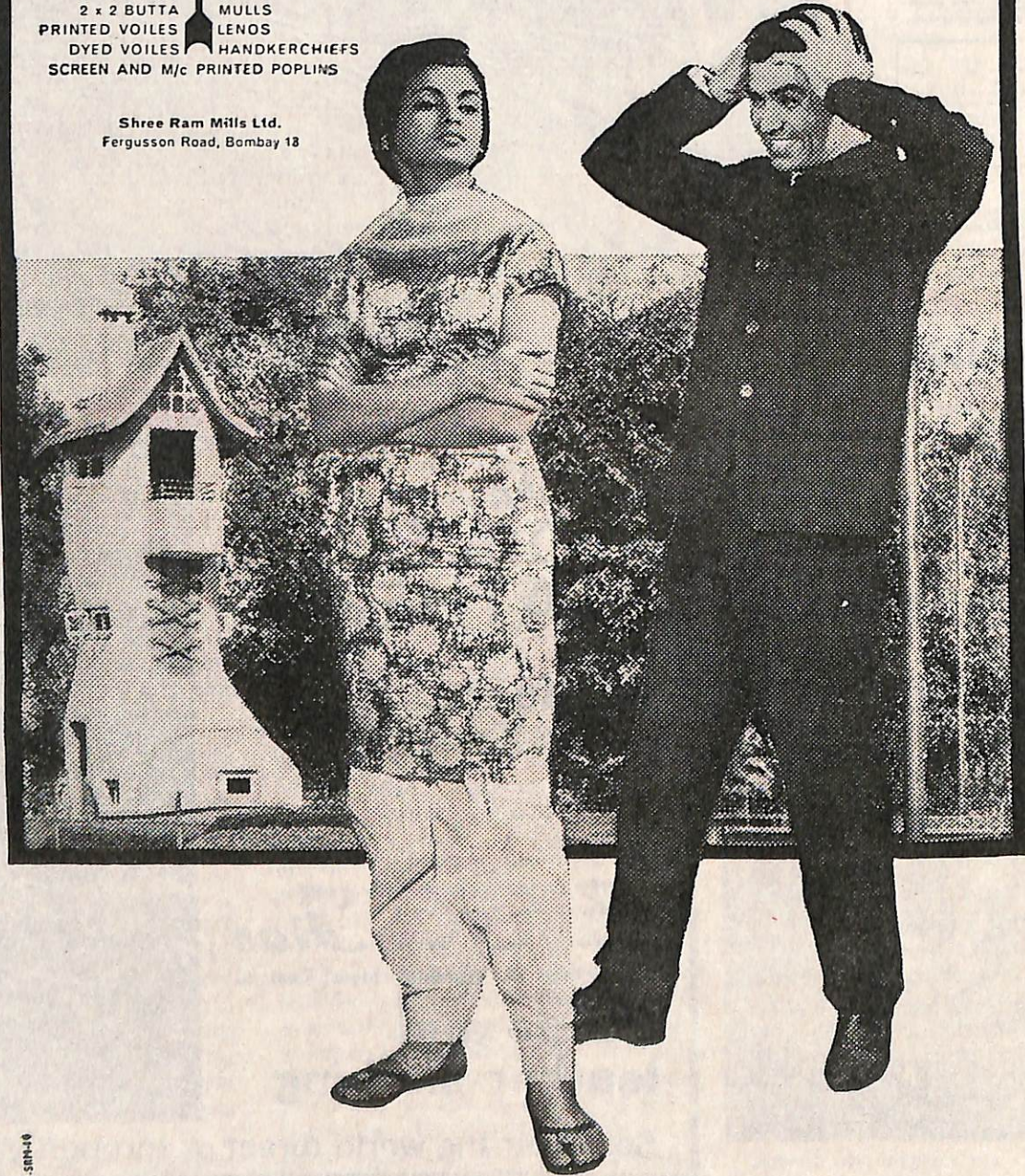


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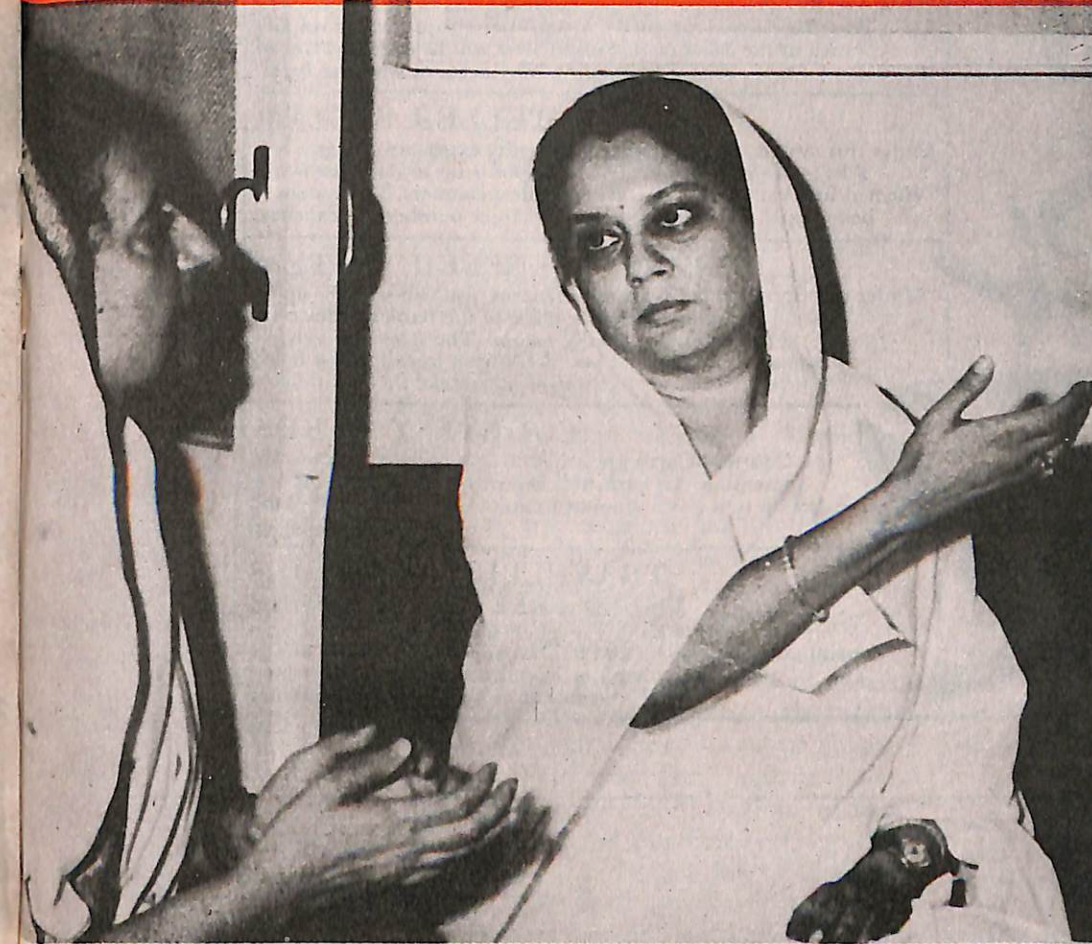


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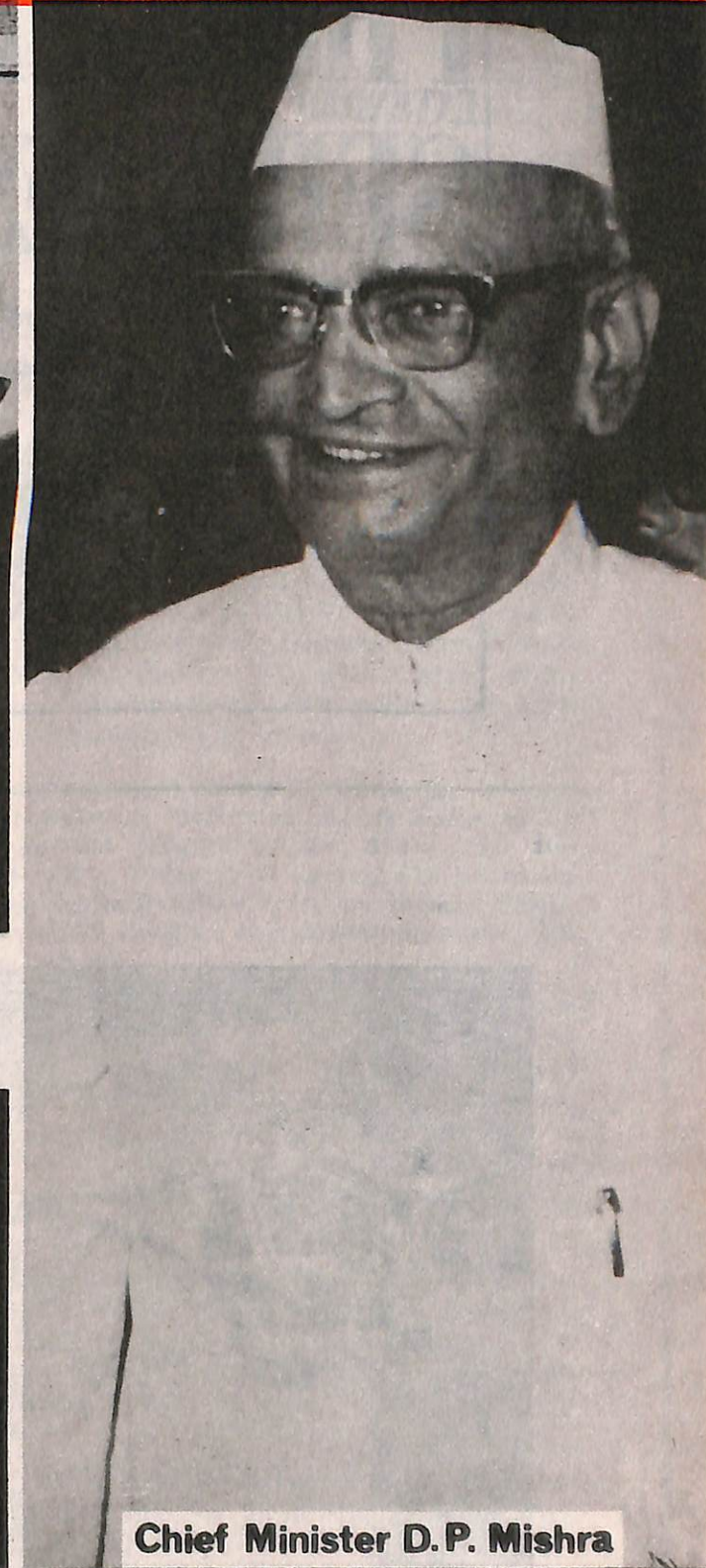
Mrs Indira Gandhi

