey on this side because we could not get space, Achchi" he explained quietly. "Amma told you yesterday. Come. We will walk along just a little more then I will show you where to cross. As it is, we are getting burnt in the sun". "Hah î" she squeaked. "You are getting burnt in the sun? How about me? I am lucky I still have the umbrella your grandfather gave me. None of you thought of giving me an umbrella as a gift. You young people are very selfish nowadays and think only of your own comfort. It is good for you to get burnt by the sun. All the wickedness in your body will be scorched and you will be a better man". Her voice was rising and the many passers-by glanced at them amusedly before hurrying on. "Alright, alright, I am coming now. But if I cannot cross this road, safely, you see what will happen to you î"

She dragged her feet beside him, muttering under her breath. Waves of heat shimmered up from the pavement and her feet throbbed. Little needles of pain pierced their way up her old legs from the cracks in her heels and she glanced at her grandson's lithe body enviously. Ah what it was to be young î "How much longer do we have to walk?" she called out, stopping to look about her. Ahead of her she saw a massive structure spanning the road and she

blinked twice rapidly. Someone bumped into her stationary figure whilst she gaped at the overhead crossing, her mouth hanging open idiotically, and Heen Banda grasped her elbow firmly.

"Come Achchi, don't stop now. Soon we will be on the other side. We have to climb a few steps that is all, than we can walk across". "What 'nadagam' is this?" she grumbled, panting a little as she hobbled up the steps "I am too old for this. All these new ideas are good for young people". She clung to Heen Banda's arm for a moment when she stood on the crossing and her old heart skipped a beat when she saw the buses snort their way towards her..... then they passed underneath harmlessly. Releasing him she hurried to the rail and looked down, a delighted grin spreading over her wrinkled face.

Beneath her, the traffic roared, snarled, honked and beeped their way through and she stood there, forgetting the ache in her feet, fascinated by the new vista that had opened up before her. Clearing her throat she spat with unerring accuracy onto the roof of a luxury car which sped under her and she cackled happily. Propping up her umbrella against her shoulder, she reached into the waist of her cloth where she kept her 'chew' of betel. "Achchi, you cannot stay here", Heen Banda's voice implored her "Amma is waiting for you. Let us go to her." "I am not going anywhere", the old woman snapped. "You and your mother are both modayas. There is all this space up here away from all the cars and buses, why did you not build your kadday here? I like it here. You brought me up here, now I am not leaving. I can sit in peace and watch everything, Go and tell your mother that I want my clothes and things brought here. I have decided to stay here and nobody can stop me!"

She sat down by the protective mesh and stretched her aching legs. The severe pain in her feet eased off and she leant against the rail and peered down at the busy road. Shah i This was a fine place. Later, she would get Heen Banda to bring her the large piece of polythene which sheltered her from the sun when she was at home. She could use it here to shelter her whilst she watched the road. Why should she go and look after a kadday when there was a place like this?

Heen Banda stood on the crossing shifting from one foot to the other wondering what he was to do. All his life he had respected his elders and never questioned their orders, but now he knew he was at the crossroads. If he went to his mother with this story, she would have to close the little kadday and come back with him to try and persuade her mother to leave the crossing; and Heen Banda knew they would not succeed. With a little sigh he turned back the way he had come and made his way towards the Police Station. It was the only solution.

TRIBUNE, December 5, 1981

TENDER NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT., HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION. DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

Tenders for construction of Additions to Kachcheri, Baticaloa, will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 A. M. on Wednesday 23. 12. 1981

02. Tender Forms could be obtained from District Engineer, Batticaloa before 4. 15 P.M on 21. 12. 81 by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 750,000 and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Departments, Colombo or any kachcheri outside Colombo.

03. Any further particulars could be obtained from the above.

K. C. Samaraweera
Director of Buildings.

Department of Buildings,
P.O BOX 504,
Colombo 1.
04. 12. 1981

Slavery in Disguise

By R. Kahawita

THE GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK has given the information to the press that Sri Lankans who are working in the Middle East have remitted 2,000 million rupees in 1980 and this figure is increasing daily to become the highest single foreign exchange earner. At the same time we read of a harrowing tale of a woman who ventured out of her village fastness with her husband into one of the Middle Eastern countries to share the so-called "pot of gold" and remit home the dough to gladden the heart of our Finance Wizards. She returned home minus the gold and her husband whose body was parcelled to Sri Lanka later on. Her tale of woe and her experiences turn the gold into blood money. It is stained like silver of a Judas.

