

JAGAN SMASHES THE TORY LIE

**Deposed Premier:
Western Democracy
Is On Trial**

By DR. CHEDDI JAGAN

I WANT to answer in this article some of the charges made against the Government of British Guiana, and points in the British Government's White Paper.

We are accused in the White Paper of hindering the good government of the colony and of fomenting strikes for political ends.

(We had established a trade union by legal action. For four years our union had tried to get recognition, but for years the employers did not meet this union. Since 1949 I had been proposing in the Legislative Council the Bill we introduced. The Bill is uncontroversial. It has been taken out of the American Statute Book of Roosevelt's era. Of course Roosevelt is a "Communist" now.

From 1949 we were asking the sugar employers for recognition. What was left for us to do? In our election manifesto we told the people: when you put us in power we shall introduce legislation to give your trade union power to bargain with the employers. This is the "violence" and the "plot" in British Guiana.

The Governor was opposed to it, all the officials in the cabinet were prepared to vote against it, the State Council was prepared to vote against it. We were prepared to ask the Governor to use his constitutional power in case the Upper House delayed the Bill.

The Manpower Citizens' Association has, they say, a large following, and our union a small following only. But it is significant that our union closed down all sugar estates for a strike a few weeks ago.

Another charge: Removal of the ban on entry of West Indian communists. I was banned from entering Trinidad, my friends were banned from British Guiana. When we were coming to London, Trinidad and Barbados told us that we would not be allowed to pass through their airports.

A few months back, Richard Hart, Quintin O'Connor, Rose, Ferdinand Smith, Joshua and I met in Barbados. Richard Hart was not allowed to pass through Trinidad, and another comrade was told that he would not be allowed to land in Barbados. They said that we met in order to conspire.

When we went to Barbados, Smith was to put a proposition to Grantley Adams.

In the West Indies the Labour Movement was divided officially, some unions joining the International

★ continued on Back Page



JAMAICANS SUPPORT B.G. DESPITE BUSTAMANTE

From D. MITCHELL, Kingston, Jamaica

HEADED by the People's Educational Organisation, the Caribbean Labour Congress, the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions and the Jamaica Youth Movement, a mass campaign of solidarity with the people of British Guiana against the imperialist plot to overthrow the democratic Government of that colony, is spreading all over the country like wild-fire.

A broad National Committee in defence of the rights of the Guianese people and their democratic organisations was set up here on October 10th, with headquarters at 64, Barry Street.

Already several protest meetings have been held with thousands of working people attending and unanimously passing resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the British troops and warships from Guiana and the immediate return of the people's hard-won constitution to them.

The People's Educational Organisation is currently engaged in drafting a petition which will be widely signed and forwarded to the Colonial Office. Other plans include sending a delegation to the British Governor here, Sir Hugh Foot, asking him to convey the Jamaican people's indignation to the Colonial Office in London.

In an after-dinner speech at a function held here recently, the Hon. William Alexander Bustamante, Chief Minister in the local Government, and top "boss" of the Union named after him (Bustamante Industrial Trade Union) apparently dizzy with the lot of champagne he consumed expressed full support for the fascist actions of the imperialist forces in B.G. The British puppet "Chief" Minister was quoted in the "Daily Gleaner" as saying the people of British Guiana did not want self-Government. They wanted to establish a Communist State (parroting the Colonial Office).

This was soon to be followed by the "morally armed" Frank Hill in his weekly little rag called "The Masses". Mr. Hill, who while being an officer of the Trade Union Congress was successfully prosecuted for breach of the Minimum Wage Law, said: Jagan was playing with fire and that the P.P.P. had given away the People's Constitution. His brother Ken has not yet made a pronouncement, although he has been asked to serve on the Defence Committee.

Despite the reactionary pronouncement of these would-be leaders, however, the progressive forces are holding huge protest meetings and calling upon the working people to stand firm with the Guianese people in their struggles against fascism and for democracy to be restored.

