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HIMMAT

WEEKLY 25p.

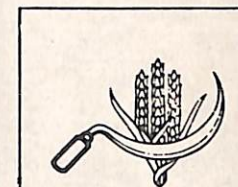
Asia's New Voice

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1967

VOL 3 NO 16



CONGRESS



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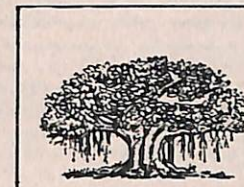
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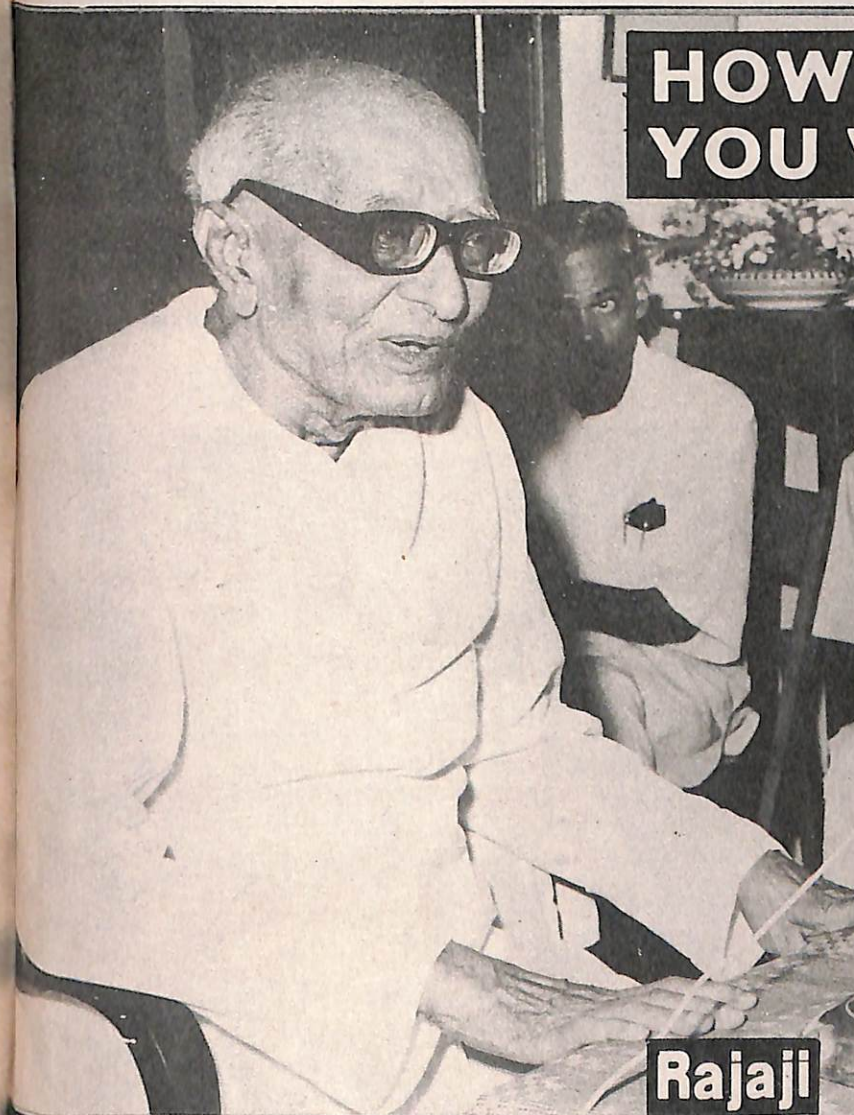
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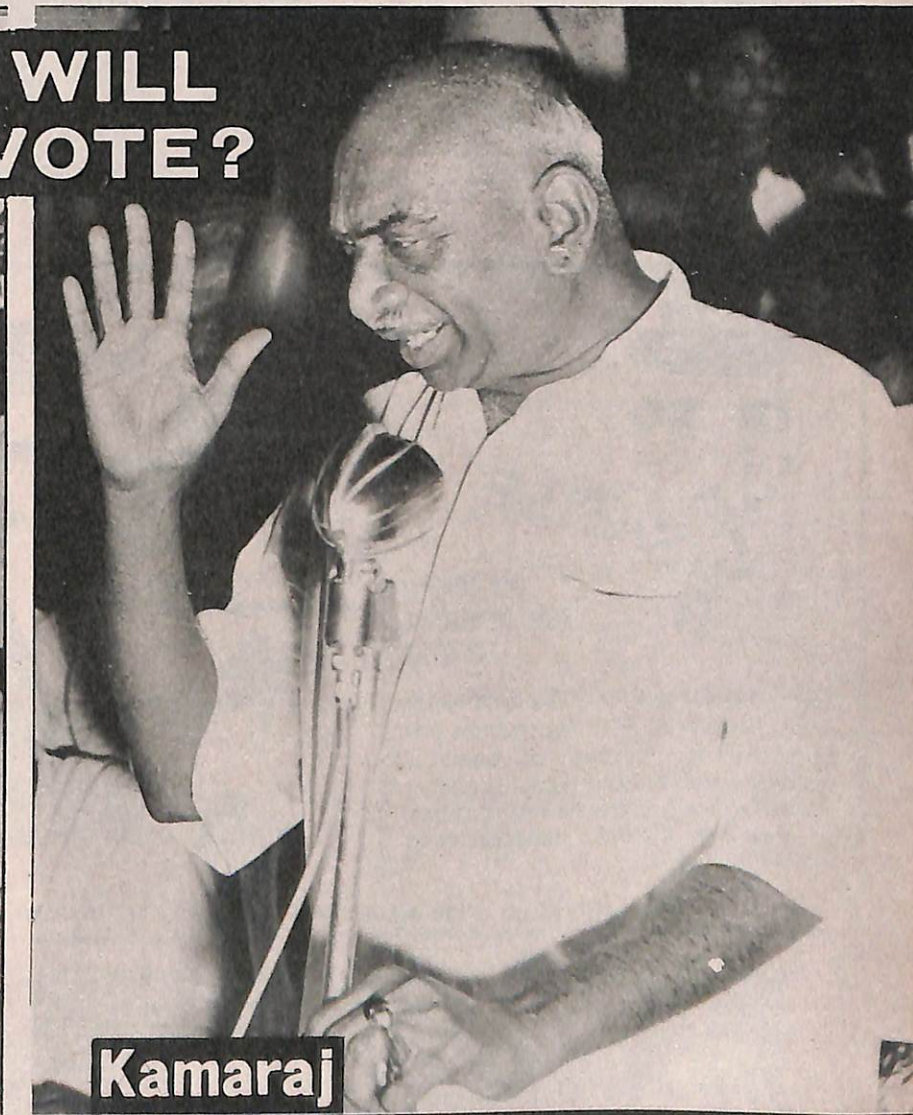


LEFT COMM



HOW WILL YOU VOTE?

