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LPE Aiyars M. 226

HIMMAT

WEEKLY 25p.

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ASIA'S NEW VOICE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8 1967

बेकारि़र गमेर बरान
कमानो हरे ना
खनो कनु ब अशा
नई सेनावाहिना
श्रीगबत

आला-सुंदर शिला
ढी मदी डमल उषाव
चे हे वरीष भवन हवि गडे
न नडे उर।

മദീരാനീന
കോ, പ്രശ്നം
ശ്രീ ക്ഷേത്രീയാത। എ
ലന്റെ ചരച്ച

بے جا نے پر افتاد
پانچی کی صورت

योगिक क्षेत्रों को
सामाजिक तत्वों के

तंक से बचाया जाय



Dr Triguna Sen
Education Minister

সংভাবনা ডোব
হিসমন্ত্রী হাঙ্গ

HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS! see pages 7, 18



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HIMMAT

Asia's new voice

WEEKLY

BOMBAY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 1967

More than votes needed

SOUTH VIETNAM'S ELECTION vindicates democracy but is a questionable help in ending the war.

The fact that 83 per cent of the registered voters went to the polls, despite Viet Cong threats, again demonstrates that most Vietnamese prefer democracy to terrorism. It confirms also that Saigon has effective rule over three out of four of the population.

But the election of Generals Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky as President and Vice President seems unlikely to hasten the end of Vietnam's sufferings.

Is there any reason to expect that Thieu and Ky, as President and Vice President, will achieve more than Ky and Thieu as Premier and Head of State? Votes may express the popular will, but they cannot add an inch to a man's stature. Is Ho Chi Minh more likely to offer acceptable peace terms to Thieu than to his predecessors? Elections do not change the views of men who believe power "grows out of the barrel of a gun".

Thieu has promised to seek a seven-day pause in the bombing of North Vietnam. But Pentagon realists, even before the election, predicted there would be no let-up in the Vietnam war effort, whoever won. Thieu and Ky have a hard road before them. They will need more than votes to bring peace. Without a moral ideology that unites rival groups, cures corruption and inspires the faint-hearted, Vietnam's woes may long continue.

K. K. Shah calling

NOW THAT All-India Radio plans to start commercial broadcasting on November 1 from a Bombay-Poona-Nagpur hook-up, much more effort and enterprise will have to go into the programmes, for advertisers will demand assured audiences. No advertiser will pay for air time which fades and crackles like the news service from Delhi.

AIR will have to wean listeners away from Radio Ceylon (a profitable medium for consumer goods) in an endeavour to guarantee greater audiences to the advertisers. All this competition should benefit the listener. Radio advertising could also develop new markets in the villages by raising consumer demand. This in turn should give an incentive to the villager to increase his purchasing power, and have a great effect on agricultural production.

Broadcasting Minister K. K. Shah's interest in this venture is, of course, to capture for Government

a share of a revenue source they have had their eye on for some time. Advertisers feel that AIR rates are expensive. They are much higher than Radio Ceylon, not that the latter offers so much competition owing to the problem of foreign exchange.

Unlike many of our colleagues, HIMMAT believes that, efficiently handled, this move can be of benefit all round. The Government could even make some money on the venture—provided that the revenue will not be absorbed by the administrative machinery required to collect it!

Russia's true pioneers

ILYA EHRENBERG, Soviet author who died last week, represented reactionary and rebel among Russian writers. Survivor of Stalin's purges, some of his 80 novels echoed Party propaganda. But he was often in trouble with the regime for voicing his own views and championing young independent writers.

He was not alone. From the late Boris Pasternak to Daniel and Sinavsky, now serving five and seven years in prison, Russian authors have courted punishment rather than crush their own beliefs.

"Without sacrifice, there can be no art," declared Pasternak, living in disgrace. "I prefer genuine obscurity to spurious glory." "No one can bar the way to truth," wrote Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who spent eleven years in jail or exile for criticising Stalin. "For its advancement I, for one, am prepared to face even death." Over sixty Soviet writers protested against the sentences on Sinavsky and Daniel.

Such men are vanguards in an unceasing struggle against callousness and cant—whether of Communist or non-Communist variety. Their fight for the right to express themselves according to conscience is everyman's. Youth listen to them. Russia's muffled writers, could their blinkered rulers but see it, may be their country's true pioneers.

Plans aren't sacred

AFTER TWENTY YEARS of planning we are to have a new Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission who will attempt to relate planning to the needs of the economy as it is assessed from time to time, rather than shape a plan which is rigid.

Dr Gadgil sees nothing sacred about a five-year period: "The important thing is to have a short-term Plan for the coming year and a long-term one for the next few years." Such logic escaped previous planners who worshipped the Soviet-style five-year concept.

Not all the spirited opposition to the shape and size of the draft Fourth Plan came from the Government's opponents. Dr Gadgil and his new team—economists more than politicians—could evolve some enterprising ideas for re-energising the economy.

Briefly speaking...

Missing link?

SSP PANDIT, Madhu Limaye MP, tells us that "English, which was to India a window to the world outside, was in another sense a wall, in so far as contact with countries like China and Japan was concerned". Perhaps Mr Limaye's Mandarin or Japanese is in better shape than ours, otherwise we are scratching to know what his "link language" with China and Japan might be.

How language emotions do addle some people's logic!

Red sea manoeuvre

AS THE BRITISH move out of Aden, Moscow is already said to have broached the subject of a toehold base at Janad in the Yemen when

the republican regime's Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Gueziland was on a visit to the Soviet Union recently. Moscow has also been sounding out other Arab States for military facilities in the region. She has indicated that she could have given the Arab nations greater support in the recent West Asia conflict if her fleet had been able to operate from Mediterranean bases. Of course, Russia has been trying since Tsarist times to achieve this manoeuvre.

Fighting spirit

THE SPIRIT of Dutch mariners who explored the world was in Pieter Wolvekamp. He discovered that there was a plan for every man and nation, and that dedicated men could reshape their times. His convictions went far and wide through Holland. He appeared on national TV at least four times, and gave his ideas to the statesmen and the ordinary men of his country. Recently he wrote a song, "It's in you, it's in me, where the answer lies," a lively hit song which the young people of his land now sing and soon those of other lands will be joining in.

These last three years he was struck by a deadly disease. He knew he did not have long to live. Early last month an ambulance rolled up to Mountain House, Caux, assembly centre for Moral Re-Armament in Switzerland. As he was being carried into the ambulance, he turned to an African friend studying in an East European country, and said as he bid goodbye, "Wherever you go, take the word of God with you." Five days later Pieter Wolvekamp passed away.

He was 21 years old.

Australia waking up

FOLLOWING a special performance of the MRA musical show "Wake up, Matilda" in their honour, Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt and Mrs Holt last week entertained at their official Canberra residence leaders of the Pangu Pati, the newly-

A man's reach should excel his grasp, or what's heaven for?

ROBERT BROWNING, 1812-1889

formed "Home Rule" Party in Papua/New Guinea. The Papuan leaders were visiting Canberra for talks with the Government, to coincide with showings of "Wake up, Matilda", which they had seen recently when the MRA show visited the Territory.

Impressed by the impact of Moral Re-Armament already in their country, the Pangu Pati leaders wanted their talks with the Australian Government to be conducted in the same spirit. "We hope to build a nation that will be an example to the world," said Mr Albert Maori Kiki, Pangu Pati Secretary.

Mr Holt seems to be working towards quite a few changes in Australia's dialogue and co-operation with her Asian and Pacific neighbours.

Headline of the week

LAST WEEK'S HEADLINE WAS: "Chagla's remarks clarified". In fact this headline appears most weeks. Either people don't hear him clearly or don't read him clearly. His secretariat are always having to "clarify".

Shirt tales

"KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON" might be the advice given to the two rival shirt manufacturers who are now enlivening national press advertising columns.

