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HIMMAT

WEEKLY 25p

Asia's new voice

VOL 3 NO 29

FRIDAY MAY 19 1967



Gurnam Singh-Punjab

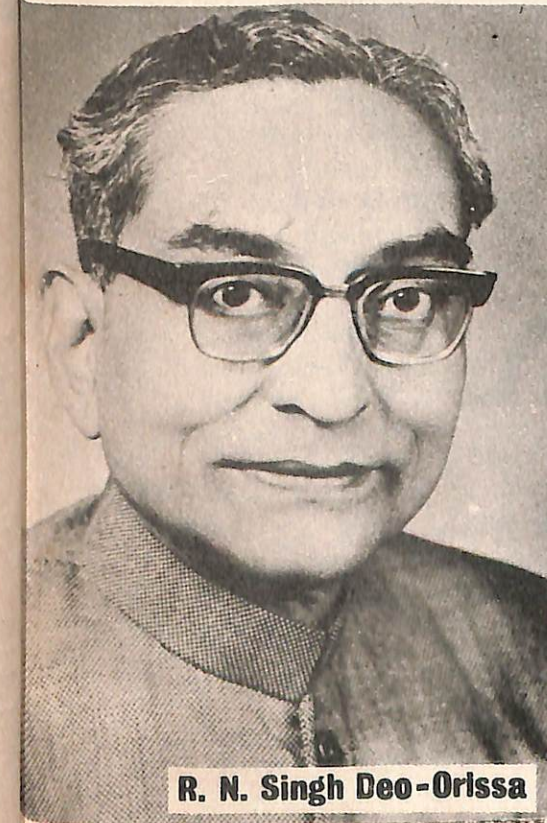


M. P. Sinha-Bihar

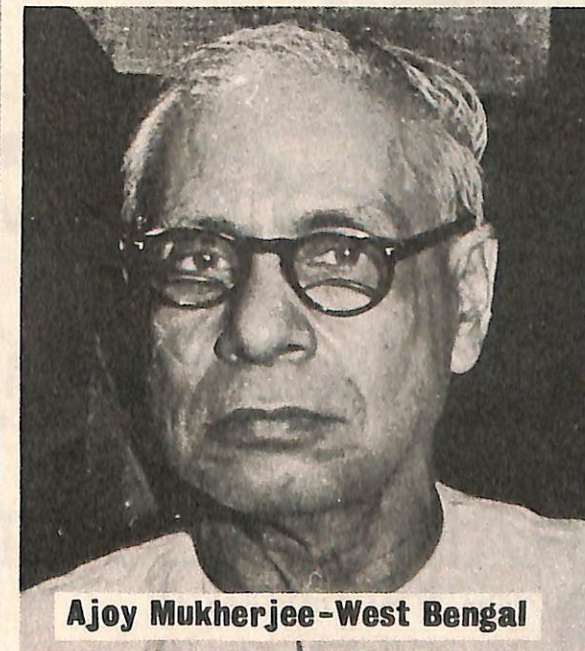


Charan Singh-U P

**CRACKS APPEAR
IN OPPOSITION
UNITY** Page 5



R. N. Singh Deo-Orissa



Ajoy Mukherjee-West Bengal



E. M. S. Namboodiripad-Kerala

CONRAD HUNTE'S BAT WINNER Page 23

PRINTED VOILES...
GATEWAY TO GLAMOUR



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Asia's new voice

WEEKLY

BOMBAY FRIDAY MAY 19 1967

Who benefits ?

THE CLASS STRUGGLE is being intensified; the nation's economy is receiving a further setback. The new *gheraos* (wrongful confinement of employers and managers) which has created considerable insecurity in West Bengal came in for heated discussion at the Standing Labour Committee last week. The highest tripartite committee for labour, management and Government witnessed an eight-hour verbal battle.

Mr Naval H. Tata, chief spokesman for the employers, demanded an unequivocal condemnation of 'gheraos'. Mr S. A. Dange, Communist Party Chairman, declared that 'gheraos' were a perfectly legitimate weapon and that he would use it "with a vengeance". Finally a resolution was passed condemning this coercive technique, but only after Mr Dange had walked out.

Meanwhile, Mr Dange's colleagues in Jamshedpur had led an agitation that imprisoned management staff at the Indian Cable Company for 16 hours. When police were called in to disperse the mob, 50 workers and 25 policemen were injured.

The Presidents of four leading Chambers of Commerce in Calcutta in a joint letter to the Chief Minister have said that unless Government takes effective measures, law and order will completely break down, "and business and industry will be completely at the mercy of unruly persons". One of the Presidents added that a situation has arisen where managers "are being chased by the employees to wherever they may happen to go, either on business or social calls and prevented from moving freely and with security". West Bengal's Labour Minister Subodh Banerjee says that if *gheraos* are coercive so are retrenchment and layoffs by managers. Machinery for disposal of labour cases, he pleads, is too slow.

If that is the case it is up to his Government to revamp the machinery rather than surrender the State's primary function to protect the life and liberty of its citizens. These tactics, if continued, will scuttle the machinery of settling labour disputes painfully formulated over the years.

The Bengal Industries Minister has admitted that production has already suffered. The *gheraos* may spread to a wider area and hamper our economic recovery just when substantial loans have permitted imports of raw materials for our industries to recover and for labour to benefit.

Who benefits from the *gheraos*? Mr Dange or the Indian worker?

After Aden, Hong Kong ?

LAST WEEK'S RIOTS in Hong Kong underscore the precarious existence of the Colony. Like Aden and Gibraltar, Hong Kong exists only at the pleasure of a hostile hinterland power.

For three days the Colony was hit by sporadic rioting and a dusk-to-dawn curfew. Riot squads battled young Chinese including youths wearing Red Guards armbands and Chinese People's Liberation Army style uniforms, chanting slogans and waving volumes of Mao's thoughts.

The original disturbance, a dispute in a plastics factory, was nearing settlement when the demonstrators, unconnected with the factory, intervened.

It is a wonder that in the over-crowded, jangling, money-seeking community of Hong Kong, with daily papers, daily travellers and daily pressures coming from Communist China next door, disruption has not been provoked sooner by Peking. But with a favourable trade balance of £125 million a year it would not serve China's purposes just yet to kill the goose. She needs the golden eggs that Hong Kong lays.

What Peking must weigh is whether it is worth more to wave the flag of propaganda in Hong Kong or to buoy up its economy by underwriting the stability which investors require.

With Britain's leasehold on the mainland New Territories expiring in 1997, Peking holds the trump card anyway. It is unlikely that she will precipitate a disastrous flight of capital and talent too soon from this prosperous if amoral colony.

Capital ideas

DID WE DETECT a note of nostalgia in the announcement that some former Members of Parliament are forming an association to "keep themselves in touch with political trends"? Convenor of the body is Mr Rangunath Singh, a former General Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

Their object is worthy but if they had "kept themselves in touch with political trends" while in office they would not be out in the cold now.

It seems quite appropriate, of course, that such a body should be set up. There are now so many ex-MPs. It would also seem appropriate that a Congressman should be the spark plug. After all, his colleagues must comprise the bulk of potential members.

Meanwhile, for those lucky enough to retain their seat, or win a new one, there is an important exercise going on in the Capital. The Department of Parliamentary Affairs has decided to maintain a record of each member's special interests so that they can encourage them to specialise in their particular fields.

Included on the record sheet is space for "details of travel abroad". We doubt whether Members need encouragement to specialise further in this burdensome business, and would urge that the entry be changed to "details of useful work in the constituency".

Briefly speaking...

Literary laurels

WE DIP OUR PEN in salute this week to novelist Tara Shankar Banerjee, or Tara Shankar Bandopadhyaya as our Bengali friends know him. He was the unanimous choice for the 1966 Bharatiya Jnanpith prize for literature. The award is worth Rs 1 lakh. Mr Banerjee wins these laurels for his *Gana Devata*, a novel set in India's rural society during the early years of the national freedom struggle. Banerjee himself courted imprisonment as a Congress leader and later became a nominated member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly (1952-60) and the Rajya Sabha (1960-66). *Gana Devata* was chosen for being the best writing published between 1925 and 1959. It first appeared in Bengali in 1942 and

will shortly be published in Hindi. What about that other language—English?

Appeal to Pope

I WAS MOVED to read the other day that before departing for his one-day visit to Portugal to pray for peace at the Shrine of Fatima last week, Pope Paul received from India a private appeal for his intercession with the Portuguese authorities to release Mohan Ranade, the imprisoned Goan freedom fighter. In a cable to the Pope, Ranade's mother, Mrs Ramabai Apte of Sangli, urged his help to have her son released, saying, "The agony of humanity over Vietnam is the same as mine over my son."

Educated ignorance

OVER 90 PER CENT of 12,000 young women interviewed for a teacher-training course did not know who Mahatma Gandhi was, according to an education department official in Madurai. The girls had passed the SSLC examination.

What do they learn in schools these days?

High finance

THOSE READERS interested in flying may not have read the figures published last week by the International Civil Aviation Organisation. Deaths from air accidents rose from 685 in 1965 to 908 last year. The revenue of airlines in the 113 nations who are members of the organisation amounted to \$10,600 million yielding an operating profit of \$932 million. So any of you who were lucky enough to manage a seat on one of IAC's popular flights last year can enjoy the knowledge that you played your part in boosting aviation's finances.

Three fingers

THE WEST BENGAL Government employees' unions have promised to help the Chief Minister weed out corruption and inefficiency in their departments. A deputation told Mr

No one can become a saint in his sleep.

HENRY DRUMMOND
1851-1897

Mukherjee that the unions had set up a committee to prepare a detailed statement on the nature of corruption and how to overcome it. They deserve encouragement. But surely the only way to overcome it is to start with oneself. If all Government employees did that, corruption in the departments would evaporate overnight. What will not overcome it is finger pointing. "When you point your finger at your neighbour there are three more pointing back at you." Try it and see.

Always "busy"

HAD A private organisation managed an essential public utility as badly as the Government of India manages the telephone system, it would have been indicted by Parliament, assailed by officialdom and "gheraoed" by citizens.

—HINDUSTAN TIMES editorial

It would also have gone out of business.

Conrad Hunte's bat

ALL THOSE budding batsmen who entered HIMMAT's special "Find the Ball" competition to try and win Conrad Hunte's bat can turn to page 23 this week and see if they won it. If you were unlucky, never mind, you can try each week for the regular competition and, who knows, you may win Rs 50.

When Hunte was touring India with the West Indies cricket team a few months ago he visited the site at Panchgani in the Maharashtra hills where the extensive new Moral Re-Armament Training Centre is coming up. He wanted to raise funds for the construction. He got each of the West Indies test cricketers to autograph one of his special English willow bats and this he presented to the Panchgani Centre. So even if you didn't win the bat, your rupee helped lay a brick. HIMMAT is donating all proceeds from the competition to the Panchgani Centre.

Birbal

Cracks appear in Opposition unity

BY R. M. LALA

THE NON-CONGRESS Opposition is at the cross roads. The Presidential election provided the ideal issue to deliver a fatal blow to the Congress at the Centre. But the gamble failed. Instead, the Congress has bounced back, its circulation invigorated by the experience. Dr Husain's victory has been a shot in the arm for the Congress Party. For the Opposition it might prove the beginning of their disunity.

The Opposition presented a common candidate in Mr Subba Rao for President. But there the unity ended. The DMK, which originally proposed Mr Subba Rao, was undecided on support to him until 24 hours before the election.

While Dr Lohia proclaimed that if Dr Husain lost Indira would have to resign, Rajaji of the Swatantra Party, who knew the Constitution better, begged to differ. So did the Right-Communists.

