

# DEAR EDWARD

Dear Comrade Beharry,

You will recall that the Ministerial Council met yesterday and we attempted to have a frank discussion with you on the obvious unsatisfactory state of affairs concerning you and the Party. You informed us that you were not prepared to talk to all of your ministerial colleagues, but insisted on talking to the Leader in private.

This we permitted, though we voiced our objections and stated that an open and frank discussion among all of us was the only correct procedure. Since you refused, we reluctantly allowed the private discussions and anticipated that when you and the leader returned, we would then discuss the problem before us, which consisted mainly of your refusal to work in harmony with us and to accept the discipline of the Party, Party democracy and majority decisions.

## MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We waited for you to return, but you did not. Therefore, I take this opportunity of discussing with you by letter some of the allegations you put to the Party Leader. You alleged that you were subjected to 'stalinist' control and could not exercise your will. I have had the necessity more than once to remind you that I did not think you fully understood what parliamentary and party government meant.

We have on more than one occasion furnished you with extracts from texts on parliamentary government in England where it was made clear that ministerial responsibility means that ministers hold one view after decisions are reached and do not separate themselves from such decisions. You have on more than one occasion made it clear to persons that although the Executive Council has made a decision, you did not agree. That is not the practise in the U.K., the U.S.A. nor should it be the practise in B.G.

## SIMPLE TRUTHS

Ministers work with each other and not against each other. Achievements of any minister are the achievements of the Party to which he belongs. These simple truths you have not yet absorbed. I know that you are relatively new to the movement, and so it is understandable that you may not have understood some of these things. But after 18 months, it is time you learned that we cannot win for our people if we are di-

## PRESS RELEASES

On the question of controlling your press reports, you know that that was necessary due to the inaccurate and misleading information you were giving to the press. You have suggested that this was through jealousy. That could not be true. We as a party are

happy to get things done for the country, for such achievements reflect favorably for the party. However, when you embarrass the Party by giving the press misleading information, it can only harm the movement.



Mr. Edward Beharry, former Minister of Natural Resources, has made allegations of dictatorship against the People's Progressive Party. On this page **Thunder** publishes a letter to Mr Beharry from the General Secretary of the Party, dated April 6, 1959.

vided, if one minister thinks of himself as separated from the others, as apart from the Party that put him there.

If you feel that so called 'Stalinist' control is being exercised and is incorrect, let me remind you of the occasions in which it was necessary to use discipline in order that you abide by party policy.

## SMALL MILLS

A case in point is the question of the compulsory closure of small rice mills in the areas of Central Mills. I know you felt strongly on that issue and were vehemently in favour of the compulsory closure of such mills. The matter was put to the General Council of the Party which voted against the compulsory closure of small mills.

Party democracy was such that when you voiced your strong disapproval of this decision, you were allowed to have the matter recommitted at a subsequent meeting of the General Council. Again, the General Council enunciated clearly its decision not to close down small mills as you had proposed. In spite of the twice enunciated decision of the General Council of the P.P.P., you attempted to have your own way. It was on that occasion that the so called 'stalinist' control over you was exercised and you were told in no uncertain terms that you had to follow the decision of the General Council.

## MISLEADING INFORMATION

For example, take the Imbaimidi issue. Comrade Benn had been to you on more than one occasion asking that the lands be opened for the miners. You did nothing about it. When he asked you to receive a delegation, I was informed that you treated the delegation roughly and refused them their request. I even had a petition from the miners protesting your attitude and did my best to ease the situation without in any way compromising your position.

All of a sudden we saw a big newspaper headline that you were giving out the lands to the miners for mining purposes. You told us that you were obliged to do so because you were informed that the miners association was going to picket you at the ministerial buildings. To this day you have not taken any action on opening such lands and we are still waiting for you to put into motion the intention you announced so long ago.

## PHONIES

Certainly that is misusing the press. Certainly it puts the Party in an embarrassing position. The Imbaimidi issue is one of many. Many of the newspaper blurbs about land distribution, you and

I know, were phonies. To control your irresponsible handouts to the press was to protect the Party, and not, as you suggest, to suppress your glory and achievements.

You allege that the Party Leader dominates the Party and that his word is law. You forget that he has been appointed Party leader because of confidence in him. There is no doubt that most people respect his views and think seriously over the points he puts forward. However, it does not mean that what he wishes is law, which you suggest. May I give an example?

## MINISTERIAL SALARIES

To the Executive and General Council on three occasions we have brought the issue of reduction of ministerial salaries. The Party Leader spoke fully in favour of such reduction, yet members on three occasions voted it down. At Congress, another motion for a reduction of Ministerial salaries was again brought forward. He spoke strongly in favour of this and yet it was voted down. You will remember the three occasions in Executive Committee and General Council well since you were opposed to the reduction of the ministerial salaries. In this case, the democratic decision of the Executive was in favour of your views, so I cannot see how you can charge the Party with being undemocratic.