Rajmata of Gwalior

"Now please bid him go"

MADHYA PRADESH

FALL OF A WARLORD



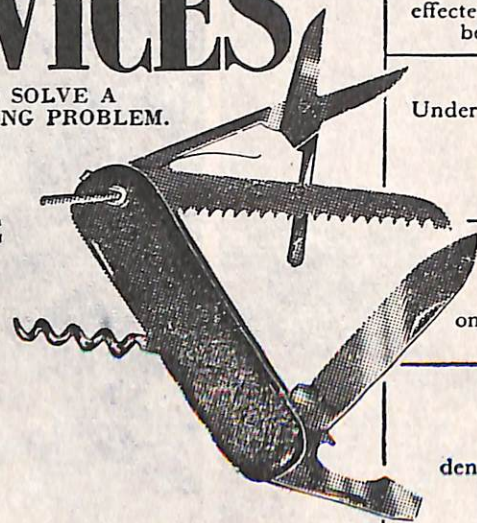
Chief Minister D.P. Mishra

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HIMMAT

Asia's new voice

WEEKLY

BOMBAY FRIDAY JULY 28 1967

We cannot fail them

ON JANUARY 13 this year the Union Government declared its policy to form a regional federation of Assam and the Hill areas in place of the present arrangement whereby the Hill areas of the North-East are ruled directly by Assam. The Government hoped that if this regional federation succeeded, at a later stage other areas like Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizo Hills could be added.

The deadline given for implementation of this decision was July 13. At a conference of the Union Government with representatives of Assam and the Hill leaders, the Assam Government representatives pleaded for more time. The discussion was extended to August 31 so that the Asoka Mehta Committee could formulate its report. Feeling that the gulf was irreconcilable and that there was no point covering the same ground again the Hill leaders have refused to participate in further deliberations of the Committee. They feel that the deadline set by the Union Government has not been kept. Serious doubts have been raised in their mind whether the original promise to reorganise Assam will be honoured.

Home Minister Chavan has reiterated the Union Government's decision to reorganise Assam.

It is also apparent that there is considerable pressure from the local Congress bosses of Assam. With Madhya Pradesh defections so fresh in their mind, Congress Government at the Centre may be reluctant to offend the Congress majority in another State. But if expediency is to rule this nation will suffer.

Leaders like G. G. Swell, MP, men with a faith in the peaceful evolution of their peoples' rights, will be sorely disappointed and the movement in the Assam Hills may well pass into the hands of the extremists. If we do not listen to the voice of reason and justice today we may invite the sound of guns tomorrow.

We cannot afford a repetition of the Naga or Mizo trouble especially with its possible international implications and China's unabashed interest in the area.

The conception of including other areas in this regional federation of the North-East is an interesting one. A satisfied Assam Hills people would

influence the surrounding strategic areas. This would be India's best defence in her North-East.

To make them feel a part of the family of India is our job. We cannot fail them.

Face facts

THE ESTABLISHMENT last week of the UN observers on the Suez Canal was a minimum step towards restoring peace in West Asia. The adjournment of the UN General Assembly, after five weeks of fruitless discussion, revealed the distance yet to travel to a permanent settlement.

All the Assembly could show for its pains were a resolution asking the Israelis to give up Jerusalem—which the latter brushed aside—and a procedural resolution passing the crisis back to the Security Council.

Even this innocuous measure was opposed by the Arab States, although both Russia and the US backed it. Their opposition was due to their displeasure at the Soviet's reaching a compromise formula with the US which would have demanded Israeli withdrawal from their conquests while calling for Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Voting on the procedural motion bared the hollowness of our External Affairs Minister's claim to be giving out-and-out support to the Arabs "in the national interest". India voted against the Arabs on this occasion (while Pakistan voted for them). Faithful to the last, Mr Chagla's representative voted with the Soviets.

In Arab capitals, hectic summitry has not produced any practical plan to "liquidate the results of aggression". Old divisions are recurring. "Progressive" Arab leaders left out of their Cairo conference King Hussein of Jordan, whose country suffered most in the six-day war. According to one report, President Nasser, under Russian pressure, now plans to topple Hussein and merge Jordan with Iraq.

Russia, on whom Egypt depends economically and militarily, will seek a stiff price for re-equipping Nasser's broken army. Unconfirmed reports say it includes supervision of Egyptian training and tactics, and even Russian bases on Egypt's Mediterranean shore.

King Hussein has said that failing an "Arab solution" he must find one for Jordan on her own. President Nasser would be wise to heed Hussein's realism and agree to direct Arab-Israeli talks ("in secret" if necessary, as Israel offered this week). Failure to face facts may mean economic ruin for Egypt or a new era of foreign domination—or both.

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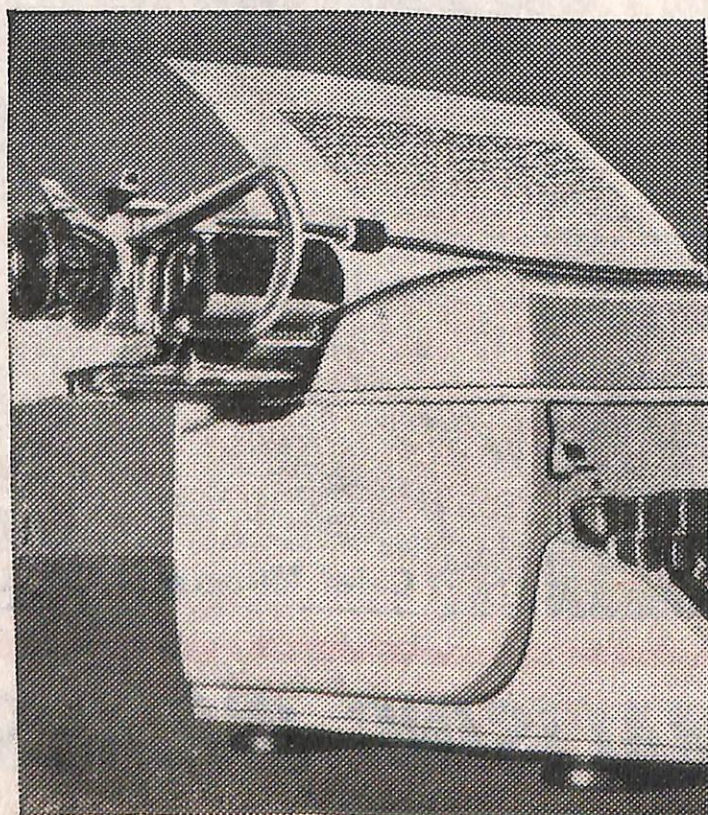
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Briefly speaking...

Say it with rice

A CORRESPONDENT of *The Statesman* has been doing some arithmetic and comes up with the quite astonishing fact that 12,000 tons of rice (known as *akshat*) are wasted each year in South India at marriage ceremonies and other festivals. This is over and above the rice used in ceremonies and retrieved for use again. This is more than six weeks' supply of rice promised by the Centre to Kerala recently.

The Government is hard at work in South India trying to persuade people to eat other cereals than rice which is in short supply all over the world, not just India. Surely they could also persuade people to use something else for ceremonies. One translator of the Gita is quoted by

the correspondent as saying he did not find in the Vedas any mention of *akshat* in marriages, though they mention fruits, flowers and leaves for ceremonial purposes.

Stubborn loser

IT IS REPORTED that UAR is losing \$200 million a year in Suez Canal Revenues. A further \$100 million is being lost through curtailed tourist traffic. Together this amounts to one-third of Egypt's national income. The irony of the situation is that the biggest gainer from Nasser's canal closure is an old enemy—South Africa. The increased traffic of ships round the Cape has boosted her bunkering revenues to new heights. Now that UN personnel have taken up their posts along the Canal it is to be hoped that President Nasser will end this slow strangulation of his own people.

Time-barred revolution

THE FOLLOWING is a report from a French diplomat in Peking:

"Their posters cover the walls and they distribute handbills advocating the massacre of foreigners and the destruction of all religious institutions. Their insignia are a red scarf tied around their heads, a kind of coat-of-arms on their chest, and red bands around their wrists and ankles, and they work themselves into a state of nervous exaltation by means of deafening shouts, wild contortions and frenzied antics."

But it was written in 1902 and described the Boxers, who called themselves the "righteous and harmonious fists". Perhaps even Mao doesn't realise how out of date his revolution is.

Generous will

LAST YEAR when a Mysore resident G. V. R. Fiend, a planter, died, he left £252,954 in his estate in England. After making bequests for his family members he remembered many of his staff on his former estate. He gave his driver Rs 6000, some others like his cook, Rs 3000, and left "Rs 4000 to Meera Berry

The louder he talked of his honour,
the faster we counted our spoons.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON, 1803-1882

who acted as my *ghilli* when fishing". His five acres of land in Mysore he left to "such tenants as may be cultivating it at the time of my death".

How many of our own people think in such human terms for their staff?

Dangerous diet

BIRBAL is greatly relieved to read that the Health Minister has denied any truth in the Milan report that cancer can be caused by a diet of tandoori chicken, chapatis and seekh kabab. Obviously the spagettiarians are just jealous.

Red kerosene up?

A LOT slips past the reader these days in the welter of news about riot, war and famine. One two-inch item which probably few read last week was the PTI report that the Government had agreed to an increase of 80 per cent on freight charges for kerosene from the Soviet Union due to the Canal closure. And 20 per cent of our kerosene comes from this source.

The ordinary citizen is forced to pay a lot these days for the ideological postures of New Delhi and her friends.

