

# HIMMAT

WEEKLY 35p

VOL 9 NO 43

ASIA'S VOICE

FRIDAY AUGUST 24 1973

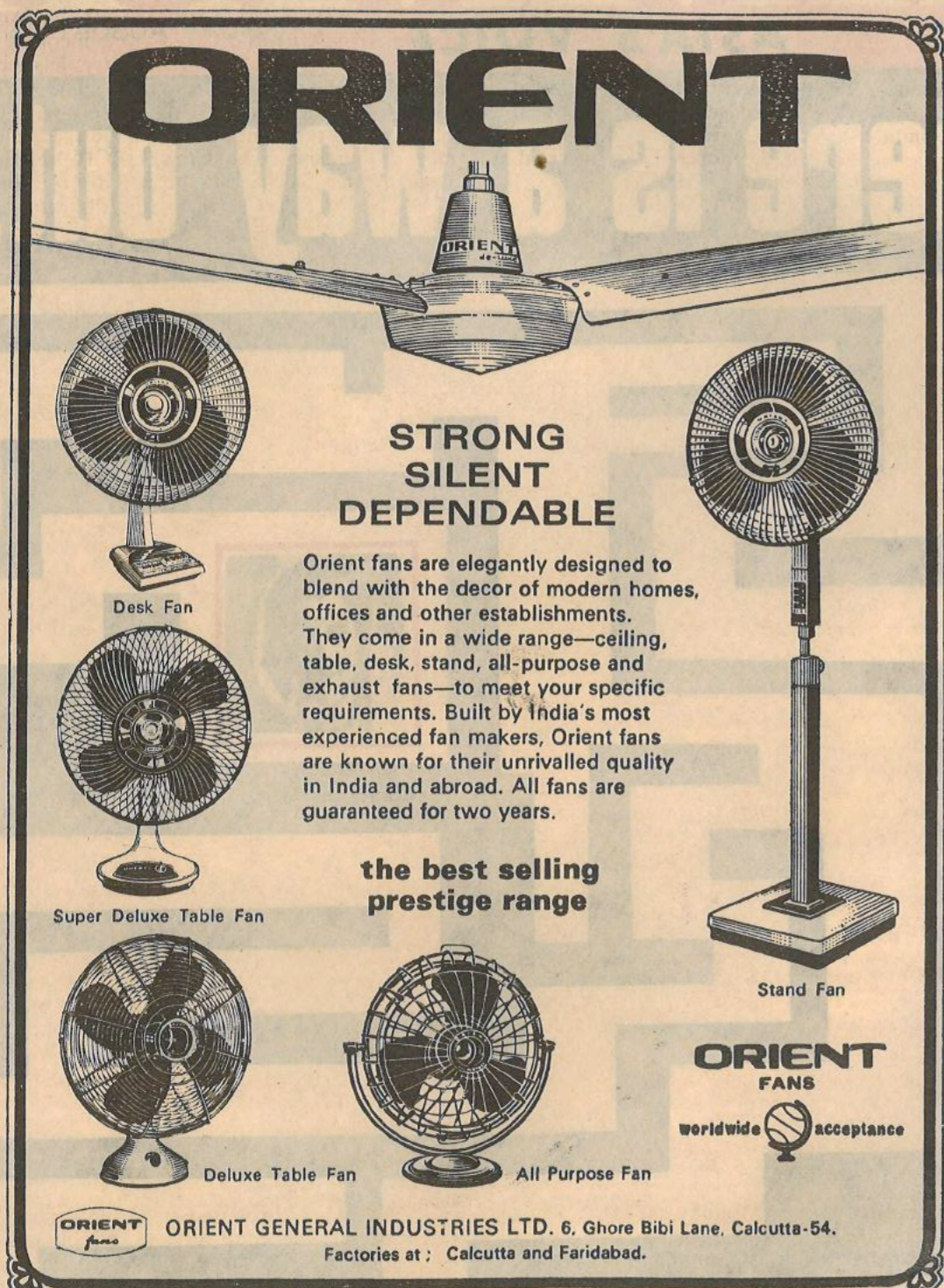
## There is a way out...



"OUR PEOPLE LOSE HEART IN THE FACE  
OF THE SLIGHTEST DIFICULTIES"

Indira Gandhi

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## CPI loses its raison d'etre

Love-hate relationships are ephemeral. They invariably end in a parting of the ways. The Congress-CPI alliance has been such a one.

The CPI attacked the Congress policies in the mid-sixties. That was Act I of the drama. In the 1967 General Elections when the Congress was routed and many states formed coalition Governments, CPI's slogan was "Delhi Chalo". It harboured serious ambitions of forming a Government at the Centre. But coalitions collapsed. Defections occurred. Demoralisation followed. In 1969 came the Congress split. The CPI made its moves cleverly. It gave Mrs Gandhi's bandwagon a push and then jumped on it. Thus began Act II of the drama, featuring co-operation with the Congress.

Mrs Gandhi was happy to have its support since the CPI and DMK upheld her minority Government till the 1971 elections. Mrs Gandhi's plastic surgery gave the Congress a new face. Alliance with this "new" Congress bestowed respectability on the CPI. But as a party, the CPI lost its raison d'etre because its policies coincided with those of the Congress (R).

However, the party was content to support the Congress from outside and influence it from inside through an outspoken radical group of infiltrators. One

fact it overlooked. A large section of the Congress comprises of landowners. Certain reforms were bound to meet with stiff resistance.

The curtain has now gone up on Act III of the drama. The CPI finds itself in a dilemma. The recent economic situation in the country has created a disenchantment with the Congress. The CPI now is not too keen to identify itself too closely with the Congress. Instead it is resorting to mass action against the Government's policies. The Congress-CPI relations in West Bengal, Bihar and Kerala are strained to a breaking point.

Whether, in the coming months, the CPI can establish itself as an Opposition party to reckon with will depend on its ability to mobilise its ranks, but more important, on how much Moscow is prepared to prop it up. Moscow will have to play its cards adroitly. Much support to the CPI may jeopardise its relations with the Government. Moscow is too shrewd to do that.

The CPI's future appears bleak. The Congress (R) voters wanting socialistic measures are likely to swing in favour of the Socialist Party, if the Congress fails to deliver the goods. Those for more radical measures will opt for CPM. The CPI is neither here nor there.

## Book take-over unwise

THE book trade has had to face two major crises since Independence. The first one occurred when the publication and distribution of school text-books was taken over by the state governments in the '60s. And the second one looms large with the recent take-over of the import of books required by libraries and research institutions. This would now be channelised through the State Trading Corporation. (See Page 12)

There seems to be a complete breakdown of communications between the Government and the book trade. Neither the representatives of the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Associations, nor the librarians and academicians, were consulted. Even today the book trade does not know who the "high-up" is who issued this particular order!

In the book trade an extensive and precise knowledge of the market conditions is required. The main reasons advanced by the Government for the take over are inability of the trade to give a flat 15 per cent discount, and malpractices like the import of undesirable books and irregularities in invoicing. These could have been corrected by strict supervision. Lack of such super-

vision is responsible for malpractices flourishing.

The Government could have awaited the survey of the economics of the book trade being carried out by the National Council of Applied Research which would have been ready within a year. It would have helped formulate a rational discount structure. The precipitate step taken by the Government is a classic instance of throwing out the baby with the bath-water.

If the Government's handling of the school text-books is any guide, there are going to be innumerable bottlenecks in the whole system in future.

A similar experiment was tried 15 years ago when direct licences were given to the universities to import their requirements. In practical terms, this required every college to have the equivalent of a sophisticated book-importer's organisation. The experiment was given up after a few years when the universities found it much more convenient to turn to the established trade for their requirements.

It is not late even now for the book-traders, the intelligentsia and the Government to sit down together and arrive at an amicable solution.

## Rightists assert themselves in Laos

THE attempted coup in Laos on Monday shows that not everyone there is convinced about the wisdom of forming a coalition Government with the Communist Pathet Lao. The latest reports, as we go to press, state that Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma is safe.

In late July the neutralists led by Prince Souvanna Phouma and the Pathet Lao by Prince Souphanouvong agreed on a coalition Government. The accord came after five months of haggling.

The third section in Laos, the rightists, were not

included in the proposed coalition. They are believed to be behind the coup attempt, which was led by Brig. Gen. Thao Ma. What they may be objecting to is not only the fact that the pro-Hanoi Pathet Lao will share equal power with the neutralists. They may be also concerned that the agreement guarantees two zones of control with the Communist zone extending its control to about four-fifths of the country geographically. (Next week HIMMAT will have special features on Laos and Cambodia.)

# Briefly Speaking.....

*This is the final test of a gentleman: his respect for those who can be of no possible service to him.*

WILLIAM LYON PHELPS, 1865-1943

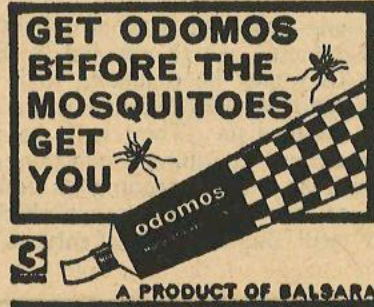
## Foreign students neglected

DISTURBING news has appeared in a Ghana newspaper, "The Daily Graphic," that a Ghanaian student of journalism studying at the Indian Institute of Mass Communications in New Delhi found his experience both "humiliating and frustrating". He branded the Institute of Mass Communications as the Institute for "mass confusion". The student complained that the Institute has no academic staff, no permanent institute block and, therefore, no classrooms. The student claims that the Director of the Institute is an agriculturist.

The five Ghanaian students who were there were obviously not looked after well. Could the Education Ministry investigate this situation?



"Oh, that is for communicating during heavy rains; very reliable."



There is no point in granting scholarships to foreign students if in place of goodwill we create only heart-burning.

## Martial trends

COULD it be an interesting trend that civilian departments are turning to the armed forces to put right certain departments?

Sometime back there was a report that Navy officers were being put in charge of catering for the Indian Railways. Another report says that the Calcutta Corporation has decided to appoint three army officers to tone up the conservancy, central stores and transport departments. The three officers who have been selected were all Lt. Colonels originally hailing from Bangalore. One would be appointed as Director of Conservancy, another as Deputy-Chief Engineer and another as Controller of Stores. The civic authorities have already requested the State Government to seek permission from the Defence Minister in this connection.

One wishes that opportunities could be given to demobbed servicemen who have got good records. There is no shortage of places where the civilian administration needs to be toned up.

## Welcome awards

IT is fitting that the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize of America has been instituted by the doyen among Indian journalists, Mr Durga Das, former Editor of the Hindustan Times and now head of the Indian News and Feature Alliance. The first awards presented by the President, Mr V. V. Giri, last week were to: Mr R. K. Laxman, the cartoonist, and Mr G. K. Reddy, the political commentator of The Hindu.

The late Dr N. B. Parulekar was given a posthumous award for his "advocacy of a cause".