When the results came in they revealed that defections from the Opposition ranks were greater than those from the Congress. Dr Zakir Husain won with the sizeable majority of 107,000 votes, more than twice the margin anticipated by the Congress Party. Congress candidate V. V. Giri won the Vice-Presidency carrying a lot of Opposition votes, resulting in Dr Lohia bitterly complaining, "The Opposition in our country is a symphony of dissonant voices."

Meanwhile Bikaner's exuberant Maharaja, Dr Karni Singh, MP, proposed that the Opposition sign a one-sentence statement: "If the Congress Government falls, the Opposition is ready to take over."

Not all the Opposition Parties would even sign it.

The cracks within the Opposition ranks appeared to widen in the hours and days following the defeat of their Presidential candidate.

Opposition unity is like a machine that feeds on success and when success evades it, cracks begin to appear. The SSP has now threatened to withdraw its support of the West Bengal coalition unless a Harijan is included in the Cabinet by June 10. One cannot blame Chief Minister Ajoy Mu-

kherjee for not being over-enthusiastic over others interfering in his Cabinet.

The Bihar State Left-Communist Party which extended its support to the non-Congress Ministry has decided to launch an agitation on June 5 to press its demands, including State trading in food grains.

UP's Chief Minister, Mr Charan Singh, who six weeks ago crossed the floor and toppled the Congress Ministry, has been threatened by his own coalition MLAs. Charan Singh has proposed a food procurement policy for his famine-affected State which well-to-do kisans don't like. So 35 peasant MLAs, under the leadership of a Jan Sangh Legislator, have ganged up and threatened Charan Singh that if he does not amend his policy they will cross the floor and claim his head.

In Bengal, Chief Minister Ajoy Mukherjee, who is a moderate leading the United Left Front Ministry, is

under pressure from his more extremist colleagues. Ajoy is trying to hold industrial peace while the extremists are queering the pitch and supporting the *gheraos*. It will not be surprising if the Labour Minister of Bengal resigns or if, in the weeks to come, Ajoy finds it impossible to function as Chief Minister. He may also find himself caught between the cross-fire of the Left and the Right-Communist Parties who may make Bengal the testing ground for their respective strength.

Chief Minister Nambudiripad has considerable status and respect in Kerala but his position within the Left-Communist hierarchy is not strong enough. The Andhra lobby of the Left-Communists which was trounced in the General Election hold no office but are the Party's policy-makers. They hold the reins of power while the responsibility of running the Government machinery

On your toes

"GHERAOS" ILLEGAL

THE DEFEAT of the Congress Government in West Bengal seems to have given anarchy and violence a flip in the highly systematised form of "gheraos". Of interest, therefore, is the verdict of the Union Law Ministry that "gheraos", defined as forced and wrongful confinement, are illegal.

While Delhi condemns this mounting unrest, West Bengal Chief Minister Ajoy Mukherjee says the reports are exaggerated. His Labour Minister, Subodh Banerjee, says that "gheraos" are the "inevitable outcome of unfair and illegal labour practices by management".

Mr Banerjee bravely adds, "I will rather quit than submit to the employers' pressure tactics" to have him cancel instructions to the police not to intervene in "legitimate trade union activity".

What constitutes "legitimate" trade union activity? The "gherao" technique is spreading fast beyond the bounds of industry to civic affairs, colleges and hospitals. Suddenly, all those with a grievance against some authority have found in their hands a

most persuasive and devilish weapon. Often the victims are denied food, water and outside contact for hours.

Even the Mayor of Calcutta and his fellow Councilors were detained for 20 hours last week until they granted pay increases to some staff.

No one can pretend that West Bengal industrialists are saints or that conditions in many establishments don't need overhauling. But this is hardly the justification for coercion which Mr Banerjee would have it appear to be.


Even the Communist-led Government of Kerala has come out strongly against "gheraos". Industries Minister T. V. Thomas says "there is no need for them". They realise that better conditions for their people ultimately depend on the level of employment and outside investment.

West Bengal's similarly Communist-ribbed Government is faced with a flight of capital which no shrug of ministerial shoulders can end.

Those who now encourage "gheraos" may find that in another set of circumstances, and these can change very fast, they will be the victims of the very same violence that by then they will be powerless to halt.

Freebooter


CHALTA HAI...



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TINY PAL

VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT

HAILS the humanity of 100 shoe-shine boys on Central Railway platforms in Bombay who contributed two days' earnings to the Bihar Relief Fund.

WELCOMES Finance Minister Morarji Desai's economy measure in reducing the number of Secretaries in his Ministry from four to three and **URGES** his colleagues to do the same.

MARVELS at the continuing generosity of foreign countries in aiding famine relief in Bihar and specially **NOTES** the gift of Rs. 2,10,000 made by the Nigerian High Commissioner to the Prime Minister last week.

IS IMPRESSED by the announcement that soon New Delhi telephone subscribers will be able to trunk dial direct to Srinagar in Kashmir but **ASKS** when they will be able to dial direct to local numbers without difficulty.

SUPPORTS the resolution in the Bombay Corporation to press for the introduction of auto-rickshaws to alleviate the city's transport problem.

LEARNS with concern of the 25 starvation deaths reported from some districts of West Bengal and of the famine conditions developing now in Madhya Pradesh.

WANTS TO KNOW if all those demonstrating against the higher prices charged for milk from the Aarey Milk Scheme are going without milk themselves as a protest, or is their public protestation only political.

IS SHOCKED to learn that India's total public debt has risen five times since planning commenced in 1951, from Rs 2054 crores to Rs 10,838.

is primarily that of Namboodiripad. It is significant that Mr Namboodiripad was not included even in the Kerala State Executive of the Party. The Muslim League may be the first group to find it difficult to function within the United Front Ministry, although its withdrawal will not affect greatly the stability of the Ministry.

Mr Gurnam Singh of the Punjab has expanded his Ministry twice in a week to accommodate Punjab Congressmen whose itching feet waltzed them across the floor to join the Government benches.

Chief Minister Rao Birendra Singh of Haryana rules one of the smallest States but adopts one of the toughest attitudes to the Congress at the Centre on the issue of Chandigarh. This approach springs from his insecurity of remaining in power. He is projecting himself as an upholder of local interests to glorify his own image.

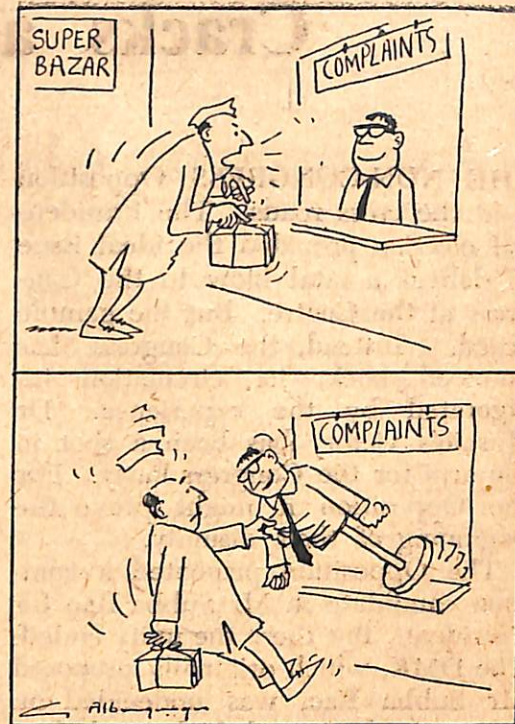
The two most secure Chief Ministers to date are Orissa's Singh Deo and Madras's Annadurai. In Orissa the coalition has the advantage of Swatantra and Jana Congress being ideologically fairly akin. Dr Mahtab, whose Jana Congress is the junior partner in the coalition, is a seasoned statesman who will not rashly upturn Singh Deo's appellation.

Unburdened by isms

Annadurai of Madras is the most fortunate of Chief Ministers in having a solidly united party. He commands the affection and respect of all its leaders. With a thumping majority unburdened by isms, he has decided to keep the election promises he gave. From last Tuesday rice has been selling in Madras at one rupee per kilo as promised by him, even though the State Treasury will have to subsidise it.

The main reason for instability within non-Congress Ministries is their lack of ideological homogeneity and the unbridled desire for power. It is difficult to imagine that the Jan Sangh and the Swatantra on the one hand, and the SSP and the Communists on the other, can be expected to rule together for a period of five years.

We are in for a further period of instability until the process of polarisation of parties between Left and Right is completed. If this is to be achieved it will require the disinte-



gration of the largest political party—the Congress. That disintegration has been stalled for the time being. The process of polarisation has in some ways started in the liaison between the Jan Sangh and the Swatantra on most matters of internal policy. The move to merge the SSP and PSP is afoot again.

Meanwhile the nation's problems are fundamentally economic and social, as Dr Radhakrishnan reminded the country in his farewell message. He appealed for an end to political recrimination. The post-election scene, he said, "offers a new opportunity for a broad-based participation and a sense of involvement by all parties of the country and by all classes of people in the primary task of national reconstruction."

He is right.

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End of an era, hardly the beginning of a hopeful one

DR RADHAKRISHNAN took office as President of India in the Nehru era of optimism, seeming success and confidence. He leaves it at a time of political instability, economic breakdown, menacing unemployment unrelieved by any immediate hopes of economic growth, and the seeming callousness of divergent linguistic regions (called States) towards one another so that affluence coexists with poverty in some areas, and reasonable plenty with stark famine in others.

The sobriety and realism of Dr Radhakrishnan's farewell address to the Indian people and the nebulous unrealities of the discussions of the Congress Working Committee (first post-election evaluation by the executive of the shattered monolith) offer a remarkable study in contrast and political realism.

Everyone will endorse the prayer of the retiring President that the nation will extend "full courtesy and consideration to the new President".

The circumstances surrounding Dr Zakir Husain's election render his task unusually difficult. If he succeeds, India can be said to have been truly integrated.

The retiring President has also listed a programme of priorities for the nation. The country's basic unity,

he said, "can be built on firm foundations only by the removal of regional disparities, economic inequalities and social iniquities".

The President emphasised that "the distress in Bihar and some other parts consequent on the continuance for the second year of unprecedented drought conditions, constitutes more than an economic crisis. It is a human tragedy."

The sad truth that our rulers must face, and especially the Congress Party, is that the tragedy of famine is not entirely a consequence of Divine disfavour. "The quibbling of words about scarcity conditions, or malnutrition," said the President, "does not take away from the fact that thousands are suffering on account of maldistribution and lack of adequate preparedness." (Emphasis mine).

Dr Radhakrishnan took the opportunity to give the nation his prescription for the ills of the country:

- 1 "If economic growth is to be shared by all parts of the country, so too, in circumstances less propitious, should privation. A massive effort to mobilise public opinion, so that more can be spared for drought-stricken areas, is called for.
- 2 The new strategy for increasing agricultural production is clearly an effort in the right direction.
- 3 The containment of inflationary pressures has to be achieved as much through a limitation of excessive spending, as through increased production (Emphasis mine) and if we do not curtail non-essential expenditure, the cut will have to be on more essential expenditure with its effects on national security and long term growth.
- 4 The greatest menace to social order is increasing unemployment.
- 5 Humility of heart and complete identification with the poorest in the land must accompany the exercise of power... Monumental self-righteousness is the curse of individuals as of nations.

Under the Lens

by R. VAITHESWARAN



6 Our problems with China and Pakistan are yet to be solved but it is not beyond human ingenuity to seek an honourable settlement." (Emphasis mine)

The Congress Working Committee in contrast, far from making any serious evaluation of its past failure or present tasks, contents itself with the assessment that it had been weak in implementing its declared policies.

