

PPP'S ECONOMIC POLICY-- REALISTIC PLAN FOR PROSPEROUS FUTURE

**Straights
Talk by
CHEDDI JAGAN**

Secondly, for every family employed directly in agriculture, three or four others gain indirect employment in different fields—in transport and shipping on the steamers railways, on the water front in commerce in stores and

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PEOPLE'S CHOICE

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temptation of office.?

The People's Progressive Party has had a full term in office in the Government of the Day. Its Ministers and its members have stood together as one. Those who defected or departed from the strict path of rectitude were disciplined as every one knows. The PPP, as a party in office, therefore has established its record for everyone to see.

What of the others?

Look at the candidates as men and as politicians and make your own judgement.

If your judgements are fair, you must support the PPP on its record.

by VOTER

that industrialisation results in faster economic growth.

But we are equally aware that heavy industries are highly capital-intensive; that is, they employ fewer people per unit of capital invested

For instance, the recently built alumina plant cost \$65 m, about \$162,000 per person employed. Compare this with about \$9,000 per family for land settlement schemes like Black Bush Polder.

Balanced Development

More than any other, we are terribly conscious of the need for a balanced industrial — agricultural development. But however much we desire industrialisation, we could not proceed faster because of several factors. Almost nothing by way of exact plans, blue prints and feasibility studies were made by previous governments. We assumed office with a huge and growing unemployment and under-employment problem. We were not building from scratch. We had to build on a base we inherited.

It should be noted that our economy like that of almost every underdeveloped country is based on agriculture. For a backward country therefore agriculture must play a leading role in the short term period. Every country

which is today highly developed and industrialised has done so by first building an agricultural base. This was their jumping off ground. And it must be ours also.

Two Facts

Our opponents in the Legislature and elsewhere who criticise us for concentrating on agriculture must not forget two facts. Firstly, unemployment in the towns is aggravated by the influx of people from the rural areas because of land hunger and ravages of floods and droughts.

Some people say that we don't have an economic economy. that we don't know where we are going. that we have no policy. This is certainly not true.

We have definite objectives. We are dedicated to the goal of socialism. The primary aim of our economic policy is to raise living standards, to end the scourge of unemployment and to provide for a more equitable distribution of the national income.

How will we achieve this goal? We will not follow in the footsteps of the Interim Government whose policy and programme the World Bank severely criticised — that the late Mr. Raatgever labelled mere show pieces. We will not squander money.

We will formulate a sound programme, carefully balancing the economic and social aspects of development. Where will our emphasis be? Will we give priority to agriculture or to heavy industry.

Some say that we should concentrate on heavy industry. They criticise us for spending too much money on agriculture. We are accused of doing so for political reasons. These persons charge that we are doing so because our supporters live in the rural areas. This is obviously foolish. Did not Mr Adler, the World Bank Economist, say we had correctly assigned priorities in our Development Plan?

Fully Aware

Let me say this to our people. We are fully aware that industries play a leading role in the short term period. Every country

HEALTH PROGRESS

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priest. Mr Rai said that he had investigated the report in the Press that Fr De Caires, manager of the Malgre Tout RC School until recently is alleged to have said that Mr Bowen called him a Portuguese dog" on June 16

Fr De Caires was informed that he went to the home of Mr Bowen on June 29 and in the presence of two members of the Police Force, apologised to Mrs Bowen for the humiliation and embarrassment he had caused them as a result of the report in the Press

STRAIGHT TALK

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in banks; an also marketing organisations—the Rice Marketing Board the Produce Depts the Milk Organisations Plant etc,

Thirdly, our agricultural policy has led to a more plentiful and cheap supply of foods — rice ground provisions, milk, beef, pork etc. resulting in our population being the best fed in the British Caribbean area it has also kept the cost of living relatively stable The West Indian Economist of

April 1961 shows an increase in the cost of living in the three-year period 1957 to 1960 of 13 points in Jamaica, 16 points in Trinidad and only 4 points in British Guiana. Had our food index risen to the same extent since 1957 as Jamaica and Trinidad we would have had to spend nearly an additional \$1 m, each year to feed ourselves. This means nearly \$3 m for the last 3 years—quite a substantial saving for this country and that the urban people too,

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