In a spirited dialogue on the merits of their own product (and the demerits of their competitor) they assail the public with such intricacies as the no-stitch collar and the edge-stitched collar, shirts that look like blouses for girls and shirts that are made for men, shirts that last only 25 washes and shirts that do better, shirts made with foreign collaboration or entirely with Indian know-how!

Whatever the odds each maker feels he has his shirt on the winner. For the public the contest is all very entertaining and will probably result in both being winners.

Birbal



from the Capital

Hope springs eternal in Congress breasts

by **ANTENNA**

NEW DELHI The two-day session of the Congress Party Working Committee ended here last Saturday in an atmosphere of hope, if not confidence, in the future. If everything was not as well as it should be for the Congress, the Committee members seemed to think they were not as bad as they have been since the general election, and would definitely get better day by day.

The cause of this optimism was a survey of the prevailing political conditions in the non-Congress States. The Committee heard six of its members report to them that there was a distinct swing of public opinion in their Party's favour in Kerala, Madras, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. This, they learnt, was due to growing dissatisfaction at the failure of the non-Congress regimes in these States to fulfil their promises.

How much of this "assessment" is based on realities and how much on wishful thinking it is difficult to gauge. But if the non-Congress Governments have suffered a diminution in popularity in the six months or so in which they have been in office, the same could probably be asserted with equal authority about the Congress regimes in the States. And it could also justly be said about the Congress Government at the Centre.

Flagging spirits

Observers here do not take this "assessment" very seriously. They think this rosy picture has been painted to keep up the flagging spirits of the Party rank and file, which, as the days of being shut out of office lengthen, are turning in despair to the opposition parties for shelter.

A more correct analysis of the political picture in the non-Congress States, these observers say, is that

the process of disintegration of the Congress units in them is speeding up, and unless something is done very soon to restore the shattered fortunes of the Party, it will vanish altogether in these States. Deprivation of the loaves and fishes of office, far from bringing the warring Congress factions together to fight the common foe, has led to fiercer infighting in these States and is accelerating the breakup of the Party.

According to some observers here, the ill-planned and ill-advised "plot" against the United Front Govern-

ment in Bihar was a desperate gamble on the part of the State Congress leaders to unseat it before the grain harvest in the State, which is expected to be good and will therefore be a stabilising factor for the coalition headed by Mr Mahamaya Prasad Sinha.

In the event, the United Front has apparently emerged from the ordeal of Mr J. N. Mandal's revolt strengthened. Whether the riots in Ranchi over Urdu have any connection with the political stir in Patna, as some opposition leaders here say, is correct, remains to be proved, but one may doubt whether these two series of developments, both of them a serious cause of embarrassment to

continued on next page

CHALTA HAI...

"Crossing the House has become so common, we decided to fix lights, and do it in an orderly manner."

THIS WEEKLY FEATURE comes to you through the courtesy of the **EAGLE VACUUM BOTTLE MFG CO (PVT) LTD** manufacturers of the Eagle range of vacuum flasks, jugs and insulated ware. **QUBIRAMA**

On your toes

WATCH THESE SPIES

"WELCOME THE TOURIST as an honoured guest," we are asked. "Welcome the tourist, he is our bread and butter," bids the nameless maharaja from another hoarding, with perhaps a little more candour. But what happens when he comes?

Confined as he is within this wretched little frame, FREEBOOTER will restrict himself this week to one idiosyncrasy of blessed officialdom: the matter of photography.

They may be our bread and butter but the authorities tend to regard tourists as sinister spies, hell-bent on exposing to foreign enemies our most precious secrets.

An innocent Frenchman landed at Meenambakkam airport last week. A particularly alert policeman noticed him taking some photos. (As every spy knows, if not every tourist, this is just not permitted at Indian airports.) He denied taking any photos. After half an hour's argument the police confiscated his camera and opened it. EMPTY. Not a centimetre of film inside it!

Last week a prominent figure in Japanese advertising circles was in Bombay. At the Hanging Gardens

on Malabar Hill he wanted to photograph the hedges clipped into the shape of animals and birds. Obviously top secret as photographs on Malabar Hill are forbidden.

A photographer acquaintance who has made quite a name for himself depicting the modern aspects of India for the outside world wanted to photograph a ship launching at Vizag. "No photos permitted," he was told. In Japan he had been shown over the Ishikawa-jima shipyards where he photographed the world's largest tanker then abuilding. The Japanese were proud of their effort. Aren't we?

It truly is nonsense. In countries where they really have some military secrets, such control applies to a few restricted areas. Is the Indian Government afraid some foreigner may steal the secret of clipping elephant-shaped hedges? What is there at any civil Indian airport that would reward a spy?

If we regard the camera as such a fiendish weapon of foreign espionage can we complain when the poor frustrated tourist goes off and clicks our slums and beggars in some side-street and the world remains ignorant of what little progress we have made?

Freebooter

For the real news read **HIMMAT Weekly**

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VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT...

WISHES luck to the Gujarat panchayat official who wrote to ask the district authorities to stop the excessive rains, moving them "to do the needful in this matter".

ENVIES Malaysia's establishing Malay as sole official language without disturbance, but **NOTES** Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman's saying there was no intention of "thrusting it down people's throats".

FAILS to see what the Arab Summit achieved by agreeing to subsidise Egypt to keep the Suez Canal shut.

COMMENDS the impartiality of E. M. S. Nambudiripad, Kerala's Left Communist Chief Minister, in thanking the US for its help with the Sabarigiri development project.

CONGRATULATES Information Minister K. K. Shah on being so punctual for a Commerce Graduates' meeting that none of his audience arrived until after he did and **SUGGESTS** he get his Cabinet colleagues to follow his example.

SHARES Deputy Railway Minister Jamir's expressed concern over propaganda against missionaries, and **WOULD LIKE** the Government to amplify the statement, put out by PTI, that there is "no immediate move" to ask them all to leave India.

ADMIRE the gesture by six Tamil Nad Ministers and four Ministers' wives, including Smt. Annadurai, in joining the newly formed "prosperity brigade" to clean the streets of Madras.

CAUTIONS Uttar Pradesh Education Minister Ram Prakash, who proposes to limit higher education "only to brilliant students", that willingness to serve the country should also be a qualification.

DEPLORES the report that some primary teachers in Orissa are paid only Rs 10 a month.

CONGRESS—from page 5

the coalition, were purely coincidental.

THE QUESTION now being asked here is not whether there is going to be a reshuffle of Mrs Gandhi's Government, but when. Those who claim to be in the know of things at the highest political level in New Delhi say that the Prime Minister has made up her mind that this is necessary, and the air is thick with rumours about which heads will roll.

Apparently, the purpose of this house-cleaning, which most observers expect to be drastic, is not to give the Government a "left" or "right" orientation but to halt the drift and indecision which has marked its functioning in the six months of its existence.

Mrs Gandhi's aim, it is said, is to tighten the reins so that her Council of Ministers will work as a team with a sense of direction and not speak with different voices and cause her embarrassment.

It is pointed out that in these six months the Cabinet as a whole has been dormant, and taking policy decisions and initiating action has been left to a large extent to its sub-committees.

Important session

This week's marathon session of the Cabinet, which is to be held behind closed doors without even the presence of Secretaries, it is learnt, will be the occasion for much heart searching and plain speaking, on the basis of which the vital decisions on reorganisation will be taken. It is understood that the blacklist has al-

ready been prepared tentatively, and will be finalised in a few days.

One significant fact that has emerged in the last few weeks is the growing importance of Mr Morarji Desai as the chief spokesman of the Government, particularly on controversial issues.