Even if a deeper analysis of its failure along these lines had been made, it could have laid its finger on some of the causes of the electoral debacle—lust for power, growing corruption, struggle for the spoils of patronage, emergence of new aristocracies based on politically dominant castes, vicious groupism, indifference to the needs of the masses, subservience to entrenched vested interests in town and countryside at the expense of the poor, high taxation in the name of defence and development the proceeds of which were largely frittered away in extravagant expenditures and grants (also called "loans"), and the transformation of the Congress Party into an elite of Party functionaries.

No attempt was made to re-examine the framework of controls, extravagant planning and deficit financing erected in the name of Democratic Socialism. Neither on the policy plane nor at the organisational level was a serious attempt made to correct mistakes, acknowledge failures, condemn wrong-doers, expel the corrupt and chart a new course to create a vigorous, clean party.

On the other hand, the Congress bosses of the Working Committee wasted a great deal of time in doing what they have done at every session—quarrel over frictions between Party and Government, complain that the Government was not Socialist enough, and reiterate familiar slogans such as nationalisation of banks and insurance, nationalisation of import and export trade, manufacture of consumer goods by the public sector, rationing for the whole

SAY THAT AGAIN...

The Party (Congress) cannot last without the Government, nor the Government without the Party.

MRS INDIRA GANDHI

Peace in industry has been disturbed to some extent due to "gheraos".

SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA, WEST BENGAL MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

The self-satisfied, smug and complacent Congressmen in important places appeared to be symbols of affluence and prosperity in this land of misery and starvation.

MR S. N. MISRA, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY

country (euphemistically called "National System of Public Distribution of Foodgrains"), implementation of land reforms, etc.

That after the baptism of fire the Party went through in the General Elections, the Congress Working Committee produced this balderdash which has been the stuff of every AICC session for the last 20 years is a measure of its bankruptcy.

To be fair to Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Morarji Desai, there is not much correlation between the millions of words poured out at Party meetings by enthusiastic or vociferous ideologues and the compulsions of Government policy. But neither is the Congress Working Committee a body of men who can be ignored. That they talk as if the country still belongs to them may be a result of

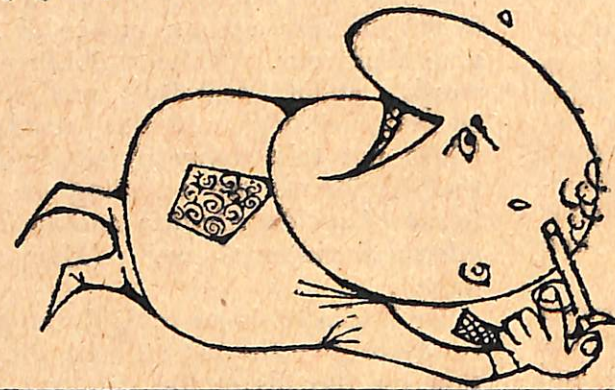
their naivete. But when they choose to lay down the law for the Government, they are pernicious.

Sadly, a little reluctantly, people like me are being driven to the conclusion of Rajaji, Lohia and Namboodiripad that the only way of finding a political alternative may lie in the costly, perhaps dangerous, step of hastening the liquidation of the Congress Party.

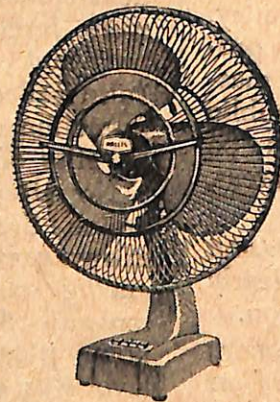


When Sol has done his worst

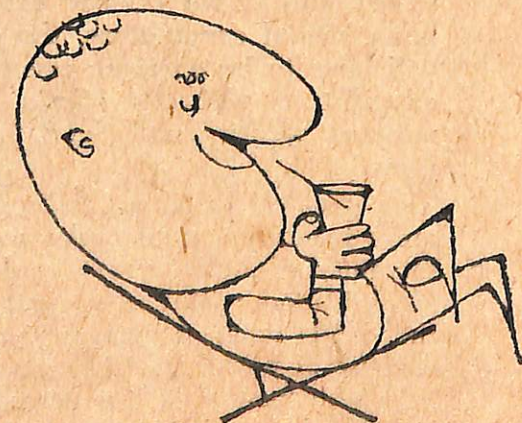
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FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

Mao, the Red Sun

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG Three movie theatres here are now showing the film of Mao Tse-tung, Lin Piao and Chou En-lai greeting the million and a half Red Guards and soldiers in Peking on October 1, 1966, the 17th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Entitled "Chairman Mao is the Red Sun in Our Hearts", the film starts with a huge sun rising from the horizon followed by the live Mao himself filling the wide screen. There was a wild burst of applause from the several hundred school children in the front stalls. They were from one of Hong Kong's Communist schools. Throughout the entire 45 minutes they took the cues from the film itself (it seemed to have applause on the sound track) and joined in the rhythmic clapping that went with the title song.

In the foyer of the theatre there were crowds around the stall where the red book of Mao's quotations was being sold along with magazines and various badges with Mao's head on them. A youth sitting just in front of me in the theatre had bought a gold coloured Mao badge and was gazing at it admiringly before the film started.

It was a magnificent spectacle of colour and movement. For 45 minutes the cameras moved around the Gate of Heavenly Peace Square showing the packed multitudes, the brilliant and colourful decorations, the waving arms clutching aloft the little red books of Mao's thoughts, the excitement, the marching, the hysteria of some, the energetic jubilation of most and, every few minutes, a close-up of Mao in his almost Buddha-like aloofness which was occasionally broken by a smile for the

populace and a word or two for Lin Piao or Chou En-lai.

His wife Chiang Ching was there, too, but some distance along the line. I looked for President Liu Shao-chi but could not find him. He was there when the film was taken but having been under severe attack as the chief opponent of Mao and the Cultural Revolution, the film has been cut wherever he appeared.

At several points Mao was down walking among the milling throngs who were obviously most excited at seeing him so close. Girls and youths were shown among the adoring crowd with tears streaming down their faces.

Lin Piao made a long speech on behalf of Mao which was punctuated by mighty applause. During the speech Mao stood gazing out on the tremendous gathering like a benevolent father-god figure. This was how the million and a half people seemed to regard him that day. It was no demonstration to impress foreign visitors. It was a tremendous piece of organisation carried through with precision and fantastic propaganda effects mixed with genuine outbursts of joyous enthusiasm.

When they shouted "Long live Chairman Mao!" they did it with intense passion. When they sang "Chairman Mao is the red sun in our hearts!" he was without doubt the red sun in their hearts. Their faith in Mao and his thoughts is really religious and generates a passionate commitment to winning the whole world to Mao's way.

If the people of the democratic nations would outmatch Mao and his masses with a greater passion for an idea which could unite both worlds, the deepest needs of humanity would be answered.

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The week in ASIA

SAIGON — Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, South Vietnam Prime Minister, would be a candidate in the Presidential elections on September 3, according to high Government sources here.

DJAKARTA — Acting President General Suharto has asked Dr Sukarno to vacate the Merdeka Palace in Djakarta and live in the Palace at Bogor. The Presidium decided that Dr Sukarno should no longer use the titles of President or Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

BAGHDAD — Iraq President Abdel Rahman Arif formed a new Cabinet with himself as Prime Minister. One of four Vice-Premiers is a member of the Kurdish tribe.

KARACHI — China has chartered seven Boeing 707 flights of PIA to ferry gold from London to Shanghai. Other airlines will provide another eleven flights to carry the balance of 630,000 lbs of gold purchased in London.

KABUL — The Soviet Union will import natural gas from Afghanistan worth more than \$300 million in the next 18 years.

KARACHI — Pakistan will sell 60,000 tons of rice to the Soviet Union under a barter trade agreement.

KUALA LUMPUR — China was South-East Asia's main enemy, said Indian Foreign Minister Chagla. He pledged India's participation in the proposed S. E. Asia Regional Co-operation Plan.

HONG KONG — A NCNA report indicates that China may be preparing to create more trouble for India—this time by subversive activities, followed by pressure on the border.

TOKYO — Japan has rejected a US proposal to include grains in aid to developing countries, given by developed countries. Japan saw a direct link between the proposal and moves to stabilise world wheat prices.

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian Government is sore with US over its unconcern about Kuala Lumpur's plea to reduce the American stockpile sales of rubber by 50 per cent. The Americans were deliberately creating a drop in the world price of rubber, Finance Minister Tan Siew-sin said.

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FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

An old dynasty continued

FROM PETER HINTZEN

THE HAGUE Monarchies have become rarities. But it is an open question whether the abolition of kings always leads to greater happiness. Churchill felt, for instance, that Hitler was able to establish his dictatorship only because the Kaiser vacated his throne.

The House of Orange-Nassau which has provided leadership for the Netherlands since 1544, is easily the oldest ruling dynasty in existence. Church bells tolled, 101-gun salutes were fired and practically the whole nation went frantic with joy when Crown Princess Beatrix gave birth to a bonny son, Prince William Alexander.

Though well over eighty per cent of the Dutch nation is very much in

favour of its monarchy, lately a noisy minority have cast doubt on its future. The birth of the first Prince in 116 years has had an electric effect. For two generations Holland has been wisely ruled by Queens. Princess Beatrix will be the third lady to be head of state. If all goes as people wish now, the young Prince will in due course rule as King William IV.

Prince William Alexander is a descendant of William of Orange, nicknamed "the Silent", who in the 16th century led the Dutch people to independence from the absolutist yoke of the Hapsburg power. Since then eleven members of the House of Orange have ruled the country. They have repeatedly acted as saviours in distress.

In World War II the inspired leadership of strong-willed Queen Wilhelmina, the new prince's great-grandmother, did a great deal to stimulate resistance against Nazi oppression.

Bugles for Britain

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON It used to be a healthy trait of the British that they could make fun of themselves. But, like any other, this wholesome habit can be corrupted. In modern Britain much of what passes as humour is a seedy knocking of anything British. So although it may be humourless, it is occasionally worth blowing a British bugle about some current achievements.

Britain has two per cent of the world's population living on only .02 per cent of its area. Her raw materials are limited. She used to be described as "an island of coal surrounded by fish". Nevertheless, Britain has secured nine per cent of the world's trade, and in the last twelve years has increased her exports to new markets by fifty per cent.

Recently the British Iron and Steel Research Association developed the spray steel-making process and the new British invention—"the plastic method" of steel structured design—is being adopted widely abroad, notably in the United States.

Britain invented terylene and rayon and founded the American rayon industry. The British pioneered

acetate, invented the jet engine, and were first in the field with hovercrafts, vertical take-off aircraft and blind landing systems. Rolls Royce aircraft engines power sixty per cent of the world's civil air fleets. Britain is the largest exporter of agricultural tractors, commercial road vehicles, woollen textiles, cotton yarn and thread, rubber tyres and tubes, and telegraph and telephone equipment.

Traditional industries are adopting modern methods. For example, in "Q4", the new "Queen" ship being built for the Cunard Shipping Line, a computer will not only monitor the machinery but will take over many of the housekeeping chores—storekeeping, catering, passengers' accounts, and crews' wages. It will even help the Master to set a course which will get him to the place he wants to be at the right time with the minimum steaming (and therefore maximum fuel economy).

