

As it has been instructed, the Justice Party has been concentrating its attacks on the People's Progressive Party (P.P.P.). The P.P.P. Government is criticised and castigated for racial disharmony, disunity in the country, failure to achieve independence, and lack of accomplishment.

As regards racial disharmony, surely the propagandists of the Justice Party must know that it was caused and precipitated by an irresponsible opposition which was responsible for the disturbances of 1962 and 1963. Did not the Opposition organise a terrorist organisation, "a centrally directed thuggery" which murdered, raped, looted and burned?

What did Balram Singh Rai say about the 1962 disturbances when he gave evidence before the Commonwealth (Riot) Commission. This is what he said in his own words:

" It was agreed by all present, viz, the Governor, Lt. Col Warren the Premier and myself that the Company of Hampshires at Atkinson Field should enter the city during the early hours of Friday morning, 16th February to assist the Police to preserve order and the H.M.S.'s 'Troubridge' and 'Wizard' would arrive off the Georgetown bar early the same morning. The Governor also said that a Company of troops would be flown from Jamaica to the Colony the next day to reinforce those already stationed here and that further reinforcements from the United Kingdom were expected to arrive by air on Friday night or sometime thereafter....

It is my view that had the troops arrived as arranged and agreed upon there would have been no rioting, no arson, no looting, nor loss of life."

More than this, had the Commissioner of Police and the Governor acted firmly in 1963 and 1964 and detained or arrested the 50 persons named in the security reports for being responsible for the 1963 disturbances and the dynamiting of government buildings etc. there would have been no imposition of Proportional Representation, no withholding of independence and no trouble in 1964. There was obviously connivance in high places. Drew Pearson in an article on March 22, 1965 said that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and British Intelligence were involved in the disturbances of 1963. Yet these and the 1962 disturbances were used by Sandys to withhold independence. Rai knows this. He also knows as a member of the P.P.P. delegation at the 1960 Constitutional Conference, that Mr. Iain MacLeod, the Colonial Secretary, had rejected Proportional Representation, and had stated in a White Paper that all matters of substance had been settled save that of independence which

was to be the main issue later after the 1961 elections. And Burnham had categorically stated that whichever party won the elections would be leading the country to independence.

As regards 1964, had the Labour Relations Bill been passed in 1963 and had no African scabs been employed to break the sugar workers strike for recognition, there most likely would have been no disturbances.

As to the charge of lack of accomplishment, Jai Narine Singh at a meeting on the West Bank of Demerara shouted: "Tell me what the P.P.P. has done". One member of the audience shouted back: "Look down and you will see" - Jai Naraine Singh was standing on a newly bitumenised road; "look above" - new electricity lines; "look behind you" - a new telephone kiosk. After that Jai Naraine Singh, ^{and} the Justice Party had to fold up and leave.

This is merely symptomatic of what has been done. Of course much more could have been achieved; firstly, if the 1962 budget was passed without obstruction and burning and looting; secondly, if aid as promised was forthcoming from the U.S.A.; and thirdly, if we were in a position with independence to accept aid from socialist-bloc countries.

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