We trust that the Durga-Ratan Awards will maintain their high standard of selection in the years to come.

## Sign of world food shortage

THE other day frantic buying at record prices brought wheat trading to a standstill in Chicago, the biggest grain market of the world. No sellers could be found for wheat in spite of treble the price being offered to what was offered a year ago. The

report of the US Government that there would be 30 per cent less wheat this year than last year has provided a distressing confirmation of the FAOs warning of a potential world food shortage.

## GNP: god with clay feet

THE growing Gross National Product is an ideal many people worship. Peter Hazelhurst, formerly the London Times correspondent in India, now in Tokyo, speaks of Japan's human sacrifices at the altar of the GNP. He writes that a quick stroll through the heart of Tokyo shows that what was taken for granted yesterday has disappeared today—clean air, vegetation and birds.

Tokyo is also the most expensive city in the world. The Index places New York at 100 and Tokyo at 113. The Government of India will be pleased to hear that consumer prices in Tokyo rose 1.2 per cent last month and, compared to London prices, in Tokyo beef is twice as expensive and butter and milk more than two and a half times so.

## Birbal

### UPON MY WORD!

Find as many words as you can from the TEN letters given below. The words must have four letters or more and must use the letter in larger type. At least one word must use ALL TEN letters. No proper nouns, plurals, or non-English words allowed, nor variations of same verb (eg. tame, tames).

UPON MY WORD PUZZLE NO. 40

You should find 34 words this week.

(Answer next week)

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 39

Acid, acne, aconite, action, acton, anecdote, antic, cade, cadet, cane, canoe, cant, canto, cate, cation, cede, cent, cento, cide, cion, cite, cnida, coat, coda, code, codeine, coin, cone, cote, ctene, dace, dacite, dacoit, dance, deacon, decane, decant, deceit, decent, deface, defect, defiance, diact, dice, edict, enact, entice, face, facet, fact, faction, fence, icon, incede, infect, nice, niece, notice, ocean, octane, once, otic, tace, tenace, tice, DEFECATION — To clear from dregs or impurities.

# There is a way out

by R. M. LALA

"It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness"

— Chinese proverb

## I HAVE FAITH in India.

Last week I was fortunate enough to share a platform with two outstanding cricketers, Sunil Gavaskar and Nari Contractor, Gavaskar made his name in his very first test in the West Indies. Contractor was our Test Cricket Captain, 11 years ago, when he was hit by a bumper from a West Indies bowler—an accident which abruptly ended his promising cricket career.

Both came to launch the autobiography of a West Indian cricketer, Conrad Hunte, a former Vice Captain. Contractor came at short notice. He spoke about his time in the West Indies without a breath of bitterness. For the benefit of the young cricketers of Bombay schools he spoke of the qualities that made Hunte not only a great name on the cricket field but a respected figure off the field. Both Gavaskar and Contractor came to encourage cricketers of Bombay schools to play better cricket — to play to win. They too had faith in the future of India.

Recently in the Nilgiris I met young industrialists, planters, principals, labour leaders, all eager to participate in an endeavour to put things right in this nation.

A senior railway official told me of how his initiative in 1948 helped to rehabilitate 7,000 refugees who



PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI: "Our people lose heart"

were parked in and around Sealdah Station, Calcutta. "The day I took charge I prayed to God to give me strength to clean up the place and house these miserable people," he said. When encouraged, he related at length the remarkable story of his faith and determination that ultimately led to the creation of a decent colony for the 7,000 refugees and cleared the station.

Some weeks ago a small group of industrialists, labour leaders and one of India's leading statesmen met at the MRA centre, at Panchgani, to draft the guidelines for an industrial manifesto which could resolve industrial disputes without loss of production.

All these are signs that there is a fresh stirring in this nation.

As the economic situation is worsening in the country thousands are questing for what they as individuals and in groups can do.

The press in India is quick to offer acid comment but slow to recognise this hope-giving factor. This, if encouraged and multiplied, will turn the tide in our nation.

In a survey of editorial comments on Independence Day a daily paper managed to pick out only two papers which displayed optimism, lost in a deluge of angry editorials in other journals. Self-criticism to be productive should move from the study of the failure to articulating a cure. Otherwise it deepens the cynicism

around us and erodes the very democratic structure we want to save and to strengthen. The Prime Minister is referring to this when she says in her Independence Day speech, "Our people become very happy when something good happens and lose heart in the face of the slightest difficulties."

Ajit Bhattacharjee of "The Times of India" writes of the year that has just passed, "It was without doubt the worst year so far with the possible exception of the very first year (of freedom) during which it seemed sometimes that the country would never emerge from the communal carnage following partition." A perceptive observer, he goes on to add that our national confidence has been injured in the past year by "political cynicism and administrative corruption".

He continues, "Corruption has been disregarded and its consequences minimised. This attitude, again, is rooted in the belief that a change in the economic environment will change the individual. But in fact

As the economic situation is worsening in the country thousands are questing for what they as individuals and in groups can do. People are no longer content to stand on the sidelines.

corruption has corroded even the traditional respect for honesty and selflessness that upheld society before." The situation, adds Bhattacharjee, would have been different "if priority had been given to fashioning the human material without which no endeavour can succeed."

One good thing about the present crisis is the focus it has put on the human element. If we are to refashion it we will need a sense of perspective, a passion to find a way out and the wherewithal to do it. Broadly speaking there needs to be a three-pronged approach to the present crisis. First, a clean-up at the Government levels; secondly, a shift in policies and, thirdly, fostering the initiative of individuals who feel for the nation.

What would electrify this nation is a change at the top levels of ad-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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## WAY OUT — from page 5

ministration. President Giri in his Independence speech noted: "If people lose discipline and rectitude, their moral stature and influence get seriously eroded. The most important sanction behind a democratic form of Government is the confidence which the people repose in it. It should be the constant endeavour of those placed in power to retain this confidence."

The credibility of our rulers has suffered, and has led to a general decline in discipline and moral standards. Gimmicks like salary cuts by central ministers and pleas for austerity by them are getting tiresome because everyone knows that the perquisites they receive per month are more than what most people can earn in a year.

Mrs Gandhi can inject some hope in the nation if, instead of deploring a "plan holiday" she initiates a "planned holiday" for some of her cabinet ministers who have made a hash of things. Some of them are still hanging on to their office with one foot in the grave and the other gently dipped in the gravy. She needs to select new dynamic people from outside the hierarchy of her party in preparation for the next elections.

### Policies

This is too major a subject to be tackled although earlier issues of this paper have dealt with it. Suffice it to say for the present that the invoking by the Government of the Defence of India Rules is a sad commentary on their ability to govern within the framework of ordinary laws. These Draconian laws may not deliver the goods and then what will the Government fall back on? Will it be the Army or will people then take the law into their own hands?

Beginning to put this country right may not be as complicated as it appears. It needs at all levels a healthy dose of honesty. First an honest admission from New Delhi of the mistakes that have been made. Secondly, a clean-up of our political life.

According to the present laws, no Member of Parliament can spend more than Rs 35,000 for his elections. Everybody knows that they spend at least 3 to 5 times as much. One of the first acts of an MP on entering Parliament is to file in returns — in most cases false. Is it not possible to raise this limit, framed more than 20 year ago, to a more realistic level?

Thirdly, the sources of revenue

for political parties are predominantly from black money, because official company donations are banned. This law should be repealed and companies allowed to subscribe. The financial accounts of all political parties should be audited and the returns submitted to the Election Commissioner. The Election Commissioner should have the authority to make his independent checks on party-records.

If the base of our political life is dishonest it is difficult to see how the superstructure can be above-board. If the base is cleaned up, there is hope.

It is worth asking why Indians who went to East Africa and other foreign countries made good whilst many in this land remained poor. A part of the answer is that wherever there is incentive, the Indian flourishes. Even in the midst of the encircling economic gloom comes the news, tucked away in small headlines, that last year (the "worst year") our exports went up by 22 per cent — beating our plan target a year in advance.

The reason again is that export incentives were given to the business houses. Incentive is provided either in financial gain or altruistic motives like love of country. It is the latter that needs to be harnessed in respect of Government policies.

Both the President and the Prime Minister have underlined the need of increased production and industrial harmony. They have both called for a moratorium on strikes and lockouts. The Indian National Trade Union Congress has expressed a wish to respond to this appeal. Will they be able to carry other federations of trade unions with them? On Independence Day workers of a leading Bombay Textile mill produced on their own initiative a play in Marathi on industrial reconciliation called "The Forgotten Factor" and are now planning to take the largest hall in Bombay to show it to others of management and labour. Some of these workers have already experienced the joy of stepping up production. The management in turn has responded.

There are other such incidents, like the one in Steelworth Company, Tinsukia, Assam where, as a result of a bitter labour dispute being settled outside court, 92 houses are going up for the workers.

One can say that a single swallow does not make a summer but nor is summer born before the first swallow appears.

# Crisis in food and prices

From D. K. Vishwanatha Rao in Secunderabad

THE effect of the Centre's ill-conceived food policy is now being intensely felt by those who gave the ruling Congress a massive mandate during the last mid-term elections. Mrs Gandhi's recent talk that the next two months would be critical and crucial to the country's economy has not only disillusioned the people but also propelled up the prices further. The modification that was issued later neither meant a denial nor helped bring down the prices.

The Communist Party of India unit of Vijayawada, an important business town which witnessed some bloody scenes during the separate Andhra agitation in recent months, took action similar to that of the Shiv Sena in Bombay. It began by coercing the business community to sell commodities at a price much lower than the prices prevailing in the superbazars and fair price shops. On July 5, when the CPI volunteers and the CPI Youth and Student wings unleashed hundreds of men, women and children on rice depots, the police remained silent spectators. Dealers reluctantly sold rice at one rupee a kilo.

### Police inaction

Encouraged by the silent policeman, who "bowed down to the slogan-shouting agitators for fear of untoward consequences later", the CPI has increased its activities under the slogan of "de-hoarding" rice, fertilisers and other commodities.

In the meanwhile a Presidential order has been promulgated to prevent hoarding of foodgrains. On the same day, the Collector of the

Krishna district invoked the Defence of India Rules to requisition groundnut oil with the mills and banned movement of groundnut kernel and oil and all kinds of dals (lentils) and grams (pulses). Later, the collector and other officials met with representatives of dal millers, wholesalers and exporters and discussed the matter. The outcome of the talks was "profitable", and the DIR was rescinded on July 31.

The traders, it was reported, voluntarily agreed to make over 1000 quintals of black gram dal and 500 quintals of green gram dal at Rs 194 a quintal every month to superbazars which would sell the same to the people at Rs 2.06 a kg: a clean profit of Rs 12 a quintal. This profiteering was explained away by citing that, at present the consumer pays between Rs 2.25 and Rs 3.50 a kg for different kinds of dals in the black market.