These unfortunate people leave their villages to get out of the rut their generations had lived. We see the type of rural folk emplaning at the Katunayake International Airport almost daily. Most of them have not moved out beyond the village stockades—they are so unsophisticated that they do not know even how to condense their village locations to a postal address in their own tongue. When they arrive at the Airport with their credentials, passports and travel documents, they are at sea to get through the formalities of filling up Emigration forms, Customs declarations etc. One person had only a five rupee note in her hand to find her way to the final destination. In spite of all these difficulties, they still venture out in the hope of striking the pot of gold once on the Arab soil. We have nothing to offer them.

When we hear of what is happening at this end and read about the shocking narratives of some at the other end, and the money the Government is getting from these workers to help the Government to maintain its Balance of Payments, one begins to think and ask, "what is the government doing to assist these folks at home and at their destinations at the other end" to see that these people are getting a fair deal? The government is collecting considerable sums in foreign exchange through blood and sweat of these workers. Surely, a Government should be alive to its obligations to take care of her nationals who go in search of work in other climes, because the Government herself cannot offer them work. In our impoverished state these ignorant multitudes have become a national asset. We recollect discussing these problems at the top level, not yesterday, but in 1977, and had made several suggestions as to how this movement of workers to and fro could

be organised in the interest of the worker and his dignity as a Sri Lankan. It was a lost cause.

DURING THE COUPLE OF WEEKS, the situation has become critical. No day passes without a dead body being flown to the victim's motherland for post-mortem and declare "homicide, suicide, and open verdicts". These are hardly satisfying to those who have suffered the loss. There may be hundreds like the dead who are held in bondage till the contract period is over. There is enough evidence to believe so from the statements made and letters read at these post-mortems. Surely a Government must awaken itself to the reality to do something to help these expatriates. There is no meaning in singing "Namo Namo Matha", if we are deaf to the wailing of our nationals who have gone in search of work, because we cannot provide them with jobs, or they do not have the correct contacts to get a job here. Even our erstwhile masters—the colonial government did not *act* in this manner when they were recruiting South Indian Labour to develop our resources which they left behind for our benefit when they lowered the Imperial standard and we hoisted the Lion Flag to mark out Independence from the Imperial power. Having taken over what did we do? We read of protest marches in Tamil Nadu to register their disgust of our behaviour. This is another story.

The colonial governments of yester-years were more alive to their obligations than we show today to our own nationals who are forced to go in search of work overseas. They imported indentured labour from India to develop their tea and rubber plantations, which we have nationalized and have made a mess of: Though they were the "rulers of a subject race" they showed a higher sense of consciousness of their obligations to a down-trodden people than we do today. What did they do to recruit the labour they needed for their plantations? They set up an office in Trichinopoly in charge of a senior officer. All labour coming to Ceylon to work on the plantations had to come through this office where a complete dossier of each family was maintained. One copy of this was sent to Colombo where other information about the "family" and its movement in this country were to be maintained. To look-after the welfare of these workers, the Indian Government set up an Official Agency in the planting districts. Of course, both were the same masters, so there was good relationship and co-ordination at all levels and were able to overlook each other's shortcomings.

However, the main point we wish to record here is that, colonial government understood the human problems in uprooting a family and moving them to a strange country and to an inimical environment, and they set up machinery to minimize the hardships such as movement of humans would have to experience. Such movement is not a peculiarity to these areas

only. It is happening in the advanced countries in Europe and America too. There they call them "guest workers". Call it by any name, it is the same. What happened in the past and what is happening today is the same and not peculiar to us only. We have to look after these people who are going out of the country en masse. They have become a national asset, much more than you and I. They are working and earning to enable our Government to carry on,

Therefore, may we suggest that the Government set up an assisting and co-ordinating Bureau to process all Sri Lankans leaving the country for employment in the Middle East, and in the African countries. This Bureau should maintain a record of each individual moving out of the country for employment. At the end—that is the receiving end set up an "Agent" to receive our people to record their movement, place of employment, type of employment, employer etc. A dozzier on each person should be maintained by the Agent with a copy to the Local Bureau, the Bureau to send a copy of the local record once the final distribution is confirmed by the Agent. There will be no difficulties in organising the Administrative part of the set up. We have officers experienced in this kind of work to man the Organisation. What about financing the set up? The main object of the set up being to look after and take care of the persons going abroad for employment they will readily give their mite to maintain the Establishment. A very small cess could be collected by the Central Bank, on every remittance—may be as low as one cent per rupee remitted.