In shipbuilding, the possibilities for computer application are equally stimulating. Until recently a big shipyard would employ hundreds of draughtsmen who tediously worked out series after series of calculations,

continued on next page

The week in INDIA

NEW DELHI — According to legal experts in the Union Law Ministry, "gheraos", which are defined as wrongful confinement, are illegal and constitute a cognizable offence under the law. Democratic protests include peaceful marches, demonstrations and satyagraha.

CALCUTTA — West Bengal Labour Minister Subodh Banerjee threatened that if attempts were made to shift industries from the State in the face of mounting industrial unrest and labour "gheraos" his Government would prevent equipment being moved and would ban sale of products of such firms.

NEW DELHI — A wordy duel marked the proceedings of the Standing Labour Committee over the rights of workers to stage "gheraos". Employers' representative Naval H. Tata wanted outright condemnation, while Communist trade union leader S. A. Dange walked out in protest.

NEW DELHI — The Congress Working Committee rejected Mr Rajagopalachari's suggestions about a national government or "government of talents" at the Centre. It also deplored the views of Mr Jayaprakash Narayan and others about the possibility of an army take-over.

BHAVNAGAR — Four Congressmen of Bhavnagar resigned and the city observed a hartal to protest against the State Government decision to locate the Saurashtra University headquarters at Rajkot.

RANCHI — Mr Jayaprakash Narayan, Chairman of the Bihar Famine Relief Committee, said that although declaration of famine in parts of Bihar had helped arouse the sympathy of the world, many might die of hunger unless the people of the State co-operated and made joint efforts to tide over the calamity.

TRIVANDRUM — Chief Minister E. M. S. Nambudiripad has been removed from the Secretariat of the State Committee of the CPI-Marxist along with two others.

DEHRA DUN — The Dalai Lama told a gathering of over 1000 Tibetan refugees that he hoped it would be possible for his people to return to their homeland and establish a democratic government.

The week elsewhere

WORLD WAR III

NEW YORK—United Nations Secretary General U Thant warned that the Vietnam conflict, if continued, would lead to a third world war. If the present fighting continued, he said, a clash between Peking and the United States was "inevitable". Significantly, he added, the mutual assistance treaty between Moscow and Peking was still in effect, despite the current Sino-Soviet conflict.

ABOLISH POVERTY

WASHINGTON—Mr Paul Hoffman, Administrator of the UN Development Programme, told a convention here that helping developing nations was "perhaps the most important business" facing the world today. Abolishing poverty, he held, would be a more significant accomplishment than splitting the atom or conquering space. World poverty resulted for the most part "not from a lack of resources, but from the under-utilisation of resources". Only about 20 per cent of the physical resources and about 10 per cent of manpower resources in developing countries were being used.

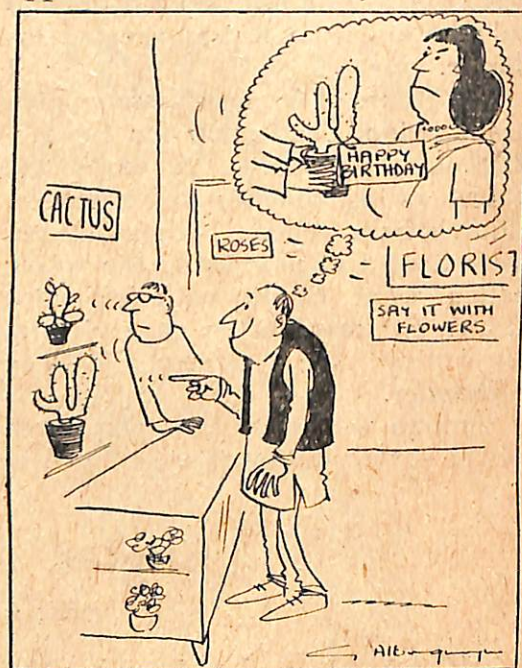
until they eventually approximated what was required. Today most of this work has miraculously vanished, thanks to the computer. Nowadays a naval architect, having made his rough design on the basis of the owner's requirements, can simply post them off to a computer programming centre for assurances on such essential questions as: "will it float?", "will it float the right way up?", "will it break in two?". If he is lucky, he will get his answers by return post.

Computers can similarly be used to complete the drawings of the ship and to cut metal to the required shapes and sizes and fit them together. Steel cutting by computer has been practised for some years. This is such an important development that by exploiting the computer fully Britain can regain her lost ground in world shipbuilding and could lead the way in the next round of modern shipbuilding techniques in the 1970's.

This is a short list of what Britain can do. Let's see her do a bit of boasting for a change.

UK AND DENMARK FOR EEC

BRUSSELS—Following British Prime Minister Harold Wilson's "one sentence" letter applying for membership of the European Economic Community, Denmark's envoy to the EEC, Mr Kaj Barlebo Larsen, formally presented his country's request to join. The Danish Parliament had approved the decision by 150-20.



U.P.—Facts on famine

by ANTENNA

I HAVE TRAVERSED Mirzapur district, in eastern Uttar Pradesh, for three days, and I did not see even a blade of grass growing in fields once rich with wheat and paddy. Two successive monsoons have failed, and with this failure four successive crops have been lost completely.

Mirzapur is a place of dead earth, baked into clods of iron hardness by the cruel sun. Its roads are lined with the stark skeletons of trees drained dry of sap. The peasants who live in the villages and the Adivasis of its forests are human shells who cling feebly to life.

The district is one of the most economically and socially backward in India. Its 4500 square miles are mostly tropical jungle. Of its 1.2 million inhabitants, more than two-thirds are Adivasis who even normally lead a precarious existence, next door to starvation.

They cultivate strips of forest land in the most primitive fashion, sell wild honey and firewood and baskets and other articles made of bamboo or rushes found in their forest haunts.

Mirzapur is one of the worst-affected parts of the region through which the Vindhya hills run from southern Bihar through UP deep into Madhya Pradesh. Summer temperatures reach 130 degrees Fahrenheit in some of this region, and as the heat grows more oppressive the scanty sources of water shrink faster.

Not far from Mirzapur town, the district headquarters, as I travelled by jeep along dirt tracks crossing barren fields from which an occasional breeze raised clouds of stifling dust,

I saw people and cattle crowded round a shallow gash in the soil that was the only well in a village.

At its bottom was a muddy liquid a few inches deep. Women scooped it up in clay pots for drinking and cooking, others bathed or washed kitchen utensils in it, and cattle stood and drank greedily.

There are 900,000 cattle in Mirzapur district, and I saw hundreds of them vainly rooting about the fields for dried wheat and paddy stubble which was not there, for it had already been eaten up. If the monsoon does not come on June 15, as it does in a normal year, few of these animals will survive. The fate of millions of people living in the famine belt stretching from Bihar to Madhya Pradesh is also uncertain.

Mr R. K. Bhargava, District Magistrate and head of the Mirzapur administration, is a young man, intelligent, conscientious and enormously energetic. He is confident that no calamity will befall the district if the rains come when expected.

He told me the district was getting enough grain for rationed distribution at the rate of 10 kilograms an adult mostly from the State Government, and wells were being sunk wherever water was available. Test relief work like bunding tanks to hold water were being undertaken to provide employment to destitute peasants in the areas of greatest scarcity.

But the district administration is obviously too small and its finances too meagre to master the crisis, and corruption and apathy at its lower

levels are evils apparently beyond control. I was told that several lakhs of rupees were allotted last October to dig 500 wells in the drier parts of the district. But half the money went into the pockets of petty officials, and not a well was dug.

Wheat and sorghum supplied to village ration shops find their way into the thriving blackmarket in the district towns, but even when they are available in these shops few villagers can afford to buy them.

I saw villagers at work at a test relief site at Gangahar, a few miles from Mirzapur town. Men with picks were prising out lumps of hard-baked earth from the bed of a dry tank. Women and children put half a dozen lumps in shallow wicker baskets, carried them up the sloping wall of the tanks and dumped them.

They start work at 6 am and halt at noon, when the temperature rises to 120 degrees. For this work, men are paid one rupee a day, women 85 paise and children 60. Many women I saw at work wore only ragged sarees slung across one shoulder to conceal their bare breasts.

Unclothed children played among their working parents. A small shed of thatch on the tank bed formed a creche where naked infants lay on the earthen floor squalling for their mothers.

Farther along the road to Varanasi, I stopped at a kitchen where one free meal is given daily to children, pregnant women and those too old or infirm to work on relief projects. The kitchen is one of 45 voluntary social agencies are running with Government subsidies in the form of free grain. The State Government has sanctioned the opening of 100 such centres, but Mr Bhar-

continued on page 21

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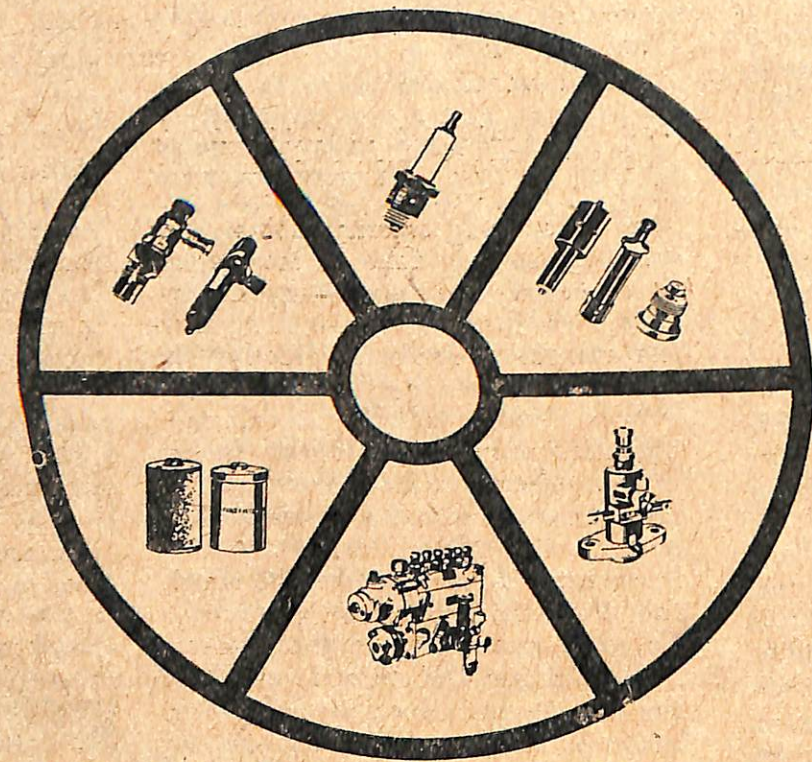
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Focus on Food

BY M. S. DABKE

IN NEW DELHI, Mr George Woods, the World Bank President, paid handsome tributes to the economic progress India has so far achieved and the talent manning the Indian economy today. That was the result of a fine blend of the VIP's courtesy and the needs of protocol.

The World Bank chief's forthright views—couched in a balanced tenor of course—were however heard only in Bombay. In the commercial capital of India, Mr Woods brought into focus India's most knotty problem today—food production. While highlighting the need for an all-out bid to increase food production, Mr Woods also assured his support in India's endeavour on the food front.

There are two reasons for it. First, the World Bank's stake in the Indian economy is too great. For instance, up to August 1966, aid to India from the World Bank and the International Development Association amounted to \$1830 million. Secondly, more and more Afro-Asian countries are becoming development oriented. That is increasing the pressure on the aid resources of the World Bank. By taking seriously to the food production drive, India can save much of the foreign exchange she is now obliged to spend on food imports. That will relieve the pressure on the World Bank's aid pool.

While taking care every time to preface his observations by saying that the Indian Government was the best judge to decide what measures it should take, Mr Woods did not mince words when he warned that this was the most difficult year in the history of India. The acute food shortage is already there. But even from the point of view of debt repayments, this is really a difficult year.