Whether one agrees with him or not, he has always been associated with clarity of views and courage in expressing them and executing the policies he believes in, despite the odium this may bring him personally. This has never been more in evidence than in his approach in recent weeks to the issues of enhanced dearness allowance for government employees, privy purses, prohibition and the official language.

Recent assignment

His most important assignment in recent weeks has been his 10-day visit to Japan for talks with members of the Sato Government. The key issue was India's attitude to economic and political co-operation in South-east and East Asia, primarily to contain Chinese expansionism. Mr Desai is credited with stating New Delhi's case admirably, and impressed his Japanese hearers with his clear and cogent thinking.

TAILPIECE: An Asian diplomat recently posted to Delhi was at a private dinner party where the Prime Minister's "kitchen cabinet" was being discussed.

"Why is it called the kitchen cabinet?" he asked in a lull in the conversation.

Another guest replied: "Because it is busy cooking other people's geese."



Perils of discarding English

BY PROFESSOR P. N. DRIVER*

INDIA IS FACING the greatest dilemma of its history. On the one hand we have let loose mass political awakening and a new mass social consciousness that cannot but express itself in regional languages. On the other hand the very dynamism of our regional languages and the upsurge of the masses is putting us in very great peril.

Many of us seem to have forgotten that India was conquered, not by any foreign power, but by a mere joint stock company of traders. Sleeped as we were in our regional foundations and languages, the East India Company could recruit people of one region to fight those of others, no-one realising that we were Indians.

Our people freely joined the armies of the "Company Bahadur" as Bengalees, Madrasees, Marathas etc. They could hardly talk to each other and willingly helped the Company to conquer one part of India after another. They surely were proud of their own regional language. To them it appeared that they were con-

* The author was Principal of the College of Agriculture, Poona, and a Joint Director of Agriculture in Maharashtra.

SAY THAT AGAIN...

We (princes) are as much sons of the motherland as anyone else.

NIZAM OF HYDERABAD

My advice to all thinking top leadership is be practical.

S. K. PATIL

Good governments are never run by toads and chickens.

S S P LEADER, R. M. LOHIA

We are not persistent in our work. We are not sincere in our work. We are not men of integrity and show a tendency to shirk work.

Vice President V. V. GIRI

quering a foreign territory. This process continued till the whole country was conquered. In nearly all battles of the British the majority of the soldiers conquering India were Indians themselves who only knew their region and mother-tongue.

We have to realise before it is too late that India was not a political union or nation till the British came here and the use of the English language enabled us to attain administrative unity and to have a common link language to know each other. We could not in fact have organised even the Indian National Congress without the help of an Englishman and the English language in which to express ourselves. It is necessary to recapitulate this for we have a short memory that can destroy us.

Cementing force

G. K. Gokhale told us many years back that "no Indian could have started the Indian National Congress". He was referring here to Mr Allan Octavian Hume, an Englishman and a member of the ICS. As Gokhale said, "He came forward to teach Indians to walk nobly along the path of nationhood...waking up whole peoples from the slumber of ages".

Ghosh went even further and said, "Hume's tomb is the whole of India." As the newspaper *Bengalee* of Calcutta put it, "it was left to the English language and this Englishman to organise the scattered elements of our public life and to build and stimulate national life".

Whatever may be the role of the regional languages tomorrow it would be suicidal for us as a nation to forget that English has been the cementing force that gave us not only the National Congress but, what is more important, our national administrative services and our basic national unity. Without these we shall break to pieces more rapidly than we imagine.

Let us examine the danger inherent in the proposals to have the regional languages as the media for higher education and to hold the public services examinations in all the 14 languages officially recognised in India.



How will he fare?

The protagonists of the mother-tongue are often very regional minded and have a keen desire to declare liberal results for students from their own region. I well remember an examiner and teacher who used to collect names of students from his region. These students rarely failed. With this kind of deeply-seated poison in our lives one can imagine the unfairness of the results of competitive examinations for our public services.

We have of course difficulties of text-books and scientific vocabularies which will remain. We may also make the mistakes made by the protagonists of Hindi in coining expressions. But more important than this will be the poor quality of teachers who will no longer be recruited from

continued on next page



all over India. It will be impossible to have unhampered migration of students, scholars, teachers, and even professional men from one area to another. Recently on a tour I found it impossible to know how much to pay till the shopkeeper put on the counter the amount of coins I had to pay. This new language of signs is replacing the national medium of English.

The stress on the regional language can only be followed by stress on the study of purely regional history at the cost of national history. The States Reorganisation Commission pointed out more than ten years ago how in some States we have had text-books that openly exalted in

songs and teaching of history the regional idea. I have personally found on inspection of a particular college of agriculture that there was not a single map of India. All the maps were only of the local district and just one adjoining district.

In a Ministry of Education publication it has been shown that regional history is being taught in six States as the history course for at least one year, and in Orissa regional history is taught for three years of the first six years of elementary education. This will help to support politicians in places such as Madras, Kerala, and Bengal who emphasise their separative demands. We should not be surprised if we lose large parts of India on the border, and East and West Bengal come together as an independent unit.

The political unity of India requires a well educated national leadership with a broad inter-regional outlook. Regional languages will produce, at the most, regional leadership. Our present habit of reading all-India journals will give way to regional journalism and this will encourage more regionalism. As the "Report of the Press Commission" has shown, the regional press downgrades not only international news but even national news, in contrast to the English language press. What we seem to be doing is to lay the foundations of a future where India will come to be governed by a generation of regionally trained men unable to talk meaningfully to one another.

I have not touched the question of the controversy regarding Hindi and English. Here one can only point out that no one will understand the opposition to Hindi unless we go back to our entire history as a political country. Unless we catch the significance of the Tamil Kingdoms we can never understand the deep rooted reasons behind the rejection of Hindi by the South. Our objection on the other hand to English on the ground that it is "foreign" is also wrong. Most of the things around us, including even a part of our food, are "foreign". Nothing foreign is so important for us as English. In India we have more than 845 languages and dialects and 63 of these are non-Indian.

Not to be confused

As was pointed out so well by Chief Justice Sinha in 1963 we should not confuse the study of English with our dependence at one time on Englishmen. Maulana Azad told us some years ago, "I do not feel the slightest hesitation in saying that India's position and recognition in the international world are greatly due to our having recourse to the English language."

Mr K. Subha Rao, our Chief Justice of India in 1966-67, told us only last March that, for administration of justice, English will be necessary and we must wait till at least the next generation if we desire to replace it by our national language. It was not without reason that our own Jawaharlal Nehru called English "the major window for us for the outside world".

Have we ever noted why the Russians and the Chinese, surprisingly enough, are the principal disseminators of English? Do we know why in many cases Russian cultural offices compete with British and American centres in advertising English courses or why pilots and airport control tower operators on all the airways of the world use English? Do we know that West German schools require six to nine years' study of English? Do we know that today it is the most widely spoken language on earth?

Let us not forget our own history and the place English has occupied in uniting us as one nation politically for the first time in our history.

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

"Rubbish" say the British

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON The expression "rubbish" is not normally regarded as being in diplomatic usage but this was reported to be the British Foreign Office comment on a complaint by the Chinese mission here that they are under "siege".

Nevertheless, as diplomatic courtesies (or lack of them) are reciprocal, the British are treating Communist Chinese diplomats and pressmen in London to certain restrictions, in protest against the rather more violent treatment of Mr Donald Hopson, the British Charge d'Affaires in Peking, and his staff.

There is a 45,000-strong Chinese community in London alone, and many appear shocked and shaken by the behaviour of their compatriots in Peking. Many send a portion of their earnings to relatives at home and now they find themselves in a dilemma. If they send the money, perhaps their families will be singled out for persecution by the Red Guards as being tainted by Western contact. If they do not send the money (which is badly needed foreign exchange for China) then the authorities may complain.