Rice millers of the Krishna district, part of the "rice bowl" of India, have agreed to supply 1000 tonnes of coarse rice each month for four months beginning in August. The

millers were asked to supply the rice at Rs 93 a quintal against the price of Rs 97 quoted by the millers of Vijayawada, where the Food Corporation of India (FCI) rice is being sold

## ANDHRA

to lower income groups at Rs 1.17 a kilo. Superbazars in Hyderabad sell coarse rice around Rs 1.50 and the fair price shops are asked to supply the same rice to consumers at Rs 1.25 a kilo.

Meanwhile, the Foodgrains Ration Shop Dealers' Association of Hyderabad and Secunderabad has decided not to lift August's quota of foodgrains until their demands, submitted to the Advisor to the Governor, are conceded.

They have demanded non-interference by police in the working of the fair price shops; supply of stocks by the Government in time in two instalments; an allowance of one kilogram of shortage per quintal to meet the losses in handling, weighing and transportation; and enhancement of commission from Rs 1.25 to Rs 5 as is being given in Madras, Bombay and other cities. The last and the most important demand is representation of two members of the association on the advisory board of the State Government for allocation and distribution of foodgrains.

### Need for representation voiced

There are about 600 fair price shops in Hyderabad district. At present none of them are given a chance to represent at an official level either their own difficulties or those of the ration card holders whom they confront everyday.

Even at the national level, the need for such a representation of the traders was voiced last week by the Federation of the All-India Foodgrain Dealers' Association. In its five-point plan to tackle the food and price crises, the Federation urged the central Government to set up advisory committees at all levels, with the mandi at the base and the Federation at the apex, with representatives from the Ministries and departments concerned as well as from the organisation of traders, farmers and consumers.

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PROMISE OF PLENTY WITH



# VERDICT!

## THIS WEEK HIMMAT ...

**IS STAGGERED** by the audacity of Information Minister **I. K. Gujral** offering gratuitous advice to editors on how they should run their papers when his own department has made a monumental mess resulting in a 30 per cent newsprint cut overnight.

**ADVISES** Ugandan Asians to heed General Amin's order not to paint themselves black with shoe polish and warns them that if they are caught by the mercurial General they are likely to lose everything except possibly the thick layer of polish on their skins.

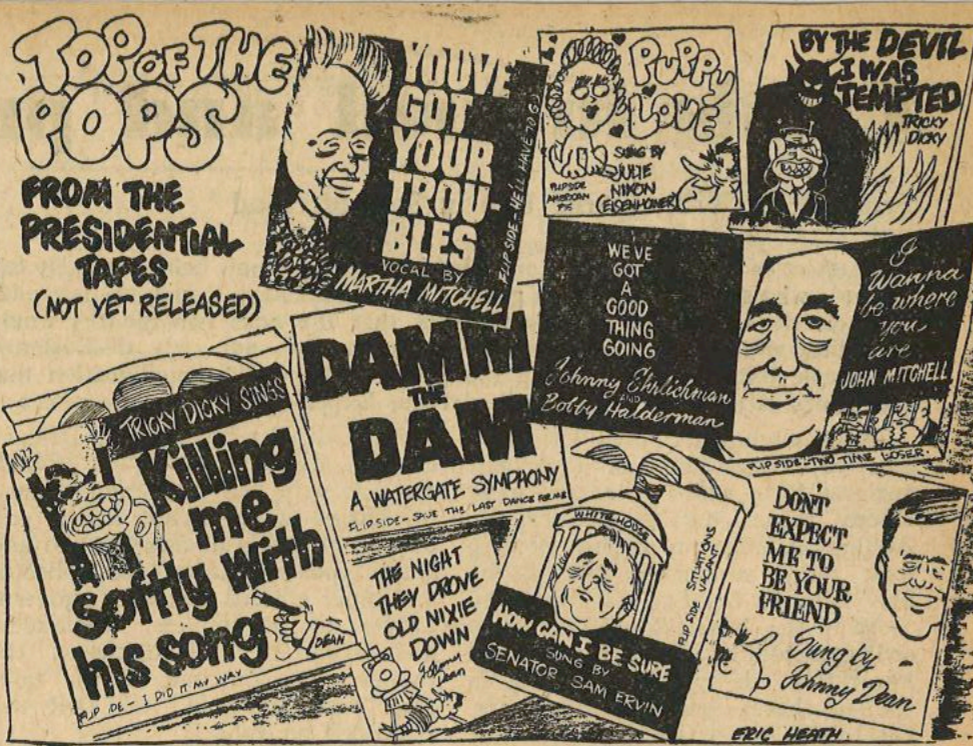
**ACCUSES** the State Assembly Speaker of Punjab **Mr Darbara Singh**, of violating all tenets of decency and fair play in his refusal to resign following his indictment by the Harchand Singh Committee for involvement in the land grab scandal.

**CONDEMNS** the financial support given by the **Government of Denmark** to the production of a sacrilegious film called "The Love Affairs of Jesus".

**SEES** little likelihood of an immediate rapprochement between the erstwhile king-maker **Kamaraj** and the Prime Minister despite the meeting between the two in New Delhi.

**CASTS A SORROWFUL GLANCE** at its wallet following **Y. B. Chavan's** statement that the value of the rupee declined by 47.82 per cent in ten years and asks whether at this rate a day will come when the rupee will be worth less than the paper it is printed on.

**DISMISSES** the allegation by the Pakistani Finance Minister **Mr Mubashir Hasan** that India is responsible for causing the unprecedented floods in his country.



Courtesy: The Dominion, New Zealand

## BEST WORLD PRESS

### BYE BYE, LON NOL

Whether on orders from North Vietnam, as Lon Nol officials assert, or on those of Prince Sihanouk, as he would have it, the assorted Cambodian rebels are planning to press to military victory.

It seems reasonable to expect, too, that this victory will be Communist, whether or not Prince Sihanouk returns to Phnom Penh. Just what elements are comprised in the Khmer Rouge, how much of it is nationalist, how much indigenous Marxist, how much Chinese or North Vietnamese, will remain for the future to show. The best guess seems to be that North Vietnam will have at least an ideologically friendly neighbour in Cambodia, which both South Vietnam and Thailand must view with suspicion and alarm.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, Paris

The tragedy is that the departure of Lon Nol would in itself solve nothing. Sihanouk has raised his sights and sworn revenge on all the republic's present leaders. And if the next few weeks should see their fall, one must wonder whether Sihanouk's leadership would last as long as the ill-fated republic — or simply as long as the Khmer Rouge and Hanoi would tolerate him.

FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, Hongkong

### NIXON AND AGNEW

Senator Eagleton was discredited as a Vice-Presidential candidate because he had had psychiatric treatment and because he failed to tell his Presidential running-mate, Senator McGovern, about that fact. Now Vice-President Agnew is

under investigation, not by psychiatrists but by federal authorities in Baltimore for possible violation of bribery, tax and conspiracy laws. It must be hoped that his protestations of innocence are vindicated, for Mr Nixon's own behaviour has been such that a substitute President of integrity may be needed before 1976.

THE SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh

There is now a complex interplay of legal, constitutional and political issues. The "tapes" have been fastened on by the hunters — probably wrongly — as the simple acid test. The Prosecutor and the Senate are now beginning the long legal battle to force Mr Nixon to surrender them. "Impeach me if you dare" he is saying in effect. Whether the challenge is taken up or not now depends very largely on the investigation into alleged irregularities by Vice-President Agnew, who has just given a spirited denial with perhaps a daunting hint to the Democrats that he is ready and fit for supreme office if need be.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, London

### INTERCEPTION OF LEBANESE AIRLINER

Israel's concern with terrorism as an international problem, and with air safety in particular, is of course quite legitimate. . . . But how can any Government expect its concern for air safety to be taken seriously when one of the most serious threats to air safety in its area is the activity of its own armed forces? And how can it expect its appeals to other Governments for better control of terrorism to carry weight when it has itself adopted terrorist methods as an official policy? The fact is that these actions of Israel's make the adoption of any international policy against terrorism much more difficult, if not actually impossible.

THE TIMES, London

# ASIA

## ISRAEL:

### New form of terrorism

THE UN Security Council's unanimous condemnation of Israel for forcing down an Arab airliner is an indication of the world's anger over the incident. Not even Israel's ally, the United States, objected to the censure. Criticism of the act also came from the chairman of the Israeli Pilots' Association.



MOSHE DAYAN: "no minnows"

The Middle East Airlines' jet, chartered by Iraqi Airways, was intercepted by four Israeli fighters soon after take off from Beirut on August 10. The jet was forced to land at a military airfield in Israel, but was allowed to proceed after the passengers were checked.

The man the Israelis were after was Palestinian guerrilla leader **George Habash**. Unfortunately for the Israelis, Habash changed his plans at the last moment. Why he did so is yet unexplained, but obviously the agents of the Israeli intelligence agency could not get a message through in time.

It was Dr Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

(PFLP) which "pioneered" hijacking in the Middle East. Dr Habash now describes the Israeli act as "the climax of terrorism". In their attempt to capture Dr Habash, the Israelis have opened the floodgates to a new form of terrorism — where government jets are used to "arrest" civilian planes. Defence Minister General Dayan's admission that Israel would continue operations of this sort "instead of chasing minnows" confirms that the Middle East crisis is entering a new stage.

## TURKEY:

### Poppy popping its head again

Will the prohibition of poppy planting be lifted in Turkey after the October parliamentary elections? Local politicians are reported to be using the issue and making promises to voters in an attempt to jockey themselves to power.

Till last year, opium growing earned Turkey nearly Rs 35 million a year in foreign exchange. The Turkish state agricultural marketing organisation was the main buyer from the farmers. The government agency then sold the opium to pharmaceutical companies, who converted the opium into medicinal morphine.

While the government paid the farmers about Rs 100 for a kilo of opium, illegal buyers were willing to

pay nearly thrice the amount. Thus, half of Turkey's annual production of 120,000 kilos was being fed into the world's illegal opium market. The US proved to be a big customer.

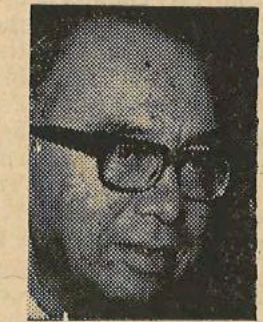
Under pressure from the Nixon administration, a ban on poppy planting was introduced in Turkey in late 1971. To compensate for the loss in foreign exchange, the US offered over Rs 100 million to Turkey. Most of this money has been used to subsidise the loss of income to farmers.

Another Rs 150 million was pledged towards an agricultural development programme to help the affected farmers. Unfortunately much of this money lies unused.

