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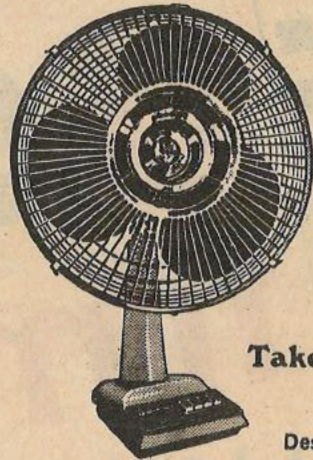


films:

HAVE THEY
GONE
WITH THE
WIND?

Beautiful and dependable

Here are two matchless Orient table models. Both beautiful and dependable. For lifetime comfort in every home we give you a choice—Orient's new Desk fan or the well-known Deluxe Table fan.

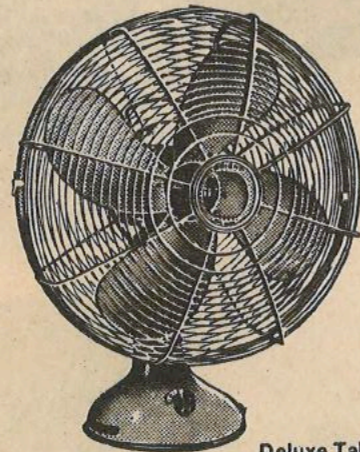


Take your pick!

Desk Fan

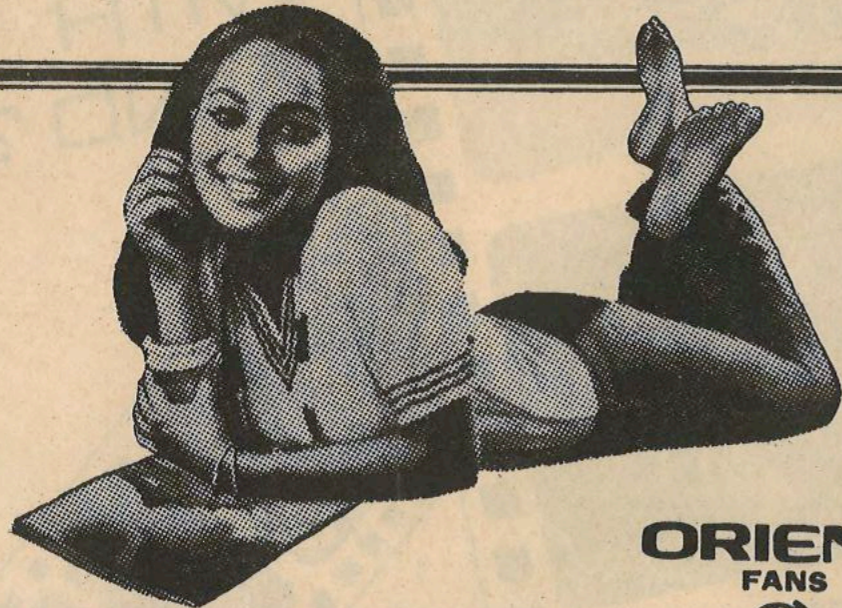
Developed and built by India's most experienced fan makers, these beautiful and sturdy fans give you years and years of smooth, silent service.

Orient—the most trusted name in fans today.



Deluxe Table Fan

Guaranteed for two years



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EDITORIALS

Ill-timed US decision

INDO-US relations can at best be described as brittle. The slightest pressure results in almost total collapse. The reactions over the lifting of the US embargo on arms sales to Pakistan amply substantiate this fact. However, one must commend the External Affairs Minister, Mr Swaran Singh, for not agreeing with the hasty conclusion of some Parliamentarians that the lifting of the embargo meant the Simla pact was dead. Mr Bhupesh Gupta, MP (CPI) went as far as accusing the Government of being "soft on the USA". Mr Swaran Singh, however, maintained the stand that India wishes to better relations with the US.

In the US, Mr Joseph Sisco, whose remarks initially set off all the reactions, acknowledged that the arms question has always been a flashpoint "psychologically and historically" between India and his country. Knowing this why did the US have to choose this particular moment — which has turned out to be ill-timed — to lift the arms embargo with Pakistan.

"The Washington Star" concludes in a report that limited US military support may give Bhutto the confidence to risk the compromise of a peace settlement. It goes on to say, "According to informed sources Pakistan now understands that Washington expects a

formula to be worked out trading Pakistan recognition of Bangladesh for the release of 92,000 Pakistani prisoners of war still held by India." Washington may see the use of such pressure as a way of furthering peace in the subcontinent. But such tactics have rarely worked before and there is no guarantee they will work now.

It is clear that America wishes to keep a foothold in the subcontinent. The instability in Pakistan and the recent incident of Russian arms in the Iraqi Embassy in Pakistan has doubtless influenced Washington. Mr Bhutto's special emissaries, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Khar, and Mr Aziz Ahmed, were able to give a first-hand account of the situation. Apparently it was enough to make President Nixon decide to lift the embargo. Unfortunately, as has often happened in the past, in trying to keep Pakistan's friendship America has once again jeopardised relations with India. Even releasing the \$87.6 million aid to India has not helped as it is now considered as a "sop" to allay Indian fears.

Whatever may be said by President Nixon about past commitments made by another administration, the US would not have lost anything by not immediately agreeing to Pakistan's appeal for arms and by waiting for a better time.

Kerala's reconciler is no more

WHEN late at night on March 14 K. M. Cherian passed away in Kottayam, Kerala, India lost a rare human being.

Chief editor of his state's largest newspaper, the "Malayala Manorama", industrialist, shrewd discernor of political trends, lover and in many ways leader of Kerala, KM, as some affectionately called him, was essentially a man of God.

Commanding wealth, he lived simply. He could have secured power for himself but preferred to mould the thinking of the people he loved through his newspaper. A keen reconciler, he could also express unpalatable and unpopular truth. For this trait he and his newspaper often had to pay. But KM was capable of thanking God for prosperity and adversity.

Nothing pained him as much as the divisions inside Kerala that came in the way of the rapid progress of the state's gifted men and women. Whenever these divisions took acute form, KM intervened, through his

newspaper and also personally. Because others sensed his selflessness, his peace-making efforts were often successful.

The room where he lived, on the premises of the "Manorama", was home to people from the rest of India and the world. There men and women with different backgrounds, worries and hopes found cheer and hope — and, not seldom, financial help. The man who supplied these things, not without anxieties himself, was always full of infectious humour.

Kerala will miss him more than she may realise at this juncture. But the soil that produced him would surely be able to raise others dedicated to the quality he cherished.

Of his newspaper he used to say that it was God's property. He wanted it to serve no sectional or divisive cause but to defend the welfare of Kerala and India. HIMMAT is confident that his family and colleagues will continue to run it under the same criteria.

India's gift to Dr Kissinger

US Presidential adviser, Dr Henry Kissinger, is on holiday — whatever that means. The last time Dr Kissinger went on "holiday", he gave journalists the slip and turned up in Peking.

Since then the world press have had to keep track of Dr Kissinger as he has spend between Moscow, Peking, Saigon, Hanoi, Paris and Washington, inaugurating a new style of universal whiz-kid diplomacy.

The news of Dr Kissinger's comparative inactivity may cause a few diplomatic sighs of relief in the world's capitals.

But what comes next? Already the former Harvard professor is reorganising his National Security Council for further action. And for a start there will be

intensive talks with Japan, Western Europe and with Middle East countries.

On top of this, Dr Kissinger and his crew are expected to delve into the monetary crisis, and the energy crisis (though Dr Kissinger personally seems to have the answer to that one).

India too may yet benefit from Dr Kissinger's skills. India's retiring Ambassador to Washington, Mr L. K. Jha, recently entertained him at his Embassy and said later that he would come to stay with him in Kashmir.

And why not? After all this activity, what could be better for a frenetic Presidential adviser than coming to the country where the graceful art of relaxing, even while working, has been perfected to the nth degree.

Briefly Speaking.....

Every man is a damned fool for at least five minutes every day; wisdom consists in not exceeding the limit.
ELBERT HUBBARD, 1856-1915

Resisting the mob

STUDENTS and Andhra separatist agitators have demanded that all Andhra MPs and MLAs should resign and create a constitutional crisis.

Three state legislators — Mr N. Srinivasulu Reddy, leader of the Democratic Socialist Front in the state Assembly, Mrs D. Indira, MLA and Mr K. Rosaiah, MLC, resigned on March 11 in deference to the scores of agitators who came to their hotel to press the resignation demand. The three said they had handed over their resignations on the condition that the students collected all the other resignations (of separatist leaders) before handing theirs to the Speaker.

However, the agitators did not have as much luck when they surrounded an independent Member of the state Assembly, Mr C. V. K. Rao

in Vijaywada on March 12. The independent Member proved his independence by enduring the undivided attention of the mob for 3½ hours. After that the mob gave up and went away without securing his resignation.

At a time when mob tactics are being used for every type of demand it is heartening to hear someone having the courage to resist such pressures.

21 years in Chinese prisons

THE last American prisoner of the Korean war, John T. Downey, was freed by China last week.

While on a flight from Seoul to Tokyo on a mission for the Central Intelligence Agency (better known in India as CIA), Mr Downey's plane was shot down. This was in 1952 when he was 21-year-old. Now he is 42. The best years of the man's life have been spent in Chinese prisons.

The Chinese released Mr Downey following an appeal from President Nixon after Downey's mother, aged 75, suffered a stroke last week. It is also believed that President Nixon's admission in January that Downey was indeed a CIA agent, a fact denied by the US Government for 19 years, hastened his release.

Bumper crop of outbursts

A few imported seeds — of the dhatura variety — have produced a bumper crop of protests that have featured on front pages of newspapers for the last two weeks.

Angry parliamentary debates, wild accusations and a walkout by the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly have followed the revelation that black dhatura seeds, apparently poisonous, have been found in a shipment of imported US milo grain (sorghum).

One Bombay weekly has gone as far as to proclaim in banner headlines: "US dhatura war on India". Whether the US have adopted this subtle means of warfare or not, critics of America have certainly taken the chance to proclaim war on the US.

American agricultural officials defend themselves, saying that the imported grade two milo is used for cattle feed in the US, not human consumption. They maintain that the seeds are not poisonous. Apparently the same controversy has blown up

on four previous occasions from as far back as 1951.

