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# HIMMAT

WEEKLY 30p

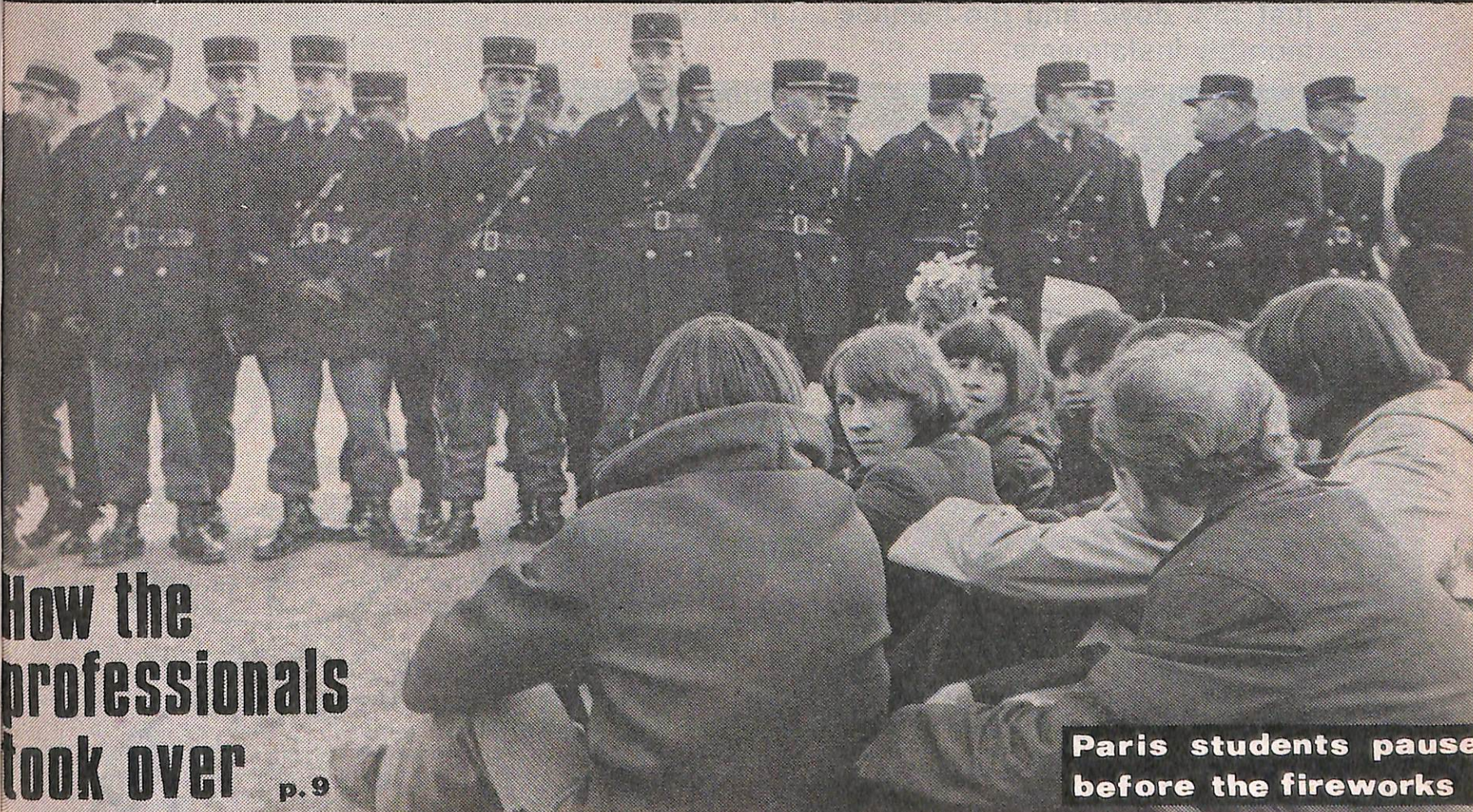
VOL 4 NO 35

ASIA'S VOICE

FRIDAY JUNE 28 1968

## RAJMOHAN GANDHI MEETS FRENCH STUDENTS

p.18



How the  
professionals  
took over

p. 9

Paris students pause  
before the fireworks

## Fr. FERRER: DELHI SNUBS BOMBAY

p.3



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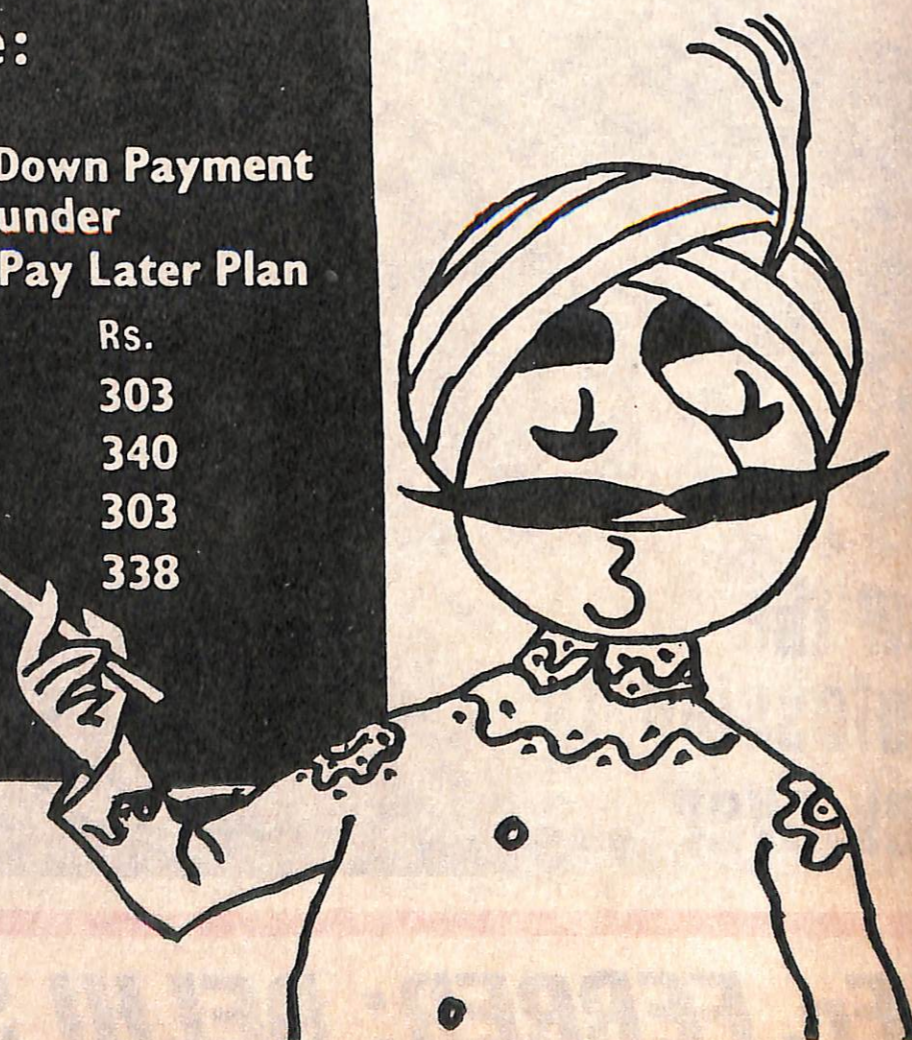
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**AIR-INDIA**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH B.O.A.C. AND QANTAS



**Editorials**

**Father Ferrer's reprieve**

THE UNION GOVERNMENT has done its best to extricate itself from the difficult position in which the Maharashtra Government landed it. It has ruled that Spanish Jesuit Father Ferrer, although he must leave the country on June 26, will be permitted to return to India after one month and work in any suitable place outside Maharashtra! And invitations have already come.

The Union Government emerges from this episode in a better light than the Maharashtra Government. If Father Ferrer was really "anti-national", as the Maharashtra Government made him out to be, the Union Government would not have permitted Father Ferrer to return. The only conclusion is that the findings of Mr Naik, his Government and his police were prejudiced in the opinion of the Government of India.

For some years now the ruling Congress Party in Maharashtra has decided that they will not permit the

Opposition to have one single good issue to fight on. If anyone in the Opposition picks up an issue, the Congress Party takes it up as its own. And so, when a couple of disgruntled politicians in Manmad started this campaign against Father Ferrer, the Congress, fearing that Maratha sentiments would be stirred on the question of religious conversion, took up the issue and resisted the demand for an impartial inquiry into the charges against Father Ferrer.

**A Government with a majority of even one which stands for what is right will command more respect than one with a thumping majority that throws out justice and is concerned only with its own supremacy.**

Will Mr Naik learn a few lessons from this episode? Mr Madhu Mehta and Mr Piloo Mody, MP, both of whom resolutely fought on Father Ferrer's behalf, have earned the thanks of the public for their stand.

**When the voting stops**

A RECORD NUMBER of candidates gained overall majorities in the French election's first round last Sunday. The Gaullists and their allies, the Independent Republicans, won 148 seats outright. The Communists gained only six and the Centrists four. The extreme Left Socialists and the Federation of the Left failed to score in any constituency.

Prime Minister Pompidou and 20 of his Cabinet won their seats in the first round. If the same trend persists, the Gaullists could gain some 300 seats in the 487-member National Assembly compared to the 244 they possessed in the last.

Despite the vote, France is a sundered nation. No party put forward a programme. Each fought the election by slander. The politicians made a headlong bid for power without explaining what they would do if they got it.

Once the voting ceases, France must face appalling problems. The Banque de France has admitted that \$850 million was transferred out of the country during May. The actual figure is thought to be much larger.

The 10 per cent wage increase granted to get strikers back to the factories could price French goods out of international competition. Inflation seems unavoidable. Foreign Minister Michel Debre has announced a cut-back of two years in building an independent nuclear striking force and less aid to developing countries.

The key to economic recovery lies in the factories where just three weeks ago 10 million men were on strike. De Gaulle's tactics of scare and divide may have turned the trade union leadership into implacable foes of his Government.

De Gaulle speaks of "participation" as the alternative to class war. To expect "participation" without a revolution in man's attitude to responsibility and power is poppycock. Human nature being what it is, those who should participate in responsibility often do not. And those who wield power seldom have shown willingness to share it. If implemented, this concept would certainly advance society.

As its originator, the onus is on the President to make the first step.

**Congress at sea**

*Many brave deeds have been done in ships,  
Heroic the sagas to tell.  
And many a plot has been hatched between decks  
By pirates and vagabonds swell.*

ANON

PERHAPS these ancient lines were coursing through the mind of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee chief, Mr Kakodkar, while exploring the possibility of hiring a ship for lodging delegates to the October session of the All-India Congress Committee due to be held in his maritime homeland. Mr Kakodkar also hopes that, if the ship is large enough, it will prove possible to hold the conference sessions on board.

Now this is the sort of flair that is needed. So much more imaginative than building a Congressnagar on the outskirts of some dusty town. No doubt "P" forms

could be arranged (Mr Kakodkar is a very influential gentleman) so that the SS *Jalamela* might weigh anchor and put to sea. It would give delegates a chance to stand off and take an objective look at the country. Beyond the 3-mile limit, Prohibition also assumes a different aspect.