Rajaji



Kamaraj

"Congress stability a myth"

"Stability only with Congress"

INDIA ARISE leaves for Europe

**FIND THE BALL
COMPETITION NO: 9**



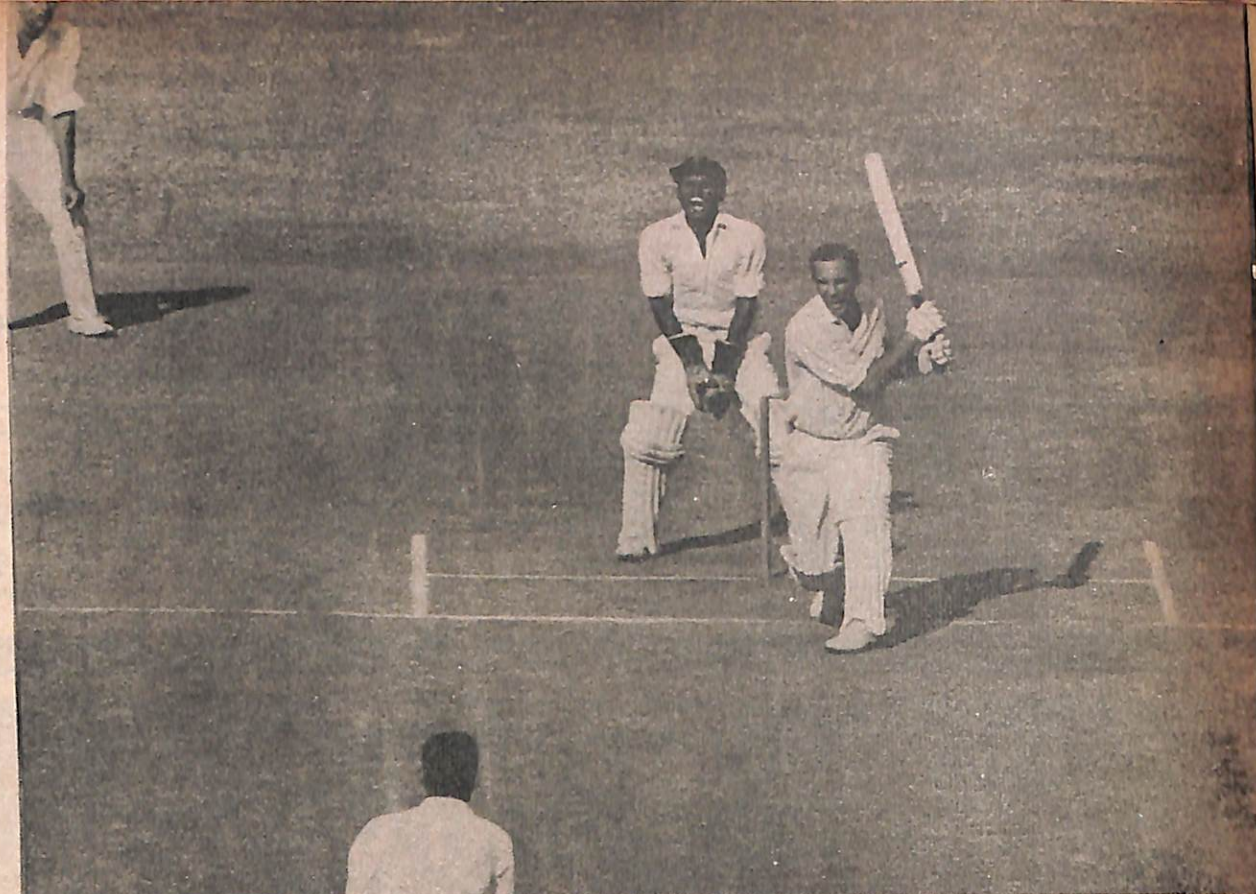
How to play: The ball in this cricket action picture has been painted out. All you have to do is to mark a cross where you think the ball is. Then cut out the picture and send it to "Find the Ball", c/o Himmat, 294, Bazargate Street, Bombay 1, by noon on Monday Feb 27.

There is no limit to the number of entries you can make, but only one cross may be marked on any one picture. The staff of HIMMAT and their relatives are not eligible for the competition. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into about the results.

Competition No: 9 showing the ball will be published in the March 3rd issue.

Name _____
 Address _____

 I agree by the rules of the competition as outlined above



HIMMAT

Asia's new voice WEEKLY

Bombay Friday February 17 1967

Vote for the man

FROM FEBRUARY 15 TO 21, 251 million Indians will have a right to choose, through 1,300,000 ballot boxes, the government they want. The world watches eagerly our fourth General Elections as 2334 candidates compete for 513 seats in the Lok Sabha (Central Parliament), while over 16,000 are standing for the 3533 seats in the State Assemblies.

Last time the Congress Party with less than 45 per cent of the votes captured 75 per cent of the seats. This time the Congress giant is perceptibly shaken. One out of every 15 candidates standing for elections is a dissident Congressman.

Nehru at least gave the Congress Party a theme to fight on, whether it be Socialist planning, secularism or non-alignment. The present leadership seems bereft of new ideas and the only achievement they can flaunt in the face of rising prices and food shortage is that the Congress has given "stability".

The first-time voters—the 21s and over—now constitute 20 per cent of the electorate. A HIMMAT survey shows that many of them are dissatisfied with Congress rule (see page 10) though not all are keen to vote against it. Almost all expect a Congress victory at the Centre and some think in terms of Morarji Desai or Y. B. Chavan as alternative Prime Ministers.

Unless the opposition can unitedly put forward a national figure outside the Congress Party as an alternative Prime Minister the people of India may be reluctant to vote out the Congress Government they know.

Rajaji sensed the need for it when he suggested last week a national government or coalition under Jayaprakash Narayan. The ascent of one national figure from Opposition ranks as a prospective Prime Minister can stir fresh hope in this nation. Will such a personality emerge in the next five years?

In his telling case against the Congress (page 5) Rajaji says that the voter should give his verdict on Congress rule and not be concerned about the government he will get. The Indian voter, however, is concerned about who shall rule him. The Congress symbol of the two bullocks and the yoke has given a sense of security. To liberate him from this serfdom is the task of the Opposition. How far they will succeed only the election results will show.

It is the voter's privilege to cast his vote as he wishes. In the present plethora of parties it is best each man votes for the candidate who means what he says, is straight in his personal life and considers others before himself. Such a vote will not be wasted.

On the move, but where?

EUROPE IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN. Britain is knocking at the Common Market door. West Germany has reversed its policy by establishing diplomatic relations with Communist Rumania. Rumania in turn has snubbed East Germany's protests. President de Gaulle will soon go on his travels again, to Poland and other East European nations. Soviet leaders have completed visits to Paris, Rome and London.

"We mean business," UK Premier Harold Wilson told the Council of Europe in Strasbourg recently. Bringing Britain and her six European Free Trade Association colleagues into the ECM would create a free trade area of 280 million people—largest in the world among industrial nations. Small European countries favour Britain's entry as a counter to France and Germany.

Business also played a significant part in Soviet Premier Kosygin's visits to London and Paris and President Podgorny's to Rome. International companies like Olivetti and ENI of Italy, Renault of France and Leyland of Britain made, or are negotiating, agreements to set up plants in Russia.

While Russia draws from Western Europe expertise to modernise her industry, West Europeans seem to be seeking, through closer economic and political ties, continued prosperity and security. In the long-term, Europe's prosperity and security will lie in looking outwards to nations beyond her shores.

Free trade inside an enlarged European Common Market will not necessarily help—and may hinder—development of countries outside it. Harnessing European industries to the Russian economy will not promote investment in Asia or Africa—it will reduce resources available for it.

Europeans have knowledge, skills and ideals of character and service that are essential for progress. A united Europe could plan to share these assets, and promote the prosperity of all nations.

Europe is on the move—but does she know where she is going?