Laborious sieving and hand-picking methods have to be used to extract the seeds from this present shipment. For the sake of Indo-American relations and the health of the Indian consumers, methods must be developed for safeguarding any further shipments from contamination before they leave the US.

Meanwhile Birbal wonders why the discovery of iron filings, cow-dung and stone dust in 63,000 kg of tea in Calcutta last week didn't spark off a wave of fury against the "imperialists" in our own country who are ready to poison people by adulteration.

Criminals and Tourists welcome

A Swede, who recently applied for renewal of his visa to India, received a reply from none other than the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), graciously granting an extension. An interesting way to make one's guests feel welcome.

Birbal wonders if a tourist seeking secure accommodation should apply to the Prisons Department!

Birbal

UPON MY WORD!

Find as many words as you can from the TEN letters given below. The words must have four letters or more and must use the letter in larger type. At least one word must use ALL TEN letters. No proper nouns, plurals or non-English words allowed, nor variations of same verb (eg. tame, tames).

UPON MY WORD
PUZZLE NO. 21

You should find 40
words this week.

(Answer next week)

G S E
N I A D
A G R

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 20

Ache, anchor, arch, cache, chalone, chance, chancel, char, charnel, chela, cholera, choral, chore, cloche, coach, conch, each, echo, encroach, hale, hall, hallo, halo, hance, hare, harn, heal, hear, hell, hero, heron, hoar, hole, holler, hone, horn, larch, leach, ochre, ochrea, orach, ranch, reach, rhone, roach.

CHANCELLOR.

US FILMS: Have they gone with the wind?

by Ervell E. Menezes

THE sands of time are fast running out on Hollywood films in this country. The Government's non-renewal of the import licences of the American film companies since June 1971 is responsible for this sorry state of affairs. In Bombay itself the flow of American films has been reduced to a mere trickle. When on an average there used to be at least four new releases a week, the number has dwindled down to one. Sometimes there are even blank weeks.

The result is that the average moviegoer is literally starved of the entertainment he had in the past regarded as his due.

When a survey was conducted by HIMMAT a couple of months ago, it was found that over 70 per cent of the moviegoers were highly critical of the Government move to stop American films. The general belief is that American films have a universal appeal and are quite often very realistic and self-critical. They are therefore good entertainment, a fact that can scarcely be disputed.

Therefore why does the Government want to stop the import of American films?

On July 14, 1971, Mr L. N. Mishra, at that time Foreign Trade Minister, gave reciprocity as the main reason. He said the agreement would not be

SO THEY SAY

I have always placed the country above party and the party above the individuals who constitute it. We must learn to tolerate honest differences of opinion and dissent which is an essential part of the democratic way of life.

BALRAJ MADHOK,
recently expelled from Jan Sangh

I will continue the fight for France that I began with General de Gaulle's appeal to the nation on June 18, 1940.

MAURICE SCHUMANN,
former French Foreign Minister who lost in the recent elections

On the matter of principles our country will not compromise.

CHOU EN-LAI



THE ALL-TIME FAVOURITE, "MY FAIR LADY":
"get me to the church on time"

renewed unless the Motion Pictures Association of America (MPAA) imported a certain amount of Indian films.

The American companies were probably reluctant to agree to this because films have to face very stiff competition in America and Indian films, not being anywhere near the top bracket, were unlikely to do well. Also the American companies in India, being private companies, felt they were not equipped to deal with the distribution of Indian films in America.

But this argument of reciprocity has already boomeranged since our worthy Minister's statement. Egypt has expressed its unwillingness to buy Indian films unless India buys Egyptian films. What price reciprocity then?

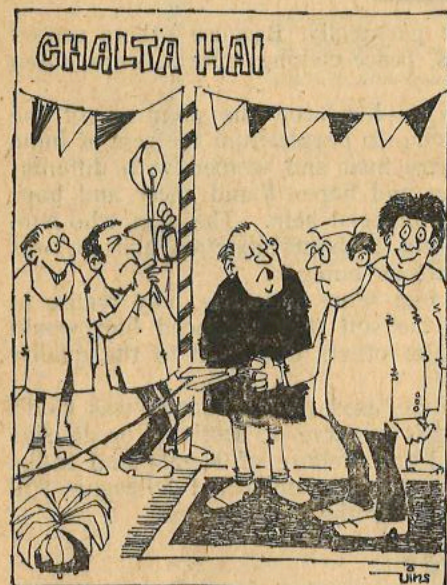
If the reciprocity clause is adhered to it means that apart from the United Kingdom, which is probably the biggest market for Indian films (seen essentially by people of Indian origin living there) we would have the dubious privilege of seeing films from countries like Russia, Malaysia, Singapore, Romania and the German Democratic Republic. The numerous film festivals which have been inflicted on us exposes the extreme paucity of the quality of films in the East European and Communist countries. Most of their films have

an ideological bent, a kind of brain-washing. And if the film festivals draw crowds it is only because of the A classification and the hope of seeing some uncensored stuff because the festival law prevents a film from being censored. The A classification has become quite a gimmick to draw crowds who come to see the sex which really isn't there.

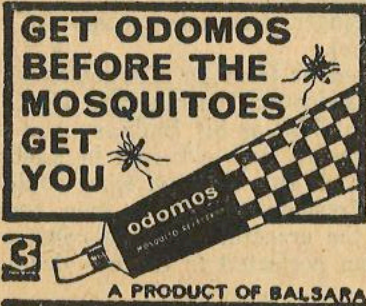
American films are a sound business proposition. In the recent past as many as 120 American films were imported annually by the American companies for a nominal royalty of Rs 25 lakhs. This means that all the American companies in India were jointly remitting Rs 25 lakhs in foreign exchange a year. The rest of the earnings were to be kept in the country and to be spent only on projects approved by the Government. This means that if a film was being shot in the country the money would be spent from these blocked funds.

Nowadays buying films outright from America will be far more expensive. The outright purchase of a film like "The Godfather", which is the biggest money-spinner of all time, would cost the country over Rs 7 million for one print only. Yet whether this amount would be recovered, is doubtful. Films are not like consumer products and their market value is difficult to assess.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



"Once you have inaugurated the new factory, sir, the workers want to see you regarding bonus."



VERDICT!

THIS WEEK HIMMAT . . .

COMMENDS Dr Karan Singh's for his action in resigning on the issue of the airworthiness of the Avros and **WISHES** some of our other Ministers could learn from this step, taken in the highest parliamentary tradition.

PUBLICISES for the patient consideration of advertisers the observation by Mr Don Johnston of J. Walter Thompson, a leading international advertising firm, that sex does not help in creating and sustaining advertising impact.

IS INTERESTED in the Home Minister's suggestion that the Government should bear the election expenses of political parties but **FAILS TO SEE** how this can necessarily root out "political corruption" as claimed by him.

CHEERS the Indian collaborators who have set up joint industrial ventures in 27 countries including six developed ones — US, UK, West Germany, Japan Canada and Australia!

LOWERS its head in shame at the conduct of a Justice of Peace in Bombay who dishonestly took a branch connection from a water-pipe and **FEELS** for the other tenants who were thereby deprived of their water supply.

APPLAUDS the victory of the nine Cambridge women in the annual women's boat race against Oxford and **NOTES** that as in the men's contests Cambridge has maintained a continuing edge over Oxford.

CONGRATULATES the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court for his bold and forthright dismissal as "rank nonsense" the demand for a "committed judiciary" and **AGREES** with the learned judge that the controversy over the supremacy of either parliament or the judiciary is unwarranted.

US FILMS — from page 5

Hence the risks involved in outright purchases are considerable.

If the Government move is designed to make things easier for the run of Russian films it has failed miserably. Despite the fact that there are fewer American films, the moviegoer is discriminating enough not to see a film at all rather than see a Russian film.

Lost revenue

The recent Russian film festival week which was on at New Empire from December 15 to 21, 1972 amply proves the point. The net collections of this selected daily change programme were shocking, to say the least. The figures are as follows: "Kremlin Chimes" Rs 1977.58, "King Lear" Rs 1432.21 on December 16 and Rs 1443.26 on December 17, "Behind Enemy Lines" Rs 1379.72, "End of Ataman" Rs 554.37, "Hamlet" Rs 2341.46 and "The First Teacher" Rs 407.99, which brought the week's net collection to Rs 9537.44 as compared to Rs 25,000 per week for an average American film.

At Minerva theatre last year the Russians screened four films for a week each and here again they were miserable flops. "Far in the West" netted Rs 8381 for a week, "The Last Relic" Rs 4631, "Three Fat Men" Rs 5478 and "Deed of Farhad" Rs 3496. It has also been reliably learnt that the theatre charges for a week's run is about Rs 24,000 which means that Sovexportfilm, which handles the distribution of Russian films, lost about Rs 16,000 on "Far In The West", Rs 20,000 on "The Last Relic," Rs 19,000 on "Three Fat Men" and Rs 20,000 on "The Deed of Farhad." This then is virtual subsidisation. What then could be the purpose in running films at such a colossal loss?

Another important factor the Government seems to be ignoring is the revenue lost through entertainment tax. Take for example, "MacKenna's Gold" which ran at Strand and netted Rs 30,899 for the first week. This film continued for 45 weeks with an average net collection of Rs 24,000 per week. The Government by way of entertainment tax alone collected Rs 38,802 for the first week and Rs 13 lakhs for the 45-week run.

In contrast "War and Peace" Part I netted Rs 12,399 for the first week and Rs 14,136 for the second week. Now leaving "MacKenna's Gold" aside, an average American film at Strand fetches about Rs 26,000 per week by way of entertainment tax. "War and Peace" Part I brought in

scarcely Rs 16,000 in entertainment tax which means the Government lost about Rs 10,000 per week. "War and Peace" Part II did even worse. It fetched about Rs 10,000 in entertainment tax which means the Government lost about Rs 16,000 a week.

Now this is the performance of the Russian films in Bombay, the key metropolitan city where movies have the biggest audience. How poorly they have fared elsewhere is anyone's guess. Why is the Government prepared to lose such sizable amounts in taxes?

One would like to know what the Government is doing to import foreign films, not just American films. First it was decided that the Indian Motion Pictures Export Corporation, which was a subsidiary of the State Trading Corporation, handle the import of films. Why an export body should handle imports was hard to comprehend. Anyway this body did precious little and is now literally a body in that it is stone dead. A Film Trading Corporation is now being set up to deal with both the exports and imports of films.

About a year ago Mrs Dunwoodi came from the United Kingdom and one hoped that British films — remember those Arthur Rank classics — would soon find their way to the starved filmgoers. But alas, nothing seems to have come from that visit.