Throughout Britain well nigh every sizeable community has its Chinese restaurant. A current cartoon is of a middle-class husband trying to reassure his wife in front of a Chinese restaurant: "Don't be silly, dear. Of course they will let you come out after the meal."

The immediate chief concern is for the fate of the British nationals in China. Beyond that is real apprehension about the fate and future of Hong Kong. Until now it has been reassuring to remember that the Chinese Government gains much valuable foreign exchange from Hong Kong. But the arrival of the Red Guards in Hong Kong and the increasing violence create an unknown factor, just as the internal affairs of China itself are unpredictable nowadays.

Trade not affected

Strangely enough, right up until the present, British trade with China has not been affected. Telegrams from British businessmen in China to their London headquarters have been getting through without delay, despite the almost total break in communications between the Foreign Office and the British Mission in Peking.

During the days when the British Mission was being wrecked, a leading Anglo-Chinese trading firm was busily completing a sizeable deal with the Chinese State Import Corporation in Peking.

continued on next page

The week in ASIA

KARACHI — A South Korean trade team rushed to Karachi to discuss mutual trade with Pakistan's Commerce Minister Abdul Ghafoor Khan. This is seen as a move to check North Korean chances of building firm trade ties with Pakistan.

DJAKARTA — Indonesia closed 15 private banks as they did not have enough capital to cover outstanding loans and advances. Panic-stricken businessmen rushed to convert their accounts into hard cash.

TOKYO — An entire local train with 150 people, mostly students, disappeared in Yamagata province as floods lashed the area. Rice harvest and communications were badly hit.

SAIGON — Viet Cong guerrillas, in one of the most spectacular assaults, moved into Quang Ngai city and freed 1200 prisoners. They also damaged a power station, an airfield, a US camp and a radio station.

MANILA — 50 publishers and editors in Asia discussed problems of editorial independence at the second Asian Newspapers' Conference. They also formed the Press Foundation of Asia, aimed at advancing journalism in the region.

KUALA LUMPUR — The Association of South-East Asia, formed six years ago to promote regional co-operation, is to suspend its activities. The new Association of South-East Asian Nations is to take over its functions and to chalk out plans for optimum utilisation of financial and human resources of the area.

COLOMBO — All Ceylon schools will have English as a compulsory subject next year. The switch-back was ordered by Education Minister Iriyagolle, who condemned the narrow attitude of politicians.

PEKING — Three thousand people were reported killed in eight days of clashes in Chekiang province of China. Four thousand houses were destroyed and Red Guards were reported to be plundering rural areas.

HONG KONG — China repeated its readiness to "fight shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese to wipe out the US aggressors". It charged that US aggression against the North was also directed at China.

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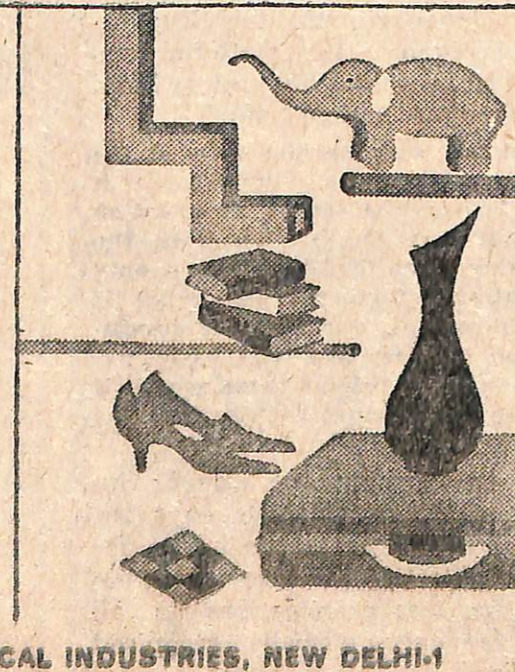


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SHRIRAM VINYL & CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, NEW DELHI-1



—from page 9

Throughout the world, the Chinese are noted for being keen traders as well as being keen ideologists. In dealing with the British, who have themselves been termed by a former enemy as "a nation of shopkeepers", it remains to be seen which driving force proves to be the stronger.

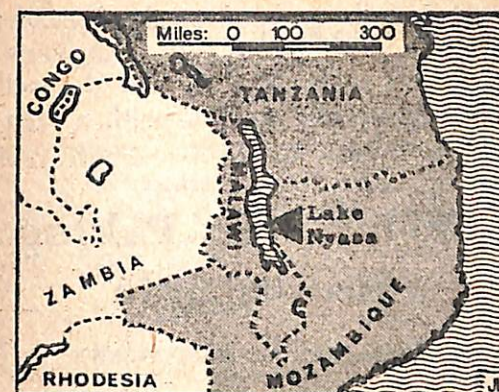
Storms over Lake Nyasa (Malawi)

FROM VERE JAMES

NAIROBI Two of Africa's most articulate leaders are engaged in a non-violent war of words over a new type of boundary dispute. Where is their border?

Known as Lake Nyasa on old maps (and most concerning Africa are outdated) its waters wash the shores of Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi. Dr Kamuzu Banda, President of Malawi, claims the entire Lake is

under his control. Tanzania's President, Dr Julius Nyerere, denies Malawi's total ownership, insisting that it is internationally accepted the waters are under the equally-divided jurisdiction of the countries.



Kenya's *Daily Nation* points out the parallel of Lake Victoria, which is enjoyed by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Since independence all three countries have jointly exploited its benefits in terms of transportation, fishing and scientific research.

The editor asked Dr Banda to confer with Dr Nyerere about a common steamer transport system across the Lake and a common research programme. Why not work with Tanzanian plans to build health and holiday resorts on both sides of the Lake? This could improve the lot of Malawians and it might even increase the number of tourists to Malawi.

But of course a lot of water has flowed in and out of the Lake since the fiery days of pre-independence.

Tanzania has chosen the path of vigorous Socialist self-reliance. Malawi is becoming more and more an economic adjunct of South Africa. The two extremes of African political thought and action meet on Lake Malawi—with the added complication of Portuguese Mozambique sharing the Lake with them.

Should relationships worsen Lake Malawi represents a security threat and indeed if reports of subversion and infiltration of "freedom fighters" are correct, it has already become so. At the same time it could become a unifying factor if agreement to cooperate could be found.

Members of the Organisation of African Unity have already decided not to support claims and moves to revise existing boundaries in Africa—an agreement on which Kenya relies in its dispute with the Somalis in their attempt to annex part of Kenya's territory.

If this dispute over the waters of Lake Malawi persists, where will it end? For instance who owns the waters of the Nile? Its principal sources are in Ethiopia and Uganda—the latter shared on Lake Victoria with Kenya and Tanzania. No doubt President Nasser would have strong opinions on the question.

Japan eases economic door open

FROM FUJIKO HARA

TOKYO Japan has embarked on a programme of capital liberalisation, a step toward lifting control of foreign capital ventures and transactions, permitting free competition in Japan.

With a view to completing the process by 1971, the Government outlined the liberalisation measures concerning direct investment. Direct foreign capital ventures are permitted in the case of new enterprises. Some 17 enterprises including steel, motorcycle, shipbuilding, hotel and tourist business are open up to 100 per cent ownership. 33 items ranging from medical and pharmaceutical products to canned sea foods, radios, television (black and white) sets, tape-recorders, cameras and watches are permitted up to 50 per cent. Automobile, electronic and other industries are to be protected for the time being. The ratio of shares available for foreign stock holders was also increased.

This had been a long standing issue, ever since Japan joined the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1964. But the cautious Japanese businessmen had been going slow. While Japan's booming economy and large consumer population are a great temptation to foreign business, small enterprises comprising a large percentage of her industry are far from being able to withstand the onslaught of large capital, domestic or foreign, without due protection and modernisation.