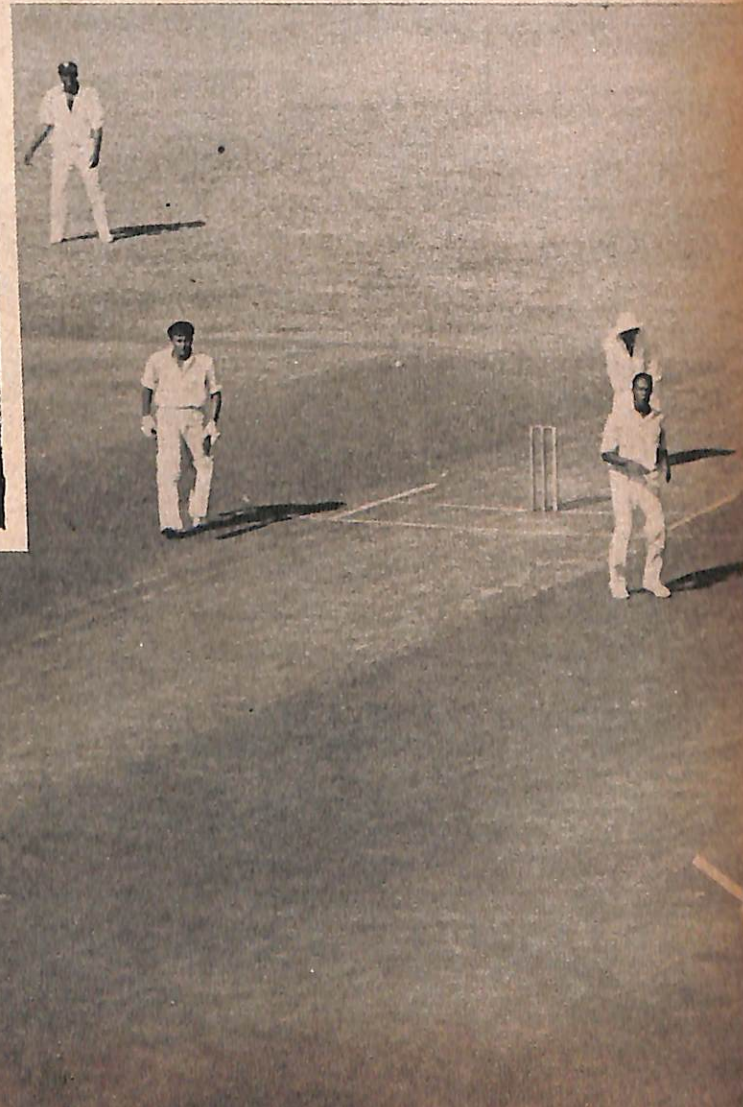
Mumbo-jumbo

THOSE TEDIOUS COLUMNS of Government advertisements in small type are not always as dull as they first appear. One glance last week at the Public Notice section of that remarkable South Indian daily which specialises in small type would have revealed to all animal lovers that the Departmental elephants in the forests of Mercara are growing hungry.

While we humans are rather absorbed in trying to scrounge a few more million tons of grain from generous lands across the seas these friendly old pachyderms are in a similar plight. The Divisional Forest Officer of Mercara is calling tenders (forms available on payment of Rs. 5) for "supply of elephant rations during 1967-68".

We understand there is no truth in the report that this announcement was also published in a Washington journal with a footnote, "Texas papers please copy."

The winner of competition No. 7 is Raju Dhupelia, 13 Mistry Park Annexe, 77 Warden Road, Bombay 26.



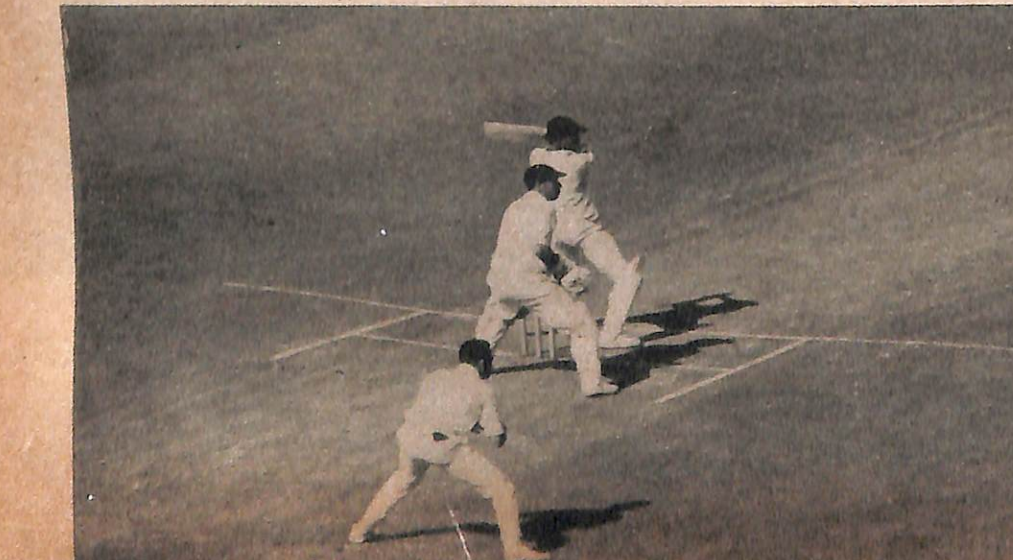
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Briefly speaking...

Minds are like parachutes; they won't function unless open.

ANON

Well trained

THE LATEST ENTRY for HIMMAT'S "Election Eve Contest" (See page 11) is from the manager of a well known circus. He is probably better trained to comment on elections than anyone else! HIMMAT'S "Find the Ball Competition" is fast growing in popularity. This week entries come from as far afield as France and Britain. So why not turn back to page 2 and try your skill?

Answer for India

NEVILLE MAXWELL, London Times correspondent whose articles on "India's Disintegrating Democracy" caused so much comment, has now written on the alternatives to demo-

cracy in India. One answer, he suggests, may lie in the President's office.

If the Centre was weak after the elections and public disorder mounted "there would be strong incentives for people to begin reading the Constitution not in search of barriers to presidential power but to find crevices or interpretations which would enable the *Rashtrapati* to assert a stabilising authority over the Centre and the country".

The first 100,000

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND villages will be electrified by 1969, says a news-agency report—22 years after independence. At this rate, all India's 500,000 villages will have electric lights and pumps by the year 2057.

Poetic politicians

PRIME MINISTERS do not often write poetry. Sir Robert Menzies, till recently Premier of Australia, wrote the following which appears in the latest issue of *The Parliamentarian*, journal of Commonwealth Parliaments:

To the Clerks at the Table.

Two WISE OLD OWLS sat at the table:
Their wigs were grey, their gowns were sable;
They looked so sad, so melancholy,
As if depressed by HUMAN FOLLY.
Around them, carelessly displayed,
Were all their dreadful TOOLS OF TRADE,
The STANDING ORDERS, VOTES, and MOTIONS,
The STATUTES, MAY, and such like NOTIONS.
The GLASS, with sand so nearly piled,
The RULINGS (wrong), so neatly filed,
The BELLS, to call the MEMBERS in,
To tread the paths of VERBAL SIN.
But WISE OLD OWLS must sometimes think!
Of what? of WOMEN? FOOD? or DRINK?
Or are they, as they keep their places,
As really VACANT as their FACES?

Another poetical national leader is Mao Tse-tung. Fascinating to speculate what he might be writing now about the current debate in China.

Meanwhile an Indian poet, Mr. Mehdi Nazmi, is writing a history of India in verse, from Adam and Eve to Independence!

Election oddities

IN THE UP, no less than 23,258 centenarians will be entitled to vote in the election, reports NAFEN.

A HOPEFUL CANDIDATE in Mysore State is contesting six seats—five for the Assembly and one for the Lok Sabha.

OVER 5000 DEAD PEOPLE are said to have their names on the voters' list in Lucknow constituency.

VIOLENCE HAS BROKEN OUT at 79 election meetings so far, reports PTI. Seventy three of these were Congress meetings. The largest number of outbreaks (21) took place in UP, followed by Bihar with 8.

Not loud-mouthed

NO DUMB PERSON may be a candidate in the election, states Chief Election Commissioner K. V. K. Sundaram. "I would regard a dumb man as totally unqualified to represent in the legislature", he told a news conference in Madras. Yet blind men have served with distinction in, for instance, the British Parliament, and many electors have decided long since that MPs are almost totally deaf, judging from their response to pleas and protestations. An exceptional dumb man (and shouldn't MPs all be exceptional men?) might serve in Parliament better than many sitting members.

Surely it is up to the voters to decide who is qualified to represent them.

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Freedom's champion calls for A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

from a correspondent in Madras

"Can there be anything more said about Congress misrule than what President Radhakrishnan has summed up in his recent Republic Day message to the Nation?" asked Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Elder Statesman and founder of Swatantra party at one of the most well attended press conferences held here last week. Many foreign journalists had come all the way from Delhi to attend it.