To repay principle alone, we shall have to find during the current year Rs 195.44 crores. Interest charges would take up another Rs 142.68 crores. This means that out of the aid of about Rs 675 crores committed by the Aid India Consortium during the current year, over 50% would be taken up by interest payments alone.

A grand opportunity had come our way to unfold our plans of food and industrial production and benefit by the expert advice of Mr Woods. But we seem to have under-utilised this opportunity. New Delhi is reported to have concentrated more on canvassing the re-scheduling of debt repayments. It is difficult to see what

real advantage the re-scheduling of debt repayments would offer. Initially, it may reduce the annual burden of repaying external debts. But that will be only done by mortgaging more heavily the future—and not too distant a future—because the interest charges will pile up greatly. The second idea we tried to sell to Mr Woods was that the Consortium countries should be induced to release project-aid and also should be counselled to adopt a liberal policy with regard to tied loans.

Apparently, there is a limit to which the World Bank boss could influence the donor countries in the Consortium. Hence, Mr Woods gave us the first lesson when he suggested that we should enter into bilateral negotiations with the Consortium countries. Each donor country would choose such projects which are of direct or potential benefit to the donor country itself. If at all India will be in a position herself to offer sizeable aid to other developing countries, she is not likely to do anything much different.

Less aid for industry

Yet another lesson of the Woods mission is that hereafter we should expect less aid from the World Bank for mighty industrial complexes. Principally, aid from the World Bank now will be available for agricultural development. At present, aid to agriculture forms a very low percentage (3.5%) of total aid given.

The implication of this situation—as also of the change in the outlook of other aid-giving countries—is that there shall have to be a positive slow down in new investment on the industrial front. This, then, is the third lesson of Mr Woods' mission.



World Bank President George Woods with Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai

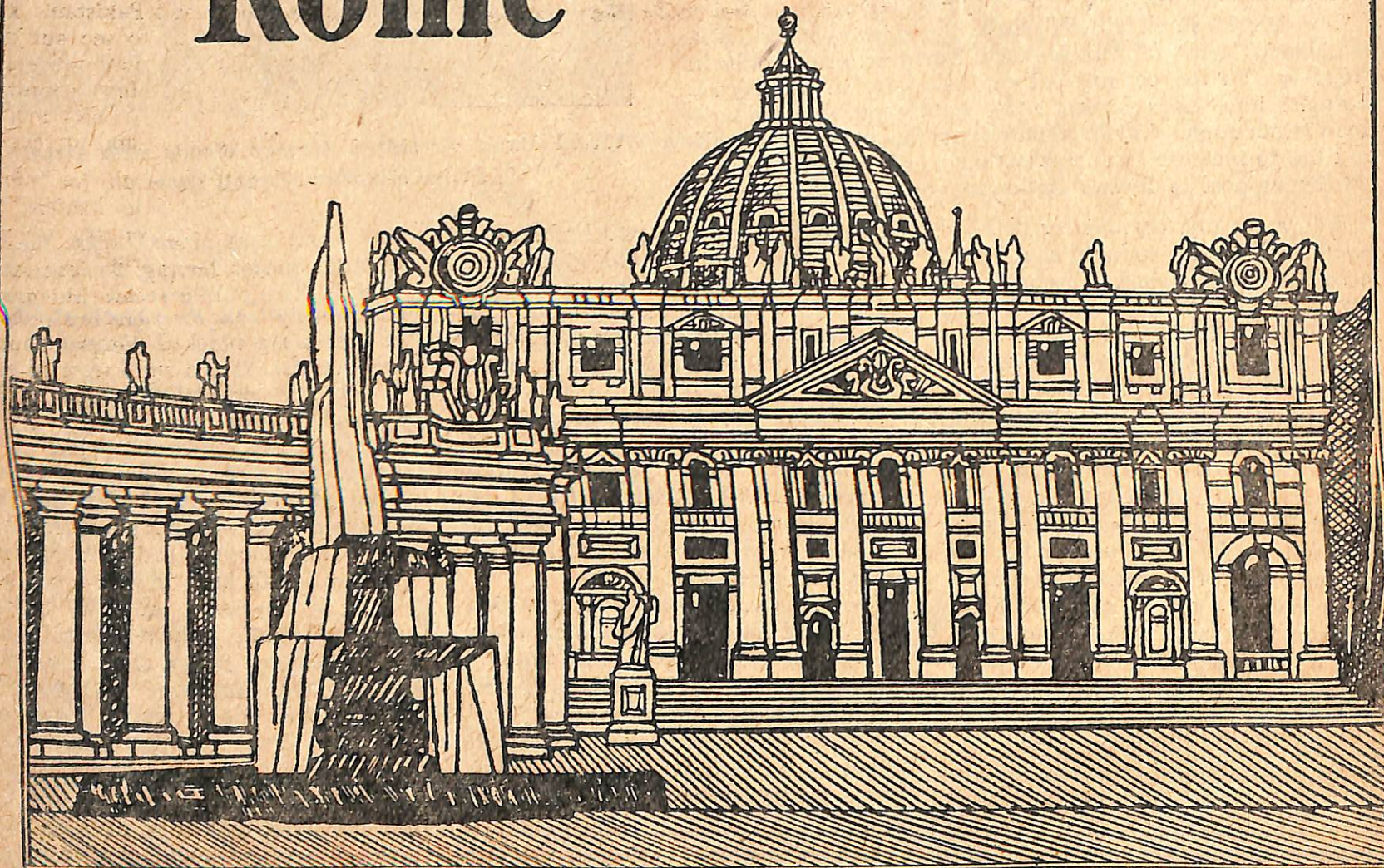
We have over-played with the industrial pieces having demonstration effect. The public sector has grown enormously and thousands of crores of rupees are blocked without almost any return. If the rigid tests of efficiency and profitability were to be applied to our public sector enterprises, most of them would have closed long ago.

But now we have reached such a stalemate that we cannot afford the luxury any more. Industrialisation, therefore, shall have to take a pillion seat. At the same time, by being over-enthusiastic about agricultural production, we cannot shut down industrial development altogether. That would be a grave mistake. For, after one or two good monsoons, there might be increased purchasing power with the society. If, due to the neglect of industries, no adequate goods are to be found at that time, the country may be caught in another spate of inflation.

By shedding ideological inhibitions, we must actively co-operate with the private sector to hunt for the idle capacity to activate it. This will have a back-hand healthy effect of reducing unit costs and through that the pressure on prices will also be somewhat eased.

These then are some of the lessons of Mr Woods' mission. One drawback of democracy is that everybody has ample opportunity to disown responsibility. The Congress régime has over-played this and paid the price. In the process it has wrought tremendous suffering on the nation. We must learn these lessons well and act upon them without loss of time. On how quick we are would depend the welfare of our country and, more particularly, that of our rulers.

Rome

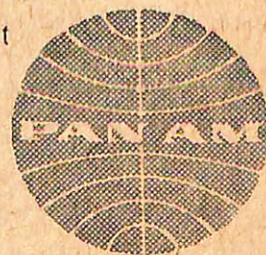


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'Pakistanis are happier under present system'

QAISAR BAKHTIAR was anxious to talk about Pakistan. He is a square-headed, stockily-built Punjabi of 31, a foreman in the Batala Engineering Company, the largest engineering company in the country with 8000 men. His father is B. A. Khan Bakhtiar, President of the West Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions.

I had gone to see him in his attractive semi-detached house which has two rooms, verandah, servants' quarters and garden, for which he and his wife and little daughter pay Rs 130 a month rent.

Are the people of Pakistan happy under the present system?

"Yes, very much. There is less corruption with this way of government. Ordinary people have an easy way to reach the Government with their grievances. With the present system people don't have to go to the courts and waste money and time waiting there. Every Union Council Chairman is authorised to settle minor disputes and deal with grievances which used to go to the courts.

"Also it is a much fairer system of electing a President because it is done by the basic democrats* from all over the country. The old, corrupt politicians cannot get power so easily."

Are the poor earning enough?

"They are much better off than they used to be 10 years ago. One by one the present regime is fixing minimum wages. They have done it in the steel industry and now the textile industry, and others are following. And the Government sees to it that these wages, fixed by the Minimum Wages Board, are paid to the workers. For instance, 500,000 textile workers have just had their minimum wage raised from Rs 78 to Rs 104."

*A "basic democrat", elected by 1000 voters, is the lowest unit in Pakistan's electoral system. Every 10-12 basic democrats constitute a Union Council who elect a Chairman. Union Council Chairmen in a district form a District Council and above this comes a Divisional Council. The President is elected by all basic democrats, (80,000), as are members of the National and the Provincial Assembly.



QAISAR BAKHTIAR

What about the prices of food?

"Wheat did go up but the Government has brought down wheat prices to normal again. I don't find even one seer of *ata* sold on the black market. The price of meat has not gone up much—Rs 3.50 a seer. It used to be the same 10 years ago. And the same with vegetables."

ON THE Spot

What do you feel is most needed?

"We feel great unrest about the problems of India and Pakistan. The ordinary people want to see our disputes solved honestly without going to war. Our developing countries cannot afford to spend so much money on arms, ammunition and defence."

When the President calls for "pious, capable and patriotic leaders" to help build up the country, do you think he will get them?

"I feel he should choose them, not just call for them. There are people who want to solve all the problems."

What do the people feel about Pakistan's friendship with China?

"The people feel that it is alright for us to get aid from China. But as far as the Communist ideology is concerned, nobody is ready to accept it. They feel it is against Islam. I personally feel that China cannot help us as much as the Western countries, as China is still a developing country herself."

Have you had many strikes?

"No. There have been strikes, but the workers found they did not get wages for the strike period. So now people think it is better to solve disputes by negotiation."