It is generally considered that the merits for inviting foreign capital (either to form joint ventures or establish new enterprises) are the introduction of superior technical know-how, stimulation of healthy competition and better management and marketing that will enable eco-

continued on page 12

The week in INDIA

NEW DELHI — In personal letters to Mrs Gandhi and President Ayub Khan, Soviet Premier Kosygin pleaded for direct talks on outstanding Indo-Pakistani problems. He stressed the need to keep alive the Tashkent spirit.

ROHTAK — Chief Minister Birendra Singh complained that the existing Haryana State did not provide enough scope for its development. He hinted at a Vishal Haryana movement (wider Haryana) to include Meerut and Agra divisions of Uttar Pradesh, parts of Rajasthan and Delhi.

BOMBAY — Five shipping lines have decided to raise freight charges by 7½ per cent between Australia, Burma, India, Ceylon and the Persian Gulf. This is to cover the additional costs following the Suez Canal closure.

COIMBATORE — Chief Minister Annadurai ruled out any rethinking on the policy of Prohibition, despite the scrapping of the dry law by neighbouring States.

MADRAS — The Congress Party has formed a "White Dove Brigade". It will protect people from goondas, rush to the aid of victims of lawlessness and police harassment and expose the lapses of Government through posters and booklets.

LUCKNOW — UP Finance Minister Ram Swaroop Verma vowed that he would either make the Reserve Bank of India accept his letters in Hindi or would quit office. The Reserve Bank had written to the Finance Department to send all letters in English only.

SILIGURI — 200 students of the North Bengal University rescued 13 persons arrested by the police at Tarabarijote for inquiry regarding the Naxalbari movement. The students also "captured" three persons in plain clothes accompanying the police team.

CALCUTTA — All unused but immediately cultivable land in the State may be put to use under an ordinance which has been approved by the West Bengal Government and sent for the President's approval.

MADRAS — Ministers and their wives participated in a "Keep-the-Streets-Clean" campaign launched by the newly-formed Prosperity Brigade in Madras City.

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conomic growth. The demerits are the excessive competition among domestic enterprises that may cause social and economic disorder. The possibility that foreign business may come to control Japanese industry through their superior capital power and technology is largely feared.

Cases in Europe are often cited. American capital and technology helped rebuild post-war Europe, but today there is an increasing phantom that Europe is being economically enslaved. Britain has allowed 52 per cent of her automobile industry to go to American interests, West Germany 32 per cent. In oil, America has bought 46 per cent of shares in Britain and 51 per cent in West Ger-

The week elsewhere

WILSON STEPS IN

LONDON—Prime Minister Harold Wilson took personal control of economic affairs in a bid to revive Britain's flagging production and avert mass unemployment this winter. 43-year-old Peter Shore became Wilson's right-hand-man as Economics Secretary, while Michael Stewart, 60, was shifted from the Economics Ministry to overall charge of other domestic affairs.

FEDERATION CRUMBLES

ADEN—The British-built South Arabian Federation crumbled with 12 of its 17 sheikdoms taken over by rival nationalist movements—FLOSY (Front for the Liberation of South Yemen) and NLF (National Liberation Front). Federal Supreme Council Chairman Ali al Babakri resigned when the South Arabian Army refused his invitation to take control. Britain was reported to be going ahead with the planned withdrawal of her remaining 12,000 troops by January 9, when South Arabia is to become independent.

NEW WORLD CURRENCY

LONDON—Finance Ministers of eleven wealthy countries announced the creation of a new international

many. In the field of electronics America possesses a 90 per cent share in Europe.

While much attention, perhaps too much, was paid to devising methods for protecting home industries, it seems important not to lose the world perspective. Besides the stimulus it will give to technical innovation and production of better quality at lower cost, it represents the trend to a unified world economy as the Kennedy Round Tariff Talks pointed out.

The world wide cutting of tariffs, bringing down national barriers, pooling of technical know-how and emerging of world enterprises show that the old politics of "divide and rule" is giving way to a new business philosophy of "unite and prosper". Perhaps the "world international"

reserve to supplement other currencies which are not growing as fast as international commerce. This shortage of reserve, according to experts, could cause a world-wide depression. The new reserve, SDR (Special Drawing Rights), will be supervised by the International Monetary Fund—if the world body decides to adopt it at its session.

NASSER, FEISAL AGREE

KHARTOUM—President Nasser of Egypt and King Feisal of Saudi Arabia agreed during the Arab Conference to withdraw their forces from the Yemen civil war. President Sallal of Yemen was not party to the agreement, which did not specify any time-table for Egyptian withdrawal, or means of deciding Yemen's future regime.

GANDHIAN JAILED

PRETORIA—Nana Sita, 69-year-old disciple of Gandhi, was jailed for six months for refusing to quit the home he had lived in for 37 years. Sita, who defied orders to leave under South Africa's Group Areas Act, which lays down where different races must live, chose jail rather than pay a fine. He had already served 6 and 3-month terms in prison for the same offence.

will first be realised in the business world, and some Japanese businessmen are realising they will do well to embrace the problem with a vigorous enterprising spirit.

Ceylon bars Peking propaganda

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

COLOMBO China has accused the Ceylon Government of conniving at and instigating robbery of articles sent by ship to the Chinese Embassy here. This allegation, which was described by the responsible Cabinet Minister as "ridiculous", also threatens to cut off trade between the two countries.

According to the Chairman of the Port Cargo Corporation, some unauthorised labour had penetrated on board the freighter *Ioannis* where, it appears, portraits of Mao Tse-tung were disfigured and robbed. He places the blame on the captain of the ship who could have obtained special protection from the police or the port authorities. No requests for such protection were made. Normally the Port Cargo Corporation only allowed authorised labour on board a ship, but these were not authorised.

China's diplomatic note also refers to a number of other complaints over the last two years—holding up a consignment of badges with the profile of Chairman Mao, confiscating books and periodicals and examining "diplomatic articles", referring no doubt to the Government's attempts to dam the flood of propaganda material with which the Chinese have been trying to inundate the island.

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Shiv-Sena leader questioned

HIS CRITICS call him the greatest enemy of India. His worshippers have no doubt that he is the Saviour. He himself, however, pays little regard to critics or friends. His goal is to "save Maharashtra" from the "rut of poverty and frustration". Bal Thakre, 40-year-old, Editor of *Marmik*, a Marathi cartoon weekly published from Bombay, is founder of the Shiv-Sena.

Within a miraculously short span of 10 months, Thakre claims to have enrolled 1,50,000 young men as members of the Shiv-Sena. Last month, the Shiv-Sena captured the Municipality at Thana.

What is your main grievance? Why do you resort to violence? Is it true that Shiv-Sena members attack South Indian hotels?

"At the outset, let me make this clear: I have not preached hatred against the South Indians. And never have I asked the non-Maharashtrians to be driven out of Bombay or Maharashtra. In fact, the Shiv-Sena is born to fight communalism. We have successfully exposed the South Indian communalism. The *Marmik* carried out a survey of more than 40 leading industrial houses in Bombay. Out of 1500 executives, only 75 were Maharashtrians. About 70 per cent of the executives were South Indians.

"Is it suggested that no Maharashtrians of merit were available for these posts? Obviously, the selections to these posts are made on the basis of caste and province. The South Indians, in private, admit this.

"In short, my case is this: Kerala, Madras, Andhra, Mysore have reserved more than 80 per cent of jobs and also seats in educational institutions for the people of their own States. It is a *fait accompli*. I am merely asking the Government to do what other State Governments have already done.

"Take Madras. The Neyvelli Lignite Corporation is a Central Government project, not State Government. And yet the other day I learnt that there is not a single non-Tamilian in its large staff of more than 8000 employees.