Disciplining wayward Congressmen would also be simplified. Instead of expulsion there is always the plank or, for first offenders, a few days in the brig.

Of course, being at sea is not a new experience for the AICC. Navigation in such familiar surroundings should present no difficulties. However stormy the weather or rebellious the crew, Captain Nijalingappa can always say, in the words of that great hero of Trafalgar, "I have a right to be blind sometimes... I really do not see the signal!"



## Poona rejects SS

In last week's civic elections in Poona, the controversial Shiv Sena ("Maharashtra for Maharashtrians") collided with Maharashtrian public opinion and lost. The communal organisation fielded 52 candidates for 72 seats. One of them managed to scramble to victory with a margin of only 11 votes!

As Poona is the largest city in Maharashtra after Bombay, and a major centre of Maharashtrian culture, it would seem that the Shiva Sena is regarded now as a Bombay-Thana organisation.

## Portfolio proliferation

WITH the inclusion last Saturday of a 36th Minister, Rajasthan now tops the country in size of Cabinets — a dubious honour. Congress Chief Minister Sukhadia must have a lot

of friends to reward or a lot of opponents to square. Now a rebellion has been launched by Congress backbenchers who claim that the size of a ministry should not exceed one-tenth of the total number of legislators. With 176 in the Assembly this would mean halving the present Ministry to 18. Or perhaps the 36 Ministers would share the salaries of 18 — not so great a sacrifice for the sake of the tax-paying public they profess to serve.

## Shocking

SAY A PRAYER for the linesmen working for the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking. They say they risk death every time they climb a pole, due to defective tools and equipment supplied by the authorities. This grim story was recounted last week in *The Hindustan Times*.

Om Prakash, a DESU employee for 16 years, says his wife prays for his life every morning when he leaves home and when he returns begs him to change his job. Linesmen, he says, are provided with pliers that are not shock-proof. Black tape wound round the handles is the only "insulation". Jagdish Prasad will show you his peeling fingers — "burned while handling a live wire with faulty gloves". Linesmen complain that gloves supplied to them are made of such thick material that it is impossible to work properly with them on. There is only one 36-foot ladder to each zone so linesmen often have to climb poles with bare hands and feet. At the top there are often no safety brackets for them to stand on.

During the past month three linesmen have been electrocuted. The monthly average is five accidents and one death. DESU authorities say they don't regard this as "extraordinary". But until this callousness is ended we shall support the prayers of Om Prakash's wife and the many others whose husbands risk their lives needlessly in the DESU.

## Tax men bristle

IMAGINE the lather the Revenue Department must have worked itself into last week when the Gujarat High Court ruled that shaving brushes were not subject to the 10 per cent sales tax due on toilet articles. Only those which directly "dress or groom" a person could be said to be toilet

*Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us worthy evidence of the fact.*

GEORGE ELIOT, 1819—1880

articles, the Division Bench ruled.

We have never regarded shaving as frivolous luxury.

## New Zealand welcome



Wellington schoolchildren make friends with Mrs Gandhi during the Prime Minister's visit to New Zealand last month.

## Down-payment on freedom

LAST Sunday the Vietnam war became the longest in America's history, reports an Associated Press dispatch from Washington. Since James Thomas Davis from Tennessee was killed by the Viet Cong on December 21, 1961, the United States has lost nearly 25,000 men. That was six years, six months and one day ago. The American War of Independence lasted six years and six months. The Korean war lasted three years and one month while America fought for three years and nine months in World War II.

Twenty-five thousand men is a terrible price to pay, but it is a down-payment on freedom for millions in South-East Asia, however reluctant some may be to concede it.

## Slogan sticking

Car stickers, fastened on to rear windows, are a current vogue in Britain. Those discontented with present parliamentary processes may be seen sporting the slogan, "Guy Fawkes, your country needs you."

A more straightforward sticker, obviously worn by non-Socialist drivers, says, "Don't blame me. I voted Conservative."

**Birbal**

## Integration Council faces ugly facts

THE second session of the National Integration Council ended its three-day discussions in Srinagar on Saturday without achieving a spectacular breakthrough in combating the rising menace of communalism, casteism and regionalism, and it would have been foolish to have expected it to do so.

Such gigantic problems cannot be overcome at conventions, where usually rhetoric is the dominant factor. But to the credit of this meeting it must be said that it did try to face the ugly facts squarely.

Obviously, this was a task beyond its limited capabilities, yet it did devise some measures which could be applied to check the outbreaks of armed insanity. The declaration of objectives was notable for two major omissions.

Firstly, it failed to point out clearly that increasing economic imbalances and the low rate of growth of the economy, which result in unemployment and underemployment, the major causes of social unrest, were at the root of the accentuation of these divisive forces.

Second, the resolution, accepted unanimously after the original draft had been pruned by a small group of members nominated for this purpose, does not pinpoint the fact that communalism, casteism and regionalism have grown to the enormous size where they threaten the unity of the nation because they have been exploited politically—and it is difficult to name one political party which has not done so for its own immediate selfish gain.

## Governments responsible

This was particularly noticeable in the last general election, and it was ironic to read some of the impassioned oratory employed by many members to denounce the very things they had unabashedly resorted to at election time.

I am not being cynical, nor do I accuse them of double talk and double think. I am merely drawing attention to the fact that although they may have been thoroughly sincere in branding these manifestations of disruption, they themselves become victims of these things under compulsions of practical politics. Can you halt communalism or casteism or regionalism when you have parties in power in some parts of the country which have won a position of strength because of the very fact

that these evils exist? And can the Congress Party honestly say that it is free from them itself?

It was therefore very much to the point when Mr Morarji Desai suggested at the end of the session that the state governments, and not officials alone, should be held responsible for breaches of the peace arising from these causes.

This suggestion was not officially endorsed by the meeting, which agreed, however, that when disturbances took place in a district the head of the civil administration and the police chief in the area should be punished. But, as some members pointed out, how could the district officials act effectively if they did not have the full support of their political bosses?

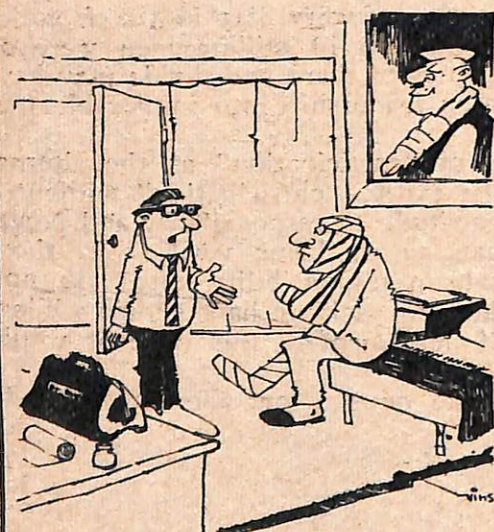
Strangely, Mr Morarji Desai was not among the official speakers, and it was only on the last day, when there was a lull in the proceedings while the original draft resolution was being retouched, that some members asked why the Deputy Prime Minister had not spoken. Thereupon, Mrs Gandhi called upon him to make a few remarks.

## Recognise cultural diversity

In addition to suggesting that state governments be held culpable for disturbances Mr Desai made the important point that the cultural diversity of the country should be recognised, and this was also the theme of other speakers, notably Mr Kabir, who asserted that the creation of a national outlook and a feeling of Indianness could only be achieved through the unimpeded flowering of the regional cultures.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## CHALTA HAI...



"Next time you address a meeting of your supporters, let me know so I can come with you."

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VALENTINE

## on your toes

### WAGON-TRAIL TO MOSCOW

FOLLOWING Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin's unexpected visit to India last January, HIMMAT's headline read: INDIA'S NEW ECONOMIC OVERLORD?

This week, Union Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh is in Moscow as a result of Soviet insistence that India co-ordinate its trade more closely with Russia. Professor D. R. Gadgil, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, is likely to visit Moscow soon for discussions on the "dovetailing" of India's Fourth Plan with the Soviet economy. Events are moving fast.

Russia's offer to buy surplus production if India would embark on considerable industrial expansion was tempting for a Government already embarrassed by a crippling recession. The offer was quickly pursued by orders for a million tons of steel and pig iron and up to 10,000 rail wagons a year. It could only be expected that India would soon be called upon to buy more from Russia.

A recent article by *New York Times* correspondent Dana Adams Schmidt touches upon the experience of Czechoslovakia. "Increasingly, as the years went on, Czechoslovak factories adjusted to low Soviet standards and became incapable of competing in the West."

A recent statement by Mr B. P. Patel, State Trading Corporation Chairman, is surely a straw in the wind. He pointed out that the Soviet order was not yet really an order, only a "declaration of intention" to take 10,000 wagons from India. He said there are still many "imponderables". It now appears that Soviet specifications are quite different from those of the wagons being produced here. To fulfil Soviet requirements, prototypes will have to be built and passed before mass production can begin.

The Soviet authorities are distressed at the criticism of their pressure on Indian trade patterns. The Trade Minister soothed pressmen at Moscow airport by saying the criticism came mainly from "uninformed people" — a definition equally applicable, surely, to his supporters.

There is gentle irony in the fact that all these awkward matters involve none other than the former Indian host to Svetlana, and relative of her late husband, Brijesh Singh. Let us hope that any embarrassment over this incident won't prompt Mr Dinesh Singh to please his Russian hosts beyond the point of normal courtesy.

*Freebooter*



# VERDICT!

## This week HIMMAT...

**LAMENTS** the increasing tendency of the Cabinet to postpone vital national decisions because of lack of unity among its members, and **CALLS ON** Mrs Gandhi to function as a Prime Minister, letting those who disagree with her policies resign from her Government.

**CHUCKLES** at the juvenile struggle between the Youth Congress and Right Communist Youth groups as to who is officially to represent India at the Communist World Youth Festival in Bulgaria.

**DISBELIEVES** the tears shed by that old "crocodile" Brezhnev when accused of interfering in Czechoslovak affairs.

**RUSHES TO BUY A SEAT** on the new Western Express scheduled to cover the distance from Bombay to Delhi in 17 hours, six hours less than the fastest train now on the line.

**IS APPALLED** at Congressional cuts in foreign aid of at least \$600 million and likely \$1000 million, and **POINTS OUT** that America will now trail France, Britain, Australia, Belgium and even Portugal in the percentage of her national product devoted to aiding other nations.

**ACCLAIMS** the spirit behind the Food Ministry's suggestion that agricultural attaches be sent to major world capitals to assess prospects for exporting the 10 million tonnes of surplus food grains India is expected to have by 1974.

**ENCOURAGES** the Government to pursue with all haste the Minister of Labour's suggestion that capital be advanced to unemployed engineers by the Government to enable them to start their own small-scale industrial units.

**SUGGESTS** to the Post and Telegraph Department that instead of spending Rs 1.35 crores on yet another Government printing press, which it is said will save only Rs 2.65 lakhs per annum, they invest this capital, earn an interest of at least Rs 10 lakhs and bring down the price of postage.

It would be a sterling achievement indeed if the session has succeeded in impressing on the rulers in New Delhi the fact that evolution of a truly democratic and secular society requires a much more federalistic state structure, with a larger share of power to the state governments and the creation of sub-states or autonomous regions where necessary to satisfy the aspirations of the inhabitants of the regions concerned. If the Constitution is not amended soon to take cognisance of these facts, disintegration and not integration is bound to follow.