## MALAYSIA:

### New blood in Cabinet

THE Malaysian Prime Minister, **Tun Abdul Razak**, has taken the occasion of the death of Deputy Premier **Tun Dr Ismail** to have a major Cabinet reshuffle. He



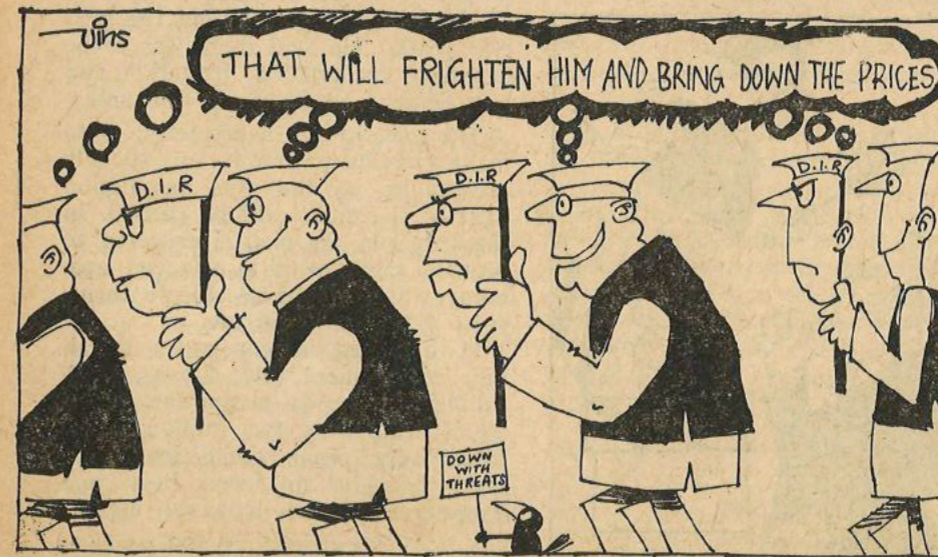
TUN RAZAK: reshuffles team

appointed a new deputy and introduced three new ministers and six deputy ministers, increasing the strength of his cabinet to 24.

Education Minister **Datuk Hussein Bin Dato Onn** has been appointed Deputy Prime Minister. He is the son of the former Chief Minister of Johore, **Dato Onn Bin Jaffar**, who inspired the Malays to form the United Malays' National Organisation (UMNO). It is this party that negotiated with the British to get independence and has since been the dominant party in Malaysia's coalition Government.

Hussein Onn has been given the portfolios of Trade and Industry but the important Home portfolio has been given to **Ghazali Ghafie**, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

**Tun Dr Ismail's** death at the age of 57 has been a great blow to Prime Minister **Tun Razak**. Ismail had left the Government in 1967 but was asked to take over the vital Home portfolio at the height of the racial riots in 1969. He stood for a multi-racial society, and was trusted. The death came at a time when Malaysia is taking interest in the affairs of South East Asia and is on the verge of establishing diplomatic relations with China.



LIBYA:

## What will Gadaffi do next?

Tripoli has announced that the Libya-Egypt merger will take place by next September. Colonel Gadaffi's fanaticism has only made the Egyptians wary. After the break up of the Egypt-Syria union, Cairo is skeptical about the merger really working. Egyptian President Sadat is not in a position to come out against it since the Libyan subsidy of 150 million dollars and Pan-Arab opinion at home is important to him. However, in a recent statement, he warned against a union based on emotion.

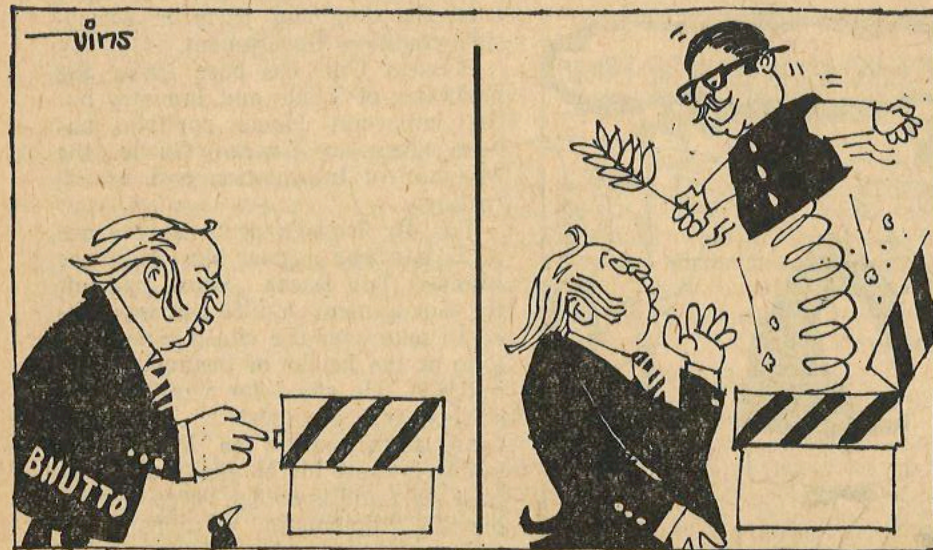
Nobody in Libya dares to challenge the leadership of Colonel Gadaffi at the moment, but Colin Jackson writes, in the following article from Tripoli, that the Libyan leader may suddenly vanish from the scene.

LIBYA is in an apprehensive mood at the moment. The Islamic Republic's prima donna ruler, Colonel Muammar Gadaffi, is in a bad mood following his unsuccessful visit to Cairo where he sought to promote the proposed merger between his country and Egypt. People here in the Libyan capital are wondering who Gadaffi will wreak his revenge on — the foreigners again, or the locals now busy making money. There is no doubt that Libya is experiencing an economic boom.

In 1970, after the revolution, the wholesale sacking of the experts of the old regime, and the introduction of Gadaffi's puritanism slowed Libya's progress to a snail's pace. But now Tripoli harbour is jammed with ships. The shops are filled with every kind of luxury goods. The nation's spending income has reached \$2,000 million — a record \$1,000 per head per year. Twenty years ago it was only \$40. Fine new roads now provide the country with an excellent infrastructure. Meanwhile the hotels

of Tripoli are full of foreign salesmen anxious to cater for the spending boom of this newly-rich country.

It is true, of course, that anxious merchants do not exactly relish the kind of *dolce vita* imposed on them by Colonel Gadaffi, for the Germans, the French, the British and the Italians all live in Libya in a kind of blind man's world — unless they know Arabic. The European language, the Roman script, has disappeared from Libya on orders from Gadaffi. The hotel menus are in Arabic and the date is in accordance with the Moslem calendar. It is somewhat strange to have lunch in the 14th century. The European street signs have been removed. The English-language newspaper has disappeared. The walls of Libya are plastered with mysterious green and yellow notices. Any Russian visitor to Homs would be surprised to see a sign in the hotel there which reads: "The Moslem Brotherhood and the Communists are equal enemies of purity in the Arab world."



This is where some right-wing observers from afar often make a mistake about Colonel Gadaffi's Libya. He and his Revolutionary Command Council are firmly, even fanatically, seeking the "third way," a compromise between Western capitalism and Soviet socialism. It is a kind of 20th century return to the purist teachings of Islam. In other aspects it has its roots in the French Revolution. For Colonel Gadaffi, Napoleon, and not Marx, is a hero. Then again *Le Monde*, the French newspaper, has described Gadaffi and his young officers as "the children of Cairo Radio". They grew up listening to the revolutionary haranguing of the late President Nasser.

The social scene which this Islamic Socialism produces is a strange one. Colonel Gadaffi delivered a speech in April declaring the launching of a new "Popular Revolution". The twin enemies of bureaucracy and capitalism were going to be overcome by the workings of popular committees. Like wildfire these bodies emerged taking charge of universities, radio and television and hospitals. They even emerged in business offices. In part, the result has been a witch hunt by young zealots in the best traditions of the French Revolution — ruining the careers of some distinguished professors, technologists and doctors.

When it comes to real power, however, there is no doubt that the planning and development still rest firmly in the hands of a few Western-trained graduates who are in their 30s. They are dedicated and immensely hard-working people. At their head is the brilliant Minister of Planning, Abdul Kakhrim Ballou. He told me that it was planned to make agriculture the number one priority. Spending, he said, would double from about \$600 million to \$1,200 million a year within the next two years. He said there was to be extensive reclamation, irrigation and resettlement projects in four areas.

The aim, in the short term, is to make farming profitable and socially acceptable, so that the population drift to the cities will be curbed. In the long run the plan is expected to provide Libya with a balanced economy which would be able to thrive even if the oil dried up.

With a vast income and a spiralling development rate, Libya's main problem today is manpower. The country has only two million native inhabitants. Some technicians have been brought in from Italy and Yugoslavia. French irrigation experts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## Egypt's dilemma

by Mary Lean

EGYPT for me was full of surprises.

Certainly the old world charm is there — the men in galibeas, donkeys and carts, and street bazaars in the centre of Cairo. But I saw no beggars, and Cairo showed many of the signs of a rapidly developing modern city.

Al Ahram, Egypt's leading paper has recently moved into new build-



PRESIDENT SADAT: saving face

ings, which boast the most advanced British machinery: more modern, they say, than the printers' unions will allow British papers to use.

Just outside Cairo, at Helwan, a vast iron and steel complex which will employ 104,000 workers is under construction using Russian aid. There are immense resources still to be employed: as yet only a small percentage of the Aswan High Dam's potential electricity output is being exploited.

At Luxor — tourist centre for visits to the Valley of the Kings — we passed schoolboys crouching under street-lights to do their home-work because they had no lighting in their homes. Many, we were told, go from these conditions to become doctors and engineers.

Agricultural development is also under way. Land reclaimed from the desert since the revolution totals about 1,000,000 acres — a small start maybe in a country of which 350,000 square miles is desert, but one that gives hope for the future.

One medical student argued for an education tax, on the Russian model, for would-be emigrants. "I have been educated by the country at the expense of the farmer," she told me. "Now I must serve my country in return."

Patriotism is intense in Egypt. Several of our Egyptian companions were in tears when we made a two-minute stop at Nasser's tomb on our way to the airport.

There is considerable frustration about the "no war, no peace" situation and the diversion of funds badly needed for development to war expenditure. In February 1000 Cairo students were arrested after pro-war riots and 60 were standing trial in closed courts. Sadat's warlike statements owe much to this conflict in many, especially the young, between a desperate longing to do something about the situation, and a sense of importance when confronted with Israeli military might. It seems that they are intended less to provoke an immediate reopening of the war, than to save face before the nation and the world.

Egyptians cite Aswan as an example of the many occasions when western refusal of aid has forced them to rely on Russia which, unlike the west, seems willing to take on long term schemes where immediate material returns are uncertain.

A student described the Egyptian dilemma, "The tragedy is that we do not like the Russians — but they give us aid. So what can we do?" Later she added, "We have to accept that all aid is only politics anyway." The truth is that the Russians, no more than the Israelis, understand the Egyptian philosophy of life. Egyptians feel despised by them. Neither Sadat nor Nasser have had any leanings towards Marxism.

To a country where people pray in the railway stations, and the pictures of Nasser and Sadat in every public room often share the wall with the name of Allah, the materialism of Russian communism is alien and unacceptable. Hence the eagerness for co-operation with the west and especially with Britain. Anti-American feeling is intense — fed by American support for Israel.