We have meanwhile only had these film festivals, which seem to do no one any good. And of course, lest we forget, there have been some foreign films brought into the country by some unusual means as exposed by "Current" in its October 7, 1972 issue. The films include "Cold Sweat" and "Commandos" which have already been screened in the city. Both these are Italian films, which blows Mr L. N. Mishra's theory of reciprocity to the high heavens.

But coming back to where we started, what happens to the import of American films?

When HIMMAT met the chiefs of the various American companies they didn't have anything to say. They seemed reconciled to their lot. Over 40 per cent of the staff in their companies has been retrenched and unless there is a rethinking on the issue their doomsday is near.

Probably the only hope lies in a thaw in Indo-US relations. The new Ambassador, Mr Moynihan, may help in this respect. However it won't be long before we know whether it is "Bye Bye Hollywood" or "Hollywood bhai bhai."

One man who is tackling the power cut

From a correspondent recently in Tamilnadu

INDUSTRY in Tamilnadu, which stands to lose 100 crores worth of production in the next four months, has been the worst affected by the 75 per cent power cut imposed throughout the state. It is estimated that more than 50,000 small industrial units, employing a million workers, have been closed. Millions of people are affected by shorter working hours and lay-offs.

Some firms like TVS have decided to keep their workers on and have the resources to pay them, whether there is work or not. But some employers are sufficiently callous to use the power cut as a chance to get rid of surplus employees and the men they find troublesome.

Foresight and advanced planning could have avoided much of the suffering now being experienced in Tamilnadu. The state needs 1300 MW of power daily, but less than 700 MW are available.

Thermal plants in Tamilnadu supplying about 950 MW of power are not producing to full capacity and have not been properly maintained, e.g. during the last months, less than 40 per cent of the installed capacity has been produced at the thermal station at Ennore.

Coimbatore and Madurai are the worst affected areas. Some people, like handloom weavers, who do not use power themselves, are affected because they cannot get the yarn which is made in the spinning mills operated by electricity.

The demand for power in Tamilnadu is almost equivalent to the combined needs of the bordering states of Kerala, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. In 1971-72, Tamilnadu bought 525 million units of power from her neighbours, but this is not available

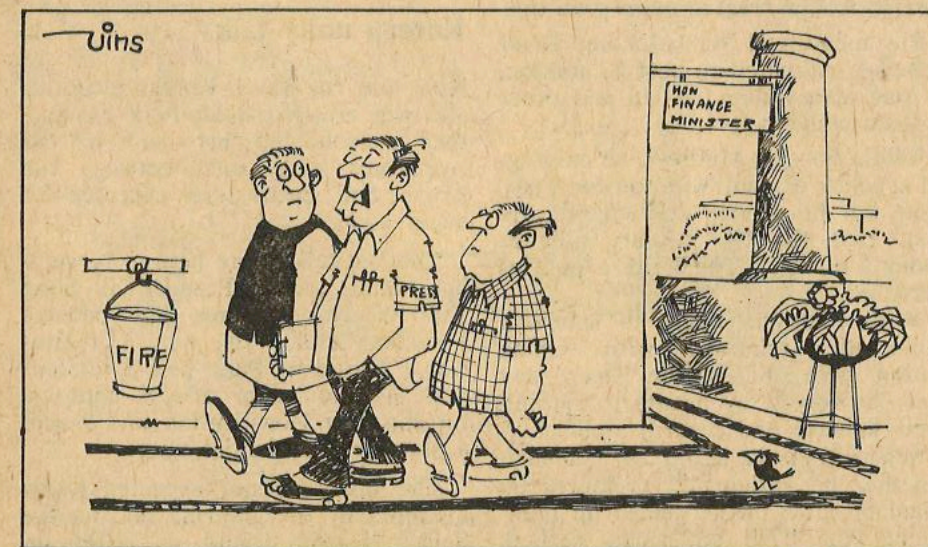
now mainly due to the failure of the monsoon.

Experts feel that the power shortage is the combined result of the state Government allowing industries to mushroom and electricity being extended widely to many rural areas. Progress on new power projects has also been slow.

Government wakes up

It was only when the Electricity Board increased the power cut from 40 per cent to 75 per cent in late February that the state Government woke up. Enquiries began to be made about chartering ships to bring coal supplies from Calcutta. Two Tamilnadu Cabinet Ministers flew to Trivandrum and succeeded in obtaining 5 lakh units of electricity a week for the next three months from the Kerala Government.

The Tamilnadu Government also appointed a 15-member panel drawn from both sides of industry to devise suitable ways to tackle problems due to the power cut. Industries Minister S. Madhavan has said that the fourth unit of the Ennore thermal power station, with a capacity of 110 MW, would be functioning from April. Plans for more thermal stations and nuclear power stations are being discussed.



"I always attend after-Budget press conferences. They lift your sinking spirits with Government concessions."

While many industrialists were complaining about the power cut and trying to see how they could get the state Government to give them more power, one industrialist I met in Madras was dealing practically with the cut in his factory. Ramesh Lulla is the Director of Southern Industries Private Limited. His factory is situated on the Guindy Industrial Estate, near the outskirts of Madras city. His company produces a wide variety of springs for industry.

"We produce springs worth Rs 3 lakhs daily," he told HIMMAT. "When the power cut came, I immediately thought of the workers. We can manage but it is the workers who will suffer."

He usually requires 2700 units of power a week during the summer months. The quota allotted to him is 460 units a week. While I sat in his hot office in the factory (the air-conditioners and fan had been switched off) he explained his plan of action.

"I called all my workers together," he said, "and explained the situation. I told them that if they would give me production totalling Rs 1.6 lakhs a week, we will break even on our daily running costs and I will not re-trench anyone."

The 200 men in his factory responded. Allotting of maximum units per week does not mean a continuous supply. "But when the electricity is available, the men work like beavers. Some have increased their production 200 per cent," Mr Lulla said with pride. "But I have decided not to ask for their job cards. I don't want to get into a position where I know who is working at increased capacity. These are trying moments for them and all are doing their best. So far, I haven't laid off a single man and I don't think I need to either."

The initiative and concern of such men needs to be harnessed on a big scale to deal with the power shortage. But at the moment the energy of many people is going into pointing out who is to blame for the trouble.

Shouldn't a body of industrialists and workers plan now what to do after the power cut is over so that the workers who have been laid off can earn back their lost wages and production can be increased? Such an action group could contribute a great deal to building healthy relationships between men on both sides of industry.

Mid-East: elusive peace

As more and more Arab leaders make visits to Peking, the Russians seem keen to prevent the Middle East from becoming an area of Chinese influence.

While in Teheran last week, Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin revealed Russia's thinking by saying that following the Vietnam peace agreement a Middle East settlement was now an important international duty. The Russians want peace there, perhaps to keep the Chinese from exploiting any conflict and extending their influence in the region.



KOSYGIN: peacemaker?

flagration has receded, ... because of the Soviet exodus, the political tensions within Egypt, the continuing military lull and the Egyptians' own evaluation that under present circumstances they are incapable of renewing the war against Israel—either as a total war or a war of attrition."

Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last week that Israel does not want to annex totally the Arab territories it occupies in ensuring secure borders for the Jewish state in any peace settlement.

But the open threat by Al Fatah, the largest Palestinian guerrilla group, to assassinate in a matter of hours any Arab head of state who signs a peace agreement with Israel may slow down moves towards peace. Peace in the Middle East may depend on whether other Arab leaders are prepared to act as toughly as King Hussein and President Numeiri on the Palestinian extremists.

Military alliances are old hat

A former Foreign Minister of Thailand, Thanat Khoman, has appealed for a new type of co-operation between America and Thailand which does not necessarily involve the presence of US troops on Thai soil. Speaking recently in Delhi, he pointed out that Thailand had lived for many centuries without foreign troops. Rather than contributing to progress and bringing about security, foreign troops created more problems.

He mentioned the Mekong River Scheme, estimated to cost \$2 million, as one area where the US and other nations could help.

While Foreign Minister, he envisaged a policy of neutralisation for Thailand, but his advice was ignored. He feels that the US military alliance today makes Thailand's policies outdated.

With Malaysia likely to establish diplomatic relations with China within two months, the Thais may soon be forced by events to rethink their defence and security policies.

When HIMMAT asked Mr Khoman whether he anticipated pressures on Thailand after the settlement in Indo-China, the Thai statesman replied, "It depends how the Thailand Government deals with issues like the

border areas, guerrillas etc. If they deal with it wisely and effectively there is no danger but if the Government makes mistakes then one cannot tell."

At this turning point in South-East Asian affairs it is possible more attention will be paid to Khoman's views in Thailand and neighbouring nations than before.

Japan, full steam ahead

JAPAN, responsible for 48.4 per cent of the world ship-building production last year, remained the undisputed premier ship-building nation.

Of the total world production of 26,534,000 dwt, Japan claimed 12,835,000 dwt.

But Japan has only the world's second largest merchant fleet, as more than 50 per cent of the new ships built were exported.

- Ship exports account for nearly 8 per cent of Japan's exports.

- Today, 8 of the 10 biggest shipyards in the world are on Japanese soil.

- There are 16 shipyards (four under construction) which can make vessels of more than 200,000 dwt.

- Last year, Japan launched the giant 477,000 dwt tanker "Globtik Tokyo", the largest ever built.

In the period 1962-72, the tonnage produced increased fivefold, but the labour force only increased from 158,000 to about 180,000. This is due to sophisticated technology, rationalised labour plus sub-contracting.

Korean unity talks

Now that the South Korean elections are over and President Park has further consolidated his hold in the legislature, unity talks between the North and South are expected to begin soon.

The last talks were held in November. Since then, Premier Il Sung Kim of North Korea has become President under the new Constitution. President Park had a referendum last November to seek approval for his new Constitution and began a six-year presidential term.

The talks are not expected to be hindered by the guerrilla raid on the South Korean Island of U-Do on March 4 when a civilian nightwatchman was shot dead.

The unhealed wounds of Wounded Knee

THE American Indians — in the land of their birth and ancestry — are a poor dispossessed minority.

The 700,000 American Indians in the United States live either in special reservations of territory or in the slums of the big cities.

There are of course exceptions. Some American Indians have reached high positions in the business world and are integrated into modern America. But for the great majority they are alienated from the mainstream of society and feel keenly the wrongs done by the white man and the tragedy suffered by their race.