"The Congress was in power for 20 years without a challenge and without a break and it must be taken to be responsible for this failure of the functions of government. The electorate therefore should record its evaluation of Congress rule in an unambiguous manner," he said, and added: "I would not advise anyone in the country in any manner other than what I would myself do, this is *vote against Congress.*"

He then went on to explain why he was so angry at this ripe old age of 88. "Why do I ask people to vote against the Congress Party today? A leading advocate of Bombay paid me a compliment a few days ago. He said that it was a unique phenomenon that at the age of 81 I took the responsibility of founding a new party to oppose the Congress which had been so strongly entrenched in power. It is true that my adventure was a rash one on the part of an old man, from the point of view of my age and declining health, but there was a national urgency for that adventure. I ask people to vote against Congress for the same reasons now".

More than food required

He did not want to dilate upon how the Congress government had mismanaged the country's resources. For doing so, he would have to cover all that they had done with foreign aid, taxes levied on the people—direct and indirect—and every other item of government receipts.

"Most of the people today are not better off," Rajaji continued. "It is not only food that they require out of American aid. Times have changed and the mass of the people require many more things than food. All these have gone up in price on account of government policies. The real value of our rupee internally in terms of commodities is the best indication of what has happened to the country as a result of Congress

rivalries. It had not proved itself equal to the task of giving stability to the economic life of the people or to law and order, which was being thwarted by threats of strikes and fasts. Parliamentary democracy did not fit in with the perpetuation complex of the Congress party, he said.

Discussion in the press conference extended to the question of a national government also and Rajaji had his solution ready.



Jayaprakash Narayan

He said, "If on account of the situation presented by the voting throughout the country for the Central and for the State legislatures, the President decides that the Congress Government should be displaced by a National Government, we have the leadership for it and I have already publicly suggested that Sri Jayaprakash Narayan be called

Continued on next page

On your toes

THE CARROT SEASON

As election fever reached its highest last week, Congress was quickly dusting off old carrots and holding them up before the electorate.

Perhaps the juiciest carrot of all was the agreement of almost all State Governments to revise the present Dearness Allowance rates for certain grades of Government employees. An increase is long overdue.

During his campaign in the South, Congress President Kamaraj promised that his Party would get free housing sites for the poor people in villages. He also pledged to help small farmers to get agricultural credit directly and without difficulty.

In the Punjab, Congress has given an undertaking to the rural population that it will abolish land revenue in respect of petty holdings.

In a long list of other promises it also guaranteed metal approach roads to link every village and to provide primary schools for villages with a population of 500. The Party confidently assured uninterrupted supply of essential commodities and food to consumers and to make every effort to "protect" the price line. And not a day too soon.

Following the vinegar dose of Congress Party Treasurer Atulya Ghosh in the shape of a threat to abolish the privy purses of former rulers, comrade at arms S. K. Patil rushed in with some carrot juice in the form of a rejoinder that these constitutional perquisites would not be tampered with.

Railways Minister Patil has been leaving visiting cards at residences in his area and inviting voters to meet him for a chat. But where has he been all these years when voters really did want to have a chat about the unsolved problems in the constituency?

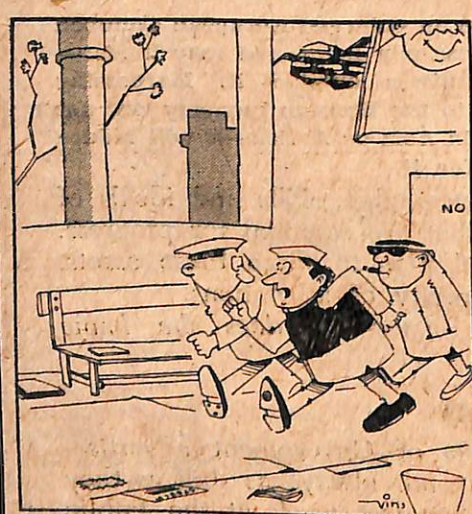
Like many others, Mr. Patil has been promising all sorts of benefits. But what about the hutment dwellers whose stench must clog the nostrils of the Minister every time he drives past on his way to take the Caravelle to Delhi?

Perhaps the one honest Congressman is Home Minister Chavan. In Sholapur the other day he urged the people to endure hardship for another 10 or 15 years which would be a "test period". At least he was frank about the austerity that a vote for Congress would mean.

Or had he run out of carrots?

Freebooter

CHALTA HAI...



"This time it's not a complete walk-out. We go to the entrance and come back. Mind you next time it will be a complete walk-out."

This weekly feature comes to you through the courtesy of the Eagle Vacuum Bottle Mfg. Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. manufacturers of the Eagle range of vacuum flasks, jugs and insulated ware.



QUBIRAMA

Rajaji—from page 5

to lead it as Prime Minister. He is deservedly counted as an elder statesman. He is moved by great concern for the poor masses. He has not thrown himself into the arms of any political party and stands clear of all the intrigues and coils of politics."

He wanted to make it clear that he was not suggesting Jayaprakash's name to boost him for any personal reasons. If anyone could find an equally good person or a better person, all the better for us, he added.

What should be the policy of such a National Government? "Firstly, the policy of the National Government is obviously to remedy the defects pointed out so emphatically by the President of the Union and to bring new confidence and hope to a frustrated people," Rajaji said. He went on, "Even if a national or coalition government should prove unequal to the tasks and dangers before us, and be dissolved, a short break in the continued regime of the Congress party for 20 years would by

itself be a restoration of faith in democracy and people's rule, as distinguished from the monarchic, charismatic and hereditary symptoms dominating the scene and misleading the country.

"My point is that a break by itself is a good thing for democracy. A six-month period would help to check up the nation's health, and to feel that democracy is alive." To set right or correct or remedy past grievous errors, he admitted, is not a simple matter.

"To repair an old house is more difficult than to build a new one," he reminded. An honest and intelligent attempt to put through measures to provide gainful occupation for the mass of Indian people was quite practicable and whatever they were able to get through foreign sources and through taxation would be consumed in this effort and serve to raise their standard of living. Socialism, he said, had been wrongly understood and interpreted. It meant to him *social justice* whereas Congress had meant it as *statism*. Since people had not understood this difference

the ruling party had been going on, unchecked. In his view there was no difference between the Congress of India and Mao of China.

A non-Congress government, if formed today, would be careful about everything, he asserted. They would be terribly afraid of doing anything rashly or whimsically. Amidst laughter he added, "It would behave like a husband who got married after long courting since he is likely to prove a good husband."

It was the voice of one who knew what he was telling his people. It was the message of a great leader who had spent sixty and odd years of his long life serving his people in a spotlessly clean way which very few public men in the entire world could lay claim to. It was the call of the champion of freedom in the full sense of the word. Last, but not the least important, it was the performance of duty by a sage and servant who had a clear conscience, clear understanding and fearless, burning patriotism.

Stalemate possible in Kerala

from G. S. Kartha in Trivandrum

With hardly a few days to the polling date, February 20, which will decide whether Kerala is destined to be again under President's Rule, the general unconcern among the voters is something that baffles political parties. In many places, voters are just passive spectators of political parties' electioneering mela.

Pucca arrangements have been made by the parties for their election campaigns, but paucity of funds and all-round rise in the cost of materials and services have imposed drastic cuts on poll expenditure.

A candidate's agent told me he could not get "volunteers" for election work although he was prepared to give Rs. 3 per day. The rate demanded was Rs. 5, in view of the increased cost of living. Printing and writing posters has also been cut down to the minimum. Use of taxis has become a costly luxury for candidates who have limited resources. How to pick up voters on polling dates is the problem confronting many parties, as a taxi has to be paid Rs. 100 per day, or whatever is asked.

Desperate feelings

The Congress is worst hit for want of funds. AICC turned down the demand for Rs. 15 lakhs, the amount spent in the 1965 abortive mid term polls, and the AICC leadership today stands accused of having written off Kerala.