The whole establishment will be self-financing, but the government will be doing a great service to these workers who are sacrificing much to earn a living in another country and thereby making our country richer in Foreign Exchange earnings. There should not be any politics in this. We mention this because it is our bugbear today. We do not want Ambassadors. High Commissioners etc. What we want are paid Agents to look after them—an extension of the Labour Department in those countries and Bureau at this end with a separate unit at the Airport to process and help to complete their travel documents and finally check on their destination and employment. Instead of the Labour Department competing with the "private job fixers" to find overseas jobs for our men, let the Department look after those who go out to get jobs. This is a service to the country. If we set up an organisation on the above lines, we will never read a story like the one published in the press this week-end, where a whole village travelled six times to the airport. Finally, to receive a dead body. No one was aware of it at the Airport. Finally, it arrived and none knew what to do with it or to inform the family of the dead person—we are only concerned with the money—the blood money and boast that these workers are the highest Foreign Exchange earners!

TRIBUNE, December 5, 1981

CUBA

Threatened

Havana, November 20: The United States is stepping up its dangerous provocative activities in the Caribbean. A fresh impetus to a campaign of hostility against the first socialist state on the American continent has been given by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Speaking at the Department of State, the chief U.S. diplomat again thundered with slanderous allegations against Cuba, which is engaged in peaceful constructive efforts. He arbitrarily accused the Cubans of escalating their interventionist subversive and terrorist activities in the Western hemisphere in a bid to cover up the real subversive activities of the United States against Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada and a number of other countries. The State Secretary threateningly declared that Washington has just revised its course towards Cuba. It is, perhaps within the framework of that new course that radio propaganda has already been stepped up against Cuba. The U. S. Department of Justice has virtually given its blessing to the training of the counter revolutionary Cuban and Nicaraguan rabble in special camps in Florida with a view to invading Cuba and Nicaragua.

U. S. Strike naval groupings are plying the waters of the Caribbean Sea, which is considered by American imperialism to be its "internal lake." Recently the large-scale manoeuvres "Ocean Venture-81" involving 17,000 U.S. troops, dozens of warships and over one hundred planes took place there. Pursuing its aggressive schemes, Washington is putting together a military bloc from among the more reactionary pro-American regimes, such as El Salvador, Guatemala Honduras, and increasing arms supplies to its puppets in order to struggle against the movement for freedom and genuine independence that is gaining momentum in Latin America. All this is being done under the false pretext of the need to "neutralize the threat posed by Cuba". A danger from the outside does threaten Latin America; if comes from the United States itself, the Cuban newspaper *Juventud Rebelde* points out in this connection. For many years the policy of that country towards the Latin American peoples has been based on violence, blackmail, exploitation and gross violation of elementary principles of international law. State Secretary Haig has stated that the USA was going to take action against Cuba; he called this a new policy towards our country, the newspaper says. What "new" policy did he mean? A policy of blockade and economic, diplomatic and armed aggression? In the past few months US imperialism has been openly hatching a new plot; it is trying to create conditions for aggression against our country and for a military intervention in Central America, the newspaper *Granma* says today in its leader—PL.