Another point that was noted and commented upon after the conference was that the Education Minister failed to justify his language "policy", to which must be directly

attributed the present muddle over the medium of education.

It was therefore left to Dr Kothari to try to explain Dr Sen's policy, or lack of one. Dr Sen did not improve his standing in the eyes of other members of the Council by adding that he merely executed others' policies.

### Closed to press

The proceedings were shut to the press except for the Prime Minister's inaugural speech and the final sitting. This action turned out a wise one, as those speakers who might have been tempted to turn the meeting into a platform for propaganda for their respective parties were prevented from doing so. The press had to be satisfied with a summary of each day's proceedings.

## Best World Press

### Nigerian war

Every day that the Federal Government shoots its way forward into the Ibo heartland weakens its claim to be fighting for "one Nigeria" as Lincoln did for one United States, but rather increases the suspicion that it is now motivated by a desire for revenge and punishment, which is already causing untold hardship to Ibo women and children...

THE TIMES, London

### China's subversion

The Chinese radio and press has made no secret of its support for the Nagas and has even pretended that help has been given on the basis of a "class struggle"...

The Chinese no doubt calculate that by supplying sophisticated arms and equipment to disaffected border tribes in neighbouring countries, without entering the fray themselves, they have found a cheap way of harassing governments which they consider to be "reactionary". The realisation all over Asia that the Chinese are providing guns to any rebel who wants them is not likely to raise the international stature of Peking which is thereby disclosed as the arch mischief-maker in the Asian region.

THE HINDU, Madras

### Australia's role in Asia

(Prime Minister Gorton's) foreign policy is no longer laid down by more powerful allies. We cannot go all the way with anyone in Washington or in London when the Americans are seeking an arrangement with Hanoi in Paris and the British are preparing to withdraw from South-East Asia... We have not been consulted about the major policy decisions; at the most, we have been informed...

It is true we cannot undertake the duties of major powers without destroying our own economic progress. It is also true that our economic progress is so swift that our regional outlook must broaden. If we plead poverty, who in Asia (or Washington, for that matter) will listen? Mr Gorton's dilemma is to balance resources against responsibilities, material facts against ethics and humanity.

THE AGE, Melbourne

### French student riots

So, after rather more than a month of student occupation, a serious attempt is now to be made to restore order in the Sorbonne...

The sombre truth is that the dissolution of society, however edifying it may seem when contemplated in the abstract, is in reality a squalid and degrading event — at the very best a matter of blocked lavatories, stinking dustbins and petty thefts.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, London



courtesy THE TIMES

# NATIONAL HEADLINES

## Monsoon crop of new parties

NEW DELHI: Even before the monsoon has fully set in, there is already a crop of new parties springing up.

PTI reports from Lucknow that the former Chief Minister and Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Kranti Dal, Mr Charan Singh, has said that he is in favour of setting up a new non-Congress, non-Jan Sangh and non-Communist party. He says he will hold talks with Swatantra leader C. Rajagopalachari.

From Trivandrum comes news that Kerala's rebel Socialist leader and Irrigation Minister, Mr P. R. Kurup, has hopes of evolving a new United Socialist Party. This would consist of the Praja Socialist Party, the Revolutionary SP, the Forward Bloc, the BKD and the Kabir group in West Bengal, along with his own Kerala Samyukta Socialist Party.

A Calcutta report indicates that, a third Communist Party, arising from the split between the pro-Chinese wing and the official leadership of the Marxist Communist Party, may be launched by the expelled T.



M. R. Masani

## SO THEY SAY

There are still a few unsettled problems in the international monetary system.

PIERRE-PAUL SCHWEITZER,  
Chairman, International Monetary Fund

I am not convinced that even for developing societies parliamentary democracy is the last word.

JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

Going from West Berlin to East Berlin is like moving from a marriage party to a condolence meeting.

BALRAJ MADHOK, MP

Naga Reddi and "his friends and comrades".

Last week in Bombay, Mr M. R. Masani, leading Swatantra MP, calling for a national democratic front, may well have sized up the situation when he said, "There is too much politics in India and too little citizenship."

## Rangoon, Delhi vs pro-Peking Nagas

NEW DELHI: In a note handed to the Chinese Charge d'Affaires last week India charged China with training subversive elements from Nagaland in "stirring up lawlessness against the authority in India".

In Burma, the independent Rangoon Daily, commenting on the recent clashes between Indian troops and Naga rebels on the Indo-Burma border, has said: "China is giving material aid not only to Naga rebels but also to the Communist rebels of Burma. Encouraged by China, Naga rebels will not care whether they operate in Burma or India. They will slavishly carry out the commands of their Chinese masters and commit acts of sabotage and subversion on either side of the Indo-Burman border. This is illustrated by their recent raid on towns on the Burmese side of the border."

According to a UNI report of June 17, security forces have demolished more than 25 underground Naga camps near the 200-mile-long border between Nagaland and Burma. This will make it easier to observe and check the movement of rebels in the area.

Meanwhile the Union Government is likely to restrict the truce in Nagaland to one month, it is understood, in order to underline how seriously it regards the violation of the ceasefire agreement.

## NIC routs cynics

SRINAGAR: Over 50 representatives from all regions and all parties, except the Swatantra Party and the SSP, attended the second session of the National Integration Council which ended here on Saturday. The first session, inaugurated by the late Jawaharlal Nehru, had been hastily called off in the wake of the Chinese invasion of 1962.

Presided over by Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi, delegates included Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Home Minister Y. B. Chavan. Three committees convened to consider communalism, regionalism and education were headed respectively by Mr Brahmanand Reddy, Andhra Chief Minister, Mr N. G. Goray, PSP leader, and Mr P. B. Gajendragadkar, Bombay University Vice-Chancellor.

Among recommendations made for curbing communal violence was Committee Chairman Goray's plea for strong action to combat the influence of communal "senas" which were "exploiting local economic grievances".

The Council requested the Government of India to formulate general principles for the solution of linguistic border issues. A tribunal headed by three judges, instead of one as fixed by the Inter-State Waters Act (1956), was suggested for the settling of disputes over the sharing of river waters.

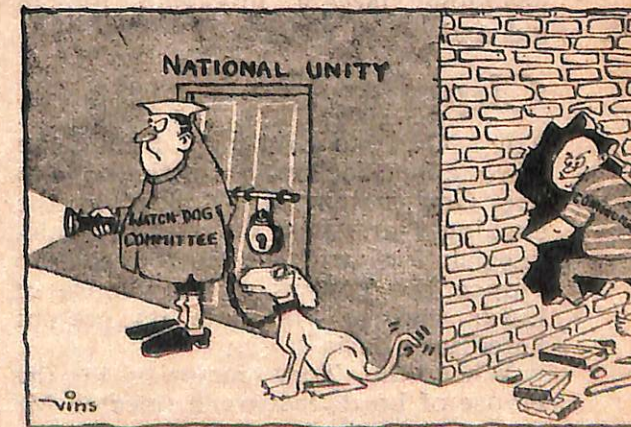
The Council recommended that State Governments should appoint bodies to organise the preparation of

text books in co-ordination with a National Board to be set up by the Union Government. It was also suggested that students should not be required to produce certificates of domicile in a state for admission to educational institutions in that state.

At the end of the two-day meeting, the Prime Minister announced the appointment of a standing committee to review the progress of the Council's recommendations. This "watchdog committee" will meet periodically.

Mrs Gandhi's verdict on the deliberations was, "It has been a worthwhile exercise. The cynics and the sceptics have been belied."

Mrs Gandhi's verdict on the deliberations was, "It has been a worthwhile exercise. The cynics and the sceptics have been belied."





## Fear decides in France

FEAR of a Communist take-over played into the hands of the Gaullists during the French election campaign. First results from Sunday's vote point to a return of de Gaulle's Government with more seats in the National Assembly. Prime Minister Pompidou and a number of Ministers have been re-elected with an overall majority. Leaders of the Federation of the Left, the Centrists and the Socialists, including Mitterand and Mendes-France, did not get overall majorities and so must take part in the run-off election on June 30.



M. Mitterand

Opposition parties revealed themselves even more divided than in the last elections. In practically every constituency, there were several candidates who split the Left-wing vote. One opposition candidate saw the defeat of the Left as a blessing in disguise, as any government elected now faces appalling problems.

## Tax strengthens the dollar

THE AMERICAN Senate and House of Representatives have both approved President Johnson's controversial bill to increase Income Tax by 10 per cent. This should increase international confidence in the stability of the dollar. In exchange, the President agreed to Congressional demands for a \$6000 million cut in Government spending, largely involving foreign aid and social welfare.

## Clipping the Lords

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH from the Throne is a declaration of the policies her Government will follow in the ensuing year. Last October she said, "Legislation will be introduced to reduce the powers of the House of Lords and to eliminate its present hereditary basis."

When the Tory majority in the House of Lords last week rejected Mr

Wilson's Order in Council to tighten sanctions on Rhodesia, the Prime Minister saw the opportunity he had been waiting for. All-party talks on reform of the Upper House were disbanded. Mr Wilson announced that he intended to remove hereditary peers and cut the ability of the House of Lords to hold up legislation from 12 months to three.

A Labour back-bencher delved into history and introduced the following motion into the House of Commons: "That this House reiterates the view expressed on February 6, 1648 (sic.), that 'the House of Peers of Parliament is useless and dangerous and ought to be abolished'."

## Moscow woos Malta

RUSSIA is now wooing Malta, whose economy is largely dependent on her naval dockyard. A recent Soviet economic mission held out the promise of substantial economic benefits if the Maltese gave some sign of friendly interest. Last week the Soviet Union asked Malta if her warships might pay a courtesy call.

Russia now has a permanent fleet of some 45 ships in the Mediterranean. The United States Sixth Fleet still maintains an overwhelming advantage. But if NATO ships were ever barred from using Malta the alliance would suffer a great reverse.

The opposition Labour Party wants Malta's independence guaranteed by both NATO and the Russians. It is not as interested in developing ties with Western Europe as with North Africa.

## Vietnam still the major issue

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC seems consistently to contradict the party bosses' claim that Humphrey and Nixon have the nominations in the bag. New York followed California and South Dakota in handing Senator McCarthy a far greater vote in the primaries than Vice-President Humphrey received. Governor Rockefeller showed signs of posing the same type of challenge to Mr Nixon.

Humphrey this week attempted to project an image independent of President Johnson. He called for an immediate cease-fire in Vietnam. Senator McCarthy is seeking to make Vietnam the major issue. If he fails to get the nomination, he has promis-

ed support to Humphrey only if the latter backs a coalition government in Saigon and a cut in American military activities. McCarthy plans to meet the North Vietnamese in Paris next month.

## Thailand's first constitution

THAILAND, "Land of the Free", is the one country in Asia never to have been colonised. The King last week promulgated a new constitution. Since 1932 when the absolute monarchy was curbed, Thailand has been run by a succession of military regimes. It now becomes a constitutional monarchy. A Political Parties Act was published simultaneously with the constitution banning Communist and pro-Communist parties, although other political parties are allowed to function for the first time. The constitution provides for a 200-member House of Representatives elected every four years and a Senate of 150 members appointed by the King. The Government, however, intends to maintain the ten-year-old martial law.

