

The Recall

By Cheddi B. Jagan Sc, D, D, S.

The government of most countries have their legislators and public officials elected by the majority will of the people. As a general rule, most of these officials recruited from the middle and upper classes. As soon as they are elected, quite a few of them begin to represent their own class interests, with the result that the working classes soon lose faith in them. The working classes are therefore insisting upon their right to oust elected persons at will or to pass judgement upon their continuance in authority at any time during their terms of service. This device is known as the Recall. The principle upon which it is based is that elected officials are merely the agents of the majority will of the people and that the voters should have at all times an opportunity to pass upon the conduct of their representatives. The British Guiana Trades Union Council is to be congratulated for sponsoring the Recall to be used if necessary against elected members of the Legislative Council.

It is being said that this provision does not apply in Great Britain, U. S. A. and Russia. This is not wholly true. In applying any yard-stick in British Guiana, we must be careful in taking into consideration the constitutional developments and background of various countries as compared to British Guiana.

The Soviet Constitution has provision for recall. In Great Britain, the Cabinet system of government fixes responsibility on the party in power. There is more or less strict party discipline. Under these conditions, there is no actual need for recall. The vote of no confidence in the Governments in to the cabinet party system what the recall is to the no party system of independent members.

In the U. S. A., there is no cabinet party system in the strict sense of the English type. Responsibility is more diffuse. It goes beyond party lines, and is shared by the executive, the legislative and the judiciary. Party discipline is not very strict. In fact one finds that on many important measures members of Congress will vote outside of parties. In these cases, voting usually takes place along lines of interests—liberals of both parties together in one camp the reactionaries in another. In such an American governmental background, recall should be an absolutely necessary provision. It should be incorporated into the federal constitution. The reality of present-day American politics, however, will not admit of any such reform. Legislators of the type Bilbo and Rankin who will filibuster

in Congress even against the abolition of the poll-tax, will prefer to start another civil war than see the introduction of the popular democratic Initiative, Referendum and recall. Despite the fact that recall is not a federal provision; American reformers have made its introduction possible in over a thousand municipalities, and in twelve of the progressive state legislatures.

The situation in British Guiana is different from any of the three countries mentioned. There is an income qualification of \$100 per month or property qualification of \$1000 of immovable property for candidates seeking election to the Legislative Council. At such, many working class candidates will be debarred. Middle class and upper class prospective candidates will appear with glittering promises before the electorate, the majority of whom will be working class people. There being no system of party politics, there can be no strict party discipline. Those elected will be free to carry out individual lines of action for a too long period of five years. Being governed under such a set-up, the working classes of B. G. have every right to insist that the provision of Recall of legislative members be incorporated into the constitution of British Guiana.

B. G. Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha Visit Through-out Essequibo Coast

At The Monthly Executive Meeting of B. G. Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha held on the 1st September 1946, among other matters it was decided that Maha Sabha will visit throughout the Essequibo Coast between Saturday 14th and Monday 16th.

Delegates comprising of the Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh, O.B.E., Mr. Pitambar Doobay, Pandit Rampher Tiwari, Pandit Kedarnath, Pandit Dowlat Ram, Paltu Dass the Secretary Pandit Lalman Sukul and others proposed to hold meeting at Hampton Court on Saturday 14th September at 8 p.m.

On Sunday 15th September 2 p.m. at Anna Regina. at 8 p.m. at Affiance and on Monday 16th September at 9 a.m. at Hurst Dieren Essequibo. They will then return to Georgetown on the same day. All Sanatanists of the Essequibo Coast are asked to attend these meetings and to give their cooperation in making the visit of the Sabha a success.

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