The common man is more concerned with the problem of balancing his budget than with the prospects of the polls. His only concern is that there should be a government which will reduce prices, make more rice available on the ration, open up new job opportunities, and above all present a clean administration. He is the least interested in the political complexion of the Government. He would say that even the President's role has failed to solve these basic problems.

All parties have disappointed him. The latest expectation was that the United Front might try to improve the situation if voted to office. But Mr. Namboodiripad himself has plainly and realistically said that the Front may not be able to solve the State's food or any other problem if it came to power.

A retired police officer remarked: "It does not make any difference to me whoever forms the Government."

My lot will remain the same." Such desperate feelings, plus the lack of confidence in parties, contribute to the present apathy towards elections.

The people's choice will be between the Congress and the Left Communist-dominated United Front. The so-called "third force" led by the rebel Kerala Congress, consisting of the two splinter parties PSP and Swatantra, has not succeeded in making its presence felt in the overall picture of elections.

The rebel Congress had lost its glamour, almost a year ago; and now the withdrawal of support by the powerful Bishops and the Nair leader Mr. Mannath Padmanabhan (who was the party's patron when formed) reduces their prospects in many constituencies. The Swatantra Party, its main ally, is devoid of an imaginative and intelligent leadership in the State. The Swatantra's newspaper advertisements capture the minds of the voters; but when the voters look at the candidates it has fielded, they don't feel like wasting their votes.

Claims by leaders are exaggerated. Both the Congress and the United Front easily dream of a hundred seats in the 133-member Assembly. But election pundits would put it that the net outcome of the polls will not be a stable government, in either case.

The Congress Party's calculations are on the basis of votes it hopes to bag through the influence of the Church, the Nair Service Society, and the Ezhavas' SNDP Yogam, whose large sections will obey their leaders now won over by the Congress despite its great contempt for "communal leaders". Congress leaders also count on the rift in the United Front's parties.

The Congress leadership seems to have safely left the job of securing general public support to two or three newspapers, Mr. Mannath Padmanabhan, and the Church leaders. If their hard work could bring votes to the Congress, it could save its face. Mr. Mannath, now 90 years old, is touring various constituencies, addressing about eight to ten public meetings a day, hitting hard at the Communists as well as the rebel Congress whom he had earlier patronised.

While a few Bishops and other Church leaders asked the community to support the Congress, in their cleverly worded statements, one of them, Rev. Dr. Peter Bernard Pereira,

Continued on next page



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VERDICT!

This week **HIMMAT**

CONGRATULATES Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi, exonerated from suspicion of being a bourgeois reactionary after reciting 20 or 30 passages from "Mao's Thoughts" without hesitation.

★

NOTES that the Customs officials, at least, increased their productivity last year by seizing Rs. 6.26 crores of goods compared to Rs. 4.63 crores the year before.

★

CONDEMNS demonstrators who threw stones at Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi in Bhubaneswar, and also assailants of Communist leader Mr. Jyoti Basu in Calcutta.

★

PRAISES Mrs. Gandhi's courage in standing up to the stone-throwers and telling them, "These stones won't win votes."

★

SUPPORTS the Dalai Lama in his intention of going to the UN in New York to present Tibet's case for freedom in person.

★

DENOUNCES Bombay port pilots' threat not to handle food ships during their strike last week as using starvation for blackmail.

★

FINDS ironic the reported arrest of three Chinese table tennis champions, some of whom have attributed their success in the game to study of the "Thoughts of Mao".

★

IS ENTRANCED by Pandit Ravi Shankar's announcement that India is earning foreign exchange through the monthly export to the US and UK of 300 sitars.

★

CONDEMNS the divisive tactics of Congress President Kamaraj in accusing the DMK of getting funds from the north, and is **APALLED** that national leaders should stoop to this level.

KERALA—from page 7

the Latin Catholic Bishop of Trivandrum, created a new record as India's first Church dignitary to come out into the open and address an election meeting. It was in his diocese that during the Liberation struggle against the Communist regime, the Communist police opened fire in three places. "As a citizen of the Indian Union"

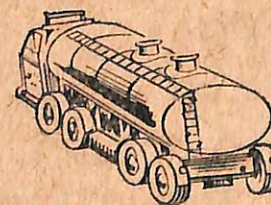
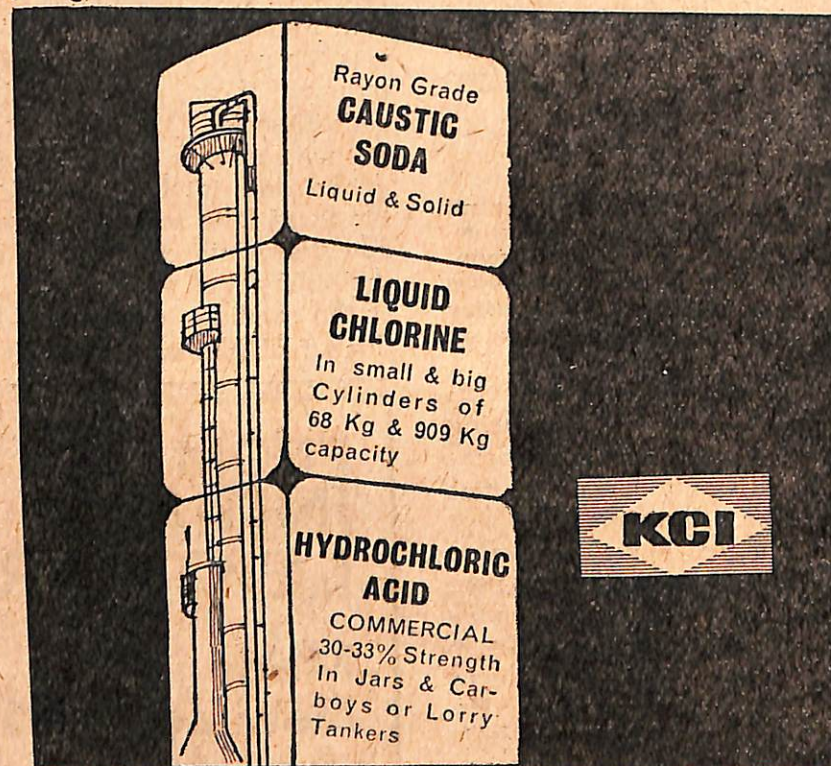
the Bishop declared that he had a duty to ask voters to prevent anti-democratic and anti-God forces led by the Communists from coming to power.

Clergymen who clandestinely support the rebel Congress, and those who claim to be "progressive" naturally frowned at the Bishop. But laymen who disagreed with the Bishop's views, praised his readiness to stand up and fight for what he felt was right. Said a prominent Hindu leader: "I wish we had a dozen leaders like that Bishop."

The Trivandrum Bishop's open participation in a Congress election meeting was not liked by other parties. A Communist Party spokesman remarked: "This is the test of Congress secularism." A Catholic layman asked: "Has the Bishop not the rights of a citizen just because he is in robes?"

But with all this, Mr. Namboodiripad and his United Front seem to be nearer political power than the Congress. This is the consensus of observers too. But political miracles could happen at the last moment. The United Front is not a happy alliance of parties that trust each other.

Whether it is the Congress or the United Front that is voted to power, Kerala's political instability will not end until the ruling party finds the answer to divisive tendencies. Then Kerala could set an inspiring example to other states of the Union.



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PRESSMAN-K.C.I.

Election Winds

by **ANTENNA**

Bowing out?

Is Congress President Kamaraj bowing out from national politics? Why did he pick a seat in the State Assembly?

It is significant that of all the national leaders Mr. Kamaraj has been the most scarce at inter-state campaigning. He has reserved himself almost exclusively for Madras with an occasional fling at Kerala. The Prime Minister with whom he was expected to share the burden of visiting the states, has had to go it virtually alone.