## Britain levers Nigeria

BRITAIN, followed by Russia, has been the main supplier of arms to Nigeria in her war with break-away Biafra. This is beginning to weigh heavily on the conscience of the British public.

Lord Shepherd, the Commonwealth Minister of State, flew to Lagos last week. His official mission is to get relief supplies through Federal territory to Biafran refugees facing starvation. But it is unlikely that his mandate is restricted to this.

The British Government claim that their role as a major arms supplier gives them greater leverage on the Lagos Government than if they were to cut off supplies.

The Biafrans say they are willing to negotiate, but first the fighting must stop. The Federal Chief, Major General Gowon, refuses to agree to a cease-fire until the break-away state renounces secession. Lagos feels that a truce based on anything short of a united Nigeria would only lead later to a bigger war than ever.



Gen. Gowon

## Chinese criticise King Mahendra

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN KATHMANDU

THE only redeeming feature of the Sino-Nepal war of nerves — the absence of open criticism of King Mahendra by any Chinese propaganda medium — ceased when Mr Yao Wen-yuan, the noted Maoist ideologue, hit out at the Nepalese monarch last month.

In a secret speech made recently to the Shanghai Revolutionary Committee, Mr Yao, a close friend of Madame Mao and a top figure in the Peking Establishment, described King Mahendra as an "insignificant reactionary King", as he is very friendly towards India and the USA and tries to be friendly "towards China as well". But "we should see very clearly with whom his real sympathies are". Leaked excerpts from the speech indicate an intensification of the "political fight against the monarchy in Nepal". However, Mr Yao hastened to add, "that fight must be very strictly controlled".

Interestingly, this leak was made on the eve of the Nepalese Deputy Premier Bista's recent "goodwill" visit to Peking in response to an official invitation by Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi. There is yet no indication of when these "privately-

held" views of the top Maoist spokesman will become official policy. Nonetheless, such remarks have aroused considerable concern in a section of official and other informed circles representing the democratic forces in the Kingdom.



King Mahendra

According to them, as Communist cadres in China first get an inkling of shifts in the leadership in this way, it may be an "indicator of the future Chinese policy towards Nepal". Some say an anti-Nepal press campaign may soon follow, presaging a diplomatic volte-face.

## Professionals run student revolts

FROM PIERRE SPOERRI IN GENEVA

SWITZERLAND lies between today's big storm centres of the continent — France and Eastern Europe. So the pressure-waves hit this small country from all directions.

Meanwhile, Switzerland remains one of the best observation posts for all that is going on in the European countries. And slowly the real story of last month's near revolution in France starts to emerge.

It is quite evident now that neither the students' disturbances nor the industrial unrest were spontaneous developments, but all had been very carefully planned beforehand.

### Thought-out beforehand

As it looks now, the students were just used to touch off the revolution. After the initial riots, it seems that the real leaders, who are still operating mostly behind the scenes, decided that revolution was too important a business to leave in the hands of the younger generation. They also seem to have been afraid that things would get out of hand. What was unique in the French situation, and what has not been repeated in any country either of East or Western Europe, was the prepared revolutionary force inside some of the key industries in France.

Five or six big factories in the automobile, aircraft and motor tyre industries had each a group of young workers, two to three hundred strong, who took over the premises immediately after the students had started their riots. Once the factory was occupied, the gates were closed. Only those inside were given strikers' cards and were therefore allowed to vote. No wonder the ballots suggesting continuation of the strike were usually unanimous.

### Extremists want trouble

Even after the two speeches of President de Gaulle and after the agreements made under the watchful eye of Premier Georges Pompidou between the heads of industry and the leaders of the big trade union federations, the factories which had started off the trouble remained on strike.

And now, one month after the beginning of the troubles, the alliance between the extremist students and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## The week in ASIA

CANBERRA — Australia's defence spending next year will rise by more than \$A130 million to an all-time peak of \$A1250 million, announced Prime Minister John Gorton. He reaffirmed Australia's will to continue in Vietnam, with its allies, "until the political objectives at which these military operations are aimed are achieved".

COLOMBO — The Registration of Persons Bill was passed in the Ceylon Senate. Any persons not registered will be regarded as illegal immigrants. Persons recognised as Indian citizens will be given residence visas and those granted Ceylon citizenship will be issued identity cards.

HONG KONG — "Some people say that the Chinese people deeply love peace; I think the Chinese people are bellicose," said Mao Tse-tung in one of his speeches last year just released here.

KATHMANDU — The Nepalese Government accepted Britain's offer to build a 75-mile sector of Nepal's east-west highway project.

BANGKOK — Talks began here between Malaysia and the Philippines on the status of Sabah with the outlining of the Philippine claim to the Malaysian North Borneo State.

TEL AVIV — Israel's coalition Government was threatened by a ministerial crisis after a tough speech by Defence Minister Moshe Dayan calling for speedy settlement of Israel's new territories and advising that Israel should not accept the United Nations resolution of last November, since it called for Israeli withdrawal from these territories.

BANGKOK — In Thailand's first demonstration in 10 years, following proclamation of a new constitution, police fought with students as they marched on Parliament House to demand a decrease in bus fares and an end to "rest and recreation" visits to Bangkok by US servicemen.

CAIRO — The Egyptian Government was reported to be launching a new economic reform policy that would relax the Socialist reorganisation of Government-owned industry and commerce.

SEOUL — South Korean Army patrols killed seven North Korean intruders in two clashes just south of the demilitarised zone. Five Russian-made machine guns were among weapons seized in the fighting.



**SHILLONG** — Helicopters rescued scores of people marooned on trees and house-tops as the flood situation worsened in Assam. The rising flood waters of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries affected nearly a million people in about 2000 square kilometres, and damaged standing paddy crop in four districts.

**SRINAGAR** — Strong measures to put down separatist organisations like the *senas* were recommended by the Sub-Committee on Regionalism of the National Integration Council. Another sub-committee advocated legislation to ban communal propaganda, and an amendment to the Penal Code to apply its provisions to communal offences.

**CALCUTTA** — Five persons were killed and 40 injured when a passenger train collided with a stationary local near Howrah station.

**BOMBAY** — The first consignment of machinery of Indian Tool Manufacturers Limited was shipped to Colombia (South America) where Indian Tools will set up a \$250,000 small tools plant in collaboration with a Colombian firm.

**NEW DELHI** — Unemployed engineers will be encouraged to set up their own small-scale industries in a self-help scheme being prepared by the Union Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation. The Government is ready to supply the initial capital to the indenting parties.

**KOHIMA** — Dissident underground Naga leader General Kaito pleaded for an extension of the cease-fire till a solution can be found to the Naga problem, which, he believes, can be solved "not by iron and blood but by the weapon of peace".

**NEW DELHI** — India lodged a protest with China for "aiding subversive elements in Nagaland" and masterminding the scheme of training them to stir up "lawlessness against the legally-constituted authority in India." The protest note said that India would not tolerate outside interference in its internal affairs.

**BHUBANESWAR** — None of the Orissa Government-owned undertakings have produced results commensurate with investments, according to an expert evaluation committee. The committee recommended that all State-owned units be managed as "company style" units, with boards of directors on the same lines as public limited companies.

the extremist wing of the young workers is tightening up again. This alliance seems determined not to let calm return, and to do its best to sabotage the national elections which are due to be completed on June 30.

The big question is whether all the disturbances across the European continent have been co-ordinated and centrally led. The tactics of the students have very often been the same. It started with some dissatisfaction on one point or another. In Berlin it happened to be the arrival of the Shah of Persia who was made a scapegoat by the leftist students. In Prague, it was the very bad living conditions of the students. In Belgrade, the authoritarian structure of the universities and the growing unemployment of graduates had prepared the students for revolt.

In all these cases, the first student demonstrations were often quite genuine but were quickly taken over by professionals. As soon as the professionals got into the game, the forces of order were put into the position where they had to hit back or use tear gas. As soon as the police resorted to strong-arm methods the professional agitators had won their first round. Even the undecided very quickly joined the extremists on the barricades.

### Philosophy different

While the methods of the various uprisings were quite similar the philosophy behind them was sometimes quite different. The Prague students really wanted to have better conditions to study in and only later joined in the anti-Novotny movement. But since Novotny was ousted they have been supporting the new leadership and have not gone back to the streets again. As a leading Czech said to me recently, "Our students consider department stores to be places where people buy goods, and buses as means of transport for the population. They consider it stupid to burn down either."

President Tito, the latest of the Presidents to be afflicted by student troubles, had learnt his lesson well and obviously was not going to make the same mistakes as his colleagues in East and West.

Tito did two things. He promised reforms and said that if he did not succeed in bringing these about, he would resign. He also asked the students to return to their studies. His appeal obviously worked, as the students, who had kept the university

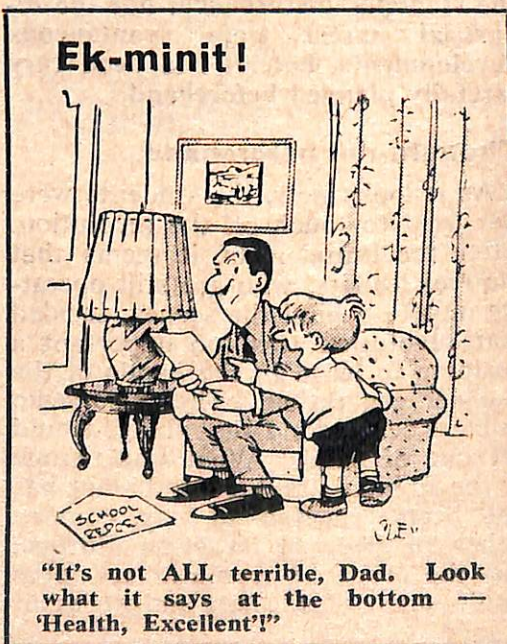


A sit-down protest by French students

building in New Belgrade occupied for a week, decided almost unanimously to accept the President's offer.

All these Presidents in East and West, their education authorities and professors, are now faced with two thorny questions: First, will the reforms they have promised be radical and thorough enough for the majority of the students to accept? The difficulty is shown by the fact that in one of the Eastern European capitals a public speaker said, "What we want is not liberalisation but liberty, not democratisation but democracy!"

The other question is as tough as the first. How strong are the extremist forces, which Tito called "the men of Djilas, Rankowitch and Mao Tse-tung" and the French Communists the "anarchist, Trotskyist, Maoist cliques"? These forces which were totally underestimated until a few weeks ago, are highly organised and militant to the extreme. Some sources say that they have a headquarters somewhere in Switzerland from which their whole activities are organised. They consider themselves the true revolutionaries of today and they are not afraid to attack Washington and Moscow at the same time.



## What Indian students think about French students

The angry young man hits the headlines today. Restlessness of youth is a global phenomenon. Students of the Sorbonne plunged the whole of France into chaos and triggered off a national upheaval.

The younger generation of India also has its own grievances. HIMMAT interviewed students in Bombay to assess what they feel about their French counterparts' behaviour.