It was with this in mind that 200 militants of the American Indian Movement (AIM) seized control of the village of Wounded Knee (South Dakota) scene of the massacre of 200 of the Sioux tribe in 1890. The name of Wounded Knee has been made known recently across America through the

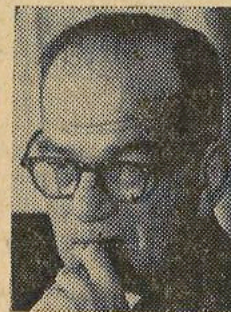
best seller "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee",* an historic survey of relations between the white man and the Red Indian.

The organisers of the seizure said that they wanted an investigation of the treatment of the Oglala Sioux and the "failure" of the United States Government to observe the terms of the treaties made with the American Indians. To reinforce these demands the American Indians held hostage 11 people in the village and said they would not release the hostages, nor vacate the village until their demands were met.

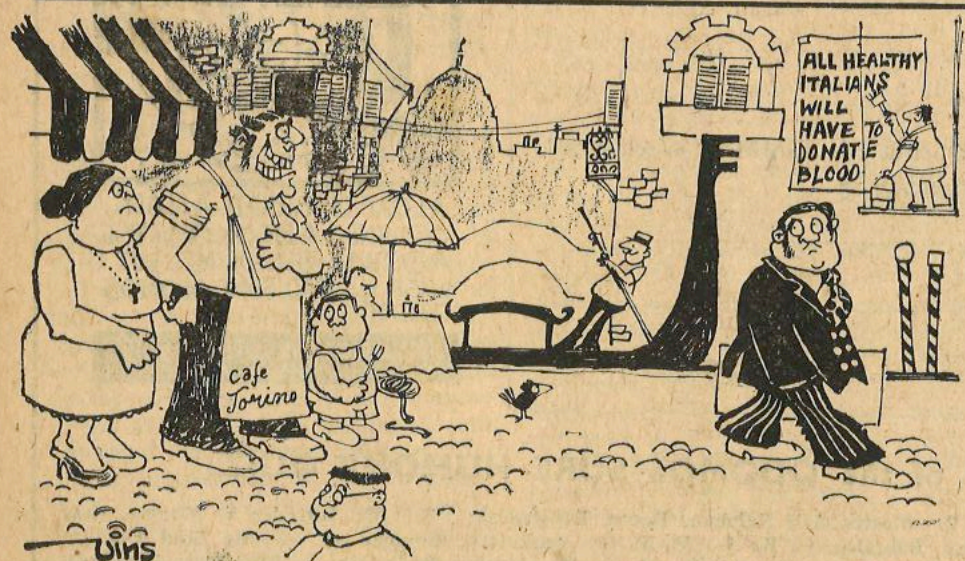
They also demanded that Senators Ted Kennedy and William Fulbright, Senate committee chairmen, come to Wounded Knee and conduct the investigations. In the event the two South Dakota Senators, George McGovern and James Abourezk, flew from Washington to the Pine Ridge Indian reservation.

The settlement was completely surrounded by police and US Government officials and the armed Indians inside Wounded Knee were in effect under siege. Senator Abourezk said before he left Washington that he was not going to negotiate

* Written by Dee Brown; published by Bantam; price \$ 1.95.



SENATOR FULBRIGHT: unable to come



"Go Giuseppe my son, donate blood, and remind them to visit Cafe Torino, via Lombino also open on Sundays all day!"

the American Indian demands but to work for the release of the hostages "There can be no negotiations with a gun at anyone's head."

The hostages were released by the Indians before any talks began but the 11 people decided to remain in their homes in Wounded Knee and not leave the embattled settlement. The two Senators then tried to persuade the American Indians to negotiate with the Department of Justice and US Government officials concerning Indian demands.

On March 10 a ceasefire was arranged between the Indians and the federal officials. Twenty-four hours later further fighting broke out. An FBI agent was shot in the wrist but Dennis Banks, an AIM leader, said his men were fired on first while travelling in a truck and then returned the fire.

The next day, March 12, an AIM spokesman in Wounded Knee declared the settlement "the Oglala Sioux nation, a sovereign state". If any American officials tried to enter the village it would be regarded as an act of war and treated accordingly. The Indians said that warrants issued for their arrest, by the US Government, would be ignored.

However Richard Wilson, Chief of the 12,000 Oglala Sioux Indians, said that many of his people resented the occupation of the village of Wounded Knee "by those renegades and vagrants", and wanted to kick them out by force. He said he may not be able to control his people.

According to the latest reports one of the hold-ups to an agreement between the federal authorities and the AIM leaders in Wounded Knee is the AIM demand that Wilson be thrown out as Chief and that the tribal constitution be suspended. This the Interior Department refuses to accept.

The Wounded Knee incident follows on after last November's occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington by American Indians and the destruction of government documents.

The US Government has increased the budget for Indian affairs by 15 per cent and has proposed greater devolution of power from Washington. But it will require considerable sensitivity on the part of US officials, politicians and the ordinary American to heal wounds of the past. Perhaps a first step would be to shed the corroding attitudes of paternalism in a bid to restore to the original inhabitants of the continent a sense of pride in their race.

BEST WORLD PRESS

Soviet copyrights

Until now the Soviet Government and individual Soviet citizens have been able to ignore with impunity the property rights of foreign authors, composers and movie-makers in their respective works — just as Westerners who wished to do so could ignore the similar rights of creative intellectuals in the Soviet Union. The suspicion is strong in the West — and with seemingly good reason — that more than ideology was involved in the Soviet distaste for copyrights. The Soviet Government benefited far more from its "borrowings" of Western material than it lost from unauthorised and uncompensated Western expropriation of analogous Soviet material.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

French vote for change

The French clearly stated what they did not want. They did not want a leftist common front which would sooner or later have been under Communist leader Georges Marchais. If the French have clearly expressed their rejection of the leftist front, should we assume that they have accepted the pure and simple retention of present policy? It would be a mistake to think so. Everywhere, the desire for change affirmed itself.

LE FIGARO, Paris

It is a whole era that has just ended. Gaullism is dead, to the extent that a certain form of absolute government is now impossible. The President, willing or unwilling, must resign himself to deep changes.

COMBAT, Paris

Not for the first time, the French Left has flattered only to deceive. Certainly, the early excitement over the fall in the Gaullist vote seemed exaggerated.

... A change in style as much as in policies is what the nation is looking for and the Gaullists have made their initial bow to public opinion by promising to work for a national "renewal." Translated in M. Pompidou's language, a renewal is rather less than change and he may well argue that the French voter has rejected the kind of radical transformation the Left had sought with nationalisation of banking, insurance and the bigger industrial units.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, Bombay

Pak POWs in India

Pakistan has recently revived its efforts to arouse public opinion on POWs in India. It is not guiltless itself, of course. Some 250,000 Bengalis were stranded in the then West Pakistan at the time of the war. Many were interned, others lost their jobs in the army and the civil service.

But they are not being held in prisoner-



Courtesy, Associated News, London

"And let me tell you about our easy installment plan..."

of-war camps. So it seems just to demand of India: Let the 90,000 go.

You won the war; you have established your supremacy on the subcontinent; You can afford to be generous and you can certainly afford to be humanitarian. Whatever happened, Mrs Gandhi, to the idealism of your father Nehru?

Robert Duffield, Foreign Editor,

THE AUSTRALIAN

Shake up for Tories and Labourites

From Gordon Wise in London

WITH all its faults, the "bourgeois" democratic system allows for completely unscheduled upsets. You cannot predict with certainty that such and such a party or candidate will receive 99.9 per cent of the votes cast. This was true of the General Elections in France and Ireland, and especially of three recent by-elections in Britain.

In Britain, the ruling Conservative Party trailed into third place in each

mobilised Labour Party machine. He had been forced into the position of resigning from the official Labour Party because of his support for the Common Market. When his local constituency party disowned him, he appealed to the national executive, only to be turned down again. As he wished to remain in politics, he decided to resign his seat and then run as a democratic Labour candidate. This was perhaps the only course available to him, other than swallowing his principles.

Labour took cold comfort from the Conservatives' rebuff. Labour's Chief Whip, Robert Mellish, had allowed no less than 78 of his back-benchers to absent themselves from Westminster to take part in the three by-elections. Said Mellish of Taverne's victory: "Lincoln was a great personal triumph for Mr Taverne, and it would be churlish to deny it. He was everything to all men. Labour people voted for him because they thought he was the Labour candidate, and Tories voted for him thinking he was a Tory."

He scoffed at the suggestion that these results forecast a revival of Liberal Party fortunes, and a possible Centre Party amalgamating the moderate Labour dissidents, the left-wing Conservatives, and the Liberals. "I have been an MP for 27 years, and this spectre of a Centre Party is raised every time there is a by-election success of this kind," said Mellish.

The Liberal Party leader, Jeremy Thorpe, who recently remarried after the tragic death of his first wife three years ago, sees a real chance that the Labour Party will disintegrate. "It is highly probable, but not yet certain, that we are witnessing the beginning of a new cycle of British politics," he claimed. "The two strands of British Socialism have been trade unionism and a sort of muted Marxism. Now the unions are increasingly led by extremists growing more and more shrill and the moderate trade unionists are increasingly alarmed."

Then analysing the Government's position, in "The Observer", Thorpe said, "On the other hand, there are millions of voters who will never be content with Conservatism. It offers no scope for generous imagination. It

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



JEREMY THORPE:
new hope for Liberals

of the three by-elections in electorates with widely differing class complexions. Labour, the present alternative government, likewise did badly. An independent Labour candidate, Dick Taverne, had an extraordinary victory at Lincoln. In the traditional Durham constituency of Chester-le-Street, although Labour won, the party's majority dropped alarmingly.

The Liberal Party did well, following on an earlier splendid by-election victory at industrial Rochdale. Common talk now in political circles is the possibility of the emergence of a Third Force, or a new Centre Party of some kind.

The touchstone of these predictions was the success of the independent Labour candidate (perhaps a true Social Democrat), Dick Taverne, at Lincoln.

Taverne trebled his own majority while running against the fully

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5. Mr P. G. Venkatesh, Bombay 9;
6. Mr Edul Darabsa Chikhliwala, Panchgani;
7. Mr L. N. Jayanthi, Madras 34;
8. Mr Mario Mascarenhas, Bangalore;
9. Miss Mary Meekings, Madras 34;
10. R. Maria Louis, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu.