Birbal

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from the Capital

Madhya Pradesh—fall of a warlord

by **ANTENNA**

NEW DELHI The significance of the tornado which blew up in Bhopal last week and coursed its way to New Delhi is not whether a mid-term election is in the circumstances constitutional or not, but its political repercussion on the Congress Party and the country. It signals the departure of Mr Dwarka Prasad Mishra from the national scene, with no clouds of glory trailing him.

For more than two decades both as an assiduous worker in the Congress vineyard and as its bitter opponent in the role of a top promoter of the Akhil Bharatiya Jana Sangh, he cast his baleful shadow over Madhya Pradesh, and by projection over Delhi.



D. P. Mishra—no clouds of glory

It now seems obvious that if the Congress wants to survive as a significant force in that State it must unloosen Mr Mishra's tenacious hold on the organisation.

Mr Mishra is confident that an election, which in due course should follow about four months after an official decision, will repair his devalued political fortunes, but this is a belief he seems to share only with himself. Nobody among his close followers in the State, and certainly not the Congress leaders in Delhi nourish this provincial warlord's optimism.

If the Congress Parliamentary Board supports him on this point, it is because it feels that the threat of

The sudden defection of 36 Congress MLAs rocked the Madhya Pradesh Ministry of D. P. Mishra last week. With Mishra proposing mid-term election and the Rajmata of Gwalior, leader of the Opposition Samyukta Vidhayak Dal, pressing for the resignation of Mishra's Ministry, Governor K. C. Reddy suddenly prorogued the Assembly.

The Rajmata, with 150 of the Opposition, including 32 of the defectors, rushed to Delhi to press their claim before the President and the Prime Minister. Left with 140 out of a House of 296, Mr Mishra's eclipse appeared imminent.—ED.

another election so soon after the February polls will scare the defectors into rejoining the Party, but none of them, except the Prime Minister, is reported to be enthusiastic about his continuance as Chief Minister.

Again, barring Mr Mishra, and to some extent Mrs Indira Gandhi, nobody rates the chances of a Congress victory in a mid-term poll high, this despite Mr Mishra's proven abilities in influencing people and winning elections. On the contrary, they foresee all the opposition parties in the State pooling their resources to

see that the Congress is routed and, according to seasoned students of Madhya Pradesh politics here, the voters of that State will back them.

Mr Mishra's impending exit ends a distinct phase in the history of the Congress. The era of warlordism is drawing to a close. Only Mr Y. B. Chavan is left, for neither Mr S. Nijalingappa nor Mr K. Brahmananda Reddy can justly be listed among those illustrious satraps like Mr Pratap Singh Kairon, Mr S. K. Patil, Mr N. Sanjiva Reddy and Dr B. C. Roy whom death or electoral defeat or inner-party manoeuvring have dethroned.

Whether the Congress, bereft of Mr Mishra, can rehabilitate itself in Madhya Pradesh is a debatable issue.

continued on next page

On your toes

"WE, THE PEOPLE"

EAGERLY SUPPORTED, if not inspired, by Congress benches, Mr Nath Pai has been nursing his leaking "Constitution (Amendment) Bill" through the Lok Sabha rapids for more than three months. Strange that the freedom-jealous press has written so little on this vital debate.

The honourable PSP Member wishes to establish the supremacy of Parliament, following the recent Supreme Court judgement that Parliament had no power to amend any article in the Fundamental Rights Chapter of the Constitution.

Even fellow Socialist Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia dubbed the Bill "a short cut to totalitarianism". This could also be the motive implicit in the "wholehearted support" of Communist Party Chairman Dange.

Mr P. Govinda Menon, that student of law who is always pronouncing upon the legality of Government's immoral measures, leapt to the Bill's defence. Parliament, the Law Minister decreed, was fully competent to amend the Constitution, fundamental rights included.

Swatantra spokesman Pилоo Mody

threw his weight against the Bill. "Parliament derives its powers from the Constitution of India, . . . and only indirectly from the people. We do not enjoy our Constitution at the mercy of Parliamentarians who think they are supreme," said Mody.

The preamble to the Constitution reads: "We, the people of India, . . . enact and give to ourselves this Constitution." Surely then, only "we the people" can amend it. And to a lot of us Parliament is a gaggle of representatives who largely take their orders from party whips—not their electorate. It is certainly not a body of proxies with the mandate to tamper with our rights. The Constitution protects us from the possible oppression of a dictatorial, irresponsible or captive parliamentary majority.

No Constitution is so perfect, however, that it will never need amending. This being so, why not adopt the course of some older democracies—France, Switzerland, Australia included—where amendments depend on national referendums?

Parliament is supreme in matters of legislation. But in matters of Constitutional rights let the people decide—or away with democracy.

Freebooter

CHALTA HAI...



"Now! Do you believe me when I say the Government should investigate the quality of locally-made cars?"

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MIKADO

VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT...

DEPLORES the three-year hold-up, due to interstate rivalry, in the Nagarjunasagar Project, which, according to a statement by Andhra MPs, should by now be irrigating 22 lakhs acres of rice-growing land.

SUPPORTS the "Indian Express" editorial asserting that "India's youth, if it asserts itself, is still capable of salvaging the country".

REMINDS Madhya Pradesh Education Department, which has produced a guidebook for moral education in schools, of philosopher A. N. Whitehead's words: "Moral education is impossible without a habitual vision of greatness."

DENOUNCES Health Minister Chandrasekhar's latest scheme for the degradation of the Indian people by promising a transistor radio bribe to anyone consenting to let the birth controllers operate on him.

IS ASTONISHED that religious leaders, ready to fast to death to save cows, remain silent on the Government's proposal to forcibly sterilise every Indian father who has three children.

DISMISSES as eyewash Russia's reported statement that the Tashkent radio which has beamed anti-Indian broadcasts for the last six months is "private" and **ASKS** since when did Socialist Russia allow private radio stations or private anything else?

WISHES success to Padmashri-holder Mother Theresa, "Angel of the Slums" of Calcutta, for her new venture in opening five centres for the "sick and dying" in Poona.

IS UNEASY that the strategic Chinese-built road from Tibet to Nepal may be occupied by Chinese workers for several more years following a Chinese contract to build a power station near it with high-tension link to Kathmandu.

MADHYA PRADESH—from page 5

Certainly none of the other provincial leaders can pit themselves against such a redoubtable opponent as Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia, and disintegration rather than reunification under a new strongman seems to be its fate. But, again, the developments that will unfold in Madhya Pradesh are of considerably less consequence than what will happen in Delhi after Mr Mishra's eclipse.

Firstly, the emergence of an opposition coalition government in Bhopal would mean that non-Congress parties would be at the helm in 10 states against the Congress' seven.

Secondly, and most important of all, Mrs Gandhi's main prop would be kicked away from under her, and her already narrow and insecure base would be reduced to a tripod comprising Mr Chavan, Mr Nijalingappa and Mr Brahmananda Reddy.

Shifts in Himalayan geopolitics

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI With the opening of the Chinese-built Kathmandu-Kodari road, the geopolitics of the Himalayas has changed significantly to the detriment of India and posed a military threat to this country from a new quarter, according to military observers here.

Ostensibly, the highway, known as the Himalayan Friendship Road by its Chinese builders and financiers, is designed to promote trade and cultural ties between Tibet and Nepal. In fact, its aim is to facilitate the political penetration of Nepal by China and provides a new route to India's northern border.

Military observers point out that of the 1500 miles of the Great Himalaya Range, which runs east and west, 500 miles form Nepal's northern frontier with Tibet. At four points along this range, rivers rising in Tibet cut across it into Nepal and finally flow into India. Of them, the Sun Kosi enters Nepal at Kodari, the northern terminal of the new road, at 6500 feet above sea level.

The metalled, double-track Friendship Road brings Kodari within three hours driving distance by motor vehicle of Kathmandu, and from the

And neither of the last two can be said to be very firmly in the saddle in the State of which he is Chief Minister. Thus, if the process of Congress attrition in the states continues, she may very soon be reduced to balancing herself precariously on Mr Chavan's stout shoulders. But how long would he be able, and willing, to bear this burden alone?

To Mr Mishra goes the credit of recruiting the support of the Chief Ministers for Mrs Gandhi in the leadership contests in January 1966 and last March. He is her most indispensable asset today, and his departure will leave a yawning and unfillable gap in her close circle of followers.

This, coupled with the mounting criticisms of her and challenges to her authority in the Congress Parliamentary Party recently are bound to give Mrs Gandhi little peace of mind in the coming fateful weeks.

Nepalese capital it takes only nine hours to reach the Indian border in Bihar.

On the southern fringe of Nepal lies the Mahabharat Range, rising about 8000 feet above sea level and hitherto considered natural protection for the Gangetic plain against invaders from Central Asia.

Accordingly, neither the Moghuls nor the British considered it worthwhile to annex Nepal, more so since Tibet to the north was an independent buffer state.

But the geopolitics of the Himalayan region has undergone a fundamental change in the last 20 years with the Chinese conquest of Tibet and the emergence of China as a world power armed with nuclear weapons of its own manufacture.

The observers say that today any military threat to India through Nepal from the Chinese army based in Tibet has to be met not at the foothills of the Mahabharat Range but at the natural passages through the Nepal Himalaya.

And this requires basic changes in India's defence strategy, if these changes have not been carried out already.

Regional education need not spell division

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT has decided that regional languages should be the media of instruction at all levels of education, including university. After the unanimous recommendation of the conference of Education Ministers some months ago, the announcement was only a matter of time.

The decision is the culmination of an almost inevitable process whereby the so-called "self determination" demands of India's linguistic groups have had to be conceded, one after another, following the formation of Andhra State. Once the principle of "one language, one state" was conceded, the next step was the use of the regional language as the language of state administration.

Ancient roots

To be fair to the late Mr Nehru, he was as helpless as anyone else against the rising tide of linguistic and regional consciousness. This derives not only from the self-assertive nationalism of struggle against imperial rule but has also deep historical roots in the empires which at one time or another every linguistic group was the heart of. The nationalism of Indian nationhood is a super-

SAY THAT AGAIN...

I may not have the money of the ruling party but I will go with a begging bowl and challenge the Congress and finish it.

RAJMATA SCINDIA OF GWALIOR

If the present-day reporter were present at the funeral of Julius Caesar, next morning's newspapers would have said: "Mark Antony also spoke."

C. NARAYANA PILLAI, MP

I believe in being more friendly to the Opposition than they believe in being friendly to me.