MR JITENDRA KOTECHA, a student of Senior B. Comm. in R. A. Poddar College, Bombay, blamed the French students for the current plight of that country. They did not realise their responsibilities and fell prey to the ambitious politician.

Asked why they behaved this way, Mr Kotecha, who is the General Secretary of his College Hostel Union, said they were just led astray. Theirs was an immature mind which could be excited by any shrewd person.

Questioned whether the student community here had any similar feelings, he nodded but said the intensity was not so great. "Bombay boys are generally mild," he declared. He disapproved of the current agitation over the university fee increase and said, "After all, the teachers have also to be paid better emoluments in view of the present economic situation."

Mr Kotecha hailed Bombay University Vice-Chancellor Gajendra-gadkar's efforts to mould the students along nationalist lines. "Professors," he said, "are always willing to help." It was for the students to take advantage of the former's readiness. He was sorry to note that the staff-student relationship "has not been what it ought to be". His cure for the general delinquency among the world youth was to make them think before they act. "They should study all consequences of their moves, and should ponder whether such steps would be in their country's interest," he added.

### Inborn spirit of revolt

MR HEMANT GOKHALE, a Senior BA student of Ramnarain Ruia College, Matunga, and Secretary of the College Social Science Association, accused

the French rulers of neglecting the students' aspirations. While the country had developed in all spheres, universities remained crowded and there were not adequate facilities for the full development of the student's personality. He attributed the behaviour of the youth to their "inborn spirit of revolt" and their urge to change the "established order".

On grievances at home, Mr Gokhale felt that agitation "cannot be organised on the French model". He referred to the fee increase issue and said it would hit the economy of the lower middle class group, and so was not justified. Another cause of the students' restlessness here "is uncertainty about the future on the job front".

He also welcomed Dr Gajendra-gadkar's scheme and wanted him to move fast in that direction. He felt



Jitendra Kotecha



that teachers belonging to the pre-Independence period "are more zealous about their job" than those of the post-1947 generation. To get the best out of the professors, students should take the initiative. If the latter were not inquisitive the teachers would rest content with what they have done and they would take no special interest in the students.

His remedy for the disease gripping the world of students is to give the youngsters a greater say in the affairs of their respective countries. It does not mean that the keys of a d m i n i s t r a t i o n should be handed over to them, but



Hemant Gokhale

their ideas, suggestions and representations should have a patient hearing and, if not acceptable, they should be convinced of that.

R.S.

## This India

### A VISIT TO RUSSIA

THE WIFE of a diplomat was relating her experiences in Russia during her three years' stay there. We hear so much about trade agreements, goodwill visits and our devotion to big brother Russia, that I thought readers may be interested to know some of the ordinary day-to-day experiences of this lady.

As people, she said, the Russians are warm and big hearted. They have great respect for their elders and care for their young. Yet, during the three years of her stay in Moscow, not once was she or her family invited into a Russian home. The Russians have to take permits from the authorities to entertain foreigners.

In the schools where many of the Indian children also studied, the students are indoctrinated not to believe in God from a very early age. They come home saying that there is no God, but that the only person to believe in is Grandpa Lenin, who lies buried in his tomb.

However, many of the older people have a genuine belief in God. If you give them joyous news they will say, "Thank God for that." If it is sad news, "God rest his soul." These expressions come almost involuntarily. The older people

go to churches, where the sermons are on Communism.

I asked this lady about the standard of living. It is not high, according to her. You can make out a Russian by his shoes, by their worn and torn condition. Russians will want to buy shoes from foreigners at any price. India exports a great deal of her leather goods, especially shoes, at cheap prices. Many of the Government officials who came to her home for parties wore the same clothes year after year. The Russian women dress very drably.

Ordinary Russians have very little idea of the outside world. Little foreign literature is allowed into the country. "My maid servants would glance through the magazines in my room very longingly — at the latest fashions and clothes." They often confided in her that they wondered what was the point of shooting rockets into space if they didn't get decent clothes to wear.

She was staying in a hotel at the time Khrushchev was removed. The hotel used to be full of books on him. His portraits hung on the walls in every room. Overnight everything was taken away. Such power, such glory, all dethroned in one night.

Neerja Chowdhury



# viewpoint

## Should communal parties be banned?

### YES—to keep India closely knit

First prize to Aelred Gomes, Baroda 2

IN AN AGE of increasing international living, communal parties are a sad anachronism; they simply don't fit in. Their existence goes against the growing realisation that every man has a responsibility not only to his own immediate kinsmen or his own religious group but to every other man, irrespective of his origin, language and creed.

Communal parties are closely linked to vested interests and easily lead to factions. What do these parties want if not to seek the well-being of their own groups and see their narrow-minded ideas of how things should be, imposed on others? There is inherent in such an attitude a refusal to see the other point of view, a failure to respect the freedom of the other.

Communal parties are a threat to our secular democracy. In a country like India, where the masses are still illiterate and can be easily swayed, one or other such party could, with clever manoeuvring, build up popularity and power mainly by narrow appeal to sentiment. Add to this the fact that in India religion still plays an influential role in the lives of many and that more often than not such parties are composed of co-religionists, and we can easily see what are heading for if we allow communal parties free play. We are paving the way for religious fanaticism and the end of our secular democracy.

To keep the vast stretches of India

#### VIEWPOINT COMPETITION

\* **Roots of factionalism in politics and its cure.**

Closing date: July 5

\*\* **Students should study, not govern.**

Closing date: July 19

Prizes: Rs 25, Rs 15

Send entries of not more than 300 words to Viewpoint, HIMMAT, First Floor, 294, Bazargate St., Bombay-1.

closely knit we need to think together and work together for the good of the entire country and not merely

### NO—they represent large section of nation

Second prize to P. Maitra, New Delhi 11

THE VERY FACT that we are thinking in terms of banning communal parties implies that we are assuming that such parties are responsible for the forces of disintegration in our country. Thus to justify such a move, not only must we prove that this will provide a lasting solution but also that our assumptions are valid.

In our country, ethnic and religious loyalties are strong. Each group has its own interests and interests of various groups usually clash. Under such conditions, most parties have a communal base. A party which has sufficient influence must have the backing of many such small groups and is actually the outcome of cohesive action. The struggle for power is thus transformed into a struggle between influential political parties from a struggle between insignificant groups. It is because of the existence of two political cultures and a lack of consensus on the basic values of life that we have disintegrating tendencies. Existence of communal parties is not the crux of the problem.

Even if it was, such a step is not likely to have good results. In India power is well distributed. Banning communal parties amounts to forcibly snatching power from parties which represent a fair section of the population. Is this democracy? Besides, how long can this last, especially in the context where the parties have already had a taste of power? Further, it is doubtful whether the Centre has the strength to suppress any disturbances that may

for individual groups. We cannot allow each group to push and pull for its own interests with a "hang-it" attitude to the interests of others. It is high time we got accustomed to thinking of ourselves as Indians first, and after as belonging to this communal group or that.

result for a long enough time to heal the trouble.

The lust for power has been known to bring people of divergent views together. It could do so in this case. The media of mass communication may be used as a means to narrow the gap between the two political cultures. Thus there should be no need of banning communal parties.

This topic aroused wide interest among our readers. Surprisingly 36 per cent of those who entered the competition voted against the banning of communal parties, mainly for the reason that such a ban would be ineffective and merely drive divisive elements underground.

Interesting arguments made by other contributors were:

"A ban on anything unpleasant is the favourite official remedy and for obvious reasons: it gives the Government a respite from having to go to the root of the problem. Bans only serve to make the forbidden quantity an attractive proposition."

VINOD CHOWDHURY, Delhi

"Communal parties breed social aloofness, discrimination and unrest."

AUGUSTINE PURACKAL, SJ, Poona

"Such a course (banning) will lead to the establishment of secret organisations more fierce and fanatical in outlook than when they were in the open."

N. S. VENKATARAMAN, Tiruchirapalli

"Communal parties isolate the people from the mainstream of national life."

S. AZEEZ AHMED, Hyderabad 9

"Communal parties limit the vision of politicians to a myopic view of the national interest."

S. J. KERKETTA, Ranchi 1

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## WEST BENGAL

### Strike action delayed

FROM S. K. MUKHOPADHYAY IN CALCUTTA

MUCH to the relief of all, the proposed indefinite strike by engineering workers in West Bengal, scheduled to begin on June 17, was deferred by a month. Thanks to a last minute appeal by the State Labour Secretary, Mr M. M. Kushari, the co-ordination committee of four central trade union organisations decided to postpone the strike, which, had it taken place, would have involved 400,000 workers in various engineering industries in West Bengal.

The Labour Secretary appealed to the trade union leaders in the interest of industrial peace and the Government's desire to examine the cases of mass-retrenchment and lay-off in the industry.

#### Workers' demands

The trade union leaders, however, not satisfied with the assurances of the Labour Secretary, decided to wait for a month to enable the Governor himself to look into the matter and take action. It was also obvious that the labour leaders did not want to risk a strike when the employment situation in the State is dark and dismal.

The workers' demands include stoppage of retrenchments, lay-offs, closures, lock-outs and the payment of increased Dearness Allowance with retrospective effect from July 1963. Two other wings, the BPNTUC and the National Front of Indian Trade Unions, are, however, against the strike, declaring that the move of the four other trade unions was politically motivated.

## MADRAS

### Congress gives DMK a tough time

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AT the time the Kamaraj Plan was announced, the Congress Party was bogged down at governmental level by an effete and discredited leadership. The Plan was tailor-made for the times and circumstances then obtaining.

It came as a surprise, however, when DMK Minister Karunanidhi recently put forward a similar pro-

The strike, if undertaken, would have cost industry Rs 3 crores a day at least in lost production. This is staggering, considering the lean season the engineering industry has been having recently.

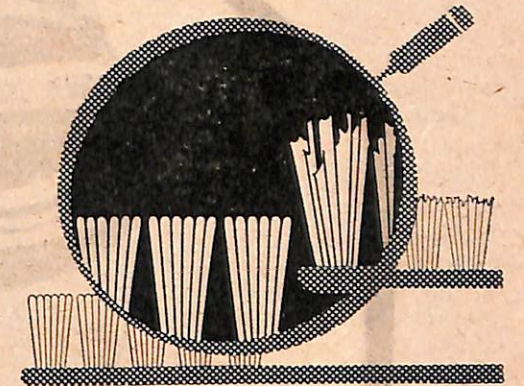
Wagon manufacturing was one of West Bengal's leading and most profitable industries. That, too, has received a rude jolt from Railway cuts. The electrical cable industry, another major money-earner too, has been badly hit due to shortage of Government orders.

Political uncertainty has also been a prime factor in the industrial recession in the State. Export orders have been badly affected. The long-drawn-out strike of Martin and Burn was responsible for the firm's failure to execute an export order worth considerable foreign exchange. Texmaco has been closed for two months, thereby jeopardising its export orders too. Not only is foreign exchange lost but India's reputation as a major supplier of many engineering products to Asian and African countries has suffered. Finally, other states are fast taking up opportunities where West Bengal is lagging.

