

The following article was handwritten on toilet paper by Dr. Jagan while he was in prison in 1954 and then smuggled out.

Prisoners Walk Out.

Sunday- at- Noon at Georgetown jail is the “Uplift Hour.” Outside of forced labour, forced church going and bad food, this is really the occasion for much fun and enjoyment. This is exclusively the prisoners ‘ show. They get together to entertain themselves with songs, quizzes and speeches.

On Sunday, June 6th, Comrade C. Jagan, who is now serving a six-month prison sentence for a breach of the order made by Governor Alfred Savage restricting his movement, mounted the platform and spoke. His topic was ; “Thou Shall Not Steal.” He first dealt with petty thieving, the law and punishment from the early days when persons were drawn and quartered for stealing sharp or such like He then pointed out the nature of capitalist robbery of the working class – and suggested that the biggest thieves – who generally made the laws and were quick to apply the cat – were outside of the jails.

Two days after, Comrade Jagan was ushered before the acting Supt. of Prison. He was told that in the future he was not to take part in the “Uplift Hour”. If he wanted to speak, he must submit what (non-controversial matter) he wanted to speak on, and stick to his subject; should he stray from the subject matter agreed to, he would be warned to desist. If he disobeyed, action will be taken against him.

As a protest against this attempt to gag the right of free speech, the prisoners took action. When Sunday ----June 13th came around, they all quietly lined up –and marched off to be locked up in their cells.

* Not exactly sure on words highlighted in Yellow

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Cheddi Jagan Research Centre

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