JAGAN SMASHES THE TORY LIE— continued from p.1.

Confederation of Trade Unionists led by Grantley Adams and Manley, other unions being affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unionists from its earlier days. We wanted to create unity of the West Indian labour movement, because if there was to be a division simply because of different affiliations, it did not help the labour movement.

Richard Hart said that Smith was prepared to tell the W.F.T.U. that a Caribbean body should be formed and that we were prepared to support it equally with the I.C.F.T.U. We want unity in the labour movement of the West Indies, and support it equally financially. West Indian people have very low wages, the labour movement is financially very insecure.

Mr. Lyttelton has said that we all gathered in Barbados for a Communist plot to destroy the democratic government in the West Indies.

The moment you begin to fight for the oppressed, every obstruction is put in your way. In my own constituency at the last election, trespass notices were issued. I went to speak to my constituents and was charged before the Court for trespassing. That is the freedom in British Guiana and the West Indies.

So we said, the first thing we will do is to remove bans on all West Indian leaders. That was nothing new, it was part of the election campaign like many other things.

Another charge was that we were "Repealing the Act forbidding undesirable publications."

Who has the Declaration of Human Rights? All countries, yet we have the farce that you may hold opinions, but when you want to put them into practice in the colonies, you cannot do so. The "Undesirable Publications Bill" gave the Governor power to declare any publication undesirable, and gave the Post-Master General the right to open all letters.

The White Paper seeks to build up the accusation of Communism. Since the election a plot has been growing, but all activities were going on long before the election. All the opposition to the P.P.P. from press and pulpit said that they were Communists. Two Sundays before the election a supplement appeared in three newspapers saying the P.P.P. was a Communist Party and so forth. Not only through the press, but also from the pulpits. This charge of Communism is not new, it was an election issue. But we can not understand why it is put across now.

"Right of appointments." Anything the Government

wanted was passed through the legislature in the past Government. Boards and committees were packed by us, said the Governor. Why, it was they who did that before. We always made it clear that the P.P.P. was a workers' party. We put workers in committees and see nothing wrong with it.

"Spreading of racial hatred". This is the biggest joke of all. If there is one thing the British Government regrets in British Guiana it is the unity of all races. The old policy of divide and rule has no place there.

Political movements were once led by two organisations, East Indians and Negro. But we were able to bring the races together. We have in our party all races, people who are prepared to fight against vested interests.

"Plot to secularise schools." This was done after the French Revolution, and is an old practice.

The Governor did not tell me that the Ministers neglected their duties. While I was a dentist and a lone voice crying in the wilderness, I never worked so hard as these last few months. Four months we were in office and in possession of all the files; now we are told we neglected our duties.

"Undermining of the loyalty of police." This is the first time that a reactionary government has been afraid of the police in any country. Police are recruited from people who cannot find other jobs. They are displaced workers. We told them we sympathised with their cause.

I had asked before in the House why they had such bad jobs. We were fighting for the policemen and they were in sympathy with the P.P.P. Police in the past had to obey instructions of white officers. I am not talking about racial hatred, but the planter class and the sugar-bosses.

When it comes to strikes or quelling disturbances the police are sent not because of law and order, but to carry out commands of officers who are sympathetic to reaction.

A great deal has been said about a statement of mine torn out of context: That the police were used before to shoot workers. They shot at workers who tried to run away. We don't want police like that. When I speak of "people's police" I mean police that will not act in that way. But my remark was torn out of context.

I don't want to go into the charges in detail because they have no foundation and it is a pity I was not able to speak in the House of Commons to refute them. My colleagues and I want to take this matter to the British people, because we know that the Tory Government does not speak for the British people.

Let me give you some examples from our legislation. When tenants did not cultivate their land properly, it could be taken away from them. But the old Bill had forgotten the landlord who was not obliged to provide proper drainage and irrigation. I introduced an amendment that if the landlord does not do this he will be given time to do it, then the Government will do it and collect the money from him.

