

CHEDDI JAGAN SAYS INDEPENDENCE BETRAYED

The Guyanese people are being told today that great progress has been made over the past four years.

The highly-paid government publicists in the USA and the UK, the Ministry of Information, <sup>the GBS</sup> the Guyana Graphic <sup>and the Guyana Post</sup> have all been brought into the campaign to fool the people.

The latest was the four-member UK parliamentary delegation, which came to Guyana bearing gifts. The Guyana Graphic of October 25, 1968 wrote:

"The four visiting British Parliamentarians declared yesterday that Guyanese were showing a determined desire for democracy and a strong interest in seeing how best democracy could work in this country.

"The leader of the delegation, Mr. Edward Bishop, said they had also noted the great success achieved in the building of a multi-racial society and the determination to achieve economic and political progress."

Actually, Guyana is in a state of serious crisis, of near bankruptcy. The coalition's domestic and foreign policies have landed Guyana into a morass.

There has been a steady deterioration in standards of living. Unemployment is increasing with growing frustration, social and industrial unrest, crime and delinquency.

This is in sharp contrast <sup>with</sup> promises made but not fulfilled. The Guyanese people have been betrayed.

In its 1964 election manifesto, called the New Road, the People's National Congress (PNC), led by L.P.S. Burnham, declared:

"Independence though emotionally satisfying, is not an end in itself. To be worthwhile, it must be an instrument for building a cohesive nation, liberating the people from the economic yoke imposed by the foreigner and establishing a program of self-reliance for the new society. Some other Guyanese are militant and noisy in their demand for independence from Britain, but consciously would immediately pass Guyana, the moment after independence, to some other foreign power. Such persons are colonial charlatans or at best infants, the witting or unwitting tools and agents of new masters. There is the concept of a new servitude not independence."

In January 1963, the same L.F.S. Burnham, as opposition leader, bravely uttered these words in the Legislative Assembly:

"If all we are going to do in this country after we have got independence is to pass a few bits of legislation and embark upon a few reforms within the framework of the existing economic and social order, we are wasting our time and the uneasiness of the masses will certainly catch up with us, and will certainly remove us from the political scene".

In the 1964 election, the PNC campaigned under the banner of socialism. But public enterprise now has no place in the imperialist scheme of things in Guyana. On June 1966, the law enacted by the PPP government in 1962, empowering the Industrial Development Corporation to "stimulate facilities and undertake the development of industry" was amended — without parliamentary debate — by the deletion of the key word, undertake.

Monetary, fiscal, trade, agricultural and industrial policies were dictated by the U.S. to better serve the interests of foreign (mainly American) monopoly capitalists.

May 26, 1966 did not bring independence to the Guyanese people, only a new servitude, a change of colonial overlords. Uncle Sam has merely replaced John Bull.

Fortunately, after more than three-and-half years of PNC-JF puppet rule, more and more Guyanese are realizing that Guyana is retrogressing instead of progressing; that things were never so bad, not even in the dark days of direct British colonial rule.

The hand-writing is on the wall. The days of the puppets are remembered. It will not be long before they are removed from the political scene.