G. C. D.

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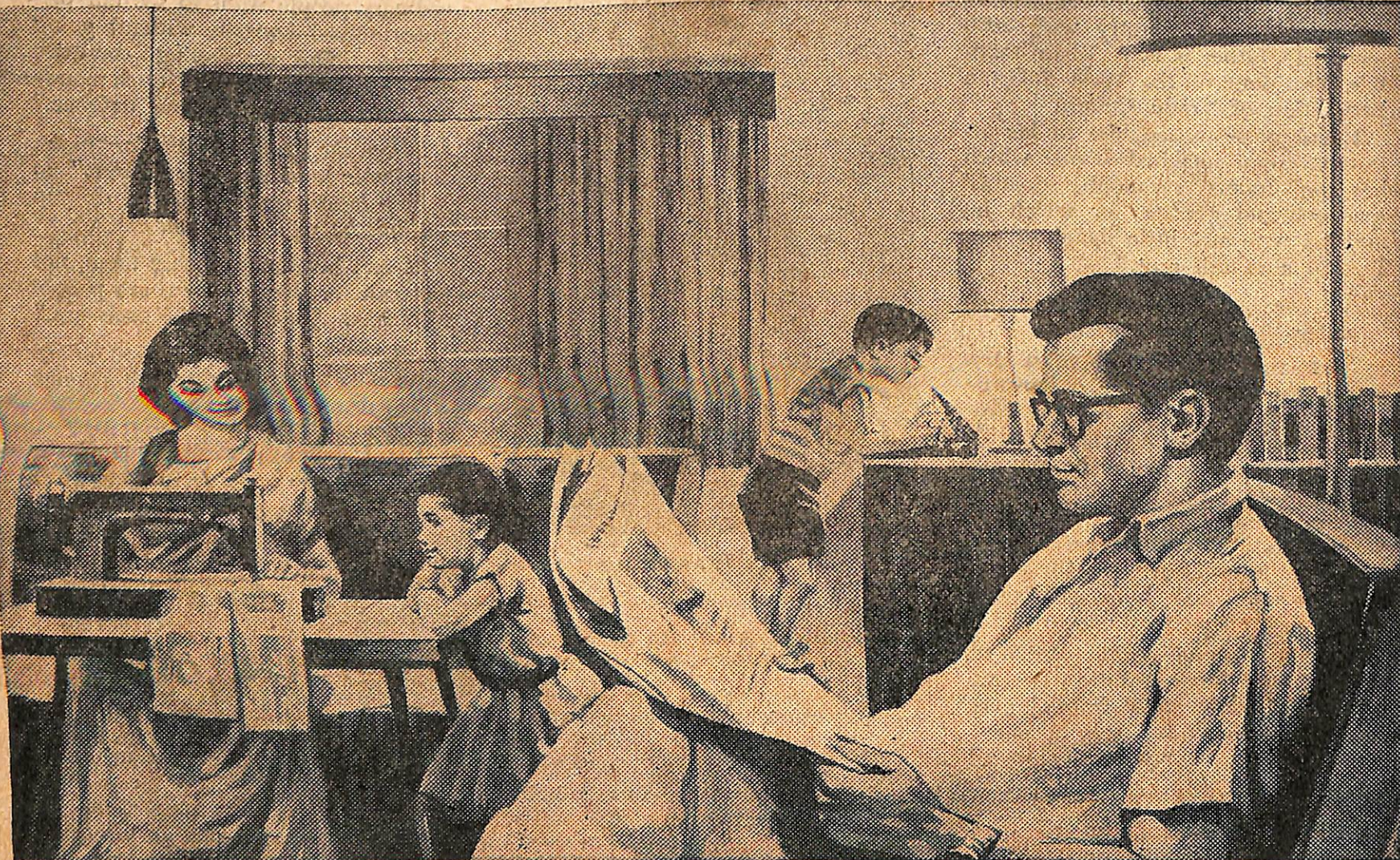
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viewpoint Are women drivers safer than men?

A case of 'femme' less 'fatale'

First prize to Miss Bachi Kanga, Calcutta 1

ROSALIND was "the fair, the chaste and unexpressive she".

Today's women are not. They have been branded for almost every folly. And of this ill-starred genre, the most misunderstood, the most maligned is that unfortunate species, the woman driver.

But these accusations are as substantial as dehydrated water. Safety is an individual prerogative, not a masculine or a feminine one. It is a question of individual temperament and no one has, to date, satisfactorily classified any one class of temperament as strictly male or female. A man as much as a woman may be a prisoner of indecision. Recklessness can come as easily dressed in terycot trousers as in a mini-skirt. Psychologically, segregation of the sexes is impossible.

So, subjectively, men and women are equally hazardous on the road. What then makes the woman the safer bet? Nothing inherently superior about herself. Rather the environment and conditions under which she drives. On the Indian scene she is still an oddity. A strange creature in the drivers' world of men. She will not turn around to look at a man. But not vice versa. Screech, crash, tinkle, tinkle.

Again, here particularly, no woman is allowed the car keys till she proves herself steady, dependable and boringly level-headed to her folks. (Incidentally,

I am one of the unchosen many). So, eighty-twenty, women drivers are the more hand-picked and therefore the superior class. They can make a snap decision as snappily as their masculine counterparts. And they can, as enduringly, sit like Patience in the Fiat, smiling at jams. Women are more spiritual, they say. They are therefore better equipped for the concept of eternity which faces them on a city thoroughfare during rush-hour.

Besides, the chance of an intoxicated woman driver running amok on the road is very rare indeed.

There are over-cautious women just as there are under-cautious men. But the former's presence checks the latter's recklessness. A man, seeing a woman driving the car before him, with an air of sublime tolerance, cries, "Heaven protect me!" And Heaven does. Thinking that the woman is undependable, he summons all the dependability, at his command, and the road becomes a safer place.

So, directly or indirectly, the motion is carried. And the *femme* remains the less *fatale*.

Safer as back seat drivers

Second prize to Ivan Sassoon, Calcutta 14

FIGURES STATE that more accidents on the world's roads are caused by men. But then, men heavily outnumber women at the steering-wheel. Men are supposed to be reckless when driving, and have an urge to show off their skill and power behind the wheel. Men are also speed fiends.

Grant all this. But you must consider that the nature of womankind makes lady drivers more dangerous than men.

Many a true word is said in a jest. I saw a cartoon of a traffic policeman crouching undignified on the road as a sweet young thing, looking out from a car, tells him: "You must go and stand in the middle of the road."

When a lady driver puts her hand out of a car, it is likely that she is drying her nail-polish. A man, teaching a lady how to drive, told her to stop on red, go on green, and steady when he turned white.

All this shows that women are by nature illogical. How many men drivers would care to look at shop windows while driving? A lady not gazing at shop windows is no lady. Women are made that way.

Driving a car requires coolness, and evenness of temper. Women, by their make-up, are more emotional than men, who are less likely to lose their heads while driving. General-

isations may be dangerous, but they sometimes have a bad habit of working out!

Men behind steering wheels often break traffic rules. So do women, but for more dangerous reasons. When a man motorist breaks a rule he knows it. A woman is not necessarily ignorant of traffic-rules; she is just unaware, and often unconcerned. I read of a lady driver who put her hand out twice. The man in the car behind, thinking that she was going to make a right turn, was deceived twice, until drawing up to her at a red signal he asked her why she had failed twice to turn. Her reply: "I wasn't going to turn. I was just waving to two friends I saw."

A friend of mine told me of how when he taught his wife to drive she nearly drove him crazy. He said that since a man, to remain steady, needed a woman behind him, women made better back seat drivers.

That, for me, was the last word on the subject.

VIEWPOINT COMPETITION

* Are coalition governments better than Congress?

Closing date: May 26

** Do women make good Prime Ministers?

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This was a Life

S.W.R.D. BANDARANAIKE
1899-1959

SIR SOLOMON BANDARANAIKE, KCMG was horrified when he saw his son had seated a common villager on a luxurious chair. Next day, the son had all the chairs except two removed. He asked his father, "What is the purpose in having luxurious chairs if no one can sit on them? Two are enough for both of us." The father had the chairs put back.

Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike was born in January 8, 1899 and had his secondary education at St Thomas College, Mount Lavinia where he excelled in his studies. At Christ Church College, Oxford, being a gifted orator, he played a prominent part in the Oxford Union and was elected its President, defeating Malcolm Macdonald.

After graduating, he was called to the bar and returned to Ceylon in 1925. He started practice as an advocate but simultaneously joined the Ceylon National Congress to fight for independence.

Elected to the Colombo Municipal Council, he rapidly rose to become a Minister in the State Council. After Independence in 1948 he became Leader of the House and also Minister of Health.

He resigned in 1951 from the Government and formed his own party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). The following year he became Opposition Leader.

On the eve of the 1956 elections he formed a three-party alliance, MEP (People's United Front), and had no-contest pacts with Trotsky and Communist elements. His Front swept the polls.

During his term of office, Mr Bandaranaike enacted legislation to make Sinhala the official language, and implemented several measures to make Ceylon a socialist country. The Paddy Lands Act, multi-purpose co-operative societies, the nationalisation of bus services and of the port of Colombo were among his many controversial measures. Although attacked by the press, he remained a champion of a free press.

On September 26, 1959, on the eve of leaving for the United Nations, he died at the hands of an assassin. The "Silver Tongue of the East" was stilled forever.

V. Y.

PORTENT OF FUTURE?

DISSIDENTS within Congress are in open revolt. Students are charged with growing indiscipline. These so-called leaders who flout party directives for personal ends (though couched in assertions of their "genuine" desire for the welfare of the people) are setting no ideals before the youth of the land. Any legislator who feels that his party is not in a position to deliver the goods and feels that he ought to resign from that party should give up his seat from the legislature.

Rightly you have pointed out in HIMMAT that the "virus may affect the Congress Parliamentary Party sooner than expected!" These self-proclaimed well-wishers of the people can be simply branded as opportunists who for personal gains can throw principles to the winds. Have these turn-coats no principles, no scruples? Have they no political moorings? Are power and self their only guidelines?

I am an ardent optimist, but the portents of the future certainly do not seem to be bright.

S. K. SINHA, Darbhanga, Bihar

HOW TO HELP BIHAR

I HAVE just been introduced to HIMMAT. It can only be described as a really splendid and great publication—I hope our British newspapers and magazines can learn much from your frankness, honesty, and truthful presentation of the Indian scene.

I have seen the MRA show "India Arise", met the many Indians with it, discussed our countries' problems, and can only say one thing—this world needs people with a determination to do what is right, be it in print or otherwise.

I am a family man, with a wife and six children, but I am, above all, a militant man, prepared to fight for my ideals. That is why I can only applaud with sincerity your publication.

I like HIMMAT'S very clear-cut and punchy methods. I would like to hear from anyone in India who would care to write to us here. The famine in Bihar Province is very much in our minds at the moment and we are discussing between ourselves just what we can do here in Bristol to help in whatever way possible.

ALBERT McGRATH, Bristol, UK

FACTS ON FAMINE—from page 13

gava told me at least double that number were needed urgently.

Duddhi, a township in the hills 100 miles from Mirzapur town, lies in a tribal area, where food and water are desperately short. The Mahila Mandal of the Hindustan Aluminium Corporation, which has its plant at Renukoot, 35 miles from Duddhi, runs a kitchen there without any Government financial help. It has 500 destitutes on its roll, but its supervisor said they had 300 additional suppliants for food every day. Their pleas were turned down because they were able-bodied and considered fit to work on relief projects.

Some women had come with infants in arms from forest clearings 10 miles away, and they would reach home late in the afternoon. Though their time for eating had long gone by, they sat passively, without a murmur of protest, their careworn faces dumb, vacant masks of hopelessness.

The tribal women who form the bulk of the adults getting aid at the centre took their ration in leaves, which they folded carefully so that

nothing spilt. Then they covered the folded leaves with filthy rags and stowed the packets in their tattered sarees. The supervisor said the women took the food home and shared it with their husbands and children.

A district official said these people who came for free food were lazy. They could work if they wanted to on relief projects, but they preferred to live idly on the handouts they got at the kitchens.

I disagree. The cause of their disinclination to work lies much deeper. Four consecutive crop failures, which have forced them to part with their few movable possessions for whatever they fetched and reduced them to penury, have deprived them of the physical and moral reserves to fight against relentless nature.

Even in normal times, life is hard for these tribal folk. In a good season they may be assured of one meal a day, but when conditions are not so good they fatalistically make do with less.

How many of them will survive a third unfavourable monsoon? And even if they do, will they ever be fit enough to work their fields again?



Indian textiles and world trade—England

"...from the greatest gallants to the meanest cook-maids nothing is thought so fit to adorn their persons as the fabrics of India." POLLEXFEN 1681

DURING the 17th century Indian textiles became tremendously fashionable in England. Cargoes of calico, silk and muslin were brought from India by the merchants of the East India Company. Because of the great demand for these textiles, the Englishmen were willing to pay for them in gold bullion!

Since the earliest times, Indian textiles have been instrumental in the opening of new trade routes, in bringing wealth into India and in linking the rest of the world more closely with the East.

Today the manufacture of textiles is one of the country's largest industries. Indian textiles compete in all the major world markets and in 1965 alone, they earned Rs. 73 crores worth of foreign exchange!