The week in ASIA

CHANDIGARH — The Punjab Assembly passed an all-party, non official resolution asking the state Government to approach the Central Government to impose a statutory ban on all defections.

NEW DELHI — The World Health Organisation has estimated that Indian hospitals require 4.25 million units of 250 cc blood every year for transfusion but the actual donations average only 2.5 to 2 lakh units.

— The Jharkhand Party submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister containing a plea calling for a separate Jharkhand state in northern India.

— By the end of the century India will have a total installed capacity of 43 million kilowatts of nuclear power stated Dr H. N. Sethna, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

ALLAHABAD — The Allahabad University was closed following violent student demonstrations and the university registrar said that the university would open after the Holi festival.

GAUHATI — The Assam State Legislative Assembly met in a landmark session at Dispur heralding the return of this ancient city as the state capital after 800 years.

BHOPAL — The Madhya Pradesh Government has formally taken over the wholesale trade in wheat.

BOMBAY — Maharashtra is expected to lose Rs 100 crores in industrial production due to the power cut over a nine month period ending in June.

POONA — Natural disasters like the Koyna earthquake and more recently the drought have resulted in a unique fall in heavy crimes in this city according to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Poona.

BANGALORE — Mysore's 1973-74 budget showed a revenue deficit of Rs 67 crores and there were no proposals for new taxes.

VISHAKHAPATNAM — Rear Admiral Kulkarni, newly appointed Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command took over charge at a ceremonial parade.

End humiliation of South Africa's non-Whites

Appeal to Premier Vorster from Japie Basson, South Africa's 'Shadow' Foreign Minister

'The Daily News', Durban (February 22, 1973), published the following article by Graham Fysh from the Press Gallery, House of Assembly, Cape Town:

THE Front-bench United Party MP, Mr Japie Basson, yesterday called on the Prime Minister, in the interests of the safety of the White man in South Africa, to end those practices which humiliate and aggrieve the non-Whites and made them enemies of the White man.

"Our trouble is not that we are a multi-national country," he told the House. "Nor is it even the Government's policy.

"But our trouble is that we are the only country in the world in which a man is officially humiliated and degraded because of the colour of his skin.

"A person who is not White is officially denied contact with others to improve his life. He is denied contact to fulfil his ambitions because he is coloured.

"I know the Prime Minister pretends he knows nothing about this. He can see no evil.

"But the government prescribes different uniforms for nurses — the uniform for Coloured nurses is different from that of the White nurses. Why?

Inferiority

"We all know what the real reason is, that they should not only be seen to be separate, but that they should be seen to be inferior. That's the truth behind it.

"My daughter is teaching at a Coloured school to help out until she starts studying again. White teachers, who do the same work as the Coloured teachers and have the same qualifications, receive R 105 a month more in salary.

"Coloured teachers, on the whole, have to work harder — and there is an appalling lack of facilities at their schools.

"Is the Prime Minister aware of the intense hatred developing among the Coloured professional classes over this unfair and unequal treatment?"

Mr Basson said this feeling must inevitably flow over into the thousands of children who formed the new generation.

"And a new generation is growing

up because they pass through these schools with hatred for the White man," he said.

He spoke about the Coloured, African and Indian policemen on the border who were fighting to keep South Africa safe.

"I take my hat off to them," Mr Basson said. "But are these people paid the same salary as the Whites or not? Or is it a case of unequal pay for equal danger?"

Small minority of jingos

Mr Basson recalled the discussion he had with the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, on the floor of the House on petty apartheid two years ago. But, he said, he was not going to argue that any further.

BASSON'S 'WAR OF CONSCIENCE'

MR JAPIE BASSON, South African MP, last September called for a "war of conscience" to change South Africa.

Basson, Opposition Front Bench spokesman, made this appeal, along with two other politicians representing the Coloured people and an African Bantustan, at the Moral Re-Armament world assembly in Switzerland.

On his return to South Africa Basson spoke at an open meeting in Cape Town with black, white and brown South African parliamentary and university leaders. He said that politicians often start with a conviction then tailor it to suit the prejudices of their colleagues and constituents. This was why it was vital if South Africa was to "become a model of co-operation and compassion", that "each of us make a personal spiritual commitment".

"We need the courage to carry out those convictions ... MRA gives hope, tremendous hope and commonness of purpose," he said.



MR JAPIE BASSON: courage of conviction

"It is not relevant here what we as White people think," Mr Basson continued — a statement which aroused the ire of the Nationalists, particularly the back-benchers.

"What is relevant is how the non-White leaders think."

Mr Vorster made it his work these days to make contact with South Africa's non-White leaders, Mr Basson said. Thus he ought to know what the people were thinking of apartheid. He should know, too, that the people themselves differentiated between separate development and apartheid.

Mr Tom Swartz, the Coloured leader, for example, accepted separate development but detested apartheid.

The Prime Minister would hear to an increasing degree what these leaders thought about humiliating apartheid.

"All that remains is for us to ask the Prime Minister when he is going to act on that. He has the power. No one else does.

"We will not find the answers until we move away from having colour as a norm."

Mr Basson spoke of separate lifts, separate counters and separate seats — all obvious insults which had to be removed.

"Through having these the non-White is being told he is not capable of sitting on the same seat as a White man or of riding in the same lift."

Mr Basson said if there was still

a section of "White jingos" who were still so backward that they objected to riding in a lift with a non-White, he thought it was time they were forced to better insight through action.

"We cannot let a small minority of White jingos determine the future.

"The Government should set an example. Every one of the petty apartheid measures is nothing more than official White rudeness.

"The White child, as he grows up, notices that the Coloured person must always go round the back.

"And here in this House, Mr Tom Swartz, the leader of 2 million Coloured people, sits partitioned off in a

corner. He cannot sit with the others. I cannot take him for a cup of tea in the tearoom of this House.

"Every White child who sees this can come to only one conclusion — that the non-White must be seen to be inferior.

"The Government's apartheid policy creates a spirit of looking down upon the non-White. We will have to get rid of this.

"It is the policy of this Government which creates a spirit of rudeness towards non-Whites. The Government must uproot this spirit."

What did it help, Mr Basson asked, if Chief Kaiser Matanzima and

Chief Gatsha Buthelezi could travel to any part of the world and enjoy a cup of tea in any capital in the world and go to the opera house in any world capital, but so-called White South Africa is the one country where not one of them can have a cup of tea in Cape Town and cannot set foot in the Opera House.

"How long must we, as Whites, continue with this stupidity?"

"If we are in trouble one day will we have a right to call on their friendship?"

He called on the Prime Minister, in the interests of the safety of the White man in this country, to end those practices which humiliated and aggrieved the non-Whites in this country and made them enemies of the White man.

The Commonwealth:

Forum for frankness without rancour

Reginald Holme interviews the International Affairs Director of this 850-million-strong "organism"

EMEKA ANYAOKU, the 39-year-old Nigerian who is Director of the Commonwealth Secretariat's International Affairs Division, believes that Britain's participation in the European Economic Community "need not be incompatible with the future strength and cohesion of the Commonwealth".

"The value of the Commonwealth," he told me in a London interview, "lies not just in its trade links but in its spanning of regional differences in a world that must more and more realise the interdependence of its peoples."

Mr Anyaoku has a considerable world-spanning task himself. As Director of the International Affairs Division he is Chief Adviser on Political and International Affairs to Mr Arnold Smith, the Secretary General. He is responsible for many-sided Commonwealth activities such as the organisation of Prime Ministers' meetings.

In October, for instance, Mr Anyaoku was in Ottawa, Canada, for a meeting of Commonwealth Cabinet Secretaries and other senior officials preparing for this year's Heads of Commonwealth Government conference there. In London he is in constant touch with all the Commonwealth High Commissions.

As the man chiefly responsible for these top-level gatherings Mr Anyaoku is helping further to develop something which is as much a living organism as an organisation. This may be of world importance.



PREPARING COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' MEETING IN OTTAWA: Pierre Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister, talks with M. A. Husain, Deputy Secretary General (Political), Commonwealth Secretariat; Emeka Anyaoku, Director of International Affairs, of the Secretariat; and Arnold Smith, Commonwealth Secretary General.

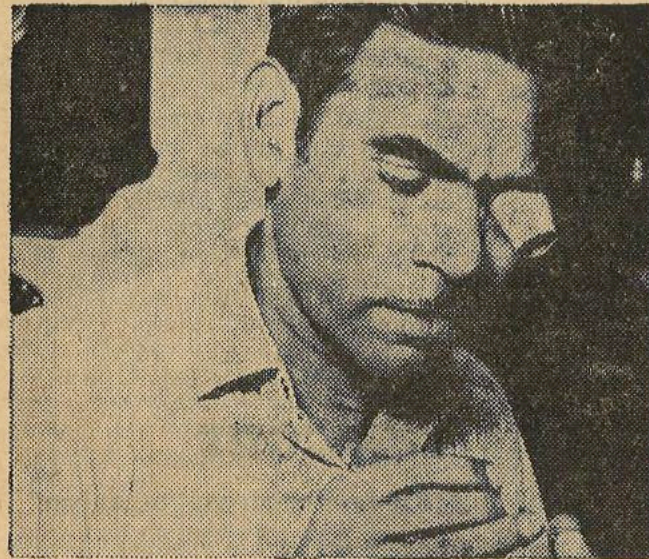
Already flexible and informal, the Commonwealth is intended to grow as a forum for frankness without rancour. Heads of Government at their Singapore meeting in 1971 directed that "a study be made of ways and means of restoring greater intimacy and informality to their meetings". The aim was to "create an atmosphere conducive to frank and spontaneous discussion". In addition to preparing recommendations on how this can be brought about, the senior officials who met in Ottawa

also discussed the various techniques of Government in member countries.