Workers in other industries like jute, cotton and textiles are also restive. They, too, have threatened a strike, mostly engineered by the Communists and aimed at total chaos. A month's break in the strike call was thus most welcome. Employers and workers will need to be a bit more flexible in their respective stands, if a disaster of severe magnitude is not to hit the State.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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gums



been able to shoulder these responsibilities, though critics may quibble over its methods and policies. The DMK naturally put its best foot forward. Its top leaders were taken into the ministry.

Now, with just about fifteen months of practical administrative experience behind them, the DMK Ministers have barely had time to

take stock and formulate a positive approach to the State's problems and needs. At this early stage, it seems ill-advised to ask Ministers to relinquish office and take up party work.

It is perhaps because of this apparent mistiming that Karunanidhi's proposal evoked a caterwaul of protest from his colleagues.

The DMK is at present in the throes of party elections. This is normally a tense period for any poli-

tical party. Now that the DMK is in power, the atmosphere is supercharged with tension. There may be no blatant groupism but, inevitably, there is a jockeying for positions of strength and a subtle realignment of loyalties. Internal stress is inevitable. Mathizhagan alleged that "powerful forces" were at work to postpone these elections. In fact, since then, the DMK has announced postponement of further party elections by one month.

#### Disagreement with allies

The DMK is admittedly having disagreements with its allies in the UF. In spite of clinging to a policy of appeasement, the DMK is learning that its Communist allies will stab it in the back without compunction. The Swatantra has ideological differences with the DMK. And because the Swatantra does have a basic policy and programme, its disagreements with the DMK are bubbling to the surface due to the internal pressure of its ideological convictions.

#### Real and false friends

While all non-Congress parties have made common cause with the DMK in their opposition to the Congress, the DMK is undergoing the painful experience of learning who its real and false friends are.

As for the Opposition, the Congress has been giving the DMK a tough time. Congressmen have been firing broadsides of accusations, innuendoes and vituperation.

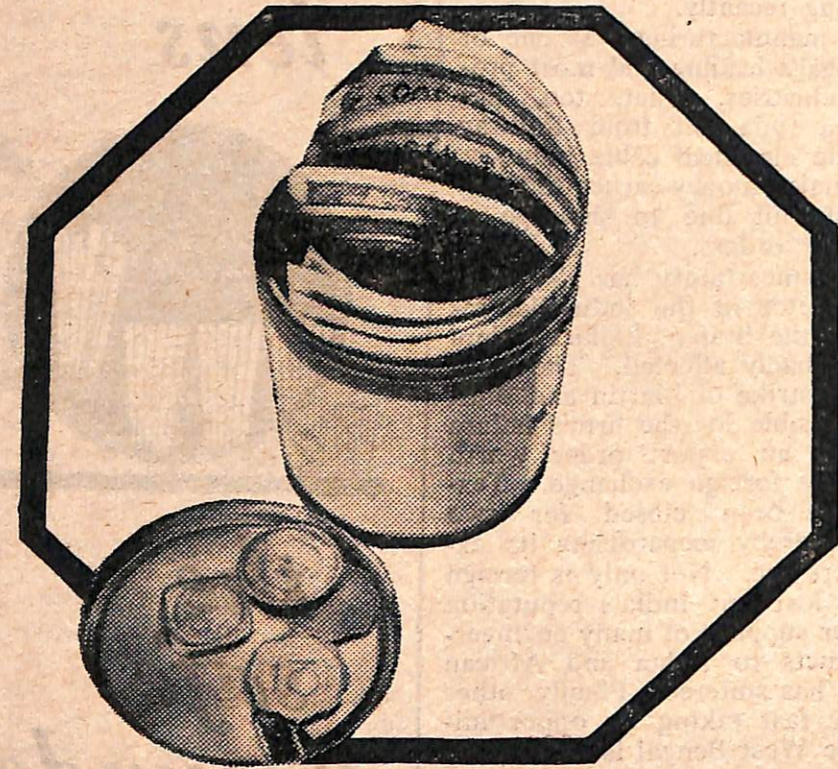
In the midst of all these pulls and pressures, two important by-elections and the civic elections lie ahead in the very near future.

It is in this context that Karunanidhi's proposal must be realistically studied and evaluated.

#### No cause to panic

Karunanidhi is very much a party man. It is common knowledge that he would prefer the General Secretaryship of the DMK to his ministerial role. The Party is now denied the active field services of its key leaders who are in the Ministry.

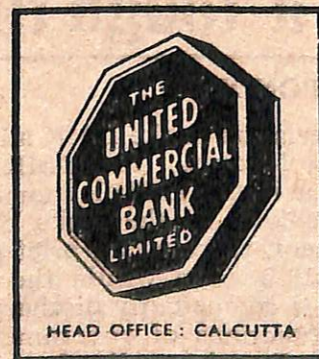
Is it to be wondered at that Karunanidhi is worried that the Party's solidarity and popularity may be eroded by the internal and external forces now relentlessly at work? At worst, the only valid criticism against his "Kamaraj" proposal could be that there is no cause for panic and that the drastic remedy he prescribes is not warranted by the diagnosis.



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# SPORT

## Soccer proposals

The All-India Football Federation seems at last aware of the falling standard of the game in the country, and proposes to devise ways and means to mend matters. How is anyone's guess.

If one may suggest, the AIFF should seriously consider a drastic change in the administration to start with. Most presidents and secretaries have been too long in the saddle to be able to think of and put into effect drastic changes in promotion and control. That the Federation has to refer even routine matters of domestic discipline and rules to the Asian Football Confederation indicates the poor calibre of the national authority.

The AIFF has the knack of exalting mediocre men as national coaches. Frequent routs, even by moderate foreign opposition, have failed to bring home to the Federation the hopelessly out-dated defensive technique being foisted on Indian teams. A soccer coach with international experience and dynamic ideas will have to be found.

#### Club loyalty

Indian soccer, which claims to be amateur, must bring back the club spirit. The present snatching of good players from voluntary clubs by firms, public services and government departments should be prevented. Private clubs building up raw talent to competitive standard should get every encouragement, including substantial financial aid.

Pot-hunting by the big clubs and teams ought to be discouraged, by limiting the out-station tournaments any side can play in a season. The practice of semi-professional clubs entering petty competitions for large fees should be curbed.

There is good money in football. Profits from tournaments can be diverted to junior soccer promotion instead of bulging the pockets of professional promoters.

There are many more ideas which can be offered; but the old bandicoots at the helm are incapable of appreciating them. So a younger and more active set should take charge.

## This table tennis kid can go far

If cricket is an all-season game in India, so is closed-room table tennis which can be played night and day round the year. And Bombay holds the pride of place in this indoor game.

The P. J. Hindu Gymkhana competition last week proved headline news with the topping of three national champions — Farrokh Khodaiji (men's), Alka Thakur (women's) and Suhas Kulkarni (boys').

Khodaiji suffered the first defeat of his many encounters with India's No 2, Virendra "Monty" Merchant, in the final, winning but one game in the best-of-five match. Kaity Chergeman overcame Alka,

also in the final, after dropping the first game.

Kulkarni's fall came in the quarter-finals of the men's event, after leading 19-13 in the fifth and deciding game against another junior, Niraj Bajaj.

#### A discovery

Young Bajaj was the discovery of the tournament. Playing in the senior division as well as in the Junior, he caused a sensation when eliminating an international, Uday Gurjar, in the third round of the men's event, and following it with victories over seasoned Kersi Vacha and Kulkarni.



Niraj Bajaj

Then he had national champion Khodaiji on the mat by winning the first two games in the five-game semi-final. Khodaiji had to change his aggressive tactics and expose the one chink in the budding Bajaj's armour — a weak backhand defence — to scrape through to the final.

Vikram Gandhi did well to take a game from giant-killer Bajaj in the boys' final, though the outcome was never in doubt for the new star. With this experience in the first major tournament of the Bombay season, young Bajaj should go far before the year runs out. His attack, particularly on the forehand, is impressive. If he could only master the backhand flick — so effective against opponents who push and prod — he would be soon a force to reckon with in national and international spheres.

## Tennis halo fades

The first open Wimbledon in history, made possible through the courageous stand of the Lawn Tennis Association of Britain, promises to provide the greatest assembly of talent ever. It is also on the cards that sensations will abound.

Recent defeats by amateurs have dimmed the halo round the professionals. Quite a few of them must have the jitters now. This challenge to professionalism may soon extend to other games also. If those who treat tennis as a sport can get the measure of those who live by it, then the great ado made by the Olympic gods over simon-purity in sport will bear rethinking.

The line dividing the professional from the amateur is so thin in most countries that it is scarcely respected. Indian sport is no exception. Only the other day we had eminent men pledging their faith in the amateur status of wrestling, only to find Bharat Kesari Chandgi Ram coolly accepting generous cash and gifts "to prepare for the Mexico Olympic!"

● **topscorer**

## This was a Life

JOHN BUNYAN  
1628 — 1688

A MAN of simple faith and heroic courage was John Bunyan, author of "The Pilgrim's Progress."

Born to a tinker at Estow, Bedford in 1628, he himself later followed the trade. His schooling was humble. After his mother's death in 1644, he rebelled against his father's remarriage, left home and fought in the parliamentary army for two years. Shortly after, aged nineteen, he married. Influenced by his devout young wife, he adopted a new attitude of piety. He found his inspiration in the Bible.

One day, he heard some poor women "sitting at a door" and "talking of the things of God." The rich satisfaction of their spiritual experience impressed Bunyan profoundly. Peace came after years of spiritual conflict, and, in 1653 he joined a Non-conformist body. Two years later the tinker turned preacher, sermonising on the village greens. People flocked to hear him. His natural gift for speech won him great repute.

The orthodoxy was "wide against him". When he continued the dangerous act of preaching after the Restoration, he was convicted and committed to Bedford jail. At the trial, Bunyan asserted he would repeat the offence at the first opportunity. Later, when prisoners were pardoned and released following the coronation of King Charles, he refused to sue for pardon and stayed in jail for twelve years.

His spirit would not be stilled and even in jail, he found opportunities to conduct religious services and preach, while he made laces to send his family some money. There was also time to write. "Grace Abounding" was written in jail. So also was "The Pilgrim's Progress", though this was written during a later term of imprisonment.

Released when the laws were repealed in 1672, Bunyan was granted a licence to preach.

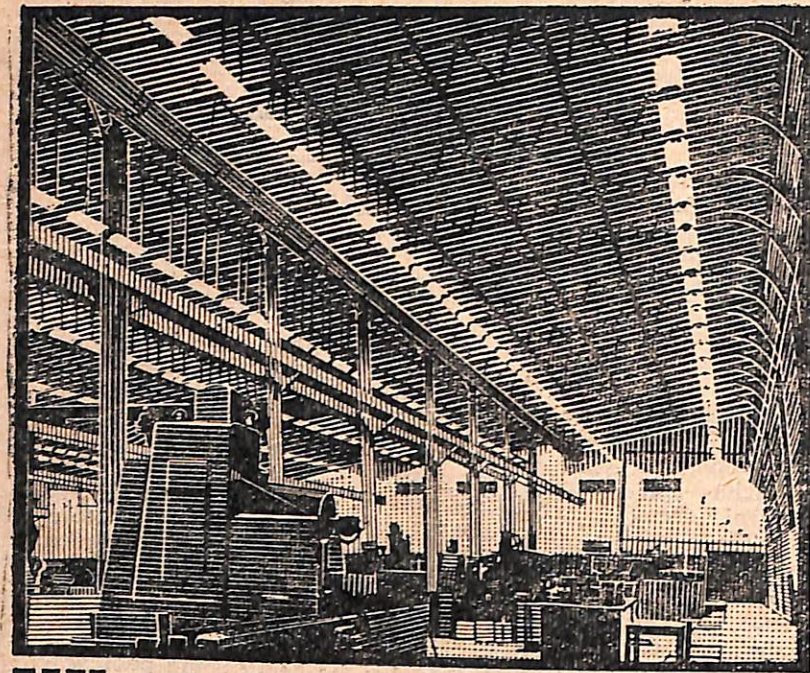
Bunyan died in 1688, the year he became unofficial chaplain to the Lord Mayor. Riding from London to Reading in pouring rain to reconcile a father and son, he caught cold, which proved fatal.