If Mr. Kamaraj retires into state politics what role will he play at the election of the next Prime Minister? Does he really want Mrs. Gandhi in office again?

New look

The Jan Sangh wants to have a new look this election time. It is eager to erase the image the public has of it as a communal party. This move is to be welcomed. It has one of the most disciplined and dedicated cadres on the political scene. Some of the candidates who stand on a Jan Sangh ticket feel the party has great potential but it needs to be directed into the right channels. One of its candidates says he has joined it to "tame it". ANTENNA trusts that he will tame the party and the party does not tame him!

Family opposition

General Habibullah finds himself opposing his wife for a UP Assembly seat! Antenna hastens to add—for no fault of his. The retired major-general had agreed earlier to file his nomination papers along with his wife's, who is the Congress candidate in the Haidergarh constituency, as a covering candidate (an electoral best-man). But because he did not deliver his withdrawal papers personally, as laid down by the rules, Haidergarh's election office refused to honour them and ordered his name to be printed on ballot papers along with Mrs. Habibullah's and those of other contestants! Family friends of the Habibullah's will have a difficult time deciding who the better half is! A reluctant General is therefore making rounds in Haidergarh clarifying the situation.

Touch and go in Orissa

from H. P. Mahalik in Cuttack

With the general elections barely three days ahead, the electorate in Orissa is sharply divided over the prospects of a Congress Ministry there.

The Swatantra Party, main opponent of the Congress in the State, is contesting 100 Assembly seats and 17 Lok Sabha seats out of 140 and 20 respectively. In all, 597 candidates are contesting for the State Assembly this time:

There will be direct contests between the Congress and Opposition at 17 places and triangular contests at 41 places. At the remaining 82 constituencies there are more than three contestants.

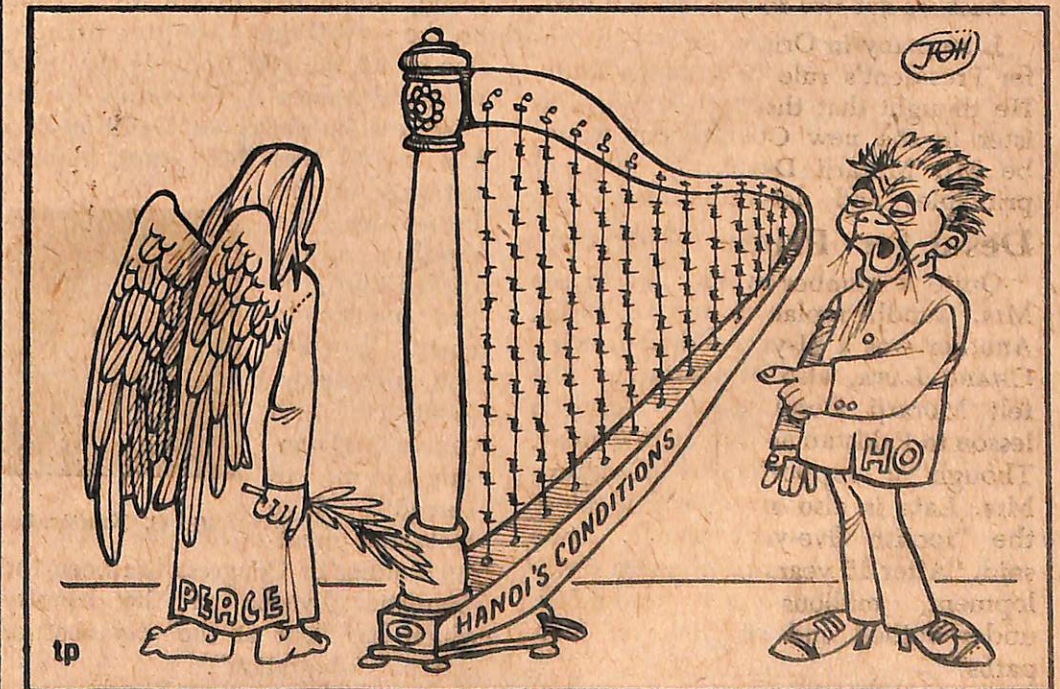
Ten women candidates are contesting for the State Assembly, of whom four are Congress, three are Swatantra and three Jana Congress. All Ministers in the present Cabinet are contesting for the Assembly excepting Mr. Jagannath Rao, the Health Minister.

Dr. Mahtab is contesting against two powerful Ministers in the present Cabinet—the Education and Works Minister Mr. Satyapriya Mohanty at Bhubaneswar constituency in Puri district and the Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Nilamoni Routray at Basudevpur constituency in Balasore district.

Of the 20 Lok Sabha seats there will be direct contests at six places and triangular contests at seven places. And more than three candidates will contest at the remaining seven constituencies. In total, 65 candidates are contesting for the Lok Sabha seats.

The notable feature this time is that 197 independent candidates are contesting for the State Assembly. Besides, the Jan Sangh has set up more candidates in the State, though it is a new party for the electorate in Orissa. The Jana Congress and the Jharkhand parties are also new contesting this time without any definite ideologies. While the Jana Congress, led by some disgruntled Congressmen, have as their only objective the dislodging of Congress from power, the Jharkhand aims at the creation of a separate State for Adivasis. Both these parties have nothing concrete and constructive to offer to the electorate. The PSP, of course, harps on opportunism.

In such a situation the voters in the State are very much confused, with the party newspapers propagating blatant lies one against the other. But as matters stand now there is more likelihood of President's rule in Orissa in the event of Congress not having an absolute majority.



"Peace melody? Okay, but only on my harp!"

How will young India vote?

Interviews by HIMMAT correspondents

AS INDIA GOES TO THE POLLS this week, among the 251 million people who are eligible to vote will be many millions who are voting for the first time. How will this new generation vote? To find the answers, HIMMAT correspondents interviewed a large cross-section of young people in different parts of India.

Not one of those interviewed, including those who wanted the Congress Party returned to power, had a good report for the present government. Most of those who want to see Congress back in power will vote for it because they see no chance of any Opposition party mustering enough votes to form an alternative government. Nearly everyone said they would like to see a strong opposition giving a constant challenge to the Government.

B.M. is a Police Constable from Cuttack, Orissa (name supplied). He wants to see Congress back in power because "it is the only stable party capable of running this huge country". But when asked what he saw as the greatest achievement of Congress, he replied, "There has been no achievement since Congress took office. Congress, industrialists, contractors, engineers have made fortunes out of public money while the common people are starving in a welfare state'. We were very happy during the British regime when at least we got two square meals a day."

Like many in Orissa, he would prefer President's rule in his own State. He thought that the best Prime Minister in the new Government would be Mr. Morarji Desai, "a man of principles and determination".

Desai for Prime Minister

Quite a number would like to see Mrs. Gandhi replaced by Mr. Desai. Another was a 21-year-old housewife, **CHARU LATA**, also of Cuttack. She felt Morarji Desai would, "teach a lesson to Pakistan as well as to China". Though a supporter of Congress, Mrs. Lata is also strongly critical of the "foolish five-year plans". She said, "After 15 years of planned development, millions are under-fed, under-clothed and sleeping on footpaths."

The most important task of the new Government, Mrs. Lata thought,

should be to hold the price line and encourage farmers to produce more. "Unless we give top priority to agriculture we will face the worst famine of the century soon."



Charu Lata

Though she seemed remarkably lucid in her political convictions the young housewife concluded, "I am not at all interested in politics. I am too busy effecting economies in my family budget in these days of spiralling prices."

KRISHNAN KUTTY is a 23-year-old taxi driver in Trivandrum. He is a rather unique upholder of the status quo. He would like to see Congress returned to power in the Centre and in his State of Kerala. But here again, like so many others, he felt the greatest blunder of Congress has been "the inability to keep down prices in the country. This is at the root of all the frustration and bitterness in the minds of the people whether rich or poor," he said.

