

THE PUPPET ASSEMBLY

The so called Constituent Assembly has now ended its puppet-show. Having interviewed a few people here and there, it has now submitted its report. Great care was taken by these puppet masters to see that the report of the Constitution Committee was delayed as long as possible:

The object was clear—to make it appear that public opinion has influenced the Constituent Assembly at arriving at independent conclusions. But anyone looking very closely at the two reports will see in spite of all the fuss and flurry that the Constituent Assembly is merely parroting the views and sentiments of the P.N.C. members in the Constitution Committee. All that was really done was the spelling out of the details.

Press Failed

The Press has studiously failed to make this point. It does not identify the recommendations of the Constituent Assembly with the views of Mr. Burnham and Co. Instead, it attacks the P.P.P. for dominating the Constitution Committee and refusing to take evidence from the public.

What is the position? First of all, the PPP did not dominate the Constitution Committee. It had at the beginning 9 members out of a total of 20. Is the PPP to be blamed if a majority of members agree with its views? In Trinidad and Jamaica, no public evidence was taken by the Constitution Committee. Why then the great hue

Straight Talk by CHEDDI JAGAN

and cry that the people were robbed? It would appear that our local editors, like the local Opposition Political Leaders have two standards... one for outsiders and a different one for British Guiana.

Police

Take the question of the Police. The Trinidad Government wanted the Police under the Control of an elected Minister — a Home Minister. The Opposition there was violently opposed. A crisis was nearly created. The formal opening of the Legislative Council was postponed. Mr. Julian Amery, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, flew down to resolve the crisis.

What did the P.N.C. do in this situation? It gave its full backing to the Trinidad Government. Yet in a similar situation here, it is now talking differently. It wants to put control of the Police under a nominated member.

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Pupp - t Assembly

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Captives ?

And so the story goes. The P.N.C. masquerades with emotional pomp to celebrate Ghana Independence. We are all for that. But why do they stop only at celebration? Ghana stands for freedom and independence—complete and unconditional. The whole world today is moving. Independence cannot now be denied. This is being conceded even in imperialist circles. Yet we find that the P.N.C., supported by the Press, is arresting our political aspirations.

We know that John Carter and Company of the old N.D.P. and U.D.P. were the darling representatives of the reactionary forces

Time was when Burnham and King were champions of complete independence. Can it be said that these one-time progressives are now ideological captives of Carter and Company?

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