This Bill was passed through the House, but the State Council called it terrorism, and the Bill was rejected.

I wanted to introduce universal adult suffrage for town and village councils which are partly nominated and partly elected on a property basis. That is democracy in British Guiana. In our election manifesto we said: universal adult suffrage in voting for the House. When we brought it in, the Governor said we must consult the people. We said the people had already voted on it and given us victory.

We went to local authorities and told them what we wanted to do; but the opposition voices were heard in all newspapers. Local elections were to be held in November this year. We wanted the Bill to be passed in time for the elections and asked the Governor to use his powers to bring both Houses together in one session.

The Attorney General delayed the Bill. They knew that, having won the general elections, with proper election we would sweep the country and win the councils, too.

When the Constitution was written, I was in London. They mentioned my trips to the East; but not that I spoke on Labour platforms. I held press conferences, exposing the Constitution and pointing out its limitations. The State Council would have the power to veto legislation for one year.

The Constitution makers were very clever; these checks were to be used in the last resort. But their timetable was upset because we won 18 seats from 24 and controlled the executive council. As we were bent on carrying out the election pledges, it was only a matter of months before the Government and the Upper House were exposed to the people; that is why they have acted as they did. This is not a Communist plot. The P.P.P. is a broad movement, to fight for the oppressed people of British Guiana. They did not sell out.

All so-called leaders in the West Indies have betrayed their movement, but we intend to carry this fight to the finish. The people's movement has been destroyed by force. They tell us that only Communists rule by force, but here is their democracy ruling by force.

Not Communism but western democracy is on trial. I appeal to the British people. I know that you have fought many battles for freedom, and won them. And you will support us in our hour of need.

Grenada Wins London Contest

A PACKED Albert Hall audience applauded Mr. Jerome Redhead (London), tenor, winner of the All-England Song and Dance Vocalist Contest, 3rd October, 1953.

Mr. Redhead, a mechanic from Croydon, came to England as a member of the contingent. He has been singing with the Sunday's win was his fourth in as many years. He hopes to make singing a career.

Mr. Redhead's prize would be a 7 to 8 day ocean holiday voyage to the West Indies on the liner "Neptunia" of the P&O.

THESE FINE THINGS MAY BE YOURS

A SALES competition has just been held for the "Caribbean News". A prize was given to the person who sells the most copies of "Caribbean News" over a period of one year starting with this anniversary issue.

The figure taken will be the total number of copies sold. As a prize, Billy Strachan, the C.L.C. (London Branch) has offered a bound book in three volumes written by a Czechoslovakian.

It is printed in English and is called "LIFE", by Makarenko. It deals with the exciting story of the rehabilitation of a group of delinquents in the Soviet Union.

A remarkable film has also been shown. Well, eager-beavers, are you going to the same time helping "Caribbean News"?

NOTE OUR NEW

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has moved its offices to 17 Bishopsbridge Road, N.W.1. (Near King's Cross Station)

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

New Recording

BY

PAUL ROBESON

S.A.E. for particulars

from

WORKERS' MUSIC ASSOCIATION

17 Bishopsbridge Road

CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS

(London Branch)

GENERAL MEETING

Holborn Hall

Sunday, 29th November —

Important Discussion on BRITISH

THIS IS IT!!

PRE CHRISTMAS

9 Haslemere Road, N.8. (6

24. Bus Ride From Archway Uxbridge

West Indian Food and R

West Indian Dancing to

Admission: 2/-

Forthcoming

C.L.C. DANCE

Saturday, 10th

Saturday, 20th

Saturday, 30th

ALL to be at the ROYAL HOTEL

With Tickets



Published by Chris Le Maitre, 4, St. James's Place, S.W.5, and printed by Falcon Press, 10, St. James's Place, S.W.5.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 374, Grays Inn Road, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription ofs.d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6d.)

NAME (Block Letters, Please.)

ADDRESS

you will support us in our hour of need.