

WHO CONTROLS THE PRESS AND RADIO?

By CHELSEA JAGAN.

A few months ago, Mr. Celestine De Freitas complained at a Chamber of Commerce Meeting "It was ridicule which was being placed on the Chamber and pointed to the type of person like the Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan getting on a public platform at the Parade Ground and saying that the Press of this country is controlled by the Chamber of Commerce" (Daily Chronicle, March 29, 1952) Mr. De Freitas and other big capitalists like him are forever prattling that we in the People's Progressive Party are always telling lies and distorting the truth. In this article, I will set out the facts which are available to Mr. De Freitas and then let the public decide as to ownership and control of the Press.

DAILY CHRONICLE.

DIRECTORS:

for 1951 were: R. G. Humphrey, R. M. Wight, and R. A. Humphrey.

Sir Frederick Seaford was a director from 1937 to 1948.

Shareholders:

at \$10 per share.
R. G. Humphrey—340 shares.
P. C. Wight—4168 shares.

Royden Nominees Ltd. (Royal Bank of Canada) 3400.

James Sanderson } Bankers 4000.
Herbert Nash }

James Sanderson } Bankers 4000
A. Bates }

R. M. Wight—150

R. G. Humphrey & Son Ltd.—1745

Janet Kennard—200

Reginald A. Humphrey—50

Joyce E. Ridden (Royal Bank of Canada)—100.

Bookers Properties Holdings and Services Ltd.—250.

Examination of the list of shareholders will show a combination of Big Business owning the Daily Chroni-

C. Wight, a director of Pln. Enmore; B. G. Humphrey, a director of Ressouvenir Estates Ltd; Bookers Properties Holdings and Services Ltd.; banking—(Messrs. Sanderson, Bates and Nash) and commerce—(R. G. Humphrey & Sons, Jewellers and Pawn Brokers; R. A. Humphrey of Hotel Tower and Bookers Properties, Holdings, etc.)

ARGOSY Co. Ltd.

DIRECTORS:

(Dec. 1951).
P. C. Wight, Henry de Lisle Wight, John Cleland Mc Naught.

Shareholders:

at \$100 per share:
Agnes C. De Freitas—7
Estate of Gladys Hickson—10
Investment and Loan Assoc. of B.G. Ltd.—29
John C. Mc Naught—10
Cyril P. Wight—1
Lena Wight—2
Henry de Lisle Wight—5
P. C. Wight—676
Robert M. Wight—10
Notice that the ARGOSY is practically owned and con-

the major shareholder being Mr. P. C. Wight, sugar estate director, broker, real estate and insurance magnate; member Georgetown Town Council and one time Mayor.

F. A. PERSICK Ltd. (Guiana Graphic)

DIRECTORS

(22nd January 1952)

Dudley Howard (Attorney Sandbach Parker & Co Ltd.
R. R. Follet Smith (Bookers Bros. Mc Connell & Co Ltd.)

Hon. G. H. Smellie (Garnett & Co. Ltd.)

Guy M Eccles (Managing Director, Blairmont Estates)

C. J. Bettencourt Gomes (Director Bettencourt & Co Ltd., B.G. Mutual Fire Insurance Co., J.P. Santos Ltd B.G. Match Factory Ltd. Rupununi Development Co. Ltd.)

William Breaks } Bookers Bros
& Co. Ltd. }

Henry Yance Echols (Demerara Bauxite Co. Ltd.)

Shareholders

at \$100 per share:
Bookers Bros. Mc Connell & Co. Ltd.—146
C. J. Bettencourt Gomes—100
S. Davson & Co Ltd.—41
Demerara Co. L.d.—54
Dudley Howard—10
Guy Eccles—10
William Fogarty Ltd.—25

Garnett & Co. Ltd.—5
Sandbach Parker & Co. Ltd.—32
S. Jones—10
Hon. G. H. Smellie—10
Vieling & Richter Ltd.—25
R. Follet Smith—10
Herbert G. Goddard—10
William Breaks—10

The list of shareholders of F. A. Persick Ltd. shows that sugar, bauxite and commerce, in effect, the veritable owners of British Guiana own and control the Guiana Graphic.

B.G. United Broadcasting Co. Ltd. (ZFY).

DIRECTORS -

April 1952.

A. Adamson (Bookers Bros. Drug Stores)

John St. Felix Dare (William Fogarty, Ltd.)

Ernest J. Haywood (Weiting & Richter)

Arthur E. Gagan

W. Mc David

Kenric T. Murray

Shareholders -

(preference) at 50c. per share.
Wm. Fogarty, Ltd.—5000
Guiana Match Factory Ltd.—2000
C. J. Bettencourt Gomes—1000
Charles Kelman—200
Joseph E. De Freitas—500
James L. Rowe—200
Weiting & Richter Ltd.—2000

Patrick O'Dowd—12
R. G. Humphrey & Son Ltd.—3000
P. C. Wight—2
Gwendoline Salvato—200

Shareholders:

(ordinary) at 50c. per share
Rediffusion (W.I.) Ltd.—30,500
Kenric T. Murray—970
Neville Rowlatt } Barclays Bank—
Frank Wilde } 2000
E. J. Haywood—10
J. A. Adamson—10
John St. F. Dare—10

Bookers Bros. Mc Connell & Co. Ltd. owned the shares now held by Messrs. Neville Rowlatt and Frank Wilde of Barclays Bank.

A careful check on the ownership of the press and radio will reveal an interlocking membership and directorate with sugar and big business interests represented everywhere. Will Mr. De Freitas tell us who constitute the Chamber of Commerce? Perhaps he will tell us that the directors don't tell the editors and newspapermen what to write from day to day. That may be so, but it's the directors who select the editors in the first place. Surely Mr. De Freitas is not so naive as not to know that capitalist newspapers are not in the habit of employing socialist editors. Newspapermen are not told in most cases what to write but they write what will suit their bosses from fear of an empty stomach and from long experience of what

the blue pencil. I point out the capitalist and imperialist owners of the press and radio, especially in view of the Luckhoo motion which sought that legislation be enacted to ban books, films, pamphlets, etc. which are of "a subversive nature and contrary to public interest." Some of us argue that books, pamphlets, films etc. which are freely distributed in Great Britain, about \$500 of which have been recently confiscated by the Government on a legal technicality should not be banned entry into British Guiana. Our opponents, however, feel that what is good enough for the citizen of Great Britain is not good for the subjects of B.G. They claim that our people are not as intelligent. The question may well be asked— are they intelligent enough to avoid the poisonous material and ideas put out daily by our capitalist controlled press and radio? Again we ask the Luckhoo's, Macnias, Smellies and Fernandes—who will judge what is subversive and against the public interest?

People's Free Press Ltd.

It is high time for us Workers to get together and own our OWN Press. Therefore, why not buy a Share in the People's Free Press NOW. Shares are being sold for \$1.00 from any Seller of the People's Free Press or call at 199, Charlotte Street for one where everything will