Many have doubts whether the projected union with Libya could be made to work. Gadaffi is widely respected by Arabs. "Al Ahram" recently carried a front page picture

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

**SRINAGAR** — Nearly 900,000 people in Jammu and Kashmir have been hit by floods which have claimed 68 lives, swept away 7768 houses and damaged 40,000 hectares of crop-land.

**PATIALA** — A special audit team, led by a Deputy Accountant-General, is inquiring into the alleged irregularities of the Punjab State Electricity Board.

**CHANDIGARH** — The Haryana Government has restricted tours by its Ministers, administrative secretaries and departmental heads, with a view to saving Rs 6 crores annually.

**NEW DELHI** — The nation-wide strike of loco men was called off under an agreement which includes, among other things, a moratorium on strikes for three years on the issues discussed.

— The citizens of Delhi had to go without electricity and sufficient water for five days as all the five generators supplying the city of these went out of order causing one of the worst power crises on record.

**LUCKNOW** — Almost all the rivers in Uttar Pradesh are still rising and the floods have so far affected more than 35 lakh people and caused damage worth Rs 12 crores.

**CALCUTTA** — West Bengal's draft Fifth Plan envisages a total outlay of Rs 4000 crores, including Rs 1514 crores in the state sector, to ensure an overall growth rate of 8.2 per cent.

**GANDHINAGAR** — The Gujarat Government will soon set up a Rs 22-crore tyre factory in the backward area of Broach district in its plan to develop underdeveloped areas of the state with special emphasis on providing employment to Adivasis and other economically backward people.

**BOMBAY** — The prices of foodgrains and other daily necessities have risen by 30 per cent in several parts of the country in the past four months, according to a special survey carried out by a leading news agency.

— The Maharashtra Government invoked the Defence of India Rules (DIR) to give statutory effect to the prices of various essential commodities fixed recently by its six panels.

**HYDERABAD** — The state transport authorities will soon launch "operation smokeless twin cities" to control smoke emitted from motor vehicles in an attempt to control air pollution in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

**MADRAS** — The Tamilnadu Chief Minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi clarified that his slogan "India for Indians; Tamilnadu for Tamilians" does not mean that the state wants to leave the Indian Union.

# Government's partial take-over of book imports

**Interview with Mr Sadanand Bhatkal, publisher and bookseller**

THE Government of India, by a notification dated April 2, 1973, partly took over the import of books required by libraries and other institutions.



SADANAND BHATKAL

Though four months have passed, there has not been much of a protest either by the booksellers or the book-lovers. HIMMAT interviewed MR Sadanand Bhatkal, former President of the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Associations, to find out the state of affairs.

*What precisely has the Government done and why?*

The Government has done three things: 1) cut the import licences of private booksellers by one-third 2) granted this amount — around Rs 3 crores — to the STC for imports and 3) invited fresh applications from small booksellers so as to encourage them.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also sent a circular to all institutions and libraries asking them to place their orders for scientific, technical and similar books with the STC, offering them a flat 15 per cent discount, or if they wanted to order through private booksellers, to demand a minimum 15 per cent discount.

The Government has given three main reasons for the take-over:

- 1) The trade has failed to satisfy special requirements of the academic world.
- 2) It has been wasting valuable foreign exchange in importing filth.
- 3) There are malpractices in invoicing, etc.

*What is your reaction to the arguments advanced by the Government?*

The last two evils — importing filth and malpractices in invoicing etc — can easily be checked by proper custom checks, scrutiny and other legal measures. It does not require taking over of the trade.

As for the alleged failure of the trade to "satisfy the academic world",

there are many angles to it. Has a detailed survey been carried out of what the librarians, academicians and other authorities think? The Government did not even consult the representatives of the book trade or the academic institutions before taking the present step.

*What do you think are the real reasons for the take-over?*

The socialistic policy which the Government claims to be following seems to mean a gradual but complete elimination of the middleman from all activities. There are also certain pressure groups, even among the book trade, who want to stop book imports altogether.

*It is alleged that a general State take-over of the book trade would have far reaching intellectual and political implications...*

Certainly. There would inevitably be a control over what books we should read.

*Why are you taking it lying down? Why do you not project your case forcefully?*

We have not been able to project

## BOOKS

our case well because of a number of factors:

- We lack statistics. We continuously urged, and ultimately had, the National Council of Applied Research (NCAR) to undertake such a survey. We feel the Government should have waited until the findings were known.

- We seem to be getting used to such sudden take-over decisions by the Government. In the past the Government has gone ahead with similar decisions in spite of vigorous protests.

- A large majority of us feel that the STC will not be able to handle it and will turn over the trade back to us after some time.

- There are many weaknesses in the organisation. The weakest link are the booksellers. There are too many of them — about 20,000 — and of these only about 50 are well-established. There is also a gap between the profit margins, and hence a con-

flict, between the small and the large operators.

- The trade is already becoming uneconomic because of the high cost of paper, printing, forwarding, etc. Hence many think that even without the Government take-over they would have to soon move out and take up some other business.

*Would you explain the general set-up of the book trade? What are the profit margins? How does the discount structure operate?*

Most of the foreign publishers have their representatives in India. They have personal contacts and long experience in the field. They negotiate purchases and offer them to the booksnops.

The books fall into three categories:

- a) Research books in scientific and other fields. These are the books normally required by the libraries and which are now taken over by the STC. These make up 70-80 per cent of our sales. We get 5-15 per cent discount — sometimes none. How can we then offer a flat 15 per cent discount?

What actually "precipitated" the stepping in by the Government was the crisis in Delhi. The libraries insisted on a 15 per cent discount while the Delhi booksellers refused to give more than five per cent, an unwise step at the present juncture. They should have waited till the import policy was announced. Anyway, how this figure of 15 per cent is arrived at is a mystery. The Government has no data on the economics of the book trade.

The other two categories, which still remain in private hands, are: b) Textbooks in all fields. The discount generally given to the libraries is 25 per cent. c) Fiction, general books, children's books and so on. The discount is 33-40 per cent.

The annual import licences given would now be around Rs 5 crores. The average gross margin of big booksellers is about 14 per cent, exclusive of overheads. The real margin is one to three per cent on the turnover. This is in fact much lower than in other industries.

*What are the problems you face in this trade?*

Our main problems are:  
1) The need to conscientiously develop knowledge and expertise and

strive to serve the reading public. Honesty needs to be revived. We have a considerable problem of novices in the field trying to make some quick money. There is also a lot of nepotism. This is of course a part of our national problem of a crisis of character.

2) Constant and sudden changes in Government policy make the trader uncertain and therefore unwilling to take initiative or make major changes.

3) Payments by institutions are usually delayed. This ties up our capital. The institutions also encourage unhealthy price-cutting.

*What can be done now?*

The intelligentsia must kick up a row over it! And to make the protest effective we need to explain our position to the Members of Parliament and raise the matter there.

The Government must sit down with the librarians, academicians and representatives of the book trade and arrive at a sensible policy.

Sudhir Chandra

## What others say about the take-over

**Mr Janaki Basu, President, Federation of Publishers & Booksellers Association :**

Books are quite different from other commodities. Only knowledgeable persons are competent to handle them. Considering their variety and wide range, only the established bookshops can be successful. The book-traders are not merely instruments of bargain... but have a definite role in the formation of society.

**Prof V. V. John, eminent educationist :**

As publisher and bookseller, the Government's aesthetic standards are contemptible. I feel uneasy that the delinquencies of the book trade should have prompted a remedy that could be as bad as the malady, or even worse. It is odd that we should seek to put down malpractices that

have thrived because of the incompetence and negligence of the bureaucracy by handing over the whole business to be mismanaged by the same bureaucracy.

**Mrs Vidyut Khandwala, Librarian, SNDT Women's University, Bombay :**

When I received these circulars in May, 1973, from the University Grants Commission (UGC), I wondered how they could be issued without consulting the Librarians. Our country which is wedded to a democratic way of life must consult the people most concerned when they make policy decisions.

**Mr A. B. Shah, President, International Association for Cultural Freedom, Bombay :**

The arguments advanced to justify the take-over of book imports by the STC are a mixture of fact, fiction and ideological obsession. Democracy cannot thrive without a free circulation of ideas and information, no matter how inconvenient they may be to the Government of the day.

## How to be a good administrator

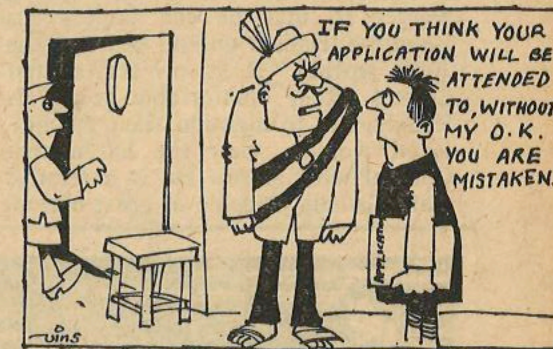
**PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES OF ADMINISTRATION** by H. V. Kamath; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: pp 55; price Rs 3.

THE modern welfare state is increasingly assuming a "cradle to grave" responsibility for its citizens. It is no wonder, therefore, that the professional administrator too is very much in the picture — forming an essential part of the overall "Big Brother" image.

In India, additionally, a confusing controversy is still going on about the "committed" civil servant. Over such a divided house, with the Ministers and their civil servants at odds with each other, who is better suited to preside than Mr H. V. Kamath who has been both an able ICS officer and a popular politician?

In his latest book, an outcome of the Ramadani Memorial lectures delivered under the Bhavan's auspices, he lucidly sets out the basics of efficient administration and also makes an impassioned plea for a committed civil servant — committed to the welfare of the people under his charge!

The whole thesis boils down finally to the necessity of developing good character in the administrators.



Mr Kamath, who has also served on the Administrative Reforms Commission, recommends a special training programme to "strengthen the ethical and spiritual base of the officer" and correctly observes that basically the officer "should be good and honest, for on that foundation alone can the superstructure of skill, knowledge and efficiency be erected."

This slender volume should be of interest to all those interested in the art of administration — whether for serious study or general reading. One, however, vainly looks throughout the deadly serious narrative for the whip of humour one is falsely led to expect by the humorous cover!

S.C.

## This is it!

By Sudhir Dar



"It's for the Minister..."

Bibiji didn't send any lunch today!"  
(Courtesy: The Hindustan Times, Delhi)

**LIBYA — from page 10**

are conducting the search for water. But, of course, the largest number of expatriates are from Egypt. It is currently estimated that there are at least 200,000 doctors, teachers, road workers and agricultural technicians who have come in from the land of the Nile. An Egyptian teacher earning £6 a week in Cairo can get £20 a week in Benghazi. This must seem at first sight an attractive proposition. But almost every Egyptian I met said he wanted to go home. "My wife is insulted in the shops," one man said. "I am jeered at in schools." "My landlord cheats me and I can't even buy a bottle of beer," were some of the comments.