Deputy PM MORARJI DESAI

imposition on the nationalism of imperial tradition of which the Tamils, Telugus, Maharashtrais, Kannadigas all proudly boast.

The anomalous state of affairs where the principle of regional language as the medium of state administration was accepted as a policy but in practice was resisted by the predominantly English-oriented administrative service could not last for long. The rising language elites resented the claims to superiority of the Anglicised Indians and felt that the continuation of the privileges enjoyed by them under British rule was an "intolerable" state of affairs in free India.

This dichotomy between those educated in the language of the people and culturally close to them and the Anglicised administrative class enjoying privilege and status could be resolved only in one way. The language of education and administration would necessarily be the language of the majority of people of the area. This is of course as true of any part of the world as it is of India.

Even before January 1, 1957 when most of the reorganised language-based States came into being, the principle of regional language as the medium of instruction up to the secondary stage had been universally conceded as instruction is most efficient in the mother tongue. Opinion among educationists as to the medium of instruction at the university stage remains divided. All concede that instruction in humanities is feasible in the Indian languages. But many fear the danger to standards and efficiency in attempting science, technology and medicine in the Indian languages. All tremble at the formidable scale of effort and finance required for providing text books.

Standards suffered

But the existing system, whereby vast numbers of matriculates educated in regional languages are called upon to master English is hardly a more satisfactory arrangement. Understanding of what is taught in English in most colleges is minimal. Except for the brilliant or hardworking few who can always overcome the handicap of learning in a foreign language, the general standard has

Under the Lens

by R. VAITHESWARAN



grievously suffered under this system.

Only those who study all subjects in English from the infant stage, almost adopt English as their mother tongue, are really able to cope with the demands of the language as a medium of instruction at university. Such an adoption of the English language at all levels is out of question.

I am therefore driven to the conclusion that, by and large, the decision to switch over to regional language media was not only inevitable but, from a long term point of view, correct.

It is true that the immediate consequences of the implementation of the decision will create immense problems. It will certainly lower standards. It may put us temporarily further back in the race for modernisation. But it is also possible that the adverse effects of Indianisation of education are exaggerated by those who have a vested interest in English or fear the unknown.

English still important

While accepting the inevitability and correctness of Dr Triguna Sen's decision, I wonder if prudence at this difficult stage in our history does not dictate postponement of the policy or at least more calculated steps to change.

One point needs to be stressed. The decision to teach and learn in the regional languages should enhance and not reduce the importance of English as a vehicle of international communication and a repository of modern knowledge. I emphasise the distinction between English as a language and as a medium of instruction.

To continue with English as a medium of instruction at any level will not be practical for much longer in India. Nor would it be right from the point of view of the millions who have the right to education in their own language. But practical considerations demand that at every stage English is used as an adjunct in communication, education and vocabulary. India needs to note how Japanese has been modernised by a free borrowing from foreign tongues.

What will happen to the unity of

continued on page 16

Left Communist vs. Right Communist

BY TULSI BODA



THE WEST BENGAL Secretariat of the Left Communist Party has held Chief Minister Ajoy Mukherjee responsible for the "atrocious police excesses in Naxalbari". It accuses him of having succumbed to the pressure of the Union Home Minister, as also the PSP and the SSP, for their "nefarious game".

A couple of weeks ago the all-India Politbureau of the Left Communists had taken disciplinary action against several of its members in West Bengal, particularly in the Naxalbari area, for their adventurist actions. In explaining these disciplinary actions the leaders, Mr Basava Punnaya and Mr B. T. Ranadive, had tried to explain them on the ground that the comrades had been acting "ahead of time". They had



B. T. Ranadive: explaining

also tried to explain away the direct propaganda support by Peking Radio and the New China News Agency by saying that Peking's assessment of the situation in the Naxalbari area was wrong.

The difference of approach in the activities of Bengal's Left Communists and the All-India Politbureau has serious implications. The present conflict within the Left Communists may ultimately be resolved by the whole party accepting the line adopted in Naxalbari openly and officially, and the link between Peking Radio propaganda and the activities of the Left Communists will then be established.

To have an idea of possible developments it is necessary to know the background of the present ideological conflict within the Left Communist Party.

The Communist movement guided by Moscow was geared to the necessity of peaceful coexistence between Russia and America. But this did not fit into the requirements of the Chinese Communists who found it

convenient to take up militant postures at home and abroad. This conflict with the Russian Communists found expression in the policy of the split-away Leftists-CP(M).

The fourth General Elections were sought to be utilised to establish their supremacy over the Right Communist-CPI. The Communist movement had a mass base in Kerala and West Bengal prior to the split. However, in Kerala, because of the mid-term elections which had preceded the fourth General Elections, the supremacy of CP(M) over the CPI was convincingly established.

West Bengal being industrially well developed and having strategic border importance, the question of supremacy of the one wing of the Communist movement over the other assumed great importance. While the defeat of the Congress was the main aim of both Communist wings, the mutual defeat of each other in fact became much more important.

The CP(M) had hoped that the history of the mid-term election in Kerala would be repeated in West Bengal after the fourth General Elections, but the results presented a different picture. Though the CP(M) had won the largest number of seats among all non-Congress parties it was

not yet in a position to form a government.

The formation of a non-Congress government was possible only by alliance of the CP(M) front with the front led by the CPI and the Bangla Congress. Refusing to accept such a responsibility delegated by the electorate would mean a mass wave of anger against the CP(M). The CP(M) was therefore faced with a dilemma. Should it be a party to a non-Congress coalition ministry?

This dilemma brought about a sharp difference of opinion within the West Bengal unit of the CP(M). A large section was opposed to its being a partner in the non-Congress coalition ministry. However the decision was taken by the Politbureau who favoured participation.

The dissident section could not reconcile itself to this situation. It saw in this decision growing seeds of revisionism in the Party. It was encouraged in this by the Chinese Communists whose recent aim has been to create situations of law and order in countries which have a common border with China.

The dissident section could not reconcile itself to this situation. It saw in this decision growing seeds of revisionism in the Party. It was encouraged in this by the Chinese Communists whose recent aim has been to create situations of law and order in countries which have a common border with China.

continued on page 16

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

Hong Kong quells red-book riots

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG After the failure of the Mao-shouters and red book-wavers to force the Governor to kow-tow a month or so ago, the Communists have been trying new tactics here. They have paid out millions of dollars to bribe workers in transport and other key industries to paralyse Hong Kong in a general strike. But they lost their money as well as their prestige.

There was no general strike. There were limited strikes and much inconvenience to the public but it was only a small minority who obeyed the call. Some took the money and kept on working.

One of the strangest moves was the Communists' call for a four-day cutting off of food supplies from

The Communists have lost any goodwill and support they were getting from the general public since their true aims have been revealed. Their stores have very few customers now because they have been keeping people's change as a contribution towards the "Anti-British Persecution Fund". Depositors in Communist banks have also had "contributions" deducted from their accounts without consent. Communist cinemas have dropped from a 65 per cent capacity audience to about 17 per cent.

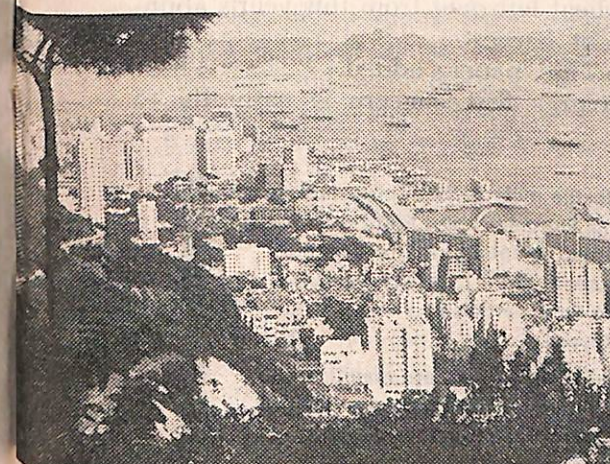
More serious, however, are the current attempts to intimidate the police and transport workers loyally serving the public in spite of threats to their lives and families. They have been stoned, attacked with knives, sticks, iron bars, hooks, bottles and acid. Buses and trams have been set on fire.

With the sterner measures now being taken by the police and the management of the public utilities dismissed, Communist and leftist workers have been making hit-and-run attacks using their union buildings, schools and department stores as bases from which to sally forth.

For two nights recently the police raided such places both on Hong Kong island and on the Kowloon peninsula. Many of the ringleaders have been arrested.

The succession of riots and wanton destruction of life and property, together with the vicious and seditious attacks by the local Communist press on the Hong Kong Government have shown clearly that these people are not interested in labour conditions but in becoming the controlling power in Hong Kong.

continued on next page



Hong Kong's busy Central District: city of boom becomes city of riot.


Mainland China. However, it was badly organised and probably without the co-operation of the Mainland authorities because supplies of fresh food-vegetables and pork-piled up at the border and on ships coming into the harbour.


Rumour has it that Peking lost millions of dollars on this ill-planned effort by the local Maoists. However, Hong Kong people did not go hungry because the local farmers brought in more vegetables and shipments of pigs and other food-stuffs came in from Taiwan.

One of the most incomprehensible moves however, was the closing of the twenty Communist department stores, thereby losing four days of sales just to spite Hong Kong!


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The week in ASIA

MOSCOW — Chinese Red Guards intruded in strength into Soviet territory, according to an article in "Pravda". Soviet Border guards displayed firmness and restraint against the intruders.

TOKYO — The Japanese Communist Party broke its ties with the Chinese Party by recalling its representatives in Peking, since their safe conduct is no longer guaranteed there.

KATHMANDU — Indian extremist Reds have formed a "Naxalbari Cell" in Nepal, called the "People's Revolutionary Front". Two people were held by the Nepali police for distributing anti-Indian pamphlets.

HONG KONG — Red Guards in Canton are threatening to free thousands of political prisoners held by the Hong Kong authorities. Wall posters charged that the authorities were engaged in an all-out anti-red drive.

TEHERAN — The temperature rose to 126.6 degrees F. at Shush-tayl, described as "hell on earth". Elsewhere six died and hundreds were taken ill. A sandstorm added to the misery as swirling sand got into cooling systems of refrigerators and put them out of action.