Bunyan's life was itself a pilgrim's progress. He was a native genius and a self-made man.

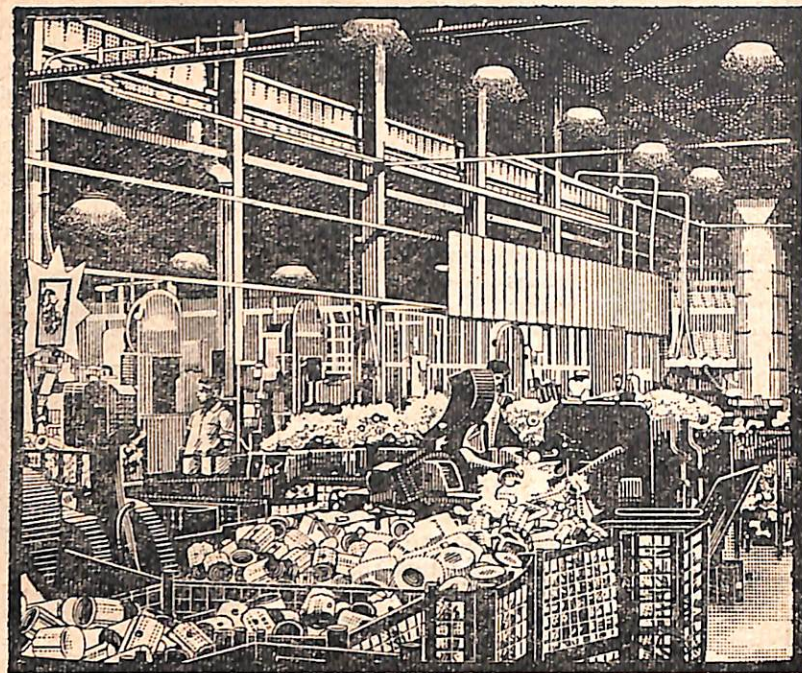
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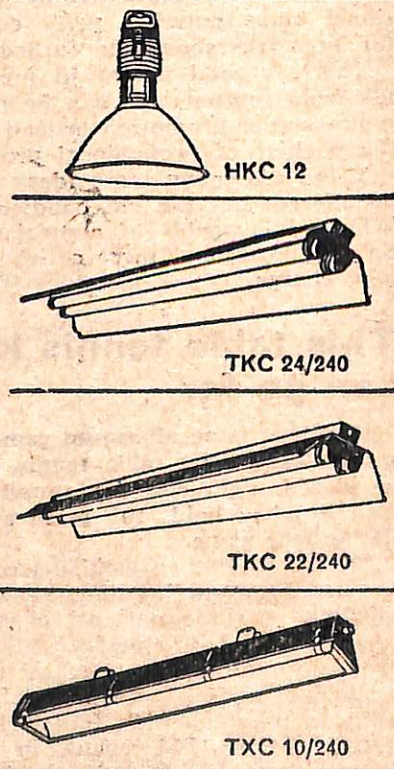
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## "FRIENDS NOT MASTERS"

PAKISTAN'S President Ayub Khan in his political autobiography "Friends Not Masters", has written what he thinks about the position of Muslims in India. A responsible Muslim writer should bring out a book contradicting the views of Mr Ayub Khan and allaying the imaginary fears of Muslims in India about their future in the country.

Unlike Pakistan, India is a secular State. There is no State religion in India and no particular religion receives any special favours from the State exchequer. Muslims in India are assured of equality before law. They occupy high government offices (the present President of India is a Muslim), represent India in many foreign countries and enjoy social, political and economic freedom within the country.

Through the ages, Muslims have become one among us and we recognise them as such. While Hindu-Muslim amity is the rule, Hindu-Muslim enmity is an exception in India. Muslim and Hindus in India have common problems and com-

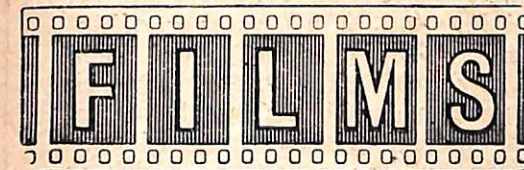
mon goals and an outsider has no voice in our domestic affairs. Our Muslims have been with us through our pains and pleasures. We have the faith that they will continue to do so. It is for them to confirm it.

Rs 10 to: A. V. R. RAO, Bangalore 3

## WHY JUSTIFY VIOLENCE?

THE assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy has at last opened the eyes of Americans and the question asked today is why violence has so deeply penetrated their lives. Of the many causes discussed, perhaps the most significant, was that TV and movies have made Americans take violence as a normal thing. Now, in India too, we are confronted with the same problem and our teenagers seem to be wholly for violence. In India, too, films have a profound impact and it is high time we stop those films which deal with excessive violence. It is not possible to check the onslaught of films like James Bond and "Bonnie and Clyde" which justify violence?

Rs 5 to: ARTHUR PAIS, Madras 4



## "Guns for San Sebastian"

STRAND, BOMBAY

SET IN 18th century Spanish Mexico, "Guns for San Sebastian" stars Anthony Quinn in one of his roughest "outdoor" roles — and there have been some rough ones.

Here, however, he is definitely on the side of the angels. In fact the script, based on the novel, "A Wall for San Sebastian" by Fr William Barby Faherty, SJ, sees Quinn temporarily donning clerical robes to become one of the gruffest,

most unorthodox and hard-hitting "priests" ever portrayed.

A "miracle" makes the simple frontier people of San Sebastian (also on the frontiers of Christianity and paganism) turn to Leon Alastry (Anthony Quinn) to sustain their faith. Almost despite himself he does — not by rebuilding the pillaged church but the town's defensive walls, not by conducting services but teaching rifle drill.

The enemy against whom the wall is built and against whom "priest" Alastry secures the guns are the savage Yaquis Indians and some European renegades from civilisation led by the half-caste Telco (Charles Bronson).

"Guns for San Sebastian", filmed in 70 mm and Metrocolor, has all the features of a first-rate adventure spectacle plus a moving story of faith and courage — a mixture very hard to beat.

SCREENER



# Letters

## FEE RISE

ACCORDING to a decision taken recently, Colleges affiliated with Bombay University are allowed to increase fees by Rs 25 per term.

It is shocking that when people are coming forward to quench their thirst for knowledge, the University has taken such a decision. It is unjust to throw this burden on students and their parents. Such expenditure can be covered by aid from the State and Central Governments.

I earnestly request the Vice-Chancellor of Bombay University, Dr P. B. Gajendragadkar, to rethink this issue.

SUBHASH V. SAMPAT, Bombay 1

## BOUQUETS AND BRICKBATS

I congratulate you on your bringing out the Madras Special Edition (May 31).

This special edition has served to stress the fundamental unity of our nation. You have emphasised that Tamilians need not feel unwanted or hated in Bombay or any part of India. They can live with security and a sense of belonging, contributing to the national welfare and progress.

It is indeed heartening to see journals like HIMMAT valiantly holding aloft the banner of sanity and brotherhood among people when demonic and misguided forces are threatening to disrupt our national life.

D. S. JEYASINGH, Madras

HIMMAT's Madras special was one of the best "specials" I have read in recent times.

I would also like to correct one error that has been noticed in Mr R. M. Lala's article on Rajaji. His seeing Rajaji at Egmore station in 1963, while waiting for a train from Delhi, is incorrect, because all broad gauge trains arrive and depart from Central Station and not Egmore, which is the terminal for metre gauge trains.

S. AMARNATH, Manipal, South Kanara

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# Meeting French Students

by Rajmohan Gandhi



OUTSIDE, the brown metal of the Eiffel Tower did not exactly gleam, but the structure was erect and stable as ever. Inside, in the living room of a sixth-floor apartment, 55 Paris students were discussing how society could be transformed.

The young crowd was a mixture. There were activists of the March 22nd Movement, Gaullists, pro-Communists and anti-Communists, a few American students, one from the Ivory Coast, two Laotians and a Cambodian.

They had come together to hear about the Indian situation and what the Moral Re-Armament revolution was doing, and could do, to change it.

## Young Europeans restless

Neo-anarchists and conservative traditionalists, atheists and orthodox Catholics, all were intrigued, amazed and pleased by the stories of how Indian farmers and Harijans were answering prejudice, superstition, hate and dishonesty through the application of Moral Re-Armament.

One thing is absolutely clear. Wealth, comfort and sex have not brought peace and satisfaction to young European hearts and minds. The day-dreams of many an Asian and African youth have been realities in Europe for decades now. They have doubtless given some pleasure, but in their midst the young European is often bored and restless. Not all young Europeans would wish to migrate to the poor continents, but the number of those who have the desire to "go there and do something" is quite extraordinary.

One girl, apparently a worker in the revolutionary movement (the women have had key roles in it), asked, "What is the difference between the Marxist and Moral Re-Armament revolutions?"

"Marxism exaggerates and oversimplifies," was the answer. "It says that one class of people, called capitalists, is greedy, selfish and power-hungry and that other classes and people are just fine. Moral Re-Armament acknowledges the selfishness of capitalists but is honest enough to face the fact that all of us, including those

who detest capitalists, have selfishness and greed in us."

This seemed to satisfy the student leader and I then had the opportunity frankly to express my views about wrong and right ways of upturning society.

Society cannot change if individuals do not, and there is what might be called the three-point formula of changing people and, through them, changing society.

**Point one:** Take people one by one. Speaking to crowds is helpful and essential, but if people's basic motives are to be altered, they need to be grappled with individually. Pouring eye-medicine from a sixth-floor window to a mass of eye patients below cannot achieve satisfactory results.

**Point two:** Tell them what a rascal you have been.

The man who skilfully uses his mistakes and failures achieves a rapport with the person he is speaking to which is essential if that other person is to be hooked. The unspoken thought in the other person is, "So this fellow is like me after all; I am not the only one licked by hate or pride or what-have-you."

**Point three:** Tell them that there is an answer. Admission of mistakes and honesty about failures can harm, instead of helping, if it is not accompanied by an account of how victory over hate, pride and what-have-you was won. The unformulated thought in the other person now is, "If he can change, I can change too."

The Marxian revolution attempts to operate in a manner exactly opposite. It lumps people together in a group, a so-called capitalist and reactionary group. It refuses to try to change any one of them singly. Then it goes on to tell that group what rascals they are. It confronts them with their evil deeds and broadcasts these to everyone.