B. VISWANATH, a 22-year-old student in sociology, also from Trivandrum, would like to see Mr. Nanda as the next Prime Minister because "he of all the rest upholds the need of moral values". He wants to see Congress in power in Delhi and in Kerala and sees their most important task in the future as "the rapid industrialisation of the country to end poverty and unemployment which causes Communism to spread".



G. C. Nautiyal

He feels the greatest blunder of Congress has been the linguistic division of the country which has "cut at the very root of national integration".

In Lucknow, HIMMAT talked with **GANESH CHAND NAUTIYAL**, a 21-year-

old graduate of Lucknow University who has represented UP in Ranji Trophy cricket matches. Like many of his fellow sportsmen in the UP, Nautiyal was not against Congress as such but wants it to have only a bare majority. "The Congress will behave properly when the Opposition is in a position to dislodge it both in Parliament and State Assemblies."

Young sportsmen in the UP are angry about the invasion of sporting bodies by political forces.

"Check prices first!"

Twenty-two-year-old **MUKHERJI**, who works in a private bank in Lucknow, said, "Why should we vote for this wretched government that does not give us even a decent dearness allowance when it unashamedly doubled the salaries and allowances of members of legislatures in the last 15 years of its regime?"



D. Pal Choudhury

Another young sportsman said, "If any Congressman comes to me for my vote I'm going to tell him point blank 'Check prices first!'"

Among other caustic criticisms of the Congress Government echoed by UP students were the creation of linguistic states, ("which is bringing national disintegration"); Mr. Nehru keeping Chinese aggression a secret for many years; the lack of proper planning, which has resulted in mortgaging the country to Western powers; and continuance of the Emergency "with absolutely no justification".

One young voter said, "The Congress Government lives in a world of statistics and ends up ultimately doing nothing."

Most of the young people interviewed in the UP, not surprisingly, preferred Mrs. Gandhi as Prime Minister to either Morarji, Patil or Kamaraj.

DIPAK PAL CHOUDHURY is an assistant at a petrol pump in Calcutta. He would like to see Congress returned to power at the Centre but in West Bengal he wants, "any leftist Government". For Prime Minister he would like to see Mr. Nanda who is "very strict and honest". Solving the food problem in order to feed the people he feels is the Government's most urgent task, and their biggest blunder has been their past indifference to this problem, as well as their failure to defend the border during Chinese aggression.

SIDDHARTHA CHAKRAVARTI is unemployed. He passed his pre-university exam of Calcutta University. He would like to see Congress in power at the Centre and in West Bengal. The greatest blunder of the Government has been "giving indulgence to the Communist Party, an anti-social and anti-national organisation".

An opposite view is taken by Miss **SWAPNA DAS**, a Philosophy Honours student also from Calcutta. She would like to see "any good Opposition Party" at the Centre and the Right Communist Party in power in West Bengal. She would debit Congress with its failure to give top priority to food production but credit with giving the country "a stable democracy".

A Congress Government faced by "a very tough opposition" is the solution of **ANAND BIHARI BAJPAYEE**, a 23-year-old student of journalism from Bombay. He would like to see Morarji Desai as Prime Minister. He feels the Government should grant free education up to the secondary level, medical facilities, food, clothing and lodging for every man.

"There should also be incentives to private enterprise", he believes, "and self-sufficiency in every aspect particularly in food. India should be free from the clutches of foreign influence whether it be American or Russian."

L. S. MORE, is a 22-year-old feeder man in a printing press. He is one of the thousands of hutment dwellers in Bombay. He would like to see the Right Communist Party in power

at the Centre, with Mr. Dange as Prime Minister.

ASHOK SHAH from Poona is a 21-year-old student. Reluctantly, because of the prevailing political situation, he would vote the Congress Party to power at the Centre, but "with a greatly reduced majority."



Ashok Shah

The best Prime Minister he feels would be Y. B. Chavan, "if he decides to put national interests before local interests". He sees the greatest blunder of Congress as "the dishonest, complacent, self-seeking, small living by the top people."

From Mangalore comes 26-year-old **PADMANABHA BHAT**, a bank clerk. He would like to see the Swatantra Party come to power in the Centre but, realising this is unlikely, settles for a coalition of all the non-Congress parties, excluding the Communists.

"Any party except Congress" would satisfy **JAGANNATHAN**, a young apprentice accountant in Madras. In Madras State he would like to see the DMK and their allies, the Swa-

tantra Party, win power.

M. K. SUDHARSAN, a post-graduate law student from Madras, would like to see C. D. Deshmukh heading the next Government in Delhi, if a non-Congress coalition could win an absolute majority. "Congress has failed the country miserably," he said, and his vote will go to the Swatantra Party.

MR. S. K. PATIL gets a bouquet from **S. BEHERA**, a 28-year-old stenographer from Berhampur in Orissa, who would like to see him as the next Prime Minister.



S. Behera

Through all the interviews it remained clear that far and away the majority wished for some alternative to Congress rule but, reluctantly, came to the conclusion that for an other five years at least they would be saddled with a Congress Government.

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Rs. 100 will be awarded to the reader with the most accurate predictions. The winner's name will be published in the first issue of HIMMAT following the announcement of all results. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into about the results.

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) How many seats will the Congress Party win in the Lok Sabha?..... | (3) Will the Congress Party win or lose in |
| (50 points, minus 10 points for each seat less or more than the final result) | (a) Kerala win/lose* |
| (2) In the Cabinet to be formed after the elections who will be | (b) Orissa win/lose* |
| (a) Prime Minister | (c) Rajasthan win/lose* |
| | (d) Gujarat win/lose* |
| (b) Home Minister | (e) West Bengal win/lose* |
| | * Delete one or other |
| (c) External Affairs Minister. | (5 points for each) |
| | |
| (d) Defence Minister..... | NAME..... |
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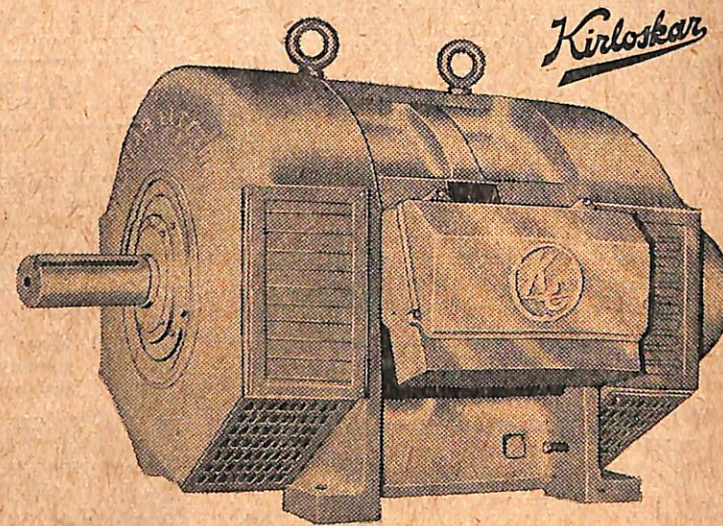
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FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

And now a fear-free Europe?

FROM OLIVER CORDEROY

London

Mr. Kosygin's visit reminds one that it is eleven years since Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Bulganin visited England. In the interval, much has happened. The Common Market has come into being (officially on January 1, 1958); the French have withdrawn from NATO; and the West Germans are making overtures to the Eastern Europeans who show signs of responding.

Unlike Mr. Khrushchev, Mr. Kosygin is an engineer. He has risen to the top not through the Communist Party machine but through industry. He was Commissar for the textile industry in 1939. He has been Premier since October, 1964. While Mr. Khrushchev allowed rival factions to argue about the proposition of a profit-based management, Mr. Kosygin has quietly gone ahead and installed it.

In external affairs, Mr. Kosygin is perhaps the first Soviet Premier to face the fact of the extent to which his country must work with others if it is to have access to advanced industrial techniques. Again he has quietly gone ahead and concluded contracts with Italian Fiat and French Renault car companies.