PEKING — Two thousand swimmers, wearing badges and carrying portraits of Mao and his writings in sealed bags tied to their necks, swam the Yangtse to mark the first anniversary of Mao's swim in the river.

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia and Singapore ended all remittance and capital flow restrictions to encourage investment from countries outside the sterling area.

RANGOON — The Burmese Government cancelled New China News Agency correspondent Yu Mungshap's residence permit and ordered him to quit since he was "meddling in Burma's internal affairs".

LOENGNOKTHA — Reuter reports: Like James Bond, the villagers of this Thailand border province have licence to kill. They can kill any armed red they find.

KARACHI — Pakistan is to get Rs 750 crores a year as annual rent from the United States for the continued use of its military base at Badber, near Peshawar.

There is no clear evidence that Peking originated those moves in Hong Kong or on the border at Shat-
aukok two weeks ago but she cer-

Australian press urges wheat gift to India

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CANBERRA Combining diplomacy with quiet but eloquent advocacy the Secretary of the Indian Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Mr A. L. Dias, appears to have made out a strong case for new gifts of wheat from Australia.

Publicly Mr Dias refrained from saying specifically that he was seeking more gift-wheat but his answers to questions made it clear that this was the purpose of his visit.

After two days of official talks, including meetings with Prime Minister Holt, and External Affairs Minister Paul Hasluck, he reported that "Australian Government leaders are very sympathetic about the difficult food situation in India".

Evidently Mr Dias was told he could not be given a definite answer on a new gift of wheat because the

tainly works to keep the pot boiling. Hong Kong will probably have to suffer disturbances for some time. But at last the Government has decided to take the initiative out of the hands of the Communists. In this it has the backing of the vast majority.

Budget was being prepared.

Australia has given India 150,000 tons of wheat this year, but India now needs between 100,000 and 300,000 tons of wheat to fill the gap in supplies caused by the closure of the Suez Canal.

Against this background, there is every possibility that the Australian Government will speed up its Budget arithmetic and make provision for an extra gift of wheat to India. It can hardly do otherwise in view of the publicity given to Australia's wheat sales to Communist China

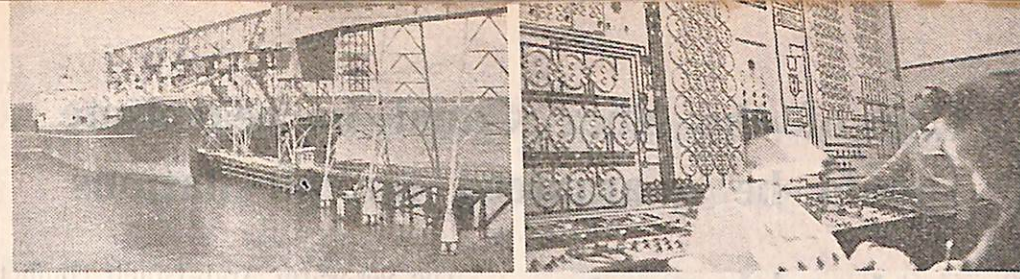
and the influential press support which India's plight has aroused here.

Writing in *The Age*, Melbourne morning daily, Mr E. J. Donath, lecturer in Economic Geography at Melbourne University, discloses that Australia's huge wheat sales to Peking—nearly 600 million bushels (16 million tonnes), worth about \$800 during the 1960s—has actually involved us dumping our wheat there at far below the Australian domestic price and also below the export price to other countries.

Mr Donath points out that Australian taxpayers have subsidised the wheat industry to the tune of \$100 million and adds, "It is increasingly difficult to understand why Australian taxpayers should subsidise an essential food item in Communist China when our same wheat lands could grow unsubsidised products."

Moreover, as *The Sydney Morning Herald* points out in an editorial, Australia still has large quantities of wheat left over from this year's abundant harvest.

The paper added, "The Wheat Board's first concern is naturally to



At Australia's largest wheat loading terminal in Geelong a ship (left) is loaded by automation at 1600 tons per hour. Controllers (right) push buttons to control the supply during the loading operation.

sell as much of this as possible to our overseas customers. If India can afford to buy more, there is no doubt she can get it. But there is a very

strong case for the Government repeating its generous gesture when it gave 150,000 tons of wheat worth \$9 million to India."

"Farewell, Far East"

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON The Government White Paper announcing a 20 per cent overall reduction in the British defence expenditure seems to have displeased people across a wide political spectrum.

The Conservative defence spokesman, Mr Enoch Powell, says that the reductions are not related to a future defence policy and are simply "death by a thousand cuts".

Left-wing Labour MPs complain that the reductions are too slight and too slow and want more to be spent on social services which are also under strain due to Britain's economic position.

The Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore are fairly unanimous in their dismay.

A London evening newspaper put it simply in the headline "Farewell, Far East".

What about the British public? A lot do not care. Many are all for the European emphasis with more comfort all round. But it is possible that a referendum of the whole nation would tip the scales in favour of a continued British involvement in

places which count in the Far East.

Hard-headed businessmen doing their sums are balancing the saving indicated by the White Paper against the loss of British markets. There will certainly be less incentive for militarily deprived areas such as Malaysia and Singapore to go on "buying British".

If an undefended Malaysia were to succumb to the insurrection from which British-led forces saved her a decade ago, a lot of British money invested in Malaysia would go.

But apart from these economic considerations, many British would find it hard to be convinced that a country which ruled a third of the earth's surface not so long ago should shrink to an offshore island of Europe, a super-welfare state. The concentration of experience and character here is a world commodity and should be Britain's most valuable export.

The week elsewhere

US RAIL STRIKE

CHICAGO—Traffic on most United States railways stopped as six unions went on unofficial strike. The stoppage, involving 700,000 workers in 27 railway companies, threatened deliveries of foodstuffs and of arms shipments for Vietnam. Military shipments account for 15 per cent of US rail traffic. The Government swiftly intervened to end the strike.

SUEZ BYPASS?

TEL AVIV—Israel has proposed the construction of an "Overland Suez", the *London Times* reported. A Government committee was completing plans for the scheme which would bypass the Suez Canal by transporting goods by road between Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba and Ashdod on the Mediterranean—a distance of 200 miles.

The week in INDIA

BHOPAL — Thirty-six Congress MLAs defected "en bloc" forcing Chief Minister D. P. Mishra to prorogue the Madhya Pradesh Assembly and to threaten mid-term elections. In New Delhi, angry MPs called the Governor's action a fraud on the Constitution.

JAIPUR — A Hindi text-book for Class VI carrying a map of India minus Assam, Manipur and Tripura, is to be proscribed, according to Education Minister Barkatullah Khan. The book was published by the Board of Nationalised Text Books.

MADRAS — Swatantra leader Rajagopalachari said assurances given to former princes could not be torn up as scraps of paper. If Parliament did that, it would be the last straw on the camel's back—in its efforts to be still a bit Gandhian.

NEW DELHI — The Union Government accepted the proposal for switching the medium of instruction in universities from English to regional languages. The change is to be completed in five years.

ERNAKULAM — A private firm has offered Rs 200 to every one of its 700 employees who undergoes vasectomy in a recognised hospital or family planning clinic and produces evidence. The scheme was announced when the firm signed a new "no strike" pact with its employees.

BOMBAY — Bankers are worried over the continued agitations in various units and new demands being put forth by bank workers, according to the "Financial Express". Despite the increase in the number of employees and in the wage bill and the rise in overtime payments, the available surplus, however, continued to be the same as in earlier years.

MADRAS — Vice President V. V. Giri firmly opposed the view that English should be "driven out of our country, lock, stock and barrel". English was not "a person to be hated but a language that had produced literature of a kind not available elsewhere," he said.

TRIVANDRUM — Food riots spread throughout Kerala. The agitation was led by ruling Communist Party members. Chief Minister Nambudiripad was urged to take over the Food Ministry personally.

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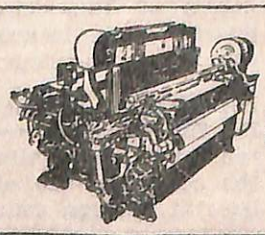


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Use of the Suez Canal in peacetime should be guaranteed for all nations

A life-line no nation should snap

First prize to Miss Bachi N. Kanga, Calcutta

THE SUEZ CANAL, sizewise, is perhaps the most strategic and the most used waterway in the world. It links the Red Sea with the Mediterranean, thus saving nautical traffic the long and arduous journey encircling the entire east, south and west coast of Africa.

The coastline of Africa from the Horn, round the Cape to Gibraltar is 12,800 miles. The length of the Suez Canal is 103 miles. It is the shortest sea-route from Europe to the East, to Australasia and to the East coast of Africa. Should any regulations blocking free and innocent passage through this "link" be clamped down, millions would be lost in money and man hours. This would result in the sharp torturous death of the European-African-Asian shipping trade, for the Suez Canal is a life-line which no nation has the right to snap.

Article 1 of the Convention of Constantinople, 1888, guaranteed free passage through this waterway for all nations. In 1950, the simmering hostility of Egypt towards the newly-created Israel boiled over with the closure of the Canal to all Israel-bound traffic. In 1956, President Nasser nationalised the Canal in the interests of Aswan. For a passage of such international vitality, such a monopolisation as the

UAR contemplates today is a dangerous step. It evokes all sorts of unpleasant possibilities—harassment, blockades, over-heavy duties.

The Suez Canal carries almost every commodity: wheat to feed India's hungry millions, oil to lubricate the wheels of European industry, cotton to clothe the peoples of the world. A nation may legally stop this intercourse. Can we allow it to do so, morally?

Canal closure is political blackmail

Second prize to Baldev Raj Mullick, Ootacamund

IT IS NOT an exaggeration to say that the Suez Canal which cuts through the UAR is one of the most important life-lines of the world.

This fact was glaringly highlighted after the closure of the canal by the UAR, soon after the Israel-Arab war broke out last June. As a result, hundreds of ships were stranded and half of the world's trade machinery was thrown out of gear.

To this day the Arabs have denied the use of the canal to Israel on purely political grounds. They contend that they just cannot stand the sight of a ship of their worst enemy passing through their coveted Suez. Today, the entire world, except the belligerent Arabs, have realised how unjust and unreasonable their stand is.