"Such restrictive practices in the

South, and the practice of the crudest form of communal discrimination in our State, has shut out employment for Maharashtrians. A terrible injustice has been done to us. And when we fight against it, we are branded 'communal', 'anti-national'. Let me confess that enrolling 1½ lakhs of members within 10 months is not a 'miracle' as you think. I merely gave expression to the feeling of an average, educated, middle-class Maharashtrian."

What are your main demands?

"1 The Shiv-Sena wants compulsory military training of all able-bodied people.

"2 We demand that the English language must be made the medium of instruction at all stages of education, in order to keep up with the



Bal Thakre, Shiv-Sena founder

advances in the rest of the world. That will also help achieve national unity.

"3 Prohibition should be scrapped immediately to check goondaism.

"4 The owners of the land are today in the most unenviable position of having to pay their land taxes but unable even to set foot on it—goondas have taken over their land and built hutments which they let out. All unauthorised hutments must be demolished and possession restored to the legal owners.

"5 The salaries and service conditions of the police must be improved immediately. Thanks to their poor

ON THE Spot

HIMMAT meets people

wage, they lean on the *hafta* (weekly bribe). Goondas have established their parallel government in Bombay. Most of them are from the South. All goondas must be exterminated. Years before any controversy, the Annual Report of the Police Commissioner (1960) says: 'The increasing crime in Bombay is due to the influx into Bombay of gangs, particularly of juveniles from South India; the demolishing of slums in the Raoli Camp; thereby letting loose a large number of criminals on the roads.'

"6 A rigorous control of influx into Bombay of goondas and unemployed men from the South."

Why this campaign of hatred and slogans of "Maharashtra for Maharashtra"?

"Where did you see this slogan? I have repeated *ad nauseam* that the Shiv-Sena does not intend to drive out non-Maharashtrians from Bombay or Maharashtra. But the English Press is pathologically prejudiced against us.

"By a Maharashtrian, we imply all those—whatever their caste, creed, language—who look upon Maharashtra as their homeland, who have been living here for generations, and whose weals and woes are co-mingled with Maharashtra. In short, all those who have Maharashtra as their domicile. When we demand 'reservation for Maharashtrians', we mean to imply such persons."

How do you explain the stoning of Udipi hotels?

"The Shiv-Sena has nothing to do with it. In fact, in the only case where some of our members were charged in a Court, they were acquitted by the Magistrate. The stoning of hotels is the result of an inter-caste quarrel, resulting from business rivalry among themselves. The second reason is that some of these hotels are dens of notorious gambling called 'Matka'. The gangsters fight among themselves."

What is your next programme?

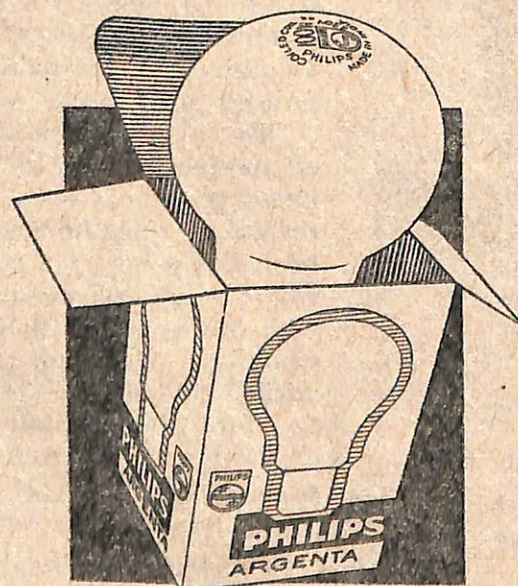
"We are contesting all 140 seats

continued on page 16

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P. 3842

Is America rethinking Vietnam?

FROM T. WILLARD HUNTER

THE United States Constitution, in effect since 1789, contains among other things the following provisions: "The Congress shall have power to declare war..." and "The President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy..."

These are the basis of an underlying constitutional debate, for three years now, over American policy in Vietnam.

In early August 1964, North Vietnamese PT boats attacked two United States destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. As a result, the Congress passed what has become known as the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution giving the President the authority to do anything he deems necessary to resist or prevent aggression in the area. Mr Johnson has relied on this as legal authority for his Vietnam policy ever since.

At the beginning of 1965 there were 23,000 US troops in the area. Today there are around 500,000. All of this without a declaration of war by Congress. Indeed, it has been difficult to know on whom war should be declared.

Still, the possible usurpation of powers by the President disturbs a great many people. The debate has recently focussed in the Senate over a resolution by Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The measure would define "national commitments" to foreign powers as only those which are approved by Congress in a treaty or other formal document.

In response to this move, President Johnson challenged Congress to vote again on Vietnam and to revoke powers granted to him if it thought he has exceeded his authority, particularly in ordering new air strikes which have now come within 10 miles of China's border.

The President has constantly had more support from the Republicans than from his own Democratic party, two of whose top leaders have been consistent opponents—Senator Fulbright, Chairman of the powerful

Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Mike Mansfield, Democratic majority leader in the Senate.

Interestingly enough, however, the Republicans also have begun to divide. Governor George Romney of Michigan, currently the leading undeclared candidate for the Republican nomination for President in 1968, has reverted to his original anti-Vietnam-war convictions, which he abandoned temporarily under party pressure. On the other hand, Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, Republican minority leader in the Senate, consistently backs Johnson.

It is of interest that Republican unity on Vietnam should erode just at a time when there are signs that the pressure is beginning to tell on the North Vietnamese—including captured documents telling of diminishing morale and supply problems.

In a way the President has been reminiscent of Winston Churchill of an earlier conflict. But unlike Churchill he has not told the people about "blood, sweat, toil, and tears". He has claimed that both butter and guns were possible. But with over 200 Americans, and more Asian troops, being killed every week, and with a current weekly bill of \$500 million for Vietnam demanding higher taxes, the people are getting the message.

It could be that an imaginative change is in order. It could be argued that the revolution in Indonesia and perhaps the internal upheavals in mainland China would not have been possible but for the firm American stand.

But the American people would probably welcome some kind of Korean-type settlement, if a way could be found so that the terrorists in the south could absolutely be denied any sustenance from the north. But it boils down to the determination of two men—Ho Chi Minh and Lyndon Johnson.

The Gallup Poll recently reported

that the proportion of the public who approve of the way the President is handling his job declined from 52 per cent in mid-June to 39 per cent in mid-August, Mr Johnson's lowest rating to date. However, polls show that events seem to control public reactions more than any positive conduct on the President's part.



Governor Romney: original convictions

Mr Johnson is a determined man. Although he is disposed to negotiate at any time at any place with any one who can speak for North Vietnam, he will not retreat simply because the heat is on. The agonising reappraisal will probably not result in looking back or giving in. It is hoped that it may turn up imaginative alternatives.

ON THE SPOT—from page 13

of the Bombay Municipality. We have already captured Thana. We shall now endeavour to give the citizens a clean administration.

"Secondly, the Shiv-Sena has opened a campaign against crime in Bombay. We are going to eliminate gambling dens, to begin with."

Why are you opposed to the Communists?

"The Communists are sworn enemies of freedom and religion. That is against the very ethos of the Indian culture. The Communists are also the sworn enemies of democracy. They do not think that patriotism is a virtue. We do. We will brook no compromise with them."

Surprisingly, Bal Thakre is not a politician. He is a cartoonist. His cartoons have been published by *The New York Times* and in a special book of cartoons on Churchill. "There was a time when I toyed with the idea of settling down in England. My brush would have a greater scope there, perhaps. But when I saw the danger facing India and particularly Maharashtra, I decided to stay."

History may soon tell if this decision is to be regretted or applauded.

S.V.B.

Only a drastic remedy will work

First prize to Vinod Chowdhury, Delhi 7

ONE FINE MORNING in mid-July the people of India woke up to face screaming headlines that the Mishra Government of Madhya Pradesh had fallen in a bloodless coup executed from the Royal Palace at Gwalior. Since the general elections, India's political map had been changing with astonishing rapidity. Now the climax had come: a Dowager Princess had toppled an iron-fisted Chief Minister with a solid majority.

