

STRAIGHT TALK

by Cheddi Jagan

# EMPLOYER — GOVERNMENT and CAPITALIST

**G**OVERNMENT employs people. Therefore in its dispute with Govt employees, Govt. is like any other employer. So runs the argument. It must consequently follow the normal practice. It must be prepared to submit its case to arbitration.

Now is Govt. like an ordinary capitalist employer? The answer is certainly no. The capitalist is in business to make a profit. That is his main motive.

Under the capitalist system of production, surplus value is extracted from the workers. This value is ultimately shared by a whole class of people — capitalists in the form of dividends, bankers in the form of interest, landlords in the form of rent, and middlemen (commission agent wholesalers, retailers) in the form of commissions.

### The Surplus

Now Govt. is not a capitalist. What happens when Govt goes into production; what happens to any surplus left over? Firstly, it can go directly towards increase of wages, or indirectly towards social amenities for the workers. Secondly, it, or part of it, can go to the Govt for improving the general standard of living of the people — better roads, more schools and hospitals, etc.

### Profit First

Here's another distinction be-

tween a capitalist and a Government. A capitalist goes into production after careful examination and planning which disclose that a profit is possible. Without this profit in view the capitalist will not start business. Govt, on the other hand may start a business which is very marginal or may not be expected to make a profit. This may be done for social reasons, to relieve unemployment and underemployment.

Take another example. Govt may continue to operate certain services which are completely uneconomic and are losing money

For instance, the railway; the produce depot, the milk pasteurisation plant, etc.

### Cut Staff

There is another difference. The capitalist can cut down his staff and work force almost at will. He is always looking for new means to extract more surplus value. This can take various forms — assembly line which is a form of speed-up, mechanisation, etc. The cap-

italist is not faced with the consequences of those workers who may be dismissed or retrenched.

Cannot close

Government on the other hand cannot dismiss workers at will. It has to go through a long process of negotiations. It can hardly retrench workers because of the social consequences. Unlike the capitalist, the Government cannot shut its doors and go out of business.

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## ELECTION RESULTS

The Central Demerara Constituency conference of the PPP held at Kitty on December 6 elected the following members to the Constituency Committee:  
Chairman: E.M.G. Wilson  
Vice Chairman: Edwin Hamid  
Secretary: Mrs. Indra Ramdeen  
Treasurer: Ramkissoon

**Committee Members:**  
W. Pompey, Toola Persaud, E. Sandy, M. Tiwarri.  
Dr. Charles Jacob Jr, was returned officer.

## SUPPORT

The Central Demerara Constituency which met in conference at Kitty on Sunday, Dec. 6, carried a motion unanimously supporting the Government in its stand on the strike issue and, after adjourning to listen to Radio Demerara's Sunday at Noon broadcast by Dr. Jagan presenting of the Majority Party's stand on the issue expressed complete agreement with, and admiration of the Leader' masterly presentation of the Party's position.

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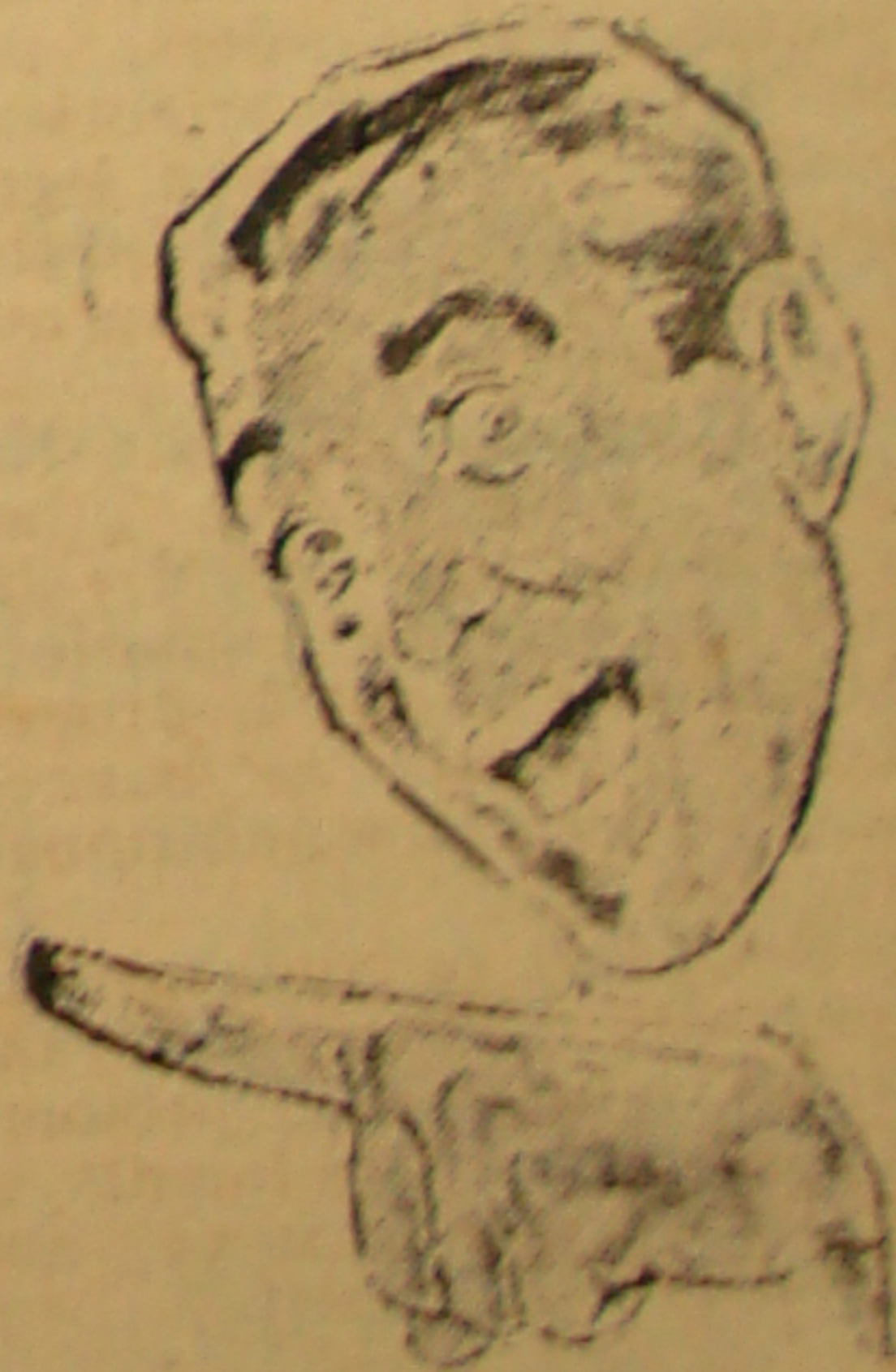


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