Mr Ballou told me that he expected Libya's population to double in the next five years. This can only happen if the merger with Egypt does, in fact, occur and a mass immigration policy is adopted to attract Egyptians. How the bulk of Libya's people would react to having their identities submerged at the very moment when they have at last achieved some independence and dignity must be one of the main debating points in Colonel Gadaffi's Revolutionary Command Council.

The Colonel, of course, has approached union with Egypt with an almost maniacal zeal. He wants a merger so that he can impose his Islamic Socialism on the heart of the Arab world. It is no secret that Cairo's rather comfortable bourgeois leaders, not to mention their emancipated women, view the haranguing Colonel with alarm. He is a strange man, Gadaffi. Capable of great charm,

generally determined to steer his people from their sloth, he alternates between moods of high elation and deep gloom. Some medical men say that "Brother" Colonel, as he is called, is a classic example of a manic depressive. He is in striking contrast to the number two man in the country — Prime Minister Major Abdul-Salam Jalloud. Major Jalloud is an accomplished negotiator, a very hard worker, not much of a speaker.

At the moment no one dares challenge the Colonel. But I have a feeling that one day he may suddenly vanish from the scene. Major Jalloud would then be in charge of an independent Libya — free to spend its great treasure as it wishes. — FWF

**EGYPT — from page 11**

of his parents who still live the life of Bedouins, to stress his incorruptibility.

Union would provide a much-needed interchange between Libyan money and Egyptian skills. But human relations between Libya and Egypt are difficult.

The Egyptians feel themselves culturally superior and distrust Libyan fanaticism which has recently provoked violence between Moslems and Copts in Cairo.

Apart from the human difficulties however, union would seem to be reasonable. Egypt and Libya are neighbours and each has something the other wants. If union comes, according to one well-known Palestinian journalist, this will not be another Syria.

But in spite of the hopeful signs, the situation is critical.

**THIS INDIA**

**MEET JP**

JANAK PRASAD believes in mixed metaphors. He is blessed with an original mind. It churns out "excruciatingly exquisite" phrases. He does not like being dictated to by norms of grammar. Words, of course, come naturally to him. When your spirits strike zero, he's the man for you.

JP saw a friend on the road. Hailed him. Shook hands. Exuded pleasure.

"How are you?" enquired the friend. "I am in the well," replied JP, "I hope you're the same."

He was on his way to visit a colleague. The man was out. JP tried again the next evening. The man had not returned from work. He went in the morning. The man had left. But JP was not one to give up easily. Finally he got his man. "What is this," he grumbled. "I come to your house at 8 in the morning—You've gone out. I come at 8 in the evening — You've not come in. It seems you work very hardly."

JP got himself invited to a Governor's party. He took a friend with him. They enjoyed themselves. Ate well. At the end they singled out their hostess to express their appreciation.

"Madam, it was a wonderful evening," gushed JP's friend, "the food was so delicious that we're feeling fully fooled."

JP was not to be out done. He butted in, "Madam, what he means is that we've eaten so much that we are fully fed up."

Whether JP ever graced the Raj Bhavan again can be left to our imaginations.

JP's son got a good job. Talks for his marriage were under way. Someone rang JP and enquired about his son. Replied JP proudly, "Oh, he's prospecting very well."

JP is now trying his hand at writing. Commenting on the current crisis, he wrote, "the crisis has invariably become the handy weapon for the opposition to fish in the tumbled waters."

Well, enough about JP for the moment. You must meet him yourself.

*Neeraja Chowdhury*

**FILMS**

**"The Red Tent"**

WHEN an explosion occurred in the service module of Apollo 13, the whole world, with baited breath, followed the progress of the astronauts back to earth. "The Red Tent" at the New Empire is the story of a disastrous attempt to reach the North Pole by dirigible (navigable balloon) which must have created as much interest in 1928.

The film is absorbing from beginning to end. It is in moments of crisis that the best comes out in men, and the film spotlights this in a natural way. The scenes of the North Pole are magnificent.

The film is about the air crash of the dirigible "Italia". The Arctic expedition led by General Umberto Nobile (Peter Finch) ends in disaster. The ten who survive the crash find a tent from among the supplies and paint it red to make it easier for aeroplanes to find them; hence the name of the film.

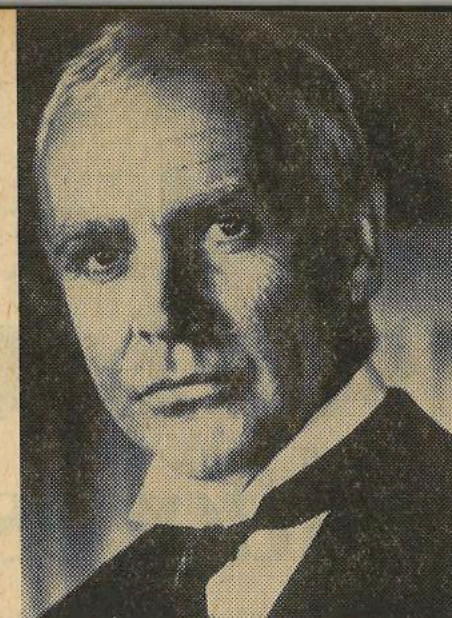
Rescue attempts are hampered by bad weather and poor visibility. The famous explorer Roald Amundsen (well acted by Sean Connery of "James Bond" fame) then ventures forth in a plane. But the attempt ends in disaster as Amundsen crashes.

In the Red tent, attempts to get a broken radio working are frustrated by lack of an essential part, the resistor. After nearly 10 days, one man gets up in the night with an idea. A resistor is made with graphite: so he scribbles on a piece of paper with a lead pencil. The graphite in the pencil becomes a resistor! To see the joy on the faces of the men as jazz music fills the tent is one of the best scenes in the film.

A Swedish pilot who finds them insists that he will take only General Nobile and no one else. But when the General, convinced that he is the one who can direct rescue operations, arrives in Kingsbay he is criticised for abandoning his men.

The film actually starts with the General, who has summoned the principal characters 40 years later to an imaginary reunion, trying to exonerate himself.

There are plenty of heroes in the film. There are the three men who decide to try and walk 90 miles to get help, though they are ill equipped for such a journey. And then the Swedish meteorologist, Finn Malmgren, suffering from frost-bite, de-



Sean Connery as Amundsen

cides to lie down and die rather than slow the pace of the others. Finally, all the men are rescued, 50 days after the crash, thanks to the help of a Russian ice-breaker.

The gripping film, which also stars Claudia Cardinale, is an Italo-Soviet co-production directed by Mickail Kalatozov. V. Y.

**Viewpoint**

**Constituents must assert themselves**

Rs 25 to H. Paranjoti, E. G. Dist, AP

As soon as their representative is declared the winner in an election, the people of each constituency should form a committee of nine or ten persons representing a cross-section of that constituency. These representatives should set out norms which the elected candidate must abide by. If any norm is violated by the candidate he should be warned. If he fails to retrace his steps, he must be made to resign.

Parliament must enact laws preventing members of one party from joining another party, after they are elected. The people of the constituency concerned should recall a candidate who has crossed the floor, make him resign and stand for re-election with his new party affiliation.

Unless the people wake up, ensure their rights and make parliament and the state legislatures pass suitable laws to enforce those rights, the top-

**What is the answer to the toppling game?**

**Constituents must assert themselves**

Rs 15 to K. J. Joseph, Poona 14

plunging game will go on. Only the people can put a stop to it by asserting themselves. It is their democratic right to do so.

**Punish the guilty**

Rs 15 to K. J. Joseph, Poona 14

In recent months, state ministers of UP, Gujarat and Bihar fell like a pack of cards. Panic has spread to other states as well.

In order to end the toppling game, the Congress party ought to develop a basic sense of realism. It should conduct a critical self-examination to spot the cause of dissension and internal squabbles.

All the recently toppled ministers were hand picked and appointed by the Centre, to put an end to factional rivalry within the party. But local leadership needs to be encouraged.

The political parties, with no exceptions, want to remain in power by hook or by crook. Hence the defectors go unpunished. If toppling has to be stopped, stern

disciplinary action should be taken against the defectors. A ministry should have the guts to resign if it has failed to give an efficient form of Government, instead of clinging to power.

These steps call for courage and integrity. But if we lack these virtues, we have to face the inevitable — political treachery and toppling occurring as often as the showers in monsoon.

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\* How can people from crowded cities be attracted to the countryside?

Closing date September 7

\*\* What qualifications are essential in the Prime Minister of India?

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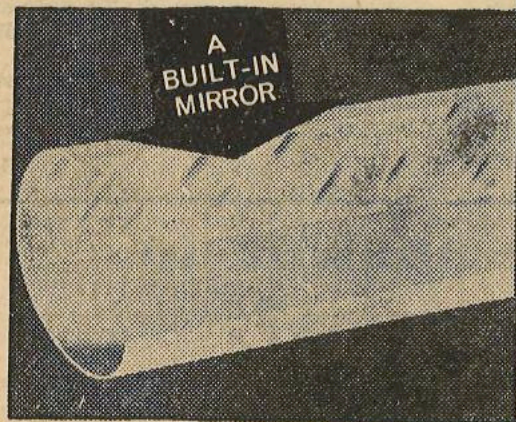
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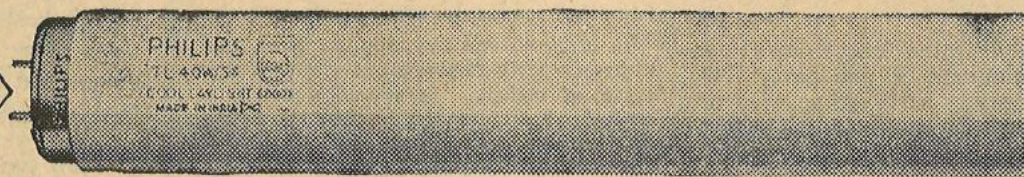


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# To answer India's water needs—a new pump

by A. Ramsay Tainsh

*The author of this article spent many years in India and Burma and knows our agricultural conditions at first hand. Now in Sweden, he has invented a medium-lift pump — which is portable — and one pump can service many wells.*

IN India it requires 4000 metric tonnes of water to grow one metric tonne of wheat, barley, maize or millet and about three times as much water to grow one metric tonne of paddy. The average for all grains is 10,000 metric tonnes.

Good storage at domestic and village level, where birds, rodents, insects, mites, bacteria and fungi do most damage, is therefore of vital importance, as it saves both food and water.

The grain wastage during the Bihar drought cost 30 times as much as the great Bhakra project, including the dam and the electrification scheme. The volume of water lost was equal to 66 times the live capacity of the Bhakra reservoir.

The high-dam and vast irrigation schemes have failed to stop flooding and to provide water when needed.

The large silos and warehouses have also failed because the new wheats have a high moisture-content and do not store well unless thoroughly dried before storage in silos. When stored in bags in warehouses this grain absorbs moisture from the atmosphere and provides ideal conditions for the storage pests and fungi to multiply and do maximum damage.