Although the traditional methods of colour processing live on, India's textile industry demands scientifically formulated pigment emulsions and binders. Over 75% of the country's pigment-using textile manufacturers use COLOUR-CHEM products. Experienced makers of pigments and dyestuffs, COLOUR-CHEM are constantly developing new processes to augment the competitive strength of Indian textiles all over the world.

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This is realism

by Rajmohan Gandhi

London

I WILL NOT CONCEAL my enthusiasm about the new occupant of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Dr Zakir Husain's election as India's President brings to that key office a remarkable man.

Dr Husain is a man of culture and charm. He listens when others speak. He understands men, their ups and downs, their ambition, hate and greed, their fickleness and deceit.

His time in Berlin where he got his doctorate has given him a healthy respect for Western ideas. We can be thankful that at this juncture when our country needs the world's assistance on a vast scale we do not have an insular President.

Sometimes he gives the impression of being a sad man. The pettiness and blatant selfishness of men and colleagues who once upon a time lived by sacrifice is one reason. But there is something more. You feel Dr Husain cares and feels for people and allows his heart to be hurt or lifted up by what people do or do not do, say or do not say. He has received his share of life's delights and pain, but he has not closed his heart.

Zakir Husain is a wise man. His decisions are dictated not by his feelings, likes or dislikes but by what he believes to be just and fair. Those who insinuated that he was going to be an instrument of the Congress Party either did not know the nature and spirit of India's new President or were deliberately wrong. Partisanship is not his way.

Of the failure of Congressmen he has been fully aware, and he has not hesitated to express his bitter disappointment.

That he is a Muslim is a rare advantage. It should help in strengthening links with the Muslim and Arab world stretching from Morocco to Indonesia.

Is he a man of robust faith, or a man who believes that faith is right? You get the sense that his undoubted belief in God is not

always matched by the wholehearted conviction that he can change men and situations.

Realism is essential and we can rejoice that we have as our President a man who is clear that the road to a new day is filled with obstacles of every kind and shape, obvious and hidden. However, it would be a great tragedy for India if Zakir Husain does not soon claim for himself the conviction that the Indian nation can with speed and certainty march on a new track towards real progress.

A radical re-routing of this kind is possible if a force of united and fearless men and women, however small a minority they may first seem, can with God's help be the catalyst in achieving a new compound of the Indian people.

Will Zakir Husain now initiate the most audacious attempt in free India's history to unite, clean up, strengthen and enrich the country? He can do this in an inspired way and without violating the letter or spirit of the Constitution which has defined the powers of the President.

There are some clear and immediate targets:

- 1 The Central Cabinet needs unity, to function as a team of friends and fellow fighters. The President can play an effective role in bringing unity.
- 2 Delhi and State capitals need to get on the same side. Instead of sharing the task of feeding, clothing and housing our people, our Central and State Governments are heaving blame and abuse at one another. A persistent and God-led battle on the President's part could achieve this partnership.
- 3 Our different political organisations can afford now to put India before party. The President can find ways and means of helping them understand that it is possible to have zestful competition without hate, intrigue and revenge.

If the spirit of comradeship took hold of our politicians, it would spread rapidly to Government offi-

cial, businessmen, and students.

To those who would say this is a vision, I would answer, Precisely. The only conceivable way of ending our long, long nightmare is to dream up the picture of a changed India and with the help of God and man, do battle to establish it as a reality. This is realism, this is statesmanship. It could also be practical politics.

Destiny may have raised, trained and prepared Dr Zakir Husain for a most vital and frontal, if not the pivotal, role in this revolution.

Can a united force of selfless, fearless God-controlled men and women claiming and using God's power do for India what the British could not do in 200 years, what Congress has not done in 20 years, and what Mr Mao has failed to do in China in 30 years? My belief is Yes, a convinced Yes.

The coming months are going to decide India's future, the future of the rest of Asia, of Indonesia, Burma, Ceylon, Nepal and, if possible, Pakistan.

China, too, watches India steadily and every day. Our continuing hates and our unending poverty are a sharp blow to the hopes and prayers of millions of Chinese desperate for a way that works. But if India could begin to roll on that new track, these millions of Chinese would take heart.

And what of the African and Arab worlds? For some of these nations anyway, India's freedom struggle was an example. Will we, or will we not, now show them that it is possible to give freedom some meaning?

India's eyes, and the eyes of many outside, will be on Dr Husain. Many minds will think with and for him. Many hearts will feel for and with him. And quite a number will pray that without fear or favour, he will get the pistons moving on that new track.

The world is waiting to see what God can do in, for and through one President who decides to listen to His guidance.

Dr Zakir Husain could well be such a President.

FIND THE BALL Competition No: 20



2nd Prize:
ZENITH GIFT BOX
(Razor, shaving brush
and blades)

HOW TO PLAY

The ball in this cricket action picture has been painted out. All you have to do is mark a cross where you think the ball is. Then cut out the picture and send it to "Find the Ball", c/o HIMMAT, 294 Bazargate Street, Bombay 1, by noon Monday May 29

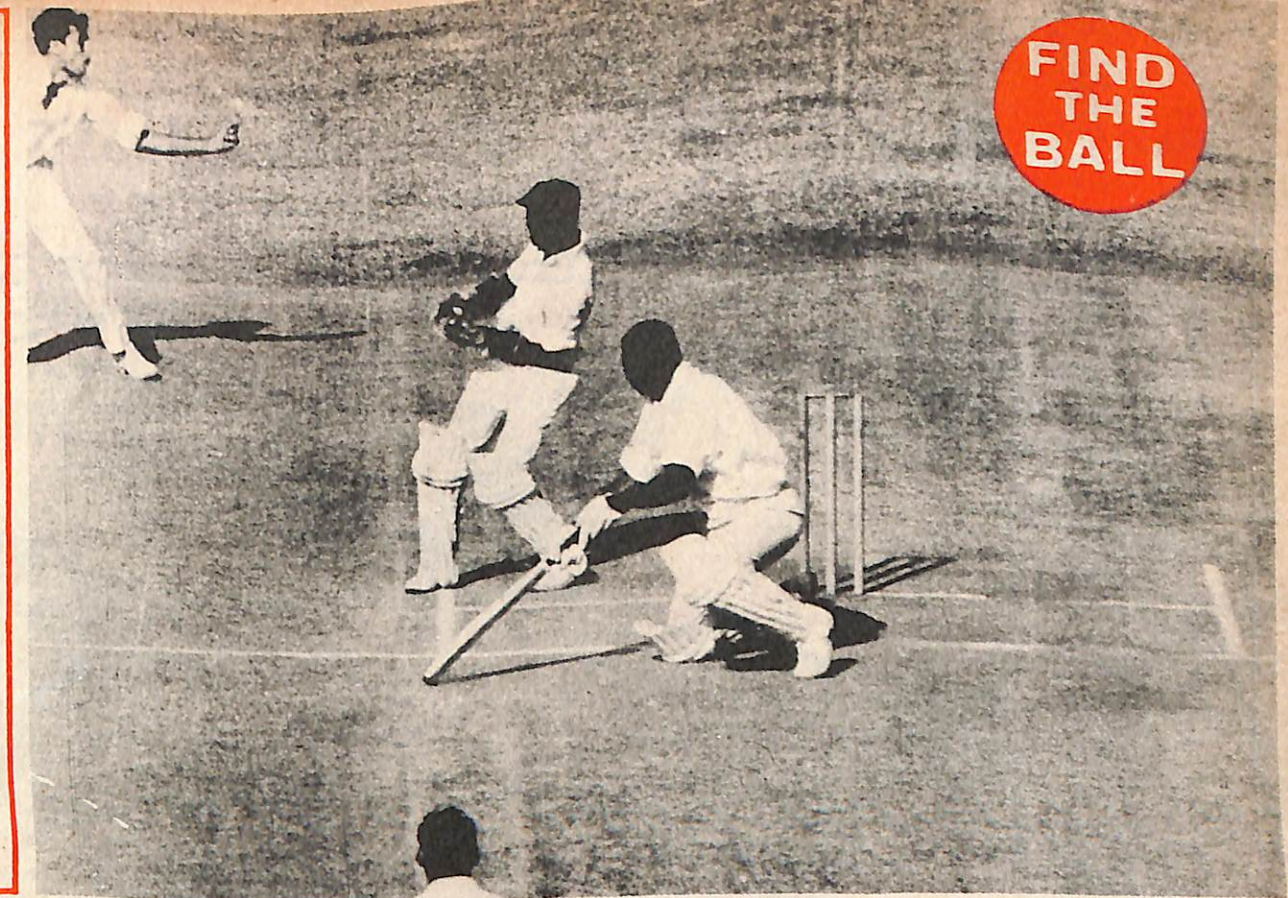
There is no limit to the number of entries you can make, but only one cross may be marked on any one picture. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into about results.

The winner of Competition No.20, with the picture showing the ball will be published in June 2 issue.