## UNFOUNDED ALLEGATION

You alleged to the Party Leader that Comrade Benn and I are undermining your position and carrying a whispering campaign against you. That is not true. We have been extremely provoked on many occasions by things you have said and done, but we have never been disloyal to you. I can recall on the same Imbaimidi issue, Comrade Benn was told by one of the miners that you were behaving like a fraud, and he defended you completely, even though he knew that you had not acted correctly.

Only a few days ago, I received a letter from a constituent of yours blaming you for neglect of their interests. I replied and made it clear that they had no

(continued on page 6)



# Dear Edward

[from page 5]

next meeting of the  
s Section takes  
Monday, 25th at  
Office, Georgetown.  
g 8 p.m. Party  
n B. H. Benn will

## IMPROVE DELEGATION

Minister of Labour,  
and Housing met a  
on at her Ministry  
day last week, from  
ove, led by Indian  
ry Ishabodh. Pre  
the meeting were  
using Comissioner  
Planning Officer,  
er. The delegation  
consideration of  
the new housing  
Cane Grove for a  
of the Arya Samaj.  
as agreed upon and  
ation left satisfied  
successful negotiat-

## HUS

TERDAM.  
Specialist.

## ES AND GENTS

e mass  
Tel. N. A. 185)

## WNEERS

with Genuine

## OR SUPPLIES



cause to blame you and that they were wrong to do so. Is that undermining you? And yet I have personally talked to more than 60-70 persons who have told me of conversations with you in which you maligned your colleagues most unmercifully. You have over and over stated that you are the only minister who works, the only minister who is intelligent, you have lied about us, you have misrepresented us, you have maligned the Party and you have shown utter disregard and disrespect for your fellow ministers. In spite of all of this, we have never descended to the level of your activities, for more than all, we are interested in our Party holding together, in our Party winning on all fronts for the people of British Guiana.

## NOT AS FILM STAR

To further assist you in understanding all I have written above, please let me quote from "THE QUEEN'S GOVERNMENT" by Sir Ivor Jennings - "Collective responsibility applies particularly to the cabinet. It means in principle, that the individual members of the cabinet accept complete responsibility for the decisions of the cabinet. Collective responsibility means, then, that an attack on a minister is an attack on the Government. The defeat of a minister is the defeat of the Government. It also means that the members of the Cabinet express a common opinion.

To use the phrase said to have been used by Lord Melbourne, Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister, 'The story', and later 'collective responsibility is not an easy system to operate, especially in the raw democracies outside the United Kingdom. It assumes the team spirit of Rugby football, or of a well drilled dramatic cast. Politicians are apt to think of themselves in the language of the cinema, as 'stars' and to seek publicity for themselves instead of for the Government. It is not easy for, say, the Minister of Education to appreciate that he has no policy other than the policy of Her Majesty's Government, that he must speak for the Government and not for himself and, if his Department is successful, that he must give the credit to the Government instead of taking it for himself"

Yours fraternally  
Janet Jagan  
General Secretary, P.P.P.

## Eastern Demerara

The Eastern Demerara Constituency Committee meets Sunday, May 24, at 1 p.m., at Ramkissoon's residence, Mahaica. All members of the committee are reminded to attend. Dr. Cheddi Jagan and George Robertson are the guest speakers.

## Supreme Radio & General Store

12 STRAND, N.A. BERBICE phone N.A. 160

Agent: for VIDORMAX DRY CELL RADIO

# BOW

Firstly, early in 1958, the Minister of Housing, alleged that Bowman and improperly secured application from him. At that time all applications were to be considered by the Minister. It was a great embarrassment to the Government, certainly not going to the level of Tammany Hall with Bowman who would have had done anything.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bowman's suggestion to the Minister of Housing was not accepted by the latter to the detriment of His Excellency the Governor. The Governor referred the matter to Dr. Jagan as leader of the P.P.P. The result was that the Minister did not consider it appropriate to suggest to His Excellency the name of Bowman as a Parliamentary Secretary. The Bill for the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries was not passed on this account. Mr. Beharry's reluctance to have Mr. Bowman as a Parliamentary Secretary contributed to the failure of the Bill.

## OPEN TO RIDICULE

Secondly, around the middle of 1958, the Clerk of the Legislature introduced a motion to make it compulsory for policemen to be members of the Legislative Council. The Leader of the Party spoke to Bowman about this motion with the result that it was the failure of the motion which was the cause of the motion being regarded as a motion to ridicule. The P.P.P. Group recently ruled that a motion of this nature should be tabled in the Legislative Council must have the approval of the