Every nation which subscribes to the principles of international law has a right to free trade, irrespective of its political ideology and affiliations. In peace-time, this principle should be strictly adhered to by all the nations. But the Arabs seem to have thrown all canons of international law to the winds. President Nasser's decision to close the Suez Canal, for an indefinite period, until Israel comes to terms with the Arabs is nothing short of political blackmail.

In the interest of world trade, all

The yet-warm Arab-Israeli conflict has turned the Canal into a theatre of war. This explosive situation must be dampened before any civil vessel dares to venture through it. The passage must first be made safe, and then it must be made sure. So long as its use is proved innocent, that no explosive material or war potential is involved, the shipping through the Canal must be unhindered in peacetime. There are no doubts regarding its benefits and no nation has the right to deprive the rest of the world of these. World opinion must be mobilised against such a step.

the maritime powers should evolve a mutually acceptable code of conduct vis-a-vis the Suez Canal. Underdeveloped countries like India, and others, should take the initiative in this matter, as their trade has suffered the most.

The Arabs should be firmly told that free and unhindered passage through the Suez Canal for all international shipping, including that of Israel, is in their interest. If the Arabs still remain adamant, the United Nations should be brought into the picture and through it, international pressure should be brought upon the Arabs to see reason. A fool-proof code of law with firm guarantees should be drawn up, wherein every country is allowed the use of the Canal during peacetime.

Perhaps the worst sufferer as a result of the closure of the Suez Canal is India. Ships carrying food have been delayed, worsening the food situation. To make matters worse, the extra freight charge for the cargo brought via the Cape route will further drain her meagre foreign exchange.

It is high time that India, who has championed the Arab cause in face of stiff opposition both home and abroad, told the Arabs that it cannot dance to their tune any more.

Australian MP/farmer works "For those who have less"

It was June 3, 1942. Off the coast of Algeria steamed a British aircraft carrier, her decks alive with Spitfires straining against their chocks. Malta was besieged and pounded by enemy bombers. At zero hour the Spitfires were unleashed into the skies for the perilous 800 miles flight to the heroic island.

"Our orders were to fight our way in," the flight commander, Len Reid, told me in his Bombay hotel last week. "And fight we did. But only four out of my nine planes got through." Mr Reid, a six-foot-three Australian Air Force pilot, won the Distinguished Flying Cross for the exploit. A veteran of Hurricanes and Spitfires in Europe and later in the Pacific war, Reid returned to his family farm 30 miles from Melbourne.

A Member of the Victorian Parliament since 1958, he is now Chairman of Committees in the House.

If his Malta action deserved a medal, his strenuous and enthusiastic efforts on behalf of India in recent years deserve much more.

Reid is founder-President of a unique society—"For Those Who Have Less"—started in 1962. Four years ago, when in New Delhi to attend a Moral Re-Armament Assembly, Reid happened to meet Dr Ram Subhag Singh, then Minister of State for Food and Agriculture.

Infant mortality not worst

"I have always wanted to do something for India," Reid told me. "I had been to her villages and seen the kids. It struck me that the worst mortality rates were not among infants but in the 2 to 6 age group. After weaning they just don't have the protein to replace their mother's milk. It shocked me. Dr Singh asked if I could send him stock for Indian herds.

"I accepted the challenge, though I did not know where I would get them. In Australia I visited 100 stud properties in four States, telling the farmers what I was trying to achieve. They proved pretty generous and soon some cattle were on their way." How many have you sent?

"So far, 210 registered cows and bulls, and in October we ship an-

other 40, including some as gift to the MRA Training Centre now being built in Maharashtra at Panchgani. We have also sent 180 stud sheep and 77 pigs to India."

"In the last three years we have sent stock worth approximately \$A200,000 (Rs 16.75 lakhs). Most people don't realise that all the animals we give are registered stock and cost up to \$1000 each." How is this money raised?

"Farmers and breeders themselves give a lot. Also clubs and churches. Even our typists at Parliament House are paying for a pair of sheep. They have named them Lochinvar and Lucy. For every typing error they put one cent in a bowl." All connected with the scheme, including those who travel with the stock and supervise their establish-



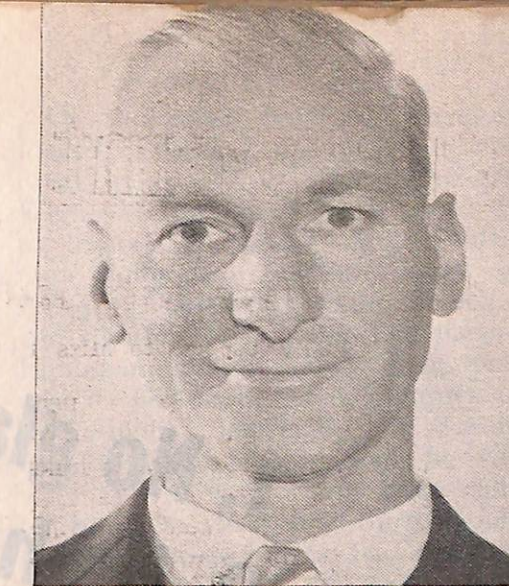
ment in India give their services voluntarily. Reid flies to India every year at his own expense.

The best evidence of the contribution Reid's society has made can be found at the Haringhata Research Farm near Calcutta, which was started by Australia's Governor General, Lord Casey, when he was Governor of undivided Bengal.

"Here," says Reid, "we have sent Friesian cows for milk and breeding, and bulls for improving the stock. By this cross breeding some 3200 Indian cows have been upgraded and today the progeny of the cross are producing four times the amount of milk—up from 1500 lbs a year to 6000 lbs at the very least. In this way a new breed of Indian Friesian is developing which is acclimatised to local conditions." Do you have other schemes in India?

"In ten states similar programmes are under way. Our society is considering opening an office in New Delhi to co-ordinate our operations."

The best indigenous cows average about 7 lbs of milk per day, Reid informed me. But one of his Friesian



heifers shipped from Tasmania in 1965 created an all-India record at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi. It produced 91.2 lbs of milk in 24 hours.

Reid and his fellow-workers see this upgrading of dairy herds as a vital key to the nourishment of India's millions. "India has the cows—100 million of them. But while the average Australian cow produces 12 pints of milk a day, two-thirds of India's give less than two pints and a quarter give only a cupful."

Are you concerned only with livestock?

"Certainly not. We started by sponsoring destitute and orphaned children in Madras. Today we look after 60 there. Soon we are taking on another 40 in Calcutta. The money is found by school children in Victoria. They raise it by going without things—maybe an icecream—or by walking to school instead of taking a bus. We find that if our own children make a small sacrifice like this it helps them think for the child in India they are helping."

Australia's affluence shared

Are you satisfied with your progress?

"Far more has to be done. We have to channel in a lot more practical assistance."

In war a man of courage, in peace Len Reid has proved a man of vision and a tireless friend of India. He wants to see the underprivileged of Asia share in Australia's affluence.

But Reid doesn't believe in hand-outs. His attitude is best explained by the ancient proverb, "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day—teach him how to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life."

C. B. M.

VIEWPOINT COMPETITION

* Should Sheikh Abdullah now be released?

Closing date: August 4

** Should privy purses be abolished?

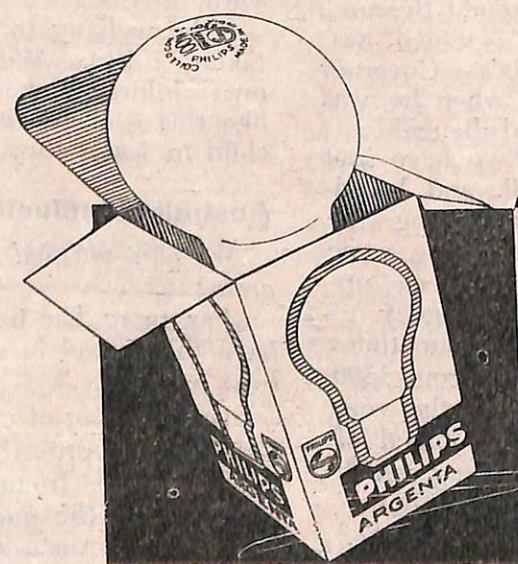
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CRICKET:

India proved popular losers

by T. C. "DICKIE" DODDS

ON THE recent tour of England India played 18 matches. Two were won, 7 lost and the rest drawn. If some matches were short they were never dull. In fact the first day's play of the last Test was described by many commentators as the most attractive day's cricket of the summer.

When he arrived in April the Nawab of Pataudi said he hoped above all they would have fine weather. In the event they had the wettest May on record. But despite the elements and injury, the side continued to play attractive cricket. Bowling or batting they were always interesting to watch perhaps because the players themselves were interested in playing. This is bound to pay off in the long run.

Excellent captaincy

Pataudi captained the side excellently throughout. His field placing was always intelligent. His own brilliant fielding was supported by his men. Special mention must be made of Engineer's outstanding performance behind the stumps.

Of the batsmen, Wadekar did most to enhance his reputation. He has one great asset freely available to all players: he does not appear to be worried by mistakes. Batsmen, like

other human beings, sometimes make mistakes. When Wadekar makes a mistake he puts it behind him at once. He may tuck the experience away in his mind for future reference, but he does not appear to let one mistake blackmail him into the belief that he is no good and therefore to throw his hand in.

It is also a great help if a batsman—especially in England—is not guided by the blemish of one ball. Suppose, for instance, the second ball of the innings gets up off a length and strikes the opening bat a sharp blow on the fingers. Two reactions are possible.

One is whip off your gloves and examine the damage, if any. Then to go down the pitch and pat down the offending spot on the wicket. Meanwhile you cast meaningful glances at your opening partner and your colleagues in the dressing room. By which time everyone has the wind up.

The other reaction is to behave as if nothing has happened. One can leave any spot on the wicket till the end of the over as the bowler is unlikely to hit it twice in a short space of time. This all has the effect of putting heart into your side and lessening the expectancy of your opponents.

Of the other batsmen, Sardesai looked a sound opening bat and ideal partner for the aggressive Engineer. Engineer himself could do to temper his attack with a little more judgement. The Nawab of Pataudi headed the Test averages and rightly. He is a fine ball player. Hanumant Singh shows great promise. Kunderan gave glimpses of his ability especially at Lords. Chandu Borde had a tour he will want to forget. Nothing went right for him. One feels that Surti should have done more but he had a severe leg injury at Leeds.