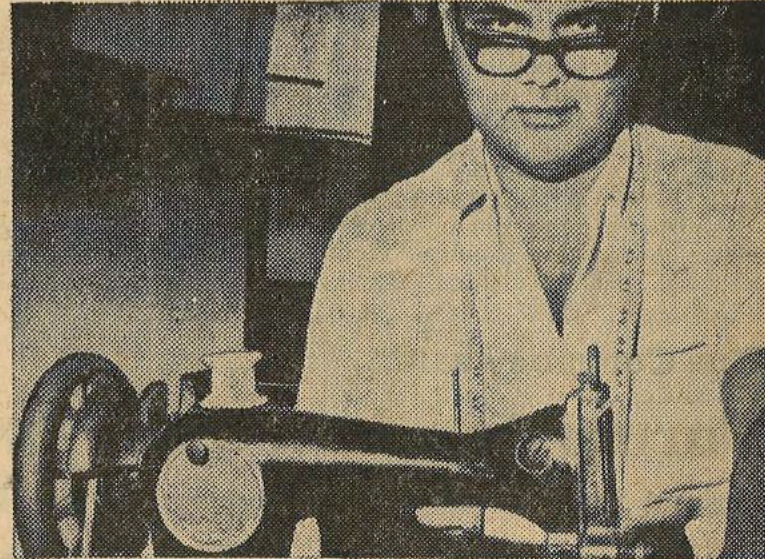
There are 31 of these governments and they govern 850 million people who make up one quarter of the world's population. A glance at the individual membership figures shows that India with some 550 million people is the elephant among the co-operative creatures in this forest. Bangladesh with 70 million comes next and Nigeria, Mr Anyaoku's country, is third with its 60 million.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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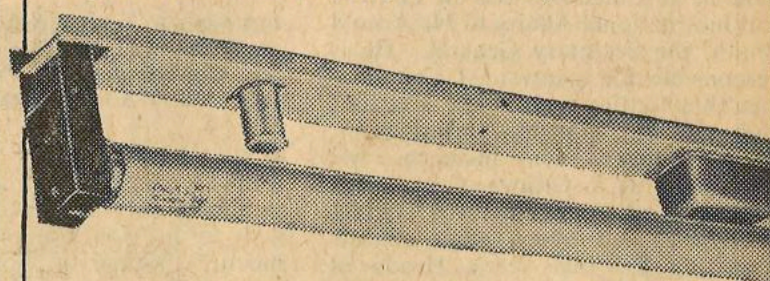


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Begging—a profitable profession India has 5.5 million beggars

by A. M. Mathew

HE sang his usual song and made the routine collection from the railway passengers. Villagers going to work generously contributed their paise for the blind beggar. Just before noon one day the passenger train I was on crawled into a junc-

a different man. His "duty hours" over, he was sipping a cold drink with friends and making merry!

After a few trips on the same train I observed that this was the daily routine of the blind beggar.

Beggars have been a part of our social landscape for centuries. And despite the floods and droughts that are second nature to our climate, they have fared rather well in the "struggle for existence". Bombay, with 54,000 beggars, is today the leading city in the world for beggar population.

Beggary is a very old profession with us, and it is one of the few "industries" showing a consistent growth rate throughout the Five Year Plans.

The number of beggars in India at present is 5.5 million. This is equal to the population of Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland and Manipur put together. If you add up the number of Sikhs, Anglo-Indians, Goans, Parsis and Orthodox Syrian Christians in India, it will make only half the strength of the Indian beggar community. And their number is growing daily. Beggars are the only minority group not enjoying or clamouring for minority rights. Yet, if you consider their number, they are a sizable minority group.

With the stress on education in the Five Year Plans our literacy rate was expected to rise sharply. But the actual achievement can be judged from the fact that beggars still outnumber college students by two to

one. For every college student in India sitting in the class room there are two beggars on the street.

And the beggars are apparently making a good job of it. While a young graduate's prospects are unemployment and starvation, beggars are able to earn their living—sometimes making modest fortunes. In 1971 a Bombay beggar taken unconscious to hospital was found to have a tidy sum of Rs 4600 in his belt. Beggary is no longer synonymous with penury.

The average earning of an Indian beggar is Rs 2 a day. And the city beggar earns much more than this. It does happen sometimes that the alms giver is poorer than the beggar!

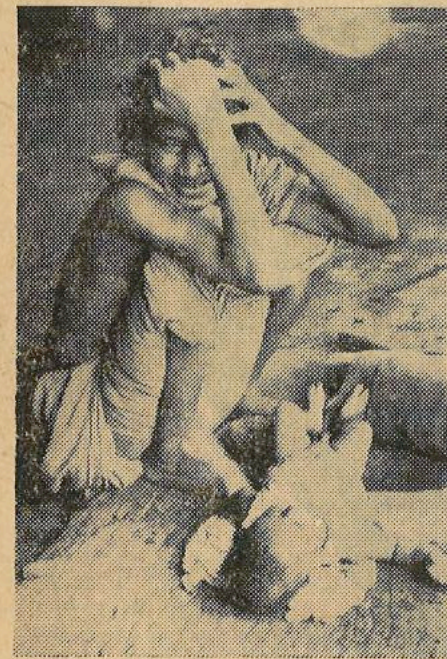
Madras and Calcutta are a beggar's paradise. The average income of a beggar in these two cities is Rs 8 a day. This is more than the average daily wage of factory workers in the majority of Indian states. It is one of the paying professions free from tax. A clerical worker, who draws a salary of less than Rs 240 a month, is worse off than a city beggar in Madras or Calcutta.

The difficulties of a handicapped beggar are compensated by his income, which, in the case of a city beggar can be as high as Rs 20 a day. Our enemies may accuse our nation of stinginess, but facts prove that we are a generous lot. We daily spend Rs 1.1 crore on the maintenance of our beggar population.

With the money spent on beggars since India's independence we could have financed 50 Bokaro Steel Plants or built 2506 units of the Indian Telephone Industries of Bangalore.

The maintenance of beggars for a year costs us Rs 4015 million or the annual revenue receipts of Orissa,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



BEGGARS: part of our social landscape

tion and I got out of the carriage for a cup of coffee. What a surprise awaited my eyes! There was the blind beggar on the platform, quite

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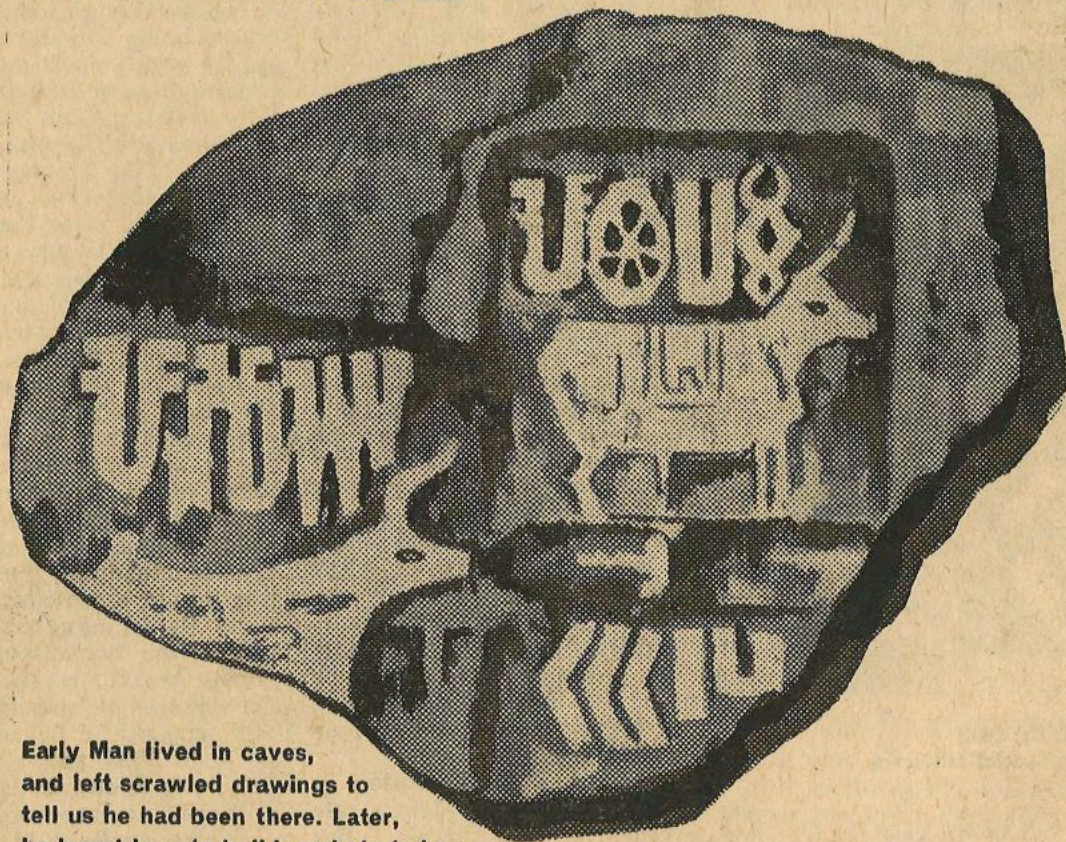
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IVAN

THE COMMONWEALTH — from page 13

"Mother" United Kingdom with a mere 56 million citizen cells in her body must feel like the hen that hatched some ostrich eggs!

And indeed an Indian is one of the two Deputies to Mr Arnold Smith, the Secretary General. He is Mr M. A. Husain, Deputy Secretary-General (Political). (See photo page 13).

In addition to his world-ranging role Mr Anyaoku is also Deputy Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society. He is the youngest man and the first non-Britisher to hold this post in the Society's 104 year history.

He received me in his unpretentious office in Marlborough House in a friendly, modest manner. I understood why some press personnel connected with Commonwealth work referred to him quite naturally as "Emeka".

With Commonwealth Mother Britain's entry into the European Economic Community I asked Mr Anyaoku what effect he thought this was going to have in the future on the rest of the large "family".

"It is not incompatible with her Commonwealth role for Britain to join a regional association," he said. "It is like an African nation of the Commonwealth being a member of the OAU, the Organisation of African Unity, or a Caribbean country joining a regional federation."

Wouldn't Britain's preoccupation with the European Community or Common Market tend to draw away her interest in the Commonwealth? I asked. Wasn't there also a tendency in Australia and New Zealand, for instance, to turn more to their Pacific neighbours for trade—Australia to Japan, and to America?

Mr Anyaoku leant forward in his chair. He was—perhaps typically—not sitting barricaded for security and impressiveness behind his desk.

BEGGARS — from page 15

Punjab and Haryana. Beggary is often an organised business in the major cities of India. Professional beggars who belong to such beggar firms receive a daily wage in return for the daily collections they hand over to their employers. They have no fear of starvation.

It does not need more figures to realise that begging is a lucrative business. No capital is required. Lack of previous experience is no impediment. There is no age limit. The older or the younger you are, the better your prospects of making money and there is no prescribed age for retirement.

He was out in the office with his interviewer where we sat on some informally arranged chairs.

