

BROADCAST BY: THE PREMIER
DR. THE HON'BLE CHEDLI JAGAN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1962.

B.G.B.S. - 12.30 P.M.

My dear Friends,

By now you will no doubt have heard the news about the series of lock-outs by most of the Water Street firms. These lock-outs were staged this morning. The evidence is quite conclusive that this is a lock-out and not a strike, though it appears that in some few instances some workers have allowed themselves to be misled by Management.

The lock-outs started this morning at D'Aguiar Brothers Aerated Water Factory and at Fogarty's. At Fogarty's, the Commercial Workers Union has for a long time been striving for recognition and has still not yet been recognised. What better evidence do you want, that what is happening is a lock-out and not a strike. Mr. D'Aguiar who now poses as a friend of the workers was known for many years to resist Trade Union recognition.

Workers of the country should ask themselves "how many of them, or how many of their children have any chance of getting jobs above the grade as sweepers, or porters in these Water Street firms and some others".

You've only got to see the people who went around intimidating other workers and who were carrying pickets this morning to realize that what you have here is a small privileged group who have always had the best jobs in Water Street and who are now fighting desperately to maintain their positions.

These are not your friends. Until I and my Government moved to abolish the privilege of Mr. D'Aguiar and his friends "did they show any interest in you, is it not a fact that they still reserve all the best jobs for people of their own group. Go around and have a look at these firms, and you will see.

If it was true that the present Budget was against the workers why are these big-shots so angry today, and why are they now using lock-outs as a political weapon against the workers and against the Government. This should make it plain to you that the present Budget is in fact aimed specially at the privileged and those who are best able to pay. The Budget is an attempt by Government to redistribute wealth in this country so that the poor and the hungry might have a fair share of this country's wealth.

In the meantime, I urge you all to be calm. Government, I assure you will take all necessary steps to maintain the peaceful life of the community. Those stores by far the most numerous which wish to remain open, but have been forced to close by intimidation will be provided with police protection so that they may re-open.

I strongly advise you all who have been locked out to interview the employers who have closed their doors and make sure that you will be paid during the time you have been locked out. All essential services and supplies will be maintained by Government and I expect the situation to return to normal shortly.

Thank you.

...oOo...