

# BURNHAM LABELS VOTERS 'IDIOTS'

Not to be surpassed by Mr. Peter D'Aguiar's infamous statement that "the masses are asses", Mr. Forbes Burnham at his post-election Bourda Green meeting called all the voters who did not cast votes for his PNC 'idiots'.

"These idiots", said Mr. Burnham. "I am not afraid to call you all idiots" he pursued. And thus Mr. Burnham the man who has always called himself the man of the people, has classified his people as idiots.

By Janet Jagan

Mr. Jackson | Buxton Seat

'Peter Rabbit' Mr. Burnham at his post election meeting portrayed the typical picture of the poor loser. He had the dignity and stature of "Peter Rabbit".

He sought for almost an hour an excuse for his defeat. He blamed D'Aguiar's U.F. for pitch-forking the PPP to power, forgetting that he had counted on D'Aguiar to pitch-fork his party into power.

His predictions prior to the elections are heart-warming to recall — up to the Saturday before voting his "room sweepers" had a roaring demonstration of might in their motorcade.

At all his election meetings, Mr. Burnham was introduced as "our next Prime Minister". What then were Mr. Burnham's predictions based on?

## Must have Known

He claims that the PPP won by a racial majority. If that is true, as he claims, he must have known the numerical strength of the voters long before August 21. Either Mr. Burnham was fooling his members, or he was counting on Mr. D'Aguiar to split the votes, or the many he thought would support him did not.

Is Mr. Burnham's charge that the PPP did not win the urban industrial vote valid? He evidently lost it, for two of the Georgetown seats were lost to his party. It would be interesting to know if Burnham anticipated this before elections and that was his reason for not himself fighting Central Georgetown. Surely it must be humiliating for a Party to lose seats contested by its Chairman and General Secretary [Mr. Gaskin and

Why did Burnham not win the Buxton seat in spite of the withdrawals of King and George Young? Was that a diabolical plot of racism in favour of the PPP? Rubbish! The PPP quite obviously won because it had support from the Africans workers — in spite of King's assurance that the PNC would put him in the Senate (Upper House). Even that did not work.

Mr. Burnham lost his one and only opportunity to redeem himself after the elections. If he had come out and said—"Well, the people have voted and we must abide by their decision" he would have been respected as a leader worthy of the title — Leader of the Opposition. But the leader of the Opposition cannot be a snivelling coward, making impotent excuses. He should not be Peter Rabbit beating a collapsed chest!

## Even Sadder

What was even sadder to witness in Burnham's hour of defeat was his puerile and unpatriotic call to the Police. He told the Bourda Green crowd that he understood that certain police officers would be leaving the country. He called on them not to leave but to stay and fight against the PPP.

What a wild and ridiculous statement!

The only excuse we can find for Mr. Burnham's wild, unorganised, rambling, Victorian and cowardly tirade at Bourda Green was that he was completely upset by the magnificent reception the future Premier received on his motorcade from Crabwood Creek to

Georgetown only two hours before his Bourda Green meeting began.

The warm and genuine Greater Georgetown reception must have been unexpected to "Poor Loser" Burnham!

## OBITUARY

The People's Progressive Party regrets the death of the mother of Comrade Edoe of Lima, Essequibo Coast.

## Inspiring Messages Pour in to Freedom House

(from page 10)

Kingston Waterfront Workers Union in Jamaica Leslie Alexander has cabled "Trust that by your inspired guidance for socialism B.G. will emerge as a great nation in this Hemisphere".

The Secretary General of Accion Democratica Majority Party in Venezuela, Jesus Paz Gallaraga, has sent a cable of best wishes. The Minister of Finance in Cuba has sent his congrats.

From Malta Don Mintoff comes a message of success and wishes to B.G. for Peace and prosperity. Yosef Almog Gensee of the Mapai Israel Labour Party sends congratulations on "election success and best wishes road to independence."