Not just economic

"The value of the Commonwealth," he said, with sensitive fingers stabbing the air to press home the point, "lies not in its trade links. Its raison d'être—the purpose of its existence—is not primarily economic or for the promotion of trade and economic links.

"The important thing is that it spans regional differences in a world which has more and more need to realise the interdependence of its people.

"Isolationism is not likely to pay. The world needs to develop link-ups for dialogue."

I asked Mr Anyaoku how you could reconcile membership of the Commonwealth with the widespread differences in systems of Government among the member nations, some of which were far from democratic or parliamentary.

"The Commonwealth does not mean that only like-minded peoples should be together. We have to promote dialogue between people representing different outlooks, different states of economic development and yet able to communicate among themselves," he replied.

The half hour we had allotted for our conversation—he preferred that term to "interview", perhaps in line with Commonwealth informality—came to an end. As I rose to leave I noted that his colourful tie of purple with white curving patterns was pleasing and indicated a lively personality without self-display.

Soon Mr Anyaoku would leave the office for his home where he enjoys family life—when he is not visiting his larger Commonwealth family—with his wife, who is a Yoruba from Western Nigeria. The combination of Ibo initiative and drive with Yoruba business acumen must produce an effective team and no doubt reflects itself in their three children.

It was refreshing to have been with a man whose organisation or organism breathes a spirit of co-operation and hope.

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makes little appeal to intellectual reformers. Its interests cannot be identified with those of huge numbers of people, even in a property-owning democracy."

His point is that there is an enormous mass of electors who are dissatisfied and disgruntled with the Labour Party, but who would not feel at home with the Conservative Party. His hope is that the Liberal Party

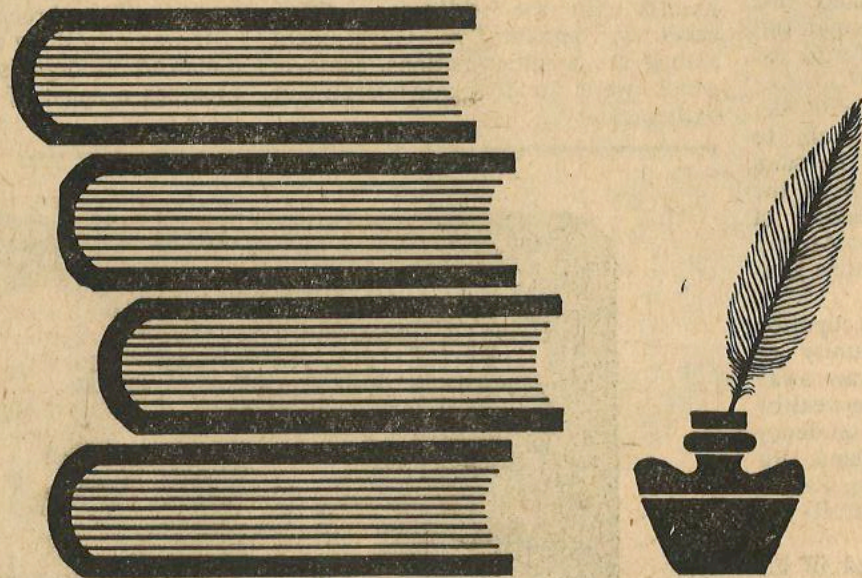
will attract them.

Whether or not a new party of the Centre will start to burgeon, the by-election results seem to indicate one thing quite clearly: the mass of electors have an attitude of "a plague on both your houses" towards the two main parties.

According to the outstanding political columnist, Ronald Butt, in "The Sunday Times", "The truth is

that we already have a Centre Party; it is led by Mr Heath, even though the Prime Minister's conversion to this position is recent and many Conservatives are out of sympathy with it." Concludes Butt, "But what the voter wants is a clear choice of politics and the assurance that, having chosen the Government, that Government will have the courage and consistency of its own party's convictions. That is the real meaning of Lincoln."

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Viewpoint Should there be smaller states? What should be the yardstick of division?

Smaller states, greater participation

Rs 25 to Miss Veena Shenoy, Patna 800001

THERE should be smaller states. Democracy is the rule of the people and therefore the extent and proportion of people's representation determines its success. Smaller states ensure a greater degree of participation in Government, contact between ruler and ruled and consequent peace and prosperity.

In administering and legislating for large areas and population, the weaker regions and minorities are neglected — even exploited — in the interests of the majority. Often it is too late when the leviathan of administrative machinery, fettered by red-tapism, hoists itself up to help in an emergency.

With smaller states the needs and aspirations of people can be better assessed. Grass-root plans can be laid out and closer co-operation obtained in their execution thus maximising efficiency and productivity.

Small states can act as a brake on the overriding power of the Centre and can better sympathise with and espouse the cause of the weaker people and backward regions. Political decentralisation benefits every denomination and region.

Smaller states are not necessarily

anti-federal, nor do they cause provincialism or parochialism. Their very smallness calls for co-operation with other states in tackling problems and thus engenders unity in the country.

Though smaller states may place a burden on the exchequer by duplicat-

Not more states but less selfishness

Rs 15 to E. K. Johny, Trichur

A radical reorganisation of the administrative map of India, creating a large number of small states, is not called for in the present Indian conditions. However, I do not favour a static approach to the problem. Some of the existing states, though not unwieldy now, will be so within a few years. Such situations must be met with an open mind and in a pragmatic way by a competent body of men disinterested and consecrated to the common good.

The criterion that should inspire the creation of a new state should only be the common good. Common good, however, depends on many factors like religion, language, administrative conscience, history, economy, culture, geography, etc.

Those who advocate the fragmentation of India into many small states hold that it will hasten economic development and assure administrative efficiency. But our

ing government organs and personnel, this is outweighed by the sense of responsibility and interest evoked among people, thus resulting in increasing output. We have only to look at the miracle that is Haryana to see what a small state can do.

For a state to justify its formation and existence it should be capable of becoming gradually less dependent on the Centre. If a small state can hold its own why not let it? The good of the people rather than race, linguism, caste and creed should be the yardstick of division.

experience so far does not offer us any absolute guarantee to that effect. Our panchayats and municipalities prove the falsity of such hopes, we do not change the quality of the goods by tearing it into pieces. We need, perhaps, a change in man.

Economically speaking, smaller states will mean smaller potentiality to carry through bold projects. Besides, poor as we are, we cannot afford the luxury of multiplying a costly administrative machinery. Moreover, smaller states will breed greater regional chauvinism and thwart national integration and unity. Our talents will be stunted; the horizon of our views narrowed down.

The present demand for smaller states does not come from a genuine desire for greater efficiency but from the unwillingness of greedy politicians to work together. The need of the day calls for maintaining the status quo and not a needless fragmentation which will only create more problems without solving any of the existing ones.

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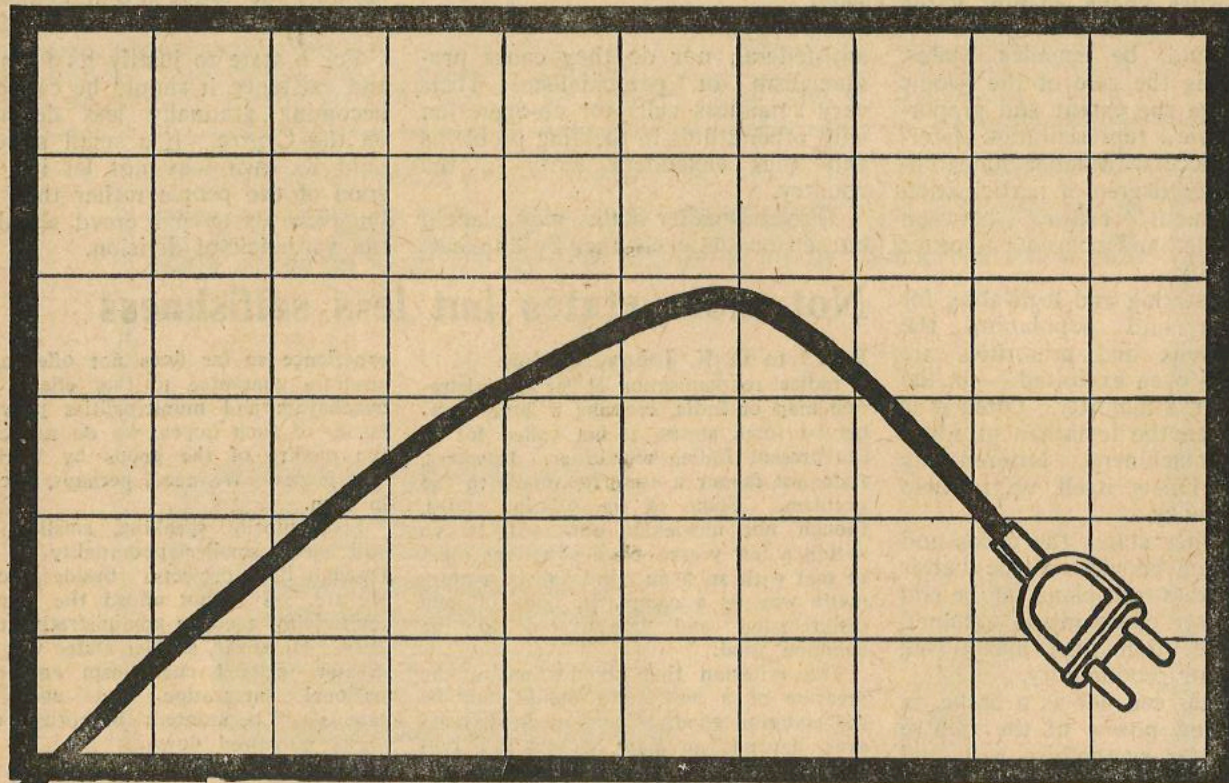
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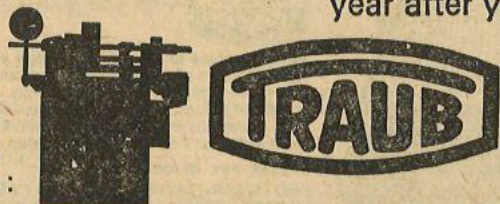
** In the interests of production and employment should the big companies be allowed expand?
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HIMMAT, March 23, 1973

Letters

BUDGET

If all talk of social justice is to have any meaning, then the Union Budget 1973-74 should have dealt with two important problems.

First, MPs, MLAs and Ministers should be put on the same level as citizens who elect them. The huge perquisites enjoyed by the ruling elite should be treated as income and taxed.