How had the world's largest democracy fallen to the level of the Middle East and Africa? The answer lay with a new tribe—the defectors—which believed in Government by oneself, for oneself and of oneself.

Although some legislators cross the floor for genuine ideological reasons, the overwhelming majority is interested in just power by any means. The most eloquent testimony to this is provided by the UP MLA who defected and redefected no fewer than four times in the course of a day.

A depth study of the post-election political situation makes it apparent that the long-submerged homogeneity of the Congress Party has at last surfaced, now that its monopoly of power has been broken. The Opposition parties, on their part, have found the taste of power, after twenty long years in the wilderness, to be heady wine. Both sides are now welcom-

ing prodigals from the other camp with open arms. The result has been chronic instability, appalling fickleness and brazen immorality. Fisticuffs, hurling of missiles inside the legislature, along with kidnappings and assaults outside, have become commonplace.

Only a drastic remedy can suffice to correct the dangerous aberrations called defections. The only cure for this epidemic is to ban defections. This can be done if a defector is forced to resign and seek re-election before resuming his seat. This will serve a dual purpose in that it will deter opportunistic defections and also show up the few courageous

Politicians' code of conduct

Second prize to Ivan Sassoon, Calcutta 14

THE DICTIONARY definition of "defection" is "falling away from allegiance to leader, party, religion, duty" or in plain and simple language "desertion". Let's say that when you have been elected on one party ticket, and find that the party is not carrying out its promises, you defect from the party on principles. If you had principles you would disassociate yourself from the party completely by standing for re-election before resuming your seat.

That's what an honourable politician would do if he wanted to consider himself above the suspicion levelled at all defectors: that they have quit the party for the loaves and fishes of another new party.

Our Indian democracy has reached a stage of restlessness, where, for the sake of office and other privileges, legislators are defecting by the dozens. Critics of re-election say that they will entail huge expenditure. But will there be as many defections, if the defectors know that they will have to stand for re-election? Fear of continuous re-elections is therefore unfounded. The trouble and

genuine dissenters, whose re-election would expose high-handedness and worse in leaders of the party these true rebels deserted.

It is not enough to speak of codes of conduct accepted by all recognised political parties, for many parties are unrecognised and many politicians are Independents. It is not enough to leave it to the public to revolt against defections, because the public wrath may be stirred too late. The need is for an amendment to the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1965, and to the Constitution also, if necessary. The Congress Party and the democratic Opposition, if united, can see such a measure through Parliament with ease. The time for reckoning has come and the people will never forgive their leaders if it is allowed to slip by.

expense will deter the defector and the party he will be defecting to.

A defector gives the excuse that by changing its principles and policies, his former party betrays the electorate, and justifies the defector's action. But this change of policy is between the party and the people, who can re-express their preferences and prejudices in the re-election. Party members who disagree with the changes in policy of their party can resign and stand for a re-election with another party badge or as independent members. When this happens, there will be no slur on defection.

Honour appears to be at a discount in Indian political life. By forcing legislators to contest a re-election we will be injecting a blood transfusion of honour and high principles into political life. This could be the cornerstone of a code of conduct for politicians.

This week's contributors were sharply for and against. None was undecided. The figures were:

YES	—	80 per cent
NO	—	20 per cent

This was a Life

D. S. SENANAYAKE

1884-1952

D. S. WANTED TO GO urgently to meet the Governor, but son Dudley (now Prime Minister) had taken the car to "see a friend". Telephone inquiries drew a blank and he used a friend's car. The wife was prepared for fireworks for Dudley, but there was no reference to the incident. D. S. later said, "I didn't want my son to lie."

Father of independent Ceylon, Don Stephen Senanayake was not a brilliant student at St. Thomas' College. Yet his knowledge of his country and the people placed him among the greatest.

Entering public life through the temperance movement, he was imprisoned without trial in the 1915 Buddhist-Muslim riots. While many friends were shot, he survived, with a determination somehow to free his people from British rule.

Having spent the greater part of his life among peasants, his aim was a self-sufficient agricultural nation. Essentially a practical man, he spent millions on Gal-oya, as Minister of Agriculture and later as Prime Minister. The Leftists attacked him for "wasting public funds". Today, this green valley forms the backbone of Ceylon's agriculture.

A farsighted politician, he knew opportunists would use communalism to get into power. His colonisation schemes where the Sinhalese were settled in the Northern-Eastern provinces for an even population, if continued, would have led to peace and harmony.

He discussed every problem not only with specialists but the people involved and brooked no delay in red tape formalities.

In the forefront of Ceylon's independence struggles he was Ceylon's first Prime Minister. He had no special political theory, except sincerity and infinite trust in people.

Millions mourned his untimely death in 1952, when he fell from his horse. He served the nation without bias and rose like a stalwart against petty barriers of caste, creed and religion.

V.V.

SUITABLE GOVERNORS

IN the interest of healthy growth of democracy in this country, we expect our Government to set desirable precedents with regard to holders of constitutional offices. But recent news is that the out-going Chief Election Commissioner is being considered for a gubernatorial post. The Chief Election Commissioner is subject to the same constitutional restrictions as a judge of the Supreme Court, and no judge of the Supreme Court would be expected by anyone to accept a governorship. If an appointment of this type is made it will encourage the next incumbent of the post to seek the approval of the ruling party so that he may also be similarly rewarded on retirement.

I hope that the Government will reconsider its stand, and not make an offer of governorship. But if it does, I hope that in the interests of democracy, the offer will be declined. If democracy is to survive in this country in the form envisaged in our constitution, we must ensure that no system of governmental rewards is instituted for holders of independent constitutional offices.

There are enough eminent men available in the fields of education, journalism, business and the professions, and the Government should have no necessity to restrict its vision in trying to find suitable governors.

RAJESH CHADHA, New Delhi 11

TRUTHFUL

HIMMAT comes to me every week and I'm so pleased to read it. I take it to my office and show it to my Canadian friends.

Although HIMMAT does give unhappy news, the news is given in a spirit of reverence for truth. No matter how tragic the news, one is left with the emotion of sympathy. No person who reads HIMMAT can be indifferent to the suffering of others.

MICHAEL LA PORTE,
Toronto, Canada

PLEA FOR PAPERS

I AM one of the hire-purchaser tenants of the Maharashtra Housing Board and as per their scheme, I took possession of the tenement in the year 1961. At that time, we have deposited Rs 1500 together with three months' rent as an advance and have also remitted Rs 25 for the stamped papers. We were told by M.H.B. that under this scheme we, the poorer tenants, have to pay the rent together with initial instalments for 30 good years and after that we can claim ourselves as legal owners of

the tenements. We fully agreed with them and we did not claim any legal documents to that effect as we were searching for some accommodation. We also formed our tenants' association and it is functioning well.

We also invite Housing Ministers or commissioners for any functions and during one of those functions, our former Housing Minister, Mr Taleyarkhan informed us that there was a change in the scheme: M.H.B. had decided to shorten the period from 30 years to 15 years. We were really happy over such information.

But such assurances given by the Housing Commissioners over the period have not given any weight because we cannot claim that we are legal holders of these tenements. The reason is that we have not received the "stamped papers". We have waited for six long years and we have made attempts through our tenants' association also to get the agreement. But such attempts ended with failures only. Our patience has been tested by M.H.B. all these years! Further we cannot agitate or stage demonstrations to achieve this matter because we maintain dignity, decorum and certain responsibilities. It is the highest time that M.H.B. provided us stamped papers.

G. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Chembur

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Mother tongue in cheek

by Rajmohan Gandhi

IT AFFORDS momentary relief to discover the ludicrous side of some of our Government's costliest acts.