Name _____

Address _____

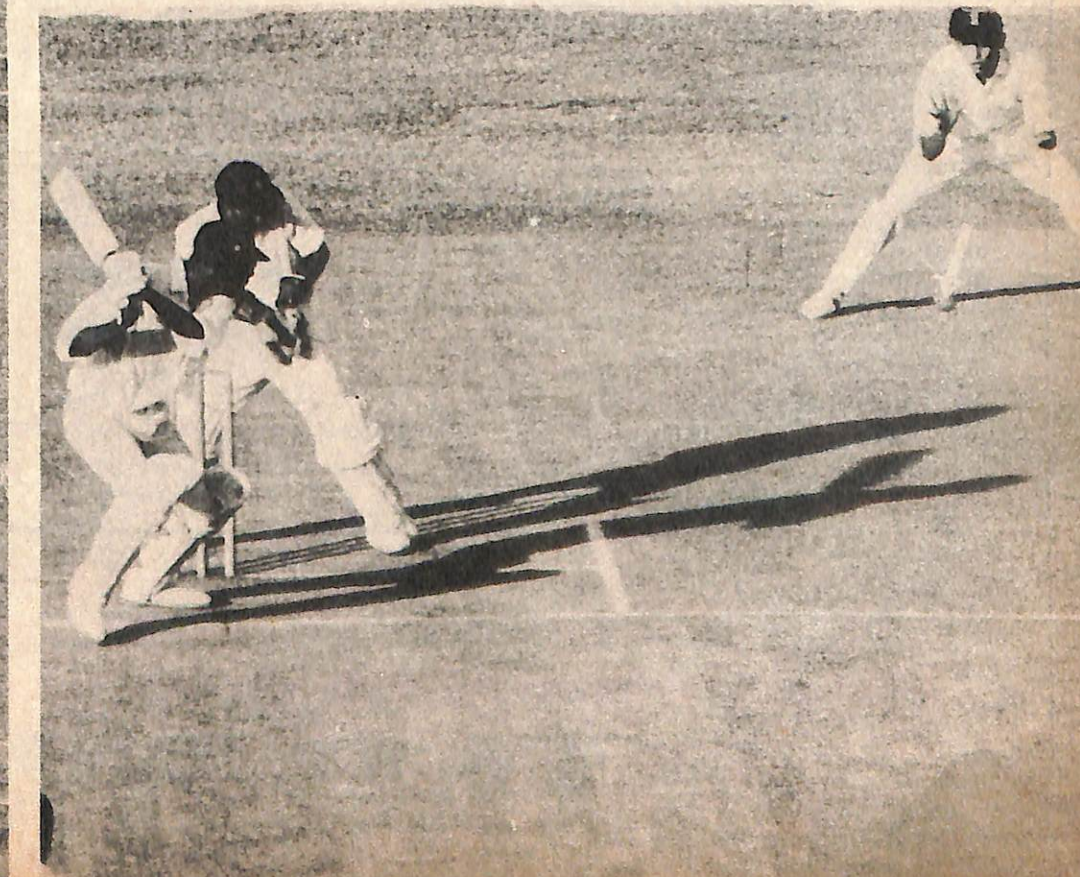
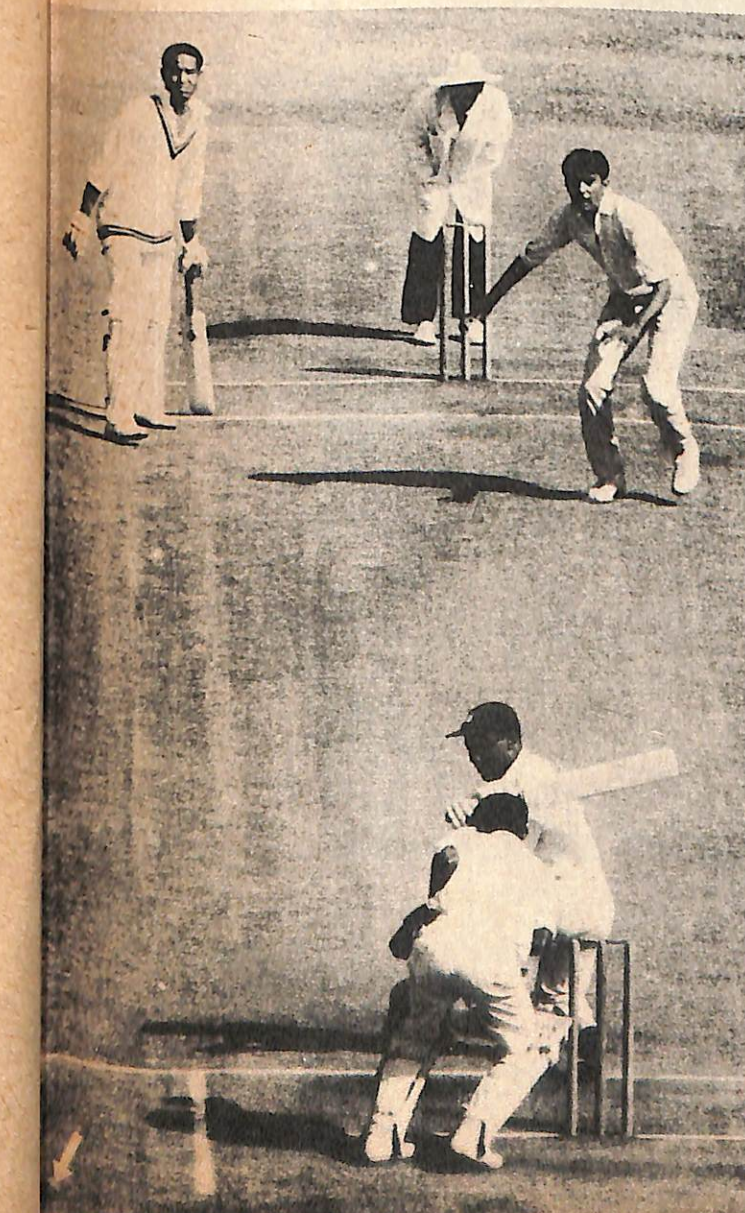
I agree to the rules of the competition as outlined above.

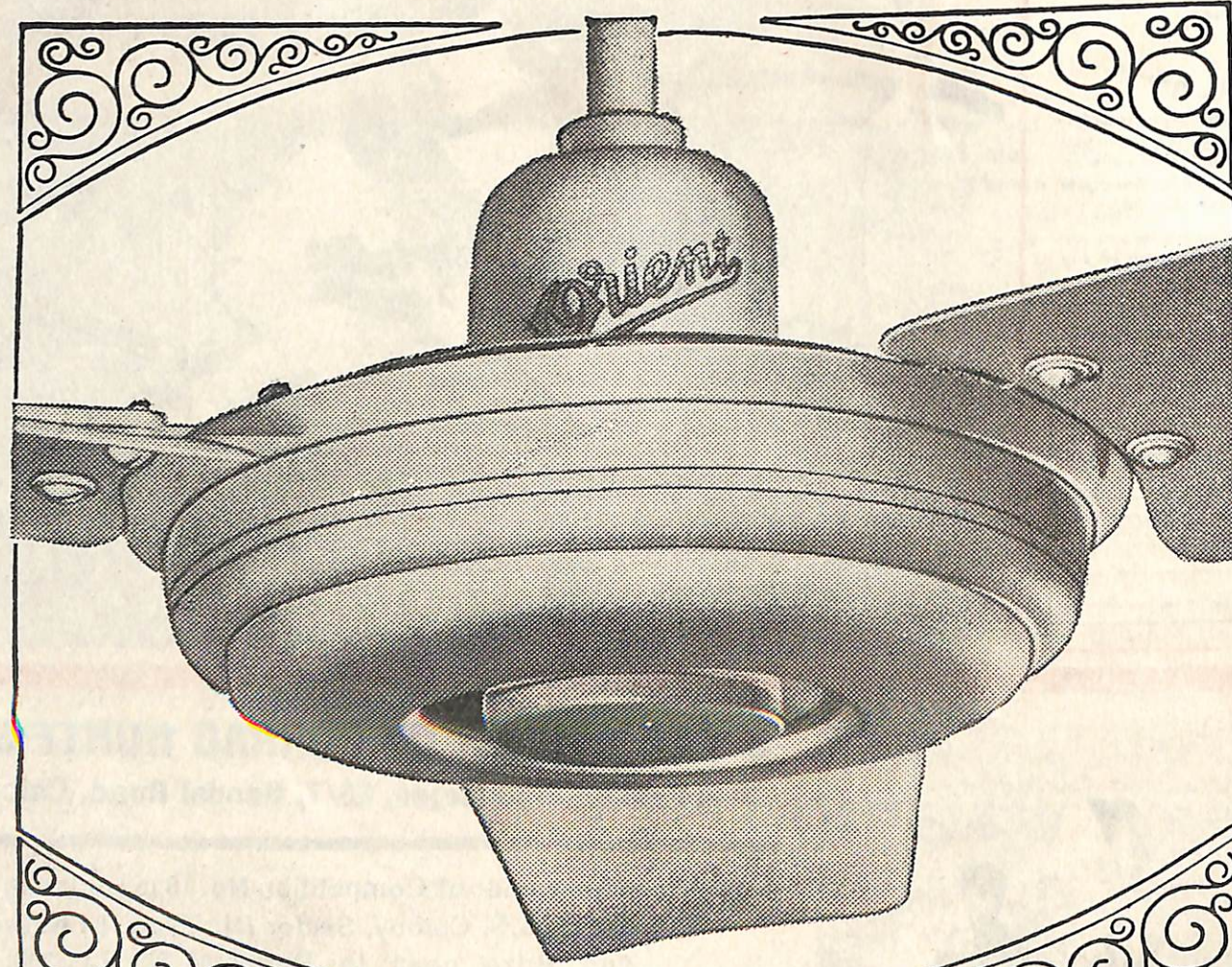


FIND THE BALL

THE WINNER OF CONRAD HUNTE'S BAT is Prasun Chatterjee, 66/7, Bondel Road, Calcutta-19

The winner of Competition No. 18 is Lachman Tahilram Jethra, 334, C.G.S. Colony, Sector III, Type II, Kolwada, Bombay 22. 2nd Prize goes to Prithviraj N. R., 100, Margosa Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore 3





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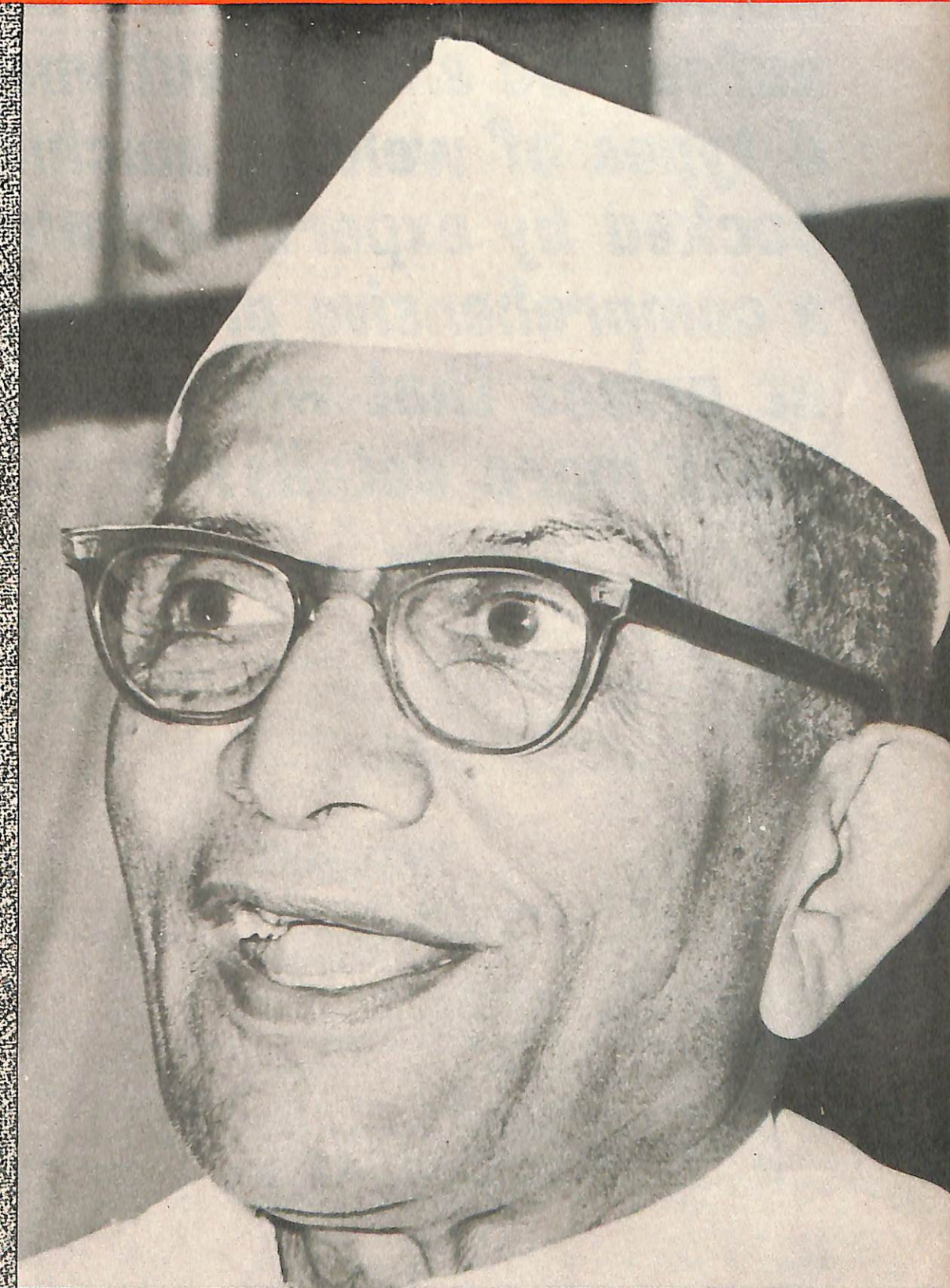
Asia's new voice

FRIDAY MAY 26 1967

*MAN BEHIND
THE BUDGET*

*Morarji
aims to
revive
India*

*by R. M. Lala
Page 5*



FIND THE BALL Page 23