Fast bowlers

At the end of the tour the Nawab of Pataudi stressed the need for India to find some fast bowlers. India has a fine spin attack headed by the great Chandrasekhar but this needs some complementary fast bowling. Guha is a promising medium-fast bowler who should develop a lot but he needs a man of real speed to bowl with him. One hears various reasons put forward for the lack of fast bowlers.

It has been argued that the hot climate in India does not encourage people to bowl fast. But it is also hot in the West Indies where they produce extremely fast and fiery bowlers. Pataudi suggested wickets in India should be made quicker to encourage speed.

This popular side left behind a host of friends who will be watching their Australian tour in the coming months with great interest.

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Party literature started circulating in abundance. Other activities followed, particularly in the industrial region of Asansol, Burdwan and the peasant areas of Darjeeling district. The intra-party struggle against revisionism soon assumed a proportion for which the official leadership was perhaps not prepared.

It is against this background that one has to interpret the decision of the CP(M) Politbureau to take disciplinary action against some members in West Bengal and the subsequent vague statements made by its leadership in trying to interpret Peking's interference and the activities of the so-called extremists within the Party. The extremist wing in the Party is not at all repentant, even after the State Cabinet decided to halt their terrorist activities.

The West Bengal Secretariat of the CP(M) has openly criticised the Chief Minister after the decision of the Politbureau to take disciplinary action against the extremists' wing in the Party. The Secretariat's statement was also issued after the physical conflicts between supporters of the two wings of CP(M) in the streets of Calcutta. This could only

mean that the West Bengal unit of the CP(M) reflects the majority viewpoint of the so-called extremists.

The entire statement of the West Bengal Secretariat of the CP(M), as reported in the press, avoids any reference to its activities in the Naxalbari area or in the Asansol region. On the other hand it proudly declares that landless peasants have seized 50,000 acres in the different districts of Bengal. (This highly exaggerated figure is perhaps for the consumption of people elsewhere). Similarly the statement of the State Secretariat makes no reference to Peking Radio's propaganda in support of the armed revolt and against the revisionism of the CP(M) leadership.

It will be interesting to observe in days to come what attitude the CP(M) leadership adopts. If it persists in its vague attitude to Peking's intervention and the armed revolt by its extremist wing, the West Bengal unit of the Party will certainly have a very sharp edge over its All-India leadership. It will either force it to side openly with the extremists and toe the Peking line *in toto* or it will force at least some in the CP(M) openly to dissociate from the Peking line; though the possibility of the latter event cannot be envisaged on a large scale.

India if the minimum communications that now exist between one part of India and another is made more difficult by the additional barrier of language? If we are honest, we will admit that "the unity in diversity" which was a favourite theme of the Indian nationalist in the pre-independence era, was an expression of a need and a wish rather than of contemporary or historical reality, though to some extent religion did give a sense of oneness to the Hindus spread over this sub-continent. A unity, vastly bigger in dimension because it is multi-racial, multi-religious, and multi-lingual, can evolve out of the inspiration of shared goals and common effort by peoples who accept the great tasks in which they need each other—such as was the struggle for freedom.

The acceptance of 14 media of instruction in the 15 States of India does not do away with the need to learn a common language or languages. The lack of agreement about the so-called "link" language is not the cause but the consequence of the lack of unity. If Indian leaders can agree on Indian goals and demonstrate unity in achieving them, the languages of India will be no barrier—on the other hand, they will become expressions of a richer and more integrated Indian personality.

This was a Life

KUBLAI KHAN

1214—1294

KUBLAI KHAN of the Mongols, Emperor of China, was the first foreigner to occupy the Chinese throne. He was the grandson of Genghis Khan the great conqueror, who annexed vast territories, including part of China. Kublai Khan completed the conquest by over-running northern China, and made his capital what is now Peking. Once supreme, he adopted the Chinese culture and made Buddhism the state religion.

Kublai Khan was free from prejudice and was eager to profit from the wisdom of other nations. So when envoys returning from Persia met some Italian merchants in search of trade, they persuaded these travellers to accompany them to Kublai Khan's court. They were Venetians called Polo.

He made them welcome, and questioned them closely about western ways. When they came to leave, he gave them a safe-conduct and begged them to return and bring with them a hundred men trained in western arts and science. But this the Polos could not do, since no one believed their reports of the Khan's magnificent court.

The Polos themselves returned later with a younger member of the family, Marco. The Khan was so pleased with him that he took him into his service. Marco learnt Mongol, and stayed seventeen years at the court, going on many missions to parts of the Mongol empire, such as Burma, south China and south India, taking notes. When at last he wished to return to Italy, the Khan was loth to part with him, but finally made arrangements.

Back in Venice, Marco spoke of all he had seen; but he was not believed either. He was nicknamed "Marco millions" because that word figured so often in his reminiscences. Later written down by a friend using Marco's notes, for centuries they were thought to be wild exaggerations.

It is only of recent years that historical research has proved the truth of what Marco Polo told of the power and magnificence and magnanimity of the great Kublai Khan.

D.M.P.

DOUBLE STANDARD

RECENT attacks on the Indian Government by Moscow Radio's external service in the assumed name of "Radio Peace and Progress" are perturbing.

This comes soon after our rather too enthusiastic and non-realistic approach to the West Asian War. Even the smaller Afro-Asian countries took a rational approach to the problem in the United Nations, where we failed to give constructive leadership to the non-committed Afro-Asian and Latin American countries.

Though our Government rightly condemns Western colonisation of Angola and other parts of the world, we accept the sovereignty of China over Tibet. Why this double standard?

It is high time that the Government had a serious re-thinking of our foreign policy. If Sweden and Switzerland can command the respect and admiration of the whole world as neutral countries why can't we?

I. S. MENON, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK.

MYSORE CONGRESS

NOT everything that Mr Thadani says in "Gherao Bid Foiled—Congress United, firm" (HIMMAT, July 7) gives the correct picture of the situation. For, whereas one, far away from Mysore, sees the picture of a "united, firm, confident" Congress after reading it, the reality is far different. Mysore Congress seems united, because there is no

Letters

other party or group of parties better united, seems firm, because others are less firm, seems confident because others are not even as firm as it is. It is purely a case of a man with one hand is better than a man with none!

P. HARIDAS ACHARYA, Bangalore 27

ANXIOUS COMPETITOR

YOU have not explained in HIMMAT how the prize for "Find the Ball" will be awarded. Can we get it by money order or personally in your office? Please make it clear in your next issue.

BHARAT, Thana

Money orders are sent to the winner immediately upon publication. Good luck!—Ed.

DYNAMIC LEADER

AT LAST the Indians have proved their incompetence in the field of cricket also.

What is happening to our country? It is fast reaching the pinnacle of instability both economically and politically. Is there any hope of redemption? This is a question put to me quite often by many including my inner voice.

The only possible answer up my sleeve is — India needs a young and dynamic leader of men — who neither falls for flattery nor is enamoured of praise. Of course it is not possible to get one like that in the market place.

V. S. RAJAN, Madras 17.

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Tragic, comic or beastly?

by Rajmohan Gandhi

Caux, Switzerland

THE SUNDAY TIMES reports that liberal abortion, the banning of teenage marriages and compulsory sterilisation are supported by most State Governments.

The paper names the Family Planning Minister, Dr Chandrasekhar, as the source of this information.

These proposed measures and the offer of transistor radios for voluntary sterilisation have made front-page news in British and European newspapers.

Animalisation of man

Cummings, the Daily Express cartoonist whose drawings reach 15 million people each time, paints the scene in the Garden of Eden with an Indian Eve and Adam. Instead of apples, the tree has transistor radios. Most commentators are intrigued that the land of the so-called sacred cow should pioneer the animalisation of man.

From this distance it is hard to tell how anxious our Government is to implement this programme. Obviously our leaders would want in this, as in all instances, to practise what they preach. Will we soon have a list of those of India's most prominent men who have more than three children and would therefore, no doubt, lead the sterilisation programme?

Now it is true that India has her great men, and in most people's minds great men often give the nation a heritage of fine and talented children. Is there not a risk here of the country being robbed of the gifts that fourth and fifth children of these men might bring?

There are of course a number in the top echelons of politics, the civil service, the military, business and culture who are fourth, fifth, sixth and later children. They were able to arrive in this world before Dr Chandrasekhar's policies.

It is said that aid-giving Western nations as well as the Soviet Union are pressuring our Government to execute these policies. I don't know. If true this represents a superiority which makes imperialism look like chicken feed. For

these nations would never dream of imposing on their own people such a programme.

Our Cabinet's arms are possibly being twisted from outside, but their own responsibility remains complete. They have thrown out advice, good or bad, in the past and could have done so here.

Suppose the British rulers of India had pressed a compulsory sterilisation scheme on the Indian people. What would have been the reaction? I doubt that it would have stayed within non-violent limits. We would have accused the foreign regime of trying to decimate our population, destroy our culture and trample on our religious sentiments. Ruthless, stone-hearted tyranny, we would have called it.

Change in diagnosis

Many who rule us today were yesterday blaming the British for all our troubles. Now they have come up with a sudden change in diagnosis—it is the Indians who are responsible. It would be difficult to ask them all to quit India, hence why not do the maximum you can to reduce their number?

In making scapegoats of our Indian people, our policy-makers reveal what they think of them. To them our men, women and children seem to possess no energy in their hands and feet, no qualities of heart, mind or soul. They only have greedy stomachs demanding to be fed. Selfish, beast-like hordes, that is all. Sterilise them.

Bless our law-framers. They are clearly ignorant of their arrogance unlimited in proposing their glib solutions. Wishing to impose their wills on the consciences of human beings, they want now to have a say in when or if people should be born. They want to manipulate forces about which the human mind can never know all. They are attempting to usurp functions that belong to God. They may talk about equality, democracy and Socialism but they are arrogating to themselves powers that no man should have, for his own sake or for the sake of those he is supposed to look after.

These men who poach in hazar-

dous territory deserve neither worship nor compliance nor hate. They need man's pity and God's mercy. They can have both.