Their absurdity provides at least fleeting seconds of mirth to those condemned to groan under their weight.

Consider, for example, the consequences of the "ban English" crusade. With the official announcement that regional languages will replace English as the medium of instruction in universities and the institutes of technology and as the medium of examination for senior government posts, this can now be deemed part of our national policy.

Picture India in 1975. Being aesthetically selective, you ignore slums and starvation, filth and famine. You concentrate on Government office buildings and the few remaining industrial and commercial establishments.

Translation departments

About four-fifths of the entire office space in each building is taken by the various translation departments. In Bombay, the ground floor is reserved for translation work between Marathi and Hindi, the first floor for Marathi/Guarati, the second floor for Marathi/Kanada. And so on. There is a separate section where those whose language is not accommodated can put down their questions and requirements in writing and from where couriers leave at regular intervals for a great national, all-language translation headquarters for sifting.

Those who, by accident or design, still know English and attempt to converse in that same tongue with people similarly afflicted inside the offices are directed to another special room, a waiting one, where they cool their heels while others not thus tainted get priority.

By now there are 17 National Federations of Unions of Translators. Although it cannot be said that their meetings are free from squabbles about the language in which to conduct business, they are the most powerful political force in the country.

Post and telegraph offices are a particular joy. Space for mere

writers of letters and telegrams, senders or receivers of money orders or parcels, pension drawers and such like is happily curtailed. Impressive, airy and well-staffed rooms (with a suitable posse of chaprasis) cater for translation and other inter-linguistic needs. There is a considerable increase in the employment of sorters, and a corresponding increase in the number of policemen to watch them.

The translation sub-division of the police department, incidentally, is truly imposing in state after state. No effort is considered too great in making, as soon as possible, 25 to 35 versions in different languages of every complaint, warning, report or other document.

Rumours that the cleverest crooks have found employment in the police's translation sub-division are exaggerated, and were likely thought up in strange foreign lands where English continues legally.

Our thousands of railway trains sing their special multilingual refrain as they sway from state to state. With trained and admirable precision, guards, engine drivers, conductors, ticket examiners and dining car waiters are replaced at every language-switching junction. Plans for more frequent substitutions to serve district and dialect needs within each linguistic state are ready.

Trunk calls finished

The horrid imperialistic device of trunk calls is now, mercifully, a thing of the past. Five years of stubborn attempts by the reactionary clique to prolong this torturous means of communication could not pierce the powerful language barrier. Having liberated the general public from this legacy of colonialism, the Government found time and energy to set up a complex system of translation over the long-distance telephone line for its own needs.

The army and police have their own independent telephone systems, interrupted—sorry, interpreted—by their respective battalions of translators. It is felt that far from weakening or slowing down the response of our defence forces

to any external attack, the new set-up would puzzle the invader.

Envious rumours made during the transition to the new order that what the Government lacked was not the means of communication but the stuff to communicate have fortunately ceased.

At the beginning, efforts were made to persuade the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, other Cabinet Ministers and respected Hindi protagonists to relate samples of their family conversations. Some nasty people tried this to prove that these contained a number of English expressions, especially when it came to invective and affection. Luckily, they were frustrated.

Inquiries squashed

There was a similar prohibition on inquiries about the schools and colleges, in this country and outside, to which senior national leaders sent their children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Some claimed to detect in our leaders an uncontrollable passion to impose mediocrity on the Indian people. They thought that it was wrong to deprive the peasant's son or the Harijan's daughter of the chance of learning directly in English the world's latest developments, without governmental control and interpretation. They suggested that what looked like patriotism turned out, on closer inspection, to be nothing other than the exploitation of jealousy and bitterness for the sake of political power.

They warned that if English was not made available to all, those who did know it would get special advantages. They opposed the use of the country's children and students as guinea pigs for the purposes of incessant experimentation and expensive rounds of new translation.

Fortunately, these people were unable to make their voices heard above the impassioned chorus against things that were merely utilitarian and helpful.

It seems to me that before anyone passes a harsh verdict on our Government's language policy, he should weigh, with care, the pros and cons of the matter.

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The winner will be announced in the following issue. There is no limit to the number of entries you can make, but only one cross may be marked on each picture. The Editor's decision is final.

Nearest entry wins Rs. 25
On the ball wins the Jackpot*

*Each week half the prize of Rs. 50 will be awarded to the nearest entry. The other half will be carried forward to a "Jackpot" to be won by the first competitor who marks EXACTLY the centre of the ball. This Jackpot Prize will accumulate by Rs. 25 per week until it is won.

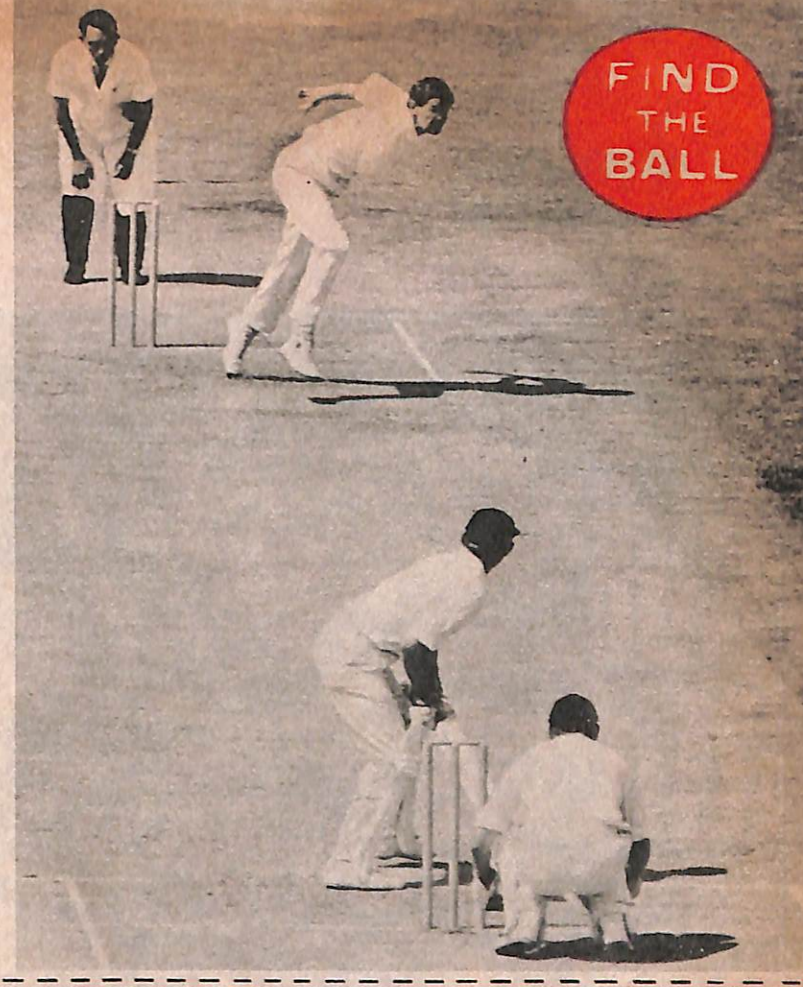
Name _____
Address _____
I agree to the rules of the competition as outlined above.

WINNER OF COMPETITION 34

is Hem Raj, EP 272,
Chowk Qadeshah,
Saidan Gate,
Jullundur City,
Punjab. Rs. 25 for
nearest entry (3.5 mm
from ball).

2nd Prize to A. Sethu-
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Trichy 2, Tamil Nad.
(13 mm from ball).

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ASIA'S NEW VOICE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15 1967

CHAGLA LEAVES THE PACK

How will Indira reshuffle ?

Page 5



RAJMOHAN GANDHI **INDIRA** versus **SUPERSTITION**