Second, all incomes below Rs 15,000 or Rs 16,000 should be exempted from direct taxation. A few good reasons are:

1) The rupee is barely worth one-eighth of its 1939 value, and as such the exemption limit should be proportionately increased.

2) It is this class which needs more money in its hands for their children's education and health, and savings for old age. Unlike western countries where part of the taxes paid by citizens come back to them in the form of unemployment insurance, old age pension and other social benefits, in India people have to fend for themselves.

M. R. PAI, Bombay 1

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

THE real cause of the fiasco of the local leadership in so many states is due to the distressing trend in Indian politics in which the pyramid of power is precariously balanced on its tip instead of on its base. Men in the ruling party have set a bad precedent by seeking help for all matters, irrespective of its regional or national nature, from the Prime Minister only. This naturally erodes their confi-

dence in resolving crises by themselves and with their people.

If we do not want to face the recurrence of incidents like the Andhra trouble in future let the pyramid of power be placed on its base formed by a large number of local leaders who have the guts, vision and goodwill among people to solve any crisis.

S. PADMANABHA BHARATHI,
Madras 5

BOMBAY ELECTIONS

THE comments made by the Congress President, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, on the Bombay civic elections are in bad taste. He has said that the Congress was not to blame for its reverses in this election as it was preoccupied with drought relief operations. In fact, all political parties in Maharashtra were taking part in the drought relief operations.

Secondly, he has assailed the rise of other parties like the Jan Sangh, saying that they are communal and reactionary and that they have risen to power in Bombay with the help of vested interests within the country and foreign forces not favourably disposed towards India. He has also said that this should serve as a warning to the people.

Dr S. D. Sharma is clearly seeking alibis for his party's defeat which has come as a big shock to him and his party-men. The real cause for his party's defeat was its declining popularity due to the "Vande Mataram" issue, rising prices and unemployment. It was also due to the complacency of the Congress party itself, which thought that the "Indira Wave" was still blowing very strongly in the country.

A. R. IYER, Bombay 8



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PROMISE OF PLENTY WITH 

HIMMAT, March 23, 1973

This was a Life

PEARL SYDENSTRICKER
BUCK
1892 - 1973

SHE became an immediate celebrity following the publication of "The Good Earth" in 1931. This novel is the story of the rise of a Chinese peasant to power. It was translated into thirty languages and also made into a film. Though a prolific writer of nearly 70 books her fame rests chiefly upon this work.

Pearl S. Buck was above all a writer with a mission. She sought to bring the East and the West closer together. Through her writings she focussed public attention on the human concerns which fundamentally unite mankind despite cultural differences and political conflicts. Her training and background amply prepared her for this task.

She was born in West Virginia, USA. Her parents had returned to their family home after spending 12 years in China as Presbyterian missionaries. When she was five months old they went back to China.

Her parents did not live in the community set apart for foreigners and she grew up in Chinkiang on the Yangtse River. Her playmates were Chinese and she was a welcome guest in their homes. She learned to speak Chinese before she could speak English. With lessons from her American mother in the morning and a Chinese tutor in the afternoon she became "mentally bifocal".

At 17 she joined the Randolph-Macon College in Virginia from where she graduated. In 1917 she married Dr John Lossing Buck and went to live with him in a small town in North China, the region that she describes so vividly in "The Good Earth".

From childhood onwards Pearl Buck had felt the urge to write. "I am one of those unfortunate creatures who cannot function completely unless she is writing, has written or is about to write a novel," she confesses.

She was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1938, the first American woman to receive that honour. Her "rich and genuine epic portrayals of Chinese life" received special commendation from the Nobel Committee.

Pearl Buck was also a true philanthropist who led a busy and active life in child welfare work. She is the founder of Welcome House, an adoption agency for children of mixed Asian-American blood.

F.M.



Is it the truth?

by Rajmohan Gandhi

OUR country has just been awarded a prize.

India has been named first. The competition? How to make it difficult for other countries to help in your industrialisation.

The verdict has been handed down by the leader of a British business delegation to India. Mr Noel Burne, leading a 13-man mission on behalf of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, has said that India probably holds the record of being the most difficult country to do business with.

Calling for the simplification of current procedures, he told business men in Bombay that unless this was done "the country would strangulate itself to death by its own controls".

Mr Burne was not exactly announcing a fresh discovery. But his comments have received front page treatment because of their plain language.

Some of the points he made are as follows:

A large number of business men did not come to India because other countries have simpler procedures.

The processing of an industrial licence in India took anything from six months to two years, as it had to pass through about 25 stages of scrutiny. Financial and customs regulations were also equally dilatory. The delays frustrated quick decisions and often brought negotiations for joint ventures to a halt.

These conditions made it difficult to convince men in the UK or the West to invest their capital in India.

Power generators were on British shelves for the asking but Indian regulations came in the way of their import. The extent of the power cut he had observed was horrifying. The Indian and British Governments could work out a suitable aid programme to import the British power generators.

India could sell much more in foreign markets. It should also alter its import procedures, otherwise there was a danger that machinery imported into India would become outdated by the time it reached Indian shores.

India should learn from Singa-

pore's example. A factory, presumably with British collaboration, was recently built in Singapore in four months after the idea was promoted.

Having said all this Mr Burne wished to add that his delegation's visit should be considered a success, for something was achieved where nothing was expected. The purpose of the visit was "to promote joint ventures and collaboration agreements".

What will be our reaction to this outspoken expression of views? Some in our Government will defend the prevailing procedures. They will quote instances of longer delays in other nations. Others will speak of foreign-owned firms in India that have made large profits.

They may be right. However, it would be a mistake not to examine coolly the burden of Mr Burne's remarks.

What is his central point? That countries like Britain are ready to bring to India the benefits of modern industrial growth and research but find that in practice they are impeded. He seeks the truth.

This is not a left-right issue. Mr Burne did not speak of socialism or capitalism or statism. His was not a criticism of the doctrine behind our Government's industrial policy. For all we know Mr Burne may be an advocate of a good measure of socialism in an economy like India's. Men of his kind probably do a lot of business with countries like the Soviet Union, East Germany and the rest of East Europe. It is quite likely that a Birmingham delegation has visited or would visit China.

The issue is technical and practical, and not one of principle of doctrine, unless of course our Government decides that India should pursue an isolationist course. Isolationism holds no appeal for our Prime Minister or our people. We have no wish to ape the rest of the world, nor have we desire to build walls around us. We have confidence in ourselves and in our attachment to our roots, and want the winds to blow towards us.

We are clear that science and

technology are our friends and that for the sake of her millions India must modernise herself. And at no time have we resolved that this modernisation must originate in every detail within our borders or that we would treat the progress of the rest of the world with contempt. We have much that the rest of the world may need, and other nations may have much that we need.

The Singapore story is not irrelevant to us. Lee Kuan Yew was and is a socialist. With some of his political views many in our country might disagree. But we cannot deny his island's economic advance. We cannot truthfully say that this advance has only benefited a handful of the rich. We cannot refute the fact that all former slum dwellers in Singapore now have decent flats, or that new houses rise with astonishing speed.

To Lee Kuan Yew trade and industrial agreements with other countries are not necessary evils to be tolerated or minimised or postponed. He has regarded them as a means of easing and enriching the lives of his people.

Singapore has excellent relations with India. It is developing its contacts with countries like the Soviet Union without reducing its economic ties with West. Its effective, businesslike and speedy treatment of industrial and commercial propositions from other nations has not eroded its political independence.

If a small country like Singapore can conduct itself with such confidence, must India behave nervously?

It would seem that not only Yugoslavia but other countries of East Europe offer a warm welcome to proposals of investors from the West. Why should it be wrong or unprincipled for India to do likewise?

We enjoy a period of political stability. It would be unrealistic to assume that this period will be endless. We should make the most of the chance we now have to expand our industrial base and provide our people with modern amenities.

COMPETITION No. 322
SOLUTION



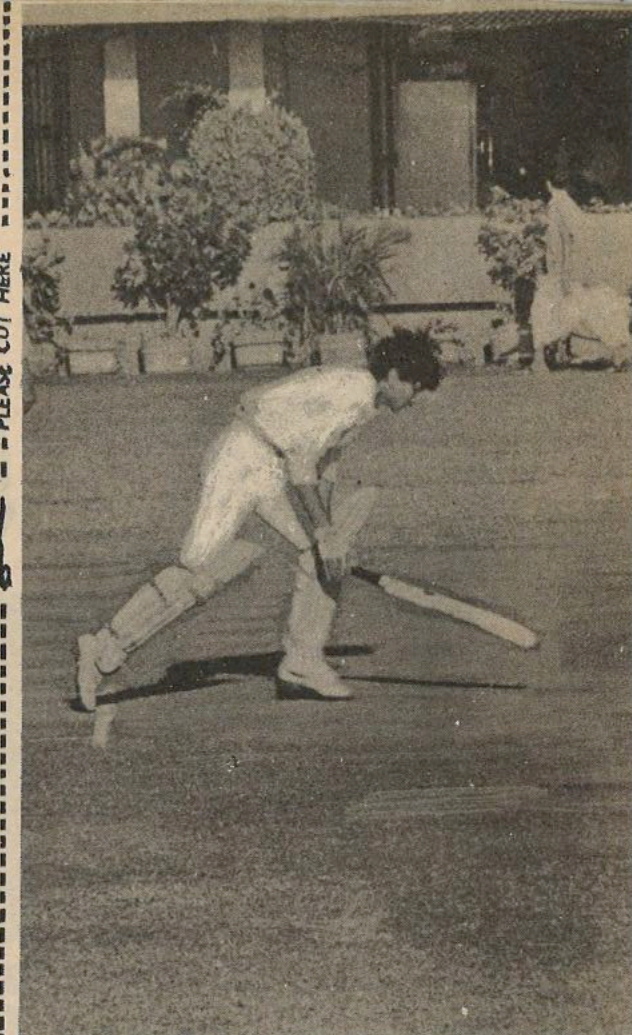
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First Prize of Rs 25 goes to A.J. George, St Charles Seminary, Seminary Hill, Nagpur-6. (1 mm from ball)

Second Prize (Eagle Vacuum Flask) goes to Umesh Kumar, L.No.750, I.Sc.B, St Xavier's, Hazaribagh, Bihar. (1.5 mm from ball)

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The winner will be announced in the following issue. You may not send more than **Six Entries** in any competition. **N.B.** only **one cross** may be marked on each picture. The Editor's decision is final.

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