The cheapest way to store grain at domestic and village level is to use four gallon cans and 40 gallon drums. The grain should be thoroughly cleaned and dried and the cans and drums filled and packed tight. They should then be sealed and stored in a cool place and kept sealed. In about three months all the pests in the grain are suffocated. In this way the grain will store well for many years. The reduction in waste pays for the cost of the containers within a few months. With a little paint the containers will last a life-time.

When the rains fail the grass and fodder are soon consumed and the draught animals become too weak to raise the water in the countless open wells. In north India, Orissa and West Bengal many thousands of tube-well pumps have been electrified. On paper these schemes look fine. But as most of the power is

derived from hydro-electric sources, in times of drought—when farmers are in most urgent need of water—there is not sufficient power. There are fluctuations in the voltage and these may cause the electric motors of the tube-well pumps to fail.

In the spring of 1972, 80,000 tube-well motors were burnt out in West Bengal and Orissa. The repair of these damaged motors takes a long time and costs a great deal of money—not to speak of the agricultural disaster overtaking thousands of people.

In my childhood Bihari peasants used to say that what they wanted was to have water in the right place, in the right quantity and at the right time. They wanted to have complete control of their water.

This has now been made possible by the development of the Medium-Lift Pump, which can raise water from 6 to 20 metres and provide sufficient water to irrigate 10 to 20 hectares.

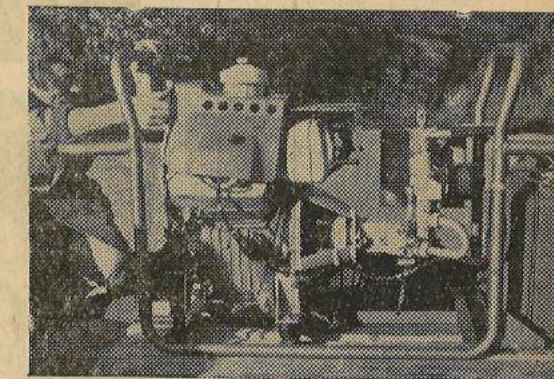
The Medium-Lift Pump or MLP I is a diesel-driven submersible pump linked by a hydrostatic transmission. It is mobile and portable. When water is needed the submersible pump is lifted off the unit and lowered into the well or river. The water-hose is directed into a field and the engine is started. This pump can raise 1250 litres per minute from 10 metres and 1000 litres per minute from 20 metres.

The submersible pump weighs 17 kg and can be lowered into a well by one man. One pumping set could serve five to ten wells. When irrigation is not needed these pumps can be used for draining open wells while they are being deepened. The submersible pump can handle sandy water without loss of efficiency.

The MLP unit could do the job of the shallow tube-well pumps the Union and State Governments are planning to install. The shallow tube-well pump would cost Sw.Kr. 2000 (about Rs 3400) and would irrigate about 2 acres. The MLP I would cost about Sw.Kr. 15,000 (about Rs 25,500) and could irrigate 25 to 50

acres. But if a shallow tube-well pump is used to raise water from an open well its multi-stages will be damaged by sand and it will last for at the most one or two seasons. This pump is also stationary, and when the water in an open well is exhausted the unit falls idle. The Medium-Lift Pump, on the other hand, can be moved from well to well or along a river bank and be usefully employed throughout the year.

About two to three MLP units are needed per village. The MLP is especially useful in times of drought, as it enables farmers to make use



THE MEDIUM-LIFT PUMP: can be moved from well to well

of even small quantities of water in their open wells.

The MLP can be used by the Public Works Department and the famine relief organisations engaged in deepening wells, and thus provide useful work. It can also be used to pump water from rivers to irrigate grass for cattle.

A small number of these units are available in Sweden and are light enough to be flown to India. For the future these units can be assembled in India, because a number of firms manufacture suitable diesel engines. The high-and low-pressure oil-hoses and 4-inch water-hoses are also manufactured in India. In fact, with-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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in a year it will only be necessary to import the submersible pump and the hydrostatic transmission.

These pumps were designed for India and can be used by anyone

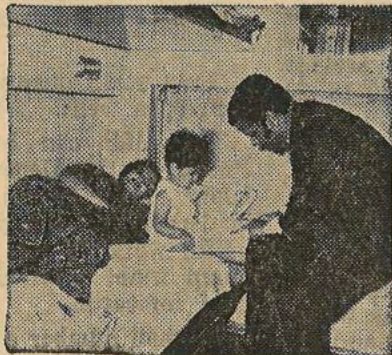
who can handle a diesel engine. What is more, if correctly used, they will pay for their entire cost, including air-freight several times over within a year.

The pump needs oil and fuel, and the empty cans and drums provide the perfect storage needed at domestic level. Taken together, the Medium-Lift Pumps and the oil-cans and drums may become the foundation for India's economic pyramid.

# AIR LUXURY ON WHEELS



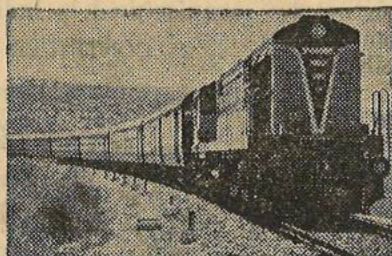
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# Bid to end corruption at Delhi varsity

HISTORY is being made. This year, for the first time, direct elections will be held for the posts of the DUSU (Delhi University Students' Union). On the 27th of this month, all the students of the 35 constituent colleges of DUSU will get a chance to elect their leaders.

In order to comprehend the implications and consequences of this move, we must analyse the earlier structure of the DUSU. Delhi University was founded at a time when there was no such thing as organised student opinion. By an indirect system of elections the students of the constituent colleges would elect 300 and odd Supreme Councillors. After this their task was over.

The Supreme Councillors, in turn, elected the DUSU office-bearers. This system gave rise to malpractices and tended to institutionalise corruption. Political parties, vying with each other to make the University their stronghold, spent pots of money

during the elections. In the weeks preceding the elections the Supreme Councillors had a gala time. They were often "kidnapped" — taken to hill stations, etc.

The posts attracted only those who wanted power, in some cases as a basis for future political activity. Further, the elected body was found to lose touch with the electorate and act out of sheer political opportunism. And this body was not truly representative — only 35 out of the 54 colleges in the University were part of the Union, yet the Union was capable of paralysing the entire University. Last year classes had to be suspended for one and a half months.

A remedy was essential. A number of steps were taken. The first of these was direct elections.

And the post of DUSU President has been sought to be made less attractive by cutting down on its funds — this year the entire fund

will be a sort of grant from the University and not be made up of student contributions.

Two more complementary changes are expected to be brought about in the near future — compulsory affiliation of all colleges and an age-limit on the presidential candidate. This might do away with the "professional" politicians and attract more able candidates.

## CAMPUS COMMENT

Extra money may still be spent, votes may be bought, violence may be used (in the last few days there have been two stabbing cases ostensibly over election issues) but it is at least a step in rooting out institutionalised corruption.

Arun K. Singh

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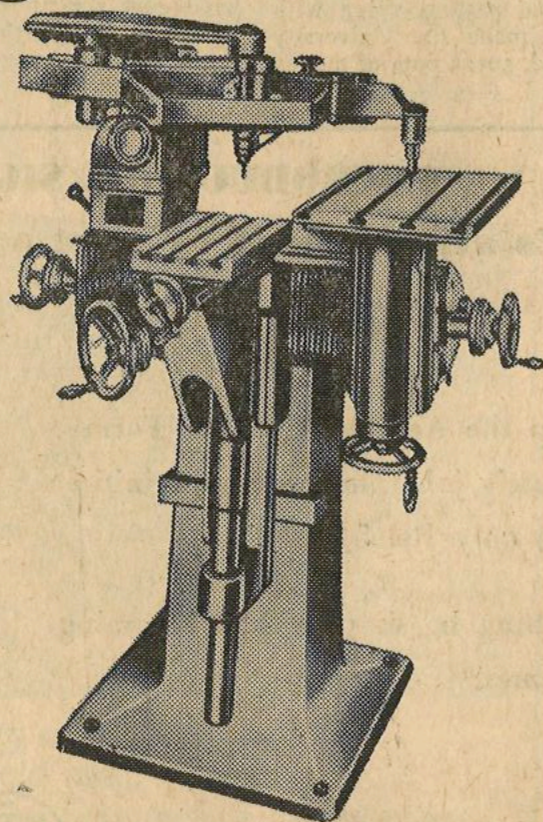
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## Hunte's book presented to school captains

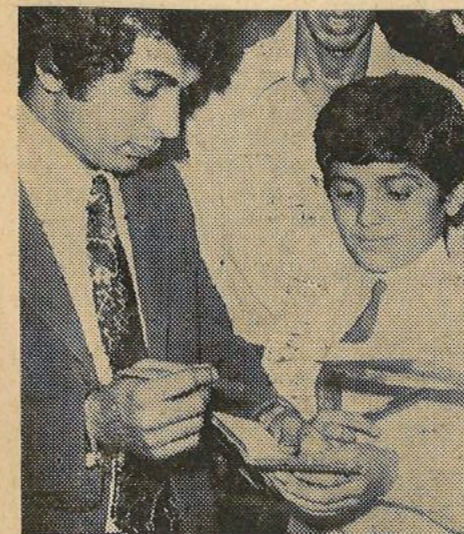
INDIA'S opening batsman, Mr Sunil Gavaskar, presented to the captains of the 15 top school cricket teams of Bombay a copy of Conrad Hunte's "Playing to Win" published by HIMMAT Publications Trust. The crowded function was held at the Cathedral and John Connon School.

Sunil Gavaskar mentioned how he had modelled his play on Conrad Hunte. During Hunte's last cricket

that an opening batsman should try to drive his strokes within the "V" arc — between mid-off and mid-on with the batsman being the base.

Nari Contractor, former Indian test skipper, said that the "golden era of West Indies cricket" was the period during which Hunte played. "It was the best period West Indies cricket had ever had and it will take some time before it is equalled, let alone surpassed." In his view it was Conrad Hunte who paved the way for Rohan Kanhai and others. Both cricketers recalled instances of Hunte's gracious behaviour on and off the field and the impression he had created not only in the world of cricket but in the larger field of life.

R. M. Lala, Editor of HIMMAT Weekly, who presided, gave glimpses of the life of Conrad Hunte. He spoke of Hunte's love for India, his remarkable courage during the Calcutta cricket riot and of his association with Moral Re-Armament. Mr Lala asked the question: "What does it take to be a great cricketer?" He traced the qualities of teamwork that made the West Indies champions of world cricket. He also underlined Hunte's contribution to racial harmony in Britain today which has been widely acknowledged in official circles.



Sunil Gavaskar with S. V. Jayakar of Dadar English High School.

tour of Bombay with the West Indies team, said Gavaskar, "I used to study and watch every single move of his, even to the exclusion of watching the bowler." He recalled that it was Hunte's advice to him

A cabled message from Conrad Hunte was read to the audience. At the end of the presentation of copies to the captains, the film "The Brisbane Tied Test" was shown by courtesy of the Australian High Commission.