Finally, instead of holding out hope of a cure, it tells them, and the rest of humanity, that there is no possibility of their changing. They will never give up their greed and should therefore be "suitably dealt with".

Everyone can choose the revolution he wants. It should be

plain that those who pretend to be satisfied by the *status quo* do not contribute anything towards a solution. Without their realising it, they succeed in contributing to the problems.

It has often been pointed out that the neo-anarchists of Europe are speechless when asked to define the nature of the society they want. They are at times vague about the elements in present-day society they wish to see different.

When they speak of "social change" do they mean more wages, more welfare, more "self government" in universities and factories? Frequently, it is clear, they have some of these objectives in mind. Yet one cannot help reflecting that in a number of instances these aims have been largely realised. When, in such situations, activists speak of social liberation, they think of "sex liberation" as much as anything else. This should cause concern.

The notion that lust needs no answer, that gratification is the only alternative to suppression, that purity is irrelevant and impossible, is disturbing. It should be noted that Marxism here has grown on the soil of impurity, not on the soil of poverty.

## Outstanding qualities

Coming back to the French students, one of them asked, "I would like to come to India to help her people. What should I learn that will be of use?" Another said, "I am studying to be a doctor. My aim is to help people in India."

These people have outstanding qualities. They hunger for something that challenges and satisfies. Where is it that their parents, teachers and professors have failed? Given firm and stimulating comradeship they are capable of aiding peoples everywhere in ways and dimensions that are unprecedented.

The French Government, it seems, does not yet know who exactly architected the recent "revolution". The brains behind it were certainly clever, but they have not captured French students for life.

## FIND THE BALL Competition No 78



### HOW TO PLAY

The ball in this cricket action picture has been painted out. All you have to do is mark a cross (not circle, arrow, etc) where you think the ball is. Then cut out the picture and coupon and send it to "Find the Ball", c/o HIMMAT, 294 Bazargate Street, Bombay 1 before noon on Monday, July 8

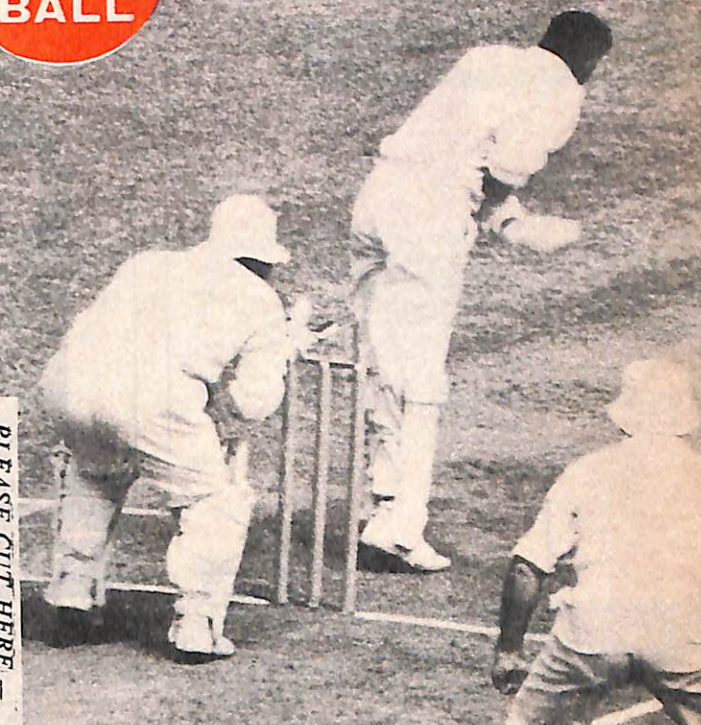
The winner will be announced in the following issue. You may not make more than Six Entries in any competition. N. B. only one cross may be marked on each picture. The Editor's decision is final.

Nearest entry wins Rs. 25  
On the ball wins the 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 EXACTLY the centre of the ball. This Jackpot Prize will accumulate by Rs. 25 per week until it is won.

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I agree to the rules of the competition as outlined above.

FIND THE BALL



## WINNER OF COMPETITION 76

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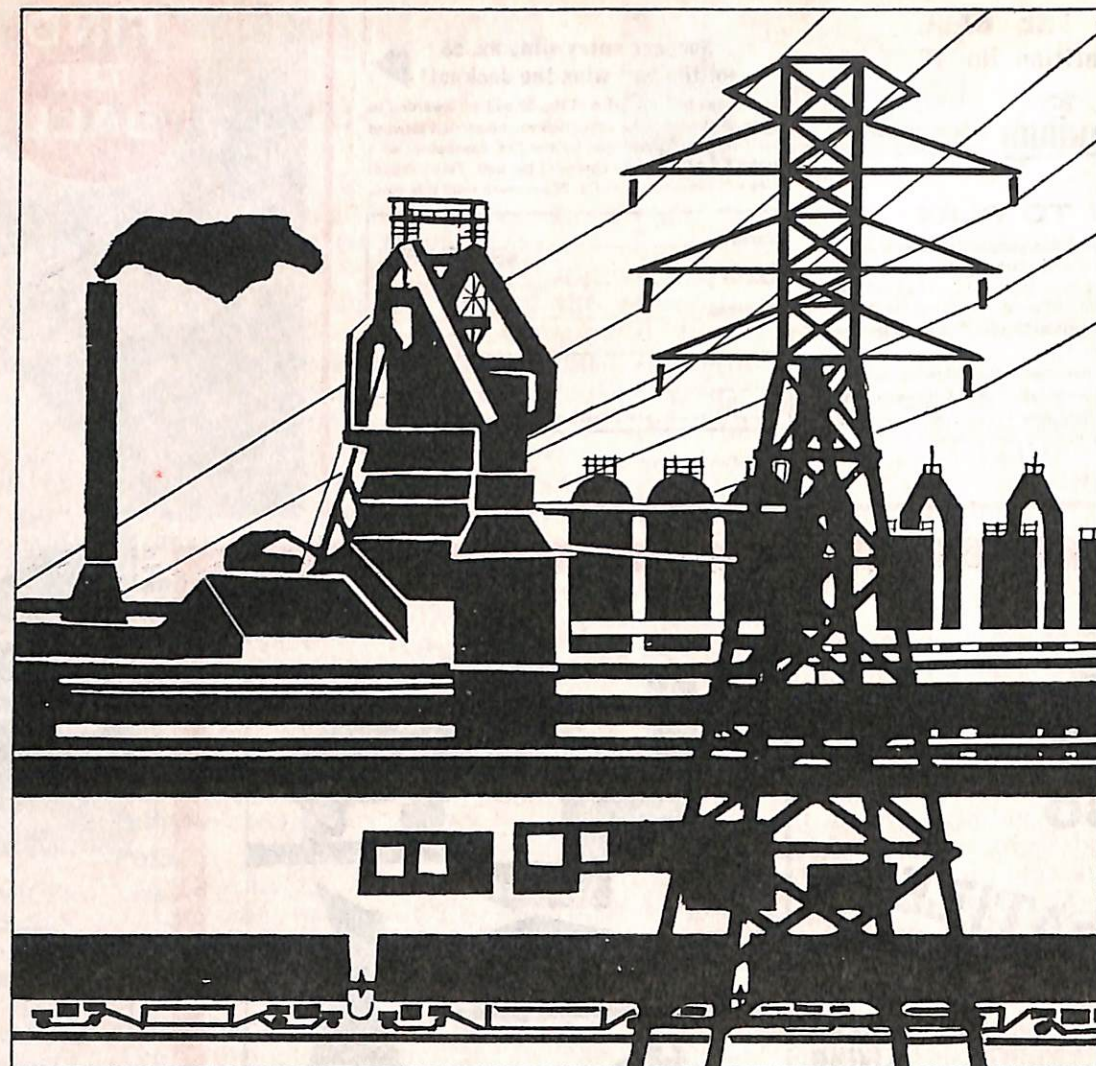
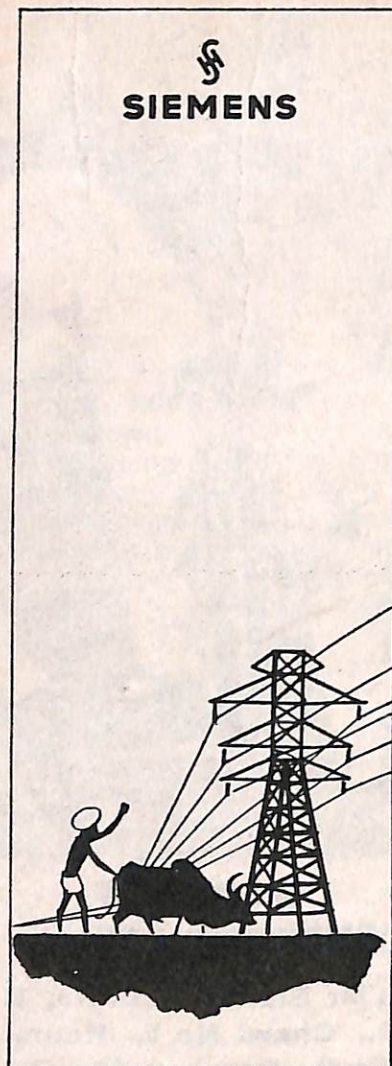
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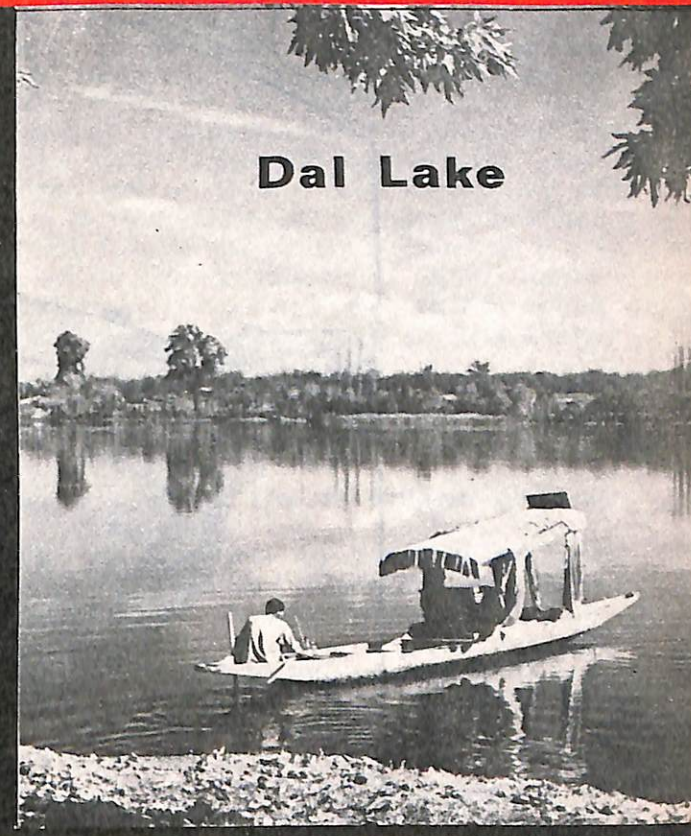


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