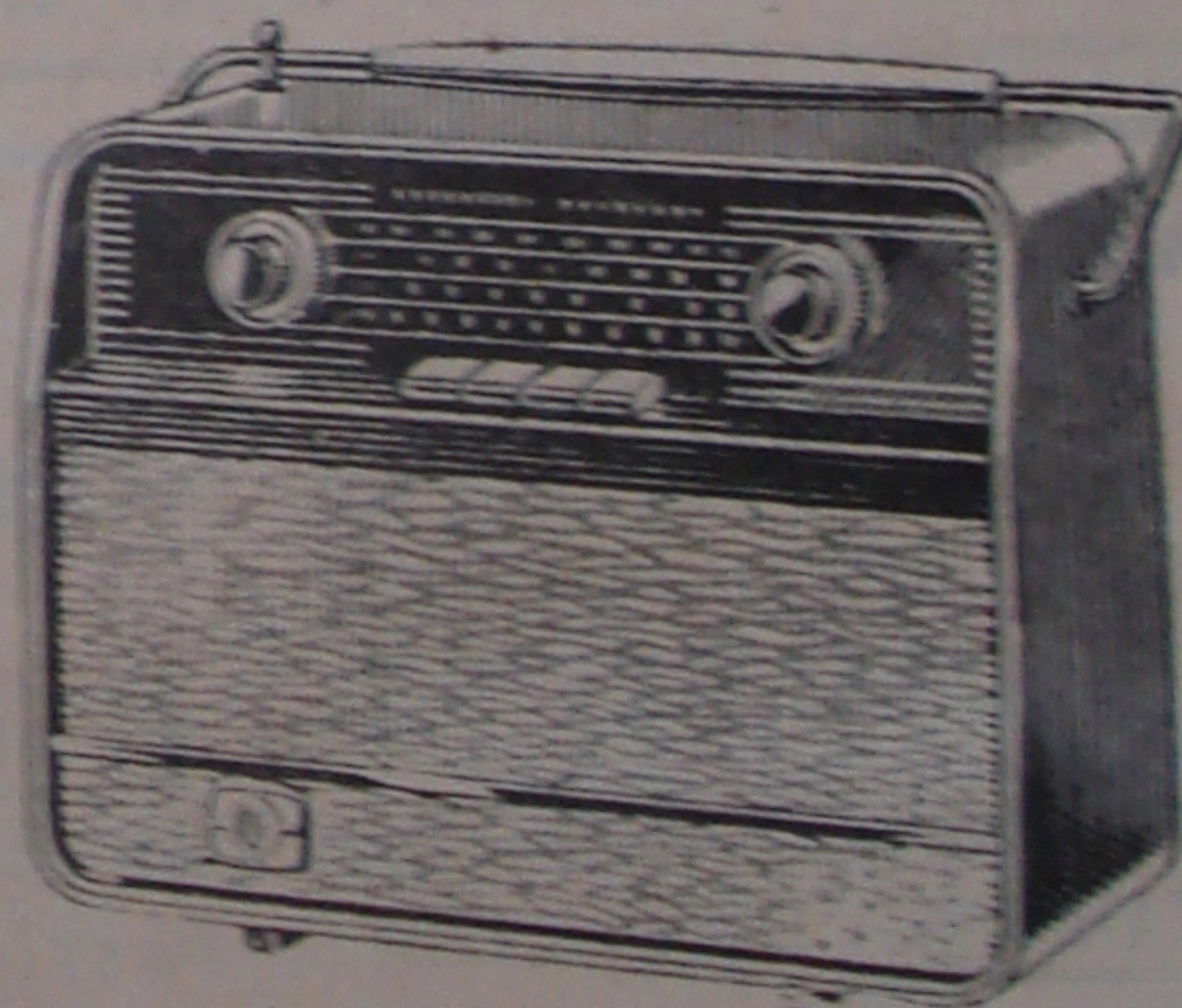
Guianese artist Aubrey Williams sent a cable wishing "greater success for Guiana."



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