We will have to find ways and means of curing the bitterness and cynicism in so many at the helm of our affairs who in their hearts have written off all hope for our Indian people.

A man called M. K. Gandhi, sometimes referred to as the Mahatma, said this:

"There can be no two opinions about the necessity of birth control. It is infallible, a sovereign remedy doing good to those that practise it. And medical men will earn the gratitude of mankind if, instead of devising artificial means of birth control, they will find out the means of self-control.

"Artificial methods are like putting a premium on vice. They make men and women reckless. And respectability that is being given to the methods must hasten the dissolution of the restraints public opinion puts upon one... the remedy will be found far worse than the disease. It is wrong and immoral to escape the consequences of one's acts... nature is relentless and will have full revenge for any such violation of her laws...

Practical

"Those men therefore who are lightheartedly advocating artificial methods cannot do better than study the subject afresh, stay their injurious activity and popularise chastity, both for the married and the unmarried. That is the only noble and straight method of birth control."

Some of Gandhi's ideas were theoretical, others practical. The one above was and is practical. Compared with it Dr Chandrasekhar's schemes are fanciful.

Swift, radical, adequate solutions for our tangible problems are possible. They will be available to those who respect man and the creator who made him. So-called remedies that debase and degrade the human spirit can only prepare a nation for a return to the jungle.

FIND THE BALL Competition No:30



2nd Prize:
HIRA LUXURY RAZOR
(with magnetic stem for picking up blades)

HOW TO PLAY

The ball in this cricket action picture has been painted out. All you have to do is mark a cross where you think the ball is. Then cut out the picture and send it to "Find the Ball", c/o HIMMAT, 294 Bazargate Street, Bombay 1, by noon Monday August 7. The winner will be published in August 11 issue.

There is no limit to the number of entries you can make, but only one cross may be marked on any one picture. The Editor's decision is final.

Nearest entry wins Rs. 25
On the ball wins Jackpot*

*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 the ball EXACTLY. This Jackpot will accumulate Rs. 25 per week until it is won.

Name _____
Address _____
I agree to the rules of the competition as outlined above.



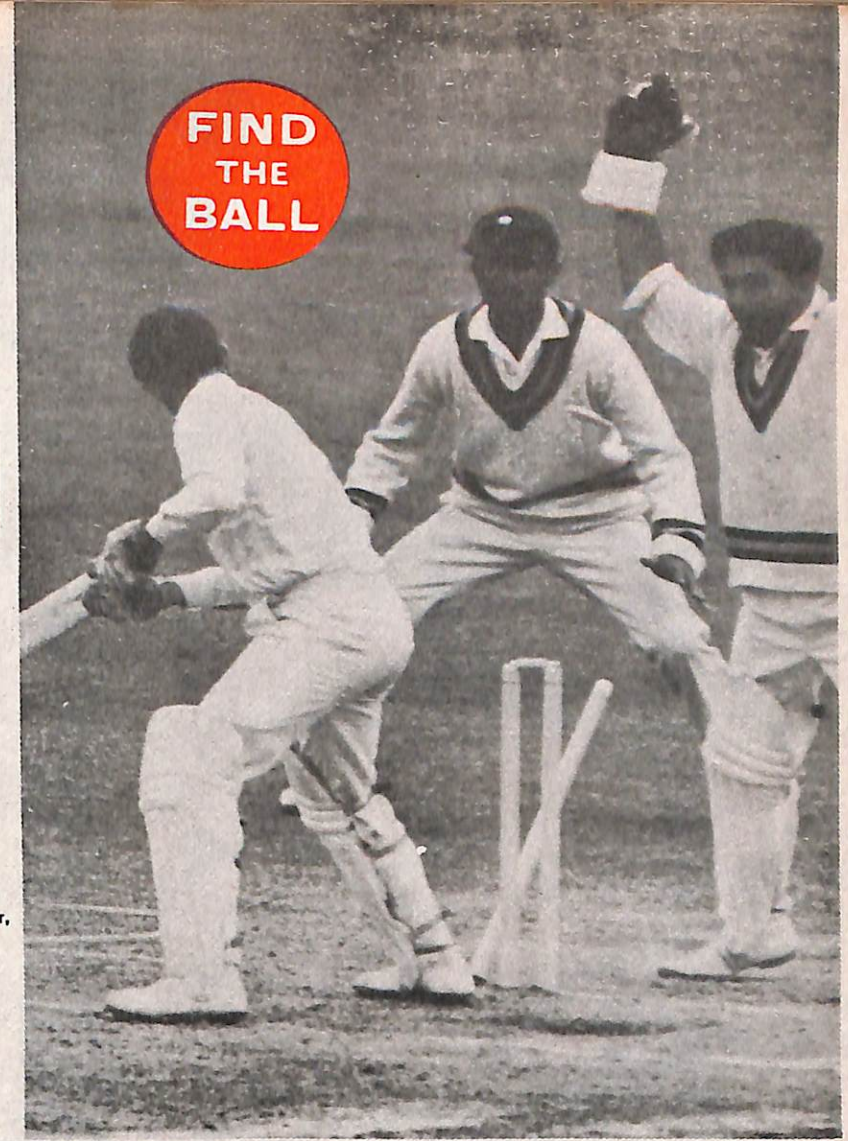
WINNERS OF COMPETITION 28

Jackpot prize of Rs. 150 this week is shared by three competitors who each marked the ball exactly: Vasant Narayan Nene, Vasant Industries, General Bhonsale Road, Kalyan (CR); K.V. Manohar Rao, 3-4-458 Barkalpara, Hyderabad 27; N. Shankar Rao, 44 Parukrupa, 5th Cross, Swimming Pool Extension, Malleswaram, Bangalore.

2nd Prize to S.L. Krishnamurthy, 78 T. Jayanagar, 1Vth Block, Bangalore 11 (0.5 mm from ball)

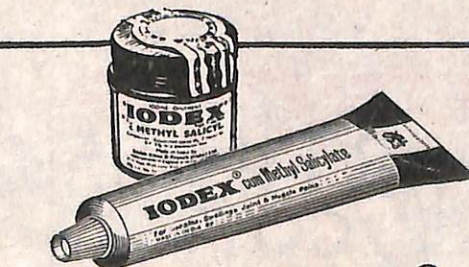
NEXT WEEK'S JACKPOT: Rs 50

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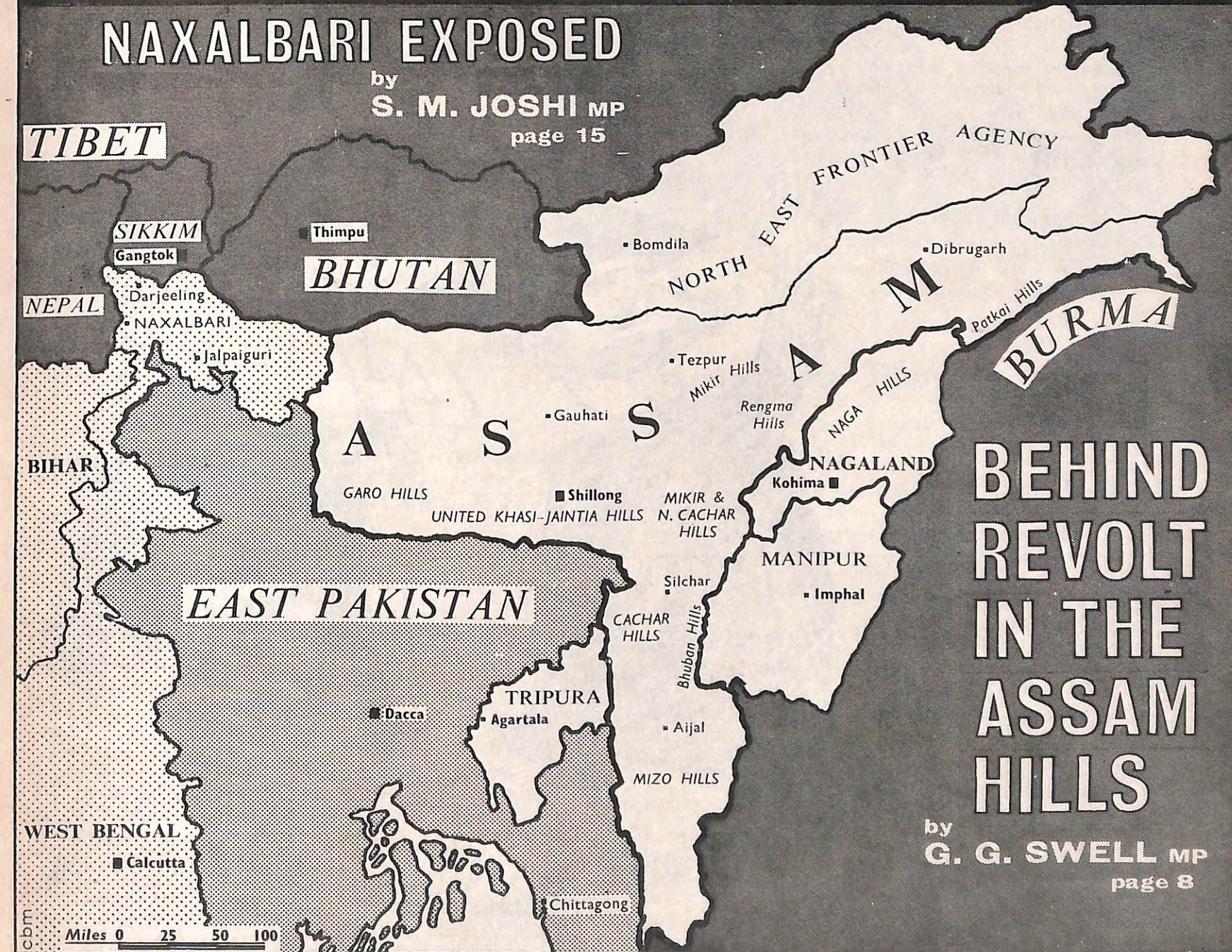
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INDIA'S STRATEGIC NORTH-EAST SMOULDERS

NAXALBARI EXPOSED

by
S. M. JOSHI MP
page 15



BEHIND REVOLT IN THE ASSAM HILLS

by
G. G. SWELL MP
page 8

MISHRA TO SUCCEED KAMARAJ?