• Milk • Onions • Rice

IS IT NOT TRUE that the paper *Sun* recently proclaimed in bold letters on its front Page that the President had removed the entire Board of the National Milk Board (NMB)? That the Board had been removed several weeks ago and that under the Emergency Regulations a Competent Authority (CA) had been set up and the *Sun* was probably referring to the fact that the CA was continuing to function because of the extension of the Emergency? That from all reports received by *Tribune*, the CA has been able to complete a remarkable amount of work in cleaning up the Augean stables in the NMB? That in knowledgeable circles a quip is going the rounds that the Competent Authority now running the NMB has proved to be very "competent"? That is hoped that when the Emergency lapses, it will not be found necessary to replace the "competent" Competent Authority with an incompetent Board of Directors? That the consumer, producer and the country deserve some respite from the 1977-81 period of NMB mal-functioning? That it is not too late for an integrated National Policy on livestock and milk to be formulated? That in view of the fact that the national herd is fast dwindling (instead of increasing) and that the country's annual imports of milk products will soon touch Rs. 1,000 million, something has to be done quickly? That whilst some way should be found to permit the CA in charge of the NMB to function even after the Emergency expires, the Government must integrate its policy on livestock (dairy, draught and meat), the imports and distribution of milk products and the operations of the NMB if this country is to be saved from the dire straits it now finds itself in? That these functions, which are now spread over three or four (or more) Ministries, should be brought under one competent Ministry? That, in this connection, it will be very necessary to safeguard this country from "consultants" who have made a mess of the NMB? That the Government should take note of the fact that the thinking and knowledgeable sections of concerned people—consumers, milk producers and livestock farmers—are suspicious and apprehensive of bureaucrats and technocrats who are now associated with foreign multinational interests even as government nominees? That there are enough competent people in this country, besides such person whose advice and conduct have become the subject of criticism, to be selected as consultants or members of the Board to be in charge of Livestock or Milk? That the sooner these changes are effected and a national policy is formulated, the better for the government and the country?

IS IT NOT FACT that, in spite of all the tall talk and big boasting, consumers (those who can afford) are called upon to pay anything from Rs. 30 to Rs. 32 a kilo for red onions and Rs. 25 to Rs. 27 for a kilo of (fast rotting) Bombay onions? That red onions now fetch over Rs. 1,000 a cwt. and that when the last two crops were being harvested the producer could not get even Rs. 100 a cwt. ? That the market has been depressed by imports when the harvest was on? That many farmers stopped planting red onions especially after the Department of Agriculture which had booked red onions from farmers for "seed" let them down after they had kept the onions for over two months on the excuse that farmers did not want to plant onions because of government imports? That members of this government had howled from the house-tops that they were importing consumer items like chillies because for a short period of two months during the last regime the price of chillies had shot up to Rs. 40 a lb.? That all the opposition parties will soon shout that onions which had cost around Rs. 2.50 and Rs. 4.00 a lb. during the entire period of the last regime has for the last three or four months increased from Rs. 7.50 a lb. to Rs. 14 a lb.? That it will be an interesting study to scrutinize the timing of imports of subsidiary foodstuffs like chillies, onions, or potatoes in relation to the harvesting of the crops in various parts of the island? That with the onion scandal in the last ten weeks, and which is likely to continue for sometime longer, the whole edifice of big talk of protecting the consumer has collapsed? That to make matters worse the price of rice has kept mounting in spite of even taller talk of increased paddy production? That people have begun to ask the question that if rice production had gone up so much why has the price kept mounting? That even according to the government-owned *daily* the price of Samba is now between Rs. 8 and 9 a kilo and par-boiled country rice varieties between Rs. 7 and 8? That the cheapest is imported white rice at Rs. 6.25 a kilo? That according to the *CDN* the market price is keeping high in spite of PMB (Paddy Marketing Board) retailing at Rs. 5.50 (raw), Rs. 5.55 (parboiled) and Rs. 5.80 (Samba) a kilo to co-ops and authorised dealers? That the Food Commissioner releases imported white rice to the same dealers at Rs. 5.80 a kilo? That various excuses are being trotted out why the prices are high but none of them is convincing?

TRIBUNE, December 5, 1981

MAHAWELI AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the following post vacant in the Head Office.

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Applications indicating age, qualifications, experience and other relevant particulars should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the undersigned on or before 15th December, 1981. The post applied for should be clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applications from persons in the State Sector will be considered only if the Head of the Department/Corporation certifies that the candidate can be released if selected.

**Secretary-General,
MAHAWELI AUTHORITY OF
SRI LANKA,
500, T. B. Jayah Mawatha,
Colombo 10.**



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Applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Co-ordinating Officer, Joint CHC-NAB Training Project, Ceylon Hotels Corporation, 63, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 1 on or before 18th December 1981.

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