## Letters

### DENMARK AND INDIA

MR R. M. LALA'S last article about India (HIMMAT, August 3) in which he tells about the Swedish man's answer to his question about Sweden's Development is very important. It is the same thing for the whole Nordic North.

In Denmark it is more simple to explain the reasons for our development. You can find one man behind it all. His name was Grundtvig.\* He did for Denmark 100 years ago what Frank Buchman has done for the whole world in our time.

He could see that God has a plan for the whole of humanity: for the people in each nation as well as the nation it-

self. The Danish people understood that they had a certain part in God's plan for the world and it gave them inspiration to transform their society. They found a plan for uniting and developing their country through teamwork. All was done through the co-operative movement.

Grundtvig felt that the greatest renaissance in God's world plan would come just now, 100 years after him, and that the focus of it would be in India!

ALFRED NIELSEN Silkeborg, Denmark

### US AMBASSADOR

I have to convey my congratulations to you for publishing an encouraging piece of news, "Ambassador keeps his words", in the issue of August 10.

India has always been lucky to get excellent US Ambassadors. They have never hesitated to cross swords with the State Department when the moral issues have arisen.

JANAK H. DALAL, Bombay 20

## This was a Life

THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
1858-1919

CHILDREN love their "Teddy-bear", a toy which derives its name from Theodore Roosevelt who was fond of bear hunting and whose half-comic, half-fierce appearance bore a familiar resemblance to it.

"Teddy" Roosevelt was born in New York in a wealthy aristocratic family. Teddy was a disappointment, being a very sickly child. But the boy was fiercely determined to rise above his physical disabilities. He boxed, rode, hunted and lifted weights with a fervour little short of obsession, to emerge with an exceptional physique and stamina before his graduation from Harvard.

He was elected to the New York State Assembly on a Republican ticket at the age of twenty-three. As a member of the Civil Service Commission he became the scourge of crooked politicians and the most unpopular man in political circles. As Police Commissioner of New York City he cleaned up the Force of corruption, brutality and ineffectiveness to make it a model one.

He was nominated for the Governorship of New York. The party bosses hated and feared him, but they realised he was the only contender, and were determined not to lose that office to a Democrat. Roosevelt was elected and immediately the bosses realised their mistake! Every racket was thoroughly investigated and sternly dealt with.

The desperate bosses kicked him upstairs by nominating him for the US Vice-Presidency, a decorative office, to which he was elected. President McKinley was, however, assassinated after a year and Roosevelt became the President. He was later elected for a full term.

An account of his Presidency would be the chronicle of some of the most momentous years in American history. On the home front he undertook the wholesale cleaning up of politics, the police and the services and brought the big business monopolies to their knees.

He was a voluminous writer, and an accepted authority on natural history who had his own private museum.

An Englishman once aptly described him as "this wonder of nature". His boundless enthusiasm and courage and his determination to do the right, even if he were alone in doing it, has forever endeared him to the American people.

S. C.



## Is God present?

by Rajmohan Gandhi

A friend I had last met ten years ago when he was a student shared an interesting experience the other day.

His father had suddenly taken ill and was critical. My friend had completed his medical studies and was that very day beginning his internship. Virtually the first patient he had to serve was his father. He outpoured himself, of course, and then went to a close friend asking the latter to accompany him back to hospital and stand by him there. This friend said he was tired and could not do so. That day, while his father was dying, my friend made the decision never to refuse his help if it was sought, no matter how tired he felt.

He has had to remind himself of this decision several times, and has stuck to it. As a doctor he has slept four or five hours a day for a few years now. Perhaps he should, for the sake of his own family and future patients, have a break and refresh himself, but his experience is an example for us.

Instead of nursing his hurt caused by another man's behaviour he decided that his own service would in future be unsparring. He took the injury to himself almost as a gift, as a means of appreciating how others feel when they are injured. He chose to use the blow he received towards adding sensitiveness to his life. Another person in his position could have, by exercising his will differently, allowed the blow to harden himself.

About six years of medical practice has increased my friend's faith in God. He says that the more he learns the more he realises how little doctors like him know about the great questions of life and death and health. Patients have died who should never have; he has been shocked by men who should have been in their graves walking up to him weeks after they were given up. For him now no one is hopelessly lost until he actually dies. The

use of science and a study of the real world at its realest have made him increasingly sure of God's presence.

During some of his college days the writer was an atheist. He thought bubbles and chemistry, or an accidental collision of matter with matter, somehow started life and that this life "evolved" over millennia into human life. He thought too that people were narrow-minded and dogmatic when they claimed belief in a God who was a creator, a father and a friend. He accepted the view that a thing called the environment, which, it seemed, had something to do with capitalists and possibly with imperialists, made men selfish or greedy.

And in that curious conceit that seems to take over (it seems for a brief period only, thanks be) a few college students the world over, he thought that he had understood what made the world tick.

In truth it was he who was dogmatic and narrow-minded. He held a belief about matter and evolution and environment with little study and less proof. Possibly it was the trendy thing to do.

He is different now. Among the reasons for his belief in a God of unimaginable wisdom, thoughtfulness and kindness are: the human body, intricate yet integrated, a thousand times more efficient and attractive than the most sophisticated man-made robot, with organs like the eye that are too marvellous to be the final products of a casual physical jostling of matter with matter; the beauties and varieties of nature on our earth, the flowers, birds and beasts, the skies, oceans, mountains and rivers, the crops transforming barren fields, all so majestic, so superbly designed, so satisfying to the human heart as to presume an artist and a creator rather than to suggest the effects of mere time on mere matter; the rational and helpful character of our earth, the air, water and food in it for the humans launched on it, suggesting again a design and

plan rather than an accident; the sweep, illumination, pattern and subtle choreography of the open night sky, with the planets, stars and the moon on display; and the mystery and dimensions of this sky and space when one reflects on them.

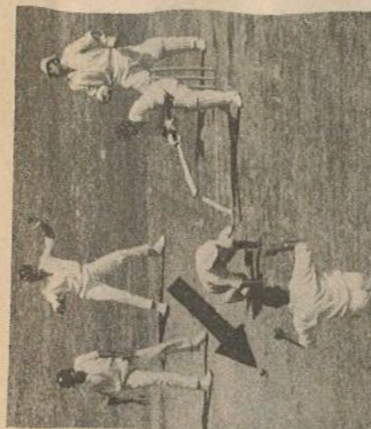
If the mechanism within us, the earth around us and the heavens above us lead us to believe in a God, so does the character and attitude of man. We know man to be often vile and wicked; surely more powerful is the impact of man's nobility and courage in circumstances that should invite the opposite qualities.

The writer has known or known of, men or women who have forgiven those who have killed their loved ones; forgiven those at whose hands they themselves have been injured or humiliated; met their death or the passing away of those intimate to them with peace and a certainty that all was well; seen their hates towards people of other races or nations or classes melt; spoken frankly and directly to men in power who could be vindictive; poured contempt on their pride and been honest about their baser sides; and found freedom from habits that had defeated them.

If God has made man and the world, he can remake man and remould the world. If he is like a father and loves his children, he probably wants them to love one another. He probably wishes to train, instruct and use them when they are away from him and to have them by his side when it suits him and when it is good for them. He probably has a plan for their lives and a timing for their deaths.

A living father would tell his children what was good for them and what they should do; he would speak to them if they were ready to listen. A living God perhaps does the same to and for his children. When man listens, in his mind or heart God speaks. When man obeys, God acts. When men change, nations change.

### COMPETITION No. 344 SOLUTION



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The winner will be announced in the following issue. You may not send more than Six Entries in any competition. N.B. only one cross may be marked on each picture. The Editor's decision is final.

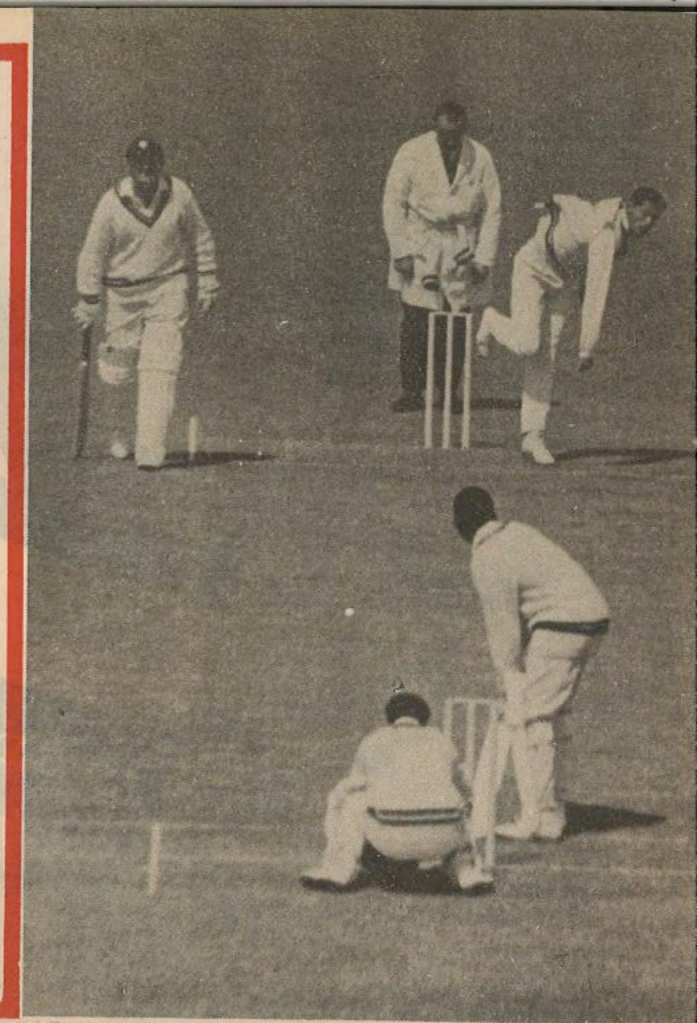
\*Each week half the prize of Rs. 50 will be awarded to the nearest entry. The other half will be carried forward to a "Jackpot" to be won by the first competitor who marks EXACTLY the centre of the ball. This Jackpot Prize will accumulate by Rs. 25 per week until it is won.

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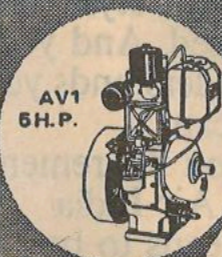
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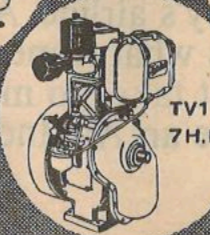
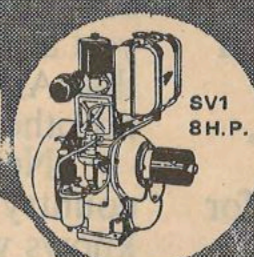


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