

In addition

for staff edit

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My Dear Friends,

Just edit at all

This is the first broadcast of the P.P.P. after Nomination Day. I would like to deal with our economic policy - what we stand for. Some say that we don't know where we are going, that we have no policy. This is certainly not true.

The People's Progressive Party has definite objectives. It's dedicated to the goal, to the ideal 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 nation income.

We will not follow in the footsteps of the Interim Government whose policy and programme the World Bank severely criticised - what the late Mr. Raatgever dubbed mere show pieces. How will we achieve our goal? We will not squander money. The People's Progressive Party 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 that we had correctly assessed priorities in our Development Plan?

Let me say this to our critics. We are fully aware as they are that industries generate wealth more rapidly, that industrialisation result 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. 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 was done 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.

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 the ravages of floods and droughts. 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, on the railways, on the water front; in commerce; in stores and in banks; and also marketing organisations - the Rice Marketing Board, Produce Depots, Milk Pasteurisation 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 three years, quite a substantial saving to the urban people.

What has been done and what do we intend to do in the future? Let us deal firstly with the question of Drainage and Irrigation. Floods and droughts have been the bugbear of this country. Everyone has recognised this. This is why we have always struggled for the fullest implementation of the Hutchinson's comprehensive Drainage and Irrigation Schemes. It is we who have made Hutchinson's name famous in almost every household in this country. The Boerasirie Scheme for the West Coast, Demerara and the Black Bush Polder Scheme are finished. The Tapakuma Lake Scheme has been started. The engineering survey for the Mahaicony/Abary Scheme was recently completed. An approach for the sum of \$40 m. for this quarter million-acre scheme has been made to the International Development Association. At its last meeting in May, the Board of the United Nations Special Fund approved of a \$1½ million pre-investment survey for the Greater Canje Project. This is the last

of the Hutchinson's Schemes. When completed it will command $\frac{1}{2}$ m. acres.

Outside of drainage and irrigation, you are aware that the United Nations with the assistance of FAO soil scientists are now engaged in a soil survey for practically the whole country. This \$1 m. scheme is the largest soil survey scheme yet approved by the United Nations.

Now, we have not stopped there. Let us consider other fields. There is a bar problem at the mouth of our rivers. Big ships cannot come in nor go out. This means that we are losing money in many ways. For instance, our tourist trade is affected adversely. Big tourist cruise ships stop off in Trinidad. Even some of our imports are transhipped at Trinidad. This means increased prices for your goods. Small bauxite boats have to unload at a transshipment point in Trinidad. This means more expenses and less profits for the Companies and thus less income taxes for us. Then there is the problem of our foreshore erosion. This is costing us millions of dollars on sea defence works.

You know that these two problems - harbour siltation and foreshore erosion - have been taken in hand. The Dutch engineers who were hired by the United Nations Special Fund have almost completed their study.

What about the Interior? We have been dreaming for generations about interior development and an interior road. The road survey to the Interior is to be completed in a month's time. This study is being financed from a generous grant of about \$ $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from a U.S. Government Agency, the I.C.A. It is likely that we will obtain about \$11 m. to \$12 m. for the construction of this road from another U.S. Government Agency, the Development Loan Fund. Incidentally, this road will link up Mackenzie with Georgetown.

Then there is Hydro-electricity. Last year a United Nations Consultant, Mr. Snethlage, came here. He informed us that we have tremendous potential for hydro-electric development. While on this question, you will recall that the Cuban Government has promised us all the cement, the plant and generating equipment which will be required to set up a \$30 m. hydro scheme on the Demerara River.

We have made two other applications to the United Nations. The first deals with mineral surveying. Bauxite and manganese now play an important role in our economy but two-thirds of our country

is not yet properly geologically surveyed. This scheme, if approved, will allow us to do geological surveying by more modern and efficient methods; namely, by geophysical and airborne magnetometer surveying. The second application deals with a complete forestry survey and inventory. We know that nearly 75% of our country is covered by forests considered to be one of the best forests in the world. What we do not know is how many species and what quantity of each specie occurs in each given area or square mile. This survey is intended to give us in detail all this information and to tell us what factories we must establish to utilise our forest resources.

Our last and latest application deals with large-scale interior settlement schemes. This will cover three areas - the Rupununi Savannahs, particularly for the Amerindians; 64000 acres in the North West District and 6,000 square miles in the Kopinang area. We have asked the United Nations for a team of experts - agronomists, agricultural economists, geologists and foresters - whose job will be to work out a blueprint for an integrated development - agriculture, mineral and forestry - for these areas.

To sum up. Our drainage and irrigation schemes have been blueprinted. We have planned to 'bust' open the interior. Our next jumping off ground is industrialisation. We are not going to sit around and wait for private foreign investors to come here when they are good and ready.

Indeed, we do not share the view that hundred of millions or billions of dollars are just waiting to come to our country. Why did it not come before? Some smart Aleas will say because of the P.P.P.'s policies. Well, let them ask themselves why these investors did not come before the formation of the P.P.P. in 1950.. You must know this - colonies and semi-colonies like Latin America are not meant to be industrialised. They are meant as sources of food, raw material and mineral resources and as markets for industrialised goods.

Like Ghana, India, Guinea, Indonesia etc., the P.P.P. proposes to establish industries wherever necessary. There will continue to be room for private investors. Industries will be organised in a number of ways - privately, cooperatively, publicly and by a combination of these.

I am sure that you will agree with me that this country is now on the move. Who can doubt that the ground work has been laid? We are the first colonial territory in the Western Hemisphere to get a World Bank Loan. We have got more United Nations aid than all the West Indian territories put together. All this has been due to our initiative.

Soon after the Elections, we are going to seek further finance for enlarging the Development Plan. Industries will be financed on a package-deal basis in the same way as the Electricity Company takeover and expansion. They will be paid back from profits earned. We will expand the \$110 m. programme for what is called infrastructure development; i.e. basic things like roads, sea defences water and electricity, and telecommunications, etc. By the way, I can't for the life of me see how some people are going to obtain \$500 for this type of work when we were told that we can't get more than \$110 m. for development as a whole. And remember that the limit of \$110 m. was fixed by the economists who can be said to speak for the West - John Adler of the World Bank and Kenneth Berrill of Cambridge University, whose reports the Colonial Office and British Treasury have endorsed. Incidentally, please remember, when astronomical figures are mentioned to you, that for the whole, I repeat, the whole of Latin America only \$500 m. has been set aside by the U.S. Government. Clearly, the only way open for us is to try to get low-interest, long-period-repayment loans and to get it from wherever we can. Only the P.P.P. is in a position to bargain for this. Scientists and explorers the world over are opening up new horizons. Only with the P.P.P. you can share in this adventure. Ours is a glorious future. To use an aeronautical term, we are on the verge of the 'take off'. The choice is now yours.

What are the alternatives facing you. On the one hand, continued plunder and exploitation based on private greed and profit which grinds out hunger, ill health and insecurity and widens the gap between the "haves" and "haves nots." On the other hand, the vision of socialism, the realisation of man's growing ambition to control his natural environment to exploit it for the benefit of all men and to fashion for his descendants a worthwhile heritage.

You must choose rationally - not only for yourselves but for future generations. You can go forward or you can go backward - with one party, back to pre-1953, with another, back to the Interim Government - a distinction without much difference. Forward with the P.P.P. to freedom and independence. Ensure your future. With the P.P.P. you have a glorious destiny. VOTE P.P.P.

29th July, 1961.