Mr. Kosygin's visit to England poses the question: "Will Anglo-Soviet Trade take off soon?" Although Soviet cameras and watches have been selling in Britain for some time and there is talk of a British airline buying Soviet helicopters, over all Britain has an adverse trade balance with the Soviet Union. Last year British exports to Russia were only £49.5 million. That is less than half the volume of British exports to Norway. But Great Britain imported goods to the value of £126 million from Russia.

While Mr. Kosygin spent his week in Britain attending banquets at Buckingham Palace, at Edinburgh Castle and at the Mansion House, and a luncheon by the Confedera-

tion of British Industry, the economic aim of Mr. Wilson was clear—to narrow this large trade gap. And Mr. Kosygin's domestic innovation of a profit motive management scheme has created a sudden demand for consumer goods—clothing, footwear, building materials, detergents, refrigerators and furniture.

To keep the confidence of the Russian managers in his new scheme, Mr. Kosygin will have to meet this demand. Already this year a one million pound order for shoes for Russia has been placed in Britain. But even a Communist is not merely an economic animal.

The hard truth is that while some tensions within Europe have diminished within the last twenty years, the fear in Western Europe about Russia has not and neither have Eastern European fears about West Germany. In fact, Mr. Gromyko was to have accompanied Mr. Kosygin to England but instead he is attending an East European Foreign Ministers' meeting in Berlin. This has been prompted by German and Polish fears over Rumanian, Hungarian and Bulgarian responses toward West Germany.



Mr. Wilson

And there is a Soviet proposal for a pan-European security conference.

In his political and diplomatic discussion with Mr. Kosygin it will be Mr. Wilson's task to find out just what is the notion behind such a conference. The idea of a confer-

Continued on page 15

The week in Asia

SAIGON—The United States military command reported that the first days of the lunar New Year truce were marred by the loss of an American reconnaissance plane over North Vietnam and a series of small-scale cease-fire breaches in the South.

HONG KONG—Radio Peking reported that anti-Maoists had incited Heilungkiang farmers to "divide up a lot of public assets and reserve only a little for the State" in an attempt to oppose Mao's strategy against war and famine.

TOKYO—Shanghai, China's largest city, was surrounded by armed villagers opposed to Mao Tse-tung and Maoists there also expect another attack from the anti-Mao group (power-holding group inside the party), according to the New China News Agency.

KUALA LUMPUR—Defence Minister Razak announced plans for big increases in Malaysia's armed forces after the withdrawal of British troops from its Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak. Malaysia's army now has an estimated 22,000 men.

TOKYO—Wives and children of Czechoslovakian Embassy staff in Peking were evacuated and returned home via Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia.

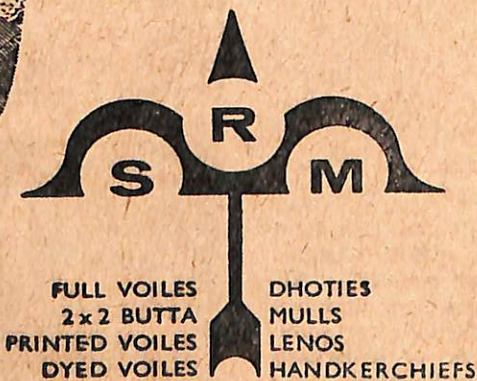
SAIGON—Premier Ky said South Vietnam's presidential election would be advanced from six to three months after promulgation of the new constitution, or as early as July.

HOBART—Over 47 people were believed killed when bush-fires raged through the island state of Tasmania, off southern Australia, threatening Hobart, its capital.

RIYADH—King Feisal of Saudi Arabia will pay a State visit to Britain starting on May 9.

DJAKARTA—The Indonesian Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the supreme policy-making People's Consultative Congress to remove President Sukarno from office and try him for alleged complicity in the 1965 attempted Communist coup.

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FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

from page 13

ence to discuss European problems together is as old as the 1957 Ra-

Governments co-operate to curb smugglers

FROM OUR SOUTH EAST ASIA CORRESPONDENT

The smuggling of goods from the northern Borneo states of Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei to the Philippines has become so serious that a Filipino anti-smuggling delegation recently visited Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, for talks with officials.

The delegation, led by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is a sequel to a joint Malaysian-Filipino inspection trip in Sabah last October.

The smuggling, over which the talks were held, follows a history of piracy in the area, and despite extensive drives by the Philippine Navy the illegal trade is still flourishing in the South China Sea. As the naval patrols have become more intensive, the smugglers have been forced to become mechanised to survive. Informed sources report that "spy boats" are being used by the smugglers to gather information on the whereabouts of the patrols. The "spy boats", ordinary fishing boats equipped with radio sets, observe the movements of the naval patrols and report them to the smugglers' fast launches, which then make a detour among the many islands and evade the naval patrols without any difficulty.

The goods, mainly American cigarettes, on which 100 per cent duty

packi plan for a nuclear-free zone in central Europe.

What would be novel would be a conference to establish a fear-free zone over all Europe. This might achieve a true *detente* in Europe.

is paid in the Philippines, as well as transistor radios, diesel engines and bicycles, are mostly bought in Hong Kong and then shipped to one of the small northern Borneo ports. From there they are taken by the smugglers across the South China Sea to Mindanao, the large southern island of the Philippines.

From the Malaysian side the trade is perfectly legitimate, for the Malaysians do not know whether the "traders" who then ship the goods to the Philippines pay duty on landing them or not. For the Philippines it is an expensive racket and it is estimated that the evaded import duties total 120 million US dollars each year.

Whether the exchange of delegations will successfully curb the smugglers, who are reported to be using aircraft to drop smuggled cigarettes, remains to be seen. In the meantime an illegal and risky trade is being kept alive by the size of the profits accrued from it.

Will Britain go in?

FROM PETER HINTZEN

The Hague

With Europe looking on intently, Britain cautiously seeks Common Market membership. Premier Harold Wilson, formerly an opponent, now an ardent advocate of admission, typifies Britain's change of mood since President de Gaulle's abrupt "Non" in 1963.

While Wilson and Brown are visiting capital after capital (so far three out of six), people ask: has de Gaulle changed his mind?

"The most important point around which everything revolves," editorialises Holland's influential *Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant*, "is that de Gaulle understands perfectly well that he cannot say No for a second time. The 'Five' who unanimously favour Britain's entry would not have it. This would lead, in Chancel-

lor Kiesinger's words, to a clash of wills or standstill and possible disintegration of the Common Market. That is why de Gaulle much prefers to make Britain say No. This requires a game of tactics, but in this field Wilson has no equal."

Bonn finds itself between conflicting interests, according to Germany's news magazine *Der Spiegel*. Economically admission is advan-

Continued on page 17

The week in India

NEW DELHI—The Union Cabinet fixed 1971 as the date after which no further concessional imports of wheat would be sought. After 1971, India will do away with dependence on food aid, although it might still continue to import food-grains.

MANGALORE — Dr. Hiromichi Kono, head of a four-member Japanese team of technical experts visiting Mangalore, said that the Mangalore Harbour Project would be one of the finest in the world when completed.

BOMBAY—Mr. Babubhai M. Chinai, Congress MP, sustained a fracture of the left leg when he was attacked by a group of unknown persons after an election meeting.

NEW DELHI—In reply to a protest Note from the Pakistani High Commission, India told Pakistan that the circumstances in which an intruding Pakistani aircraft was shot down on February 2 did not justify the holding of any joint inquiry into the incident.

BHUBANESWAR — The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was hit by a stone at a public meeting and sustained injuries under the nose. The stone-throwing incident was the climax to continuous booing and jeering from a section of the 50,000-strong crowd.

BOMBAY — Indian shipowners are perturbed over the "inordinate" delay—up to 18 months—in the delivery of ships ordered by them from the State-owned Hindustan Shipyard at Visakhapatnam.

NEW DELHI—The first shipment of 103,400 tons of American wheat from the 900,000 tons authorised by President Johnson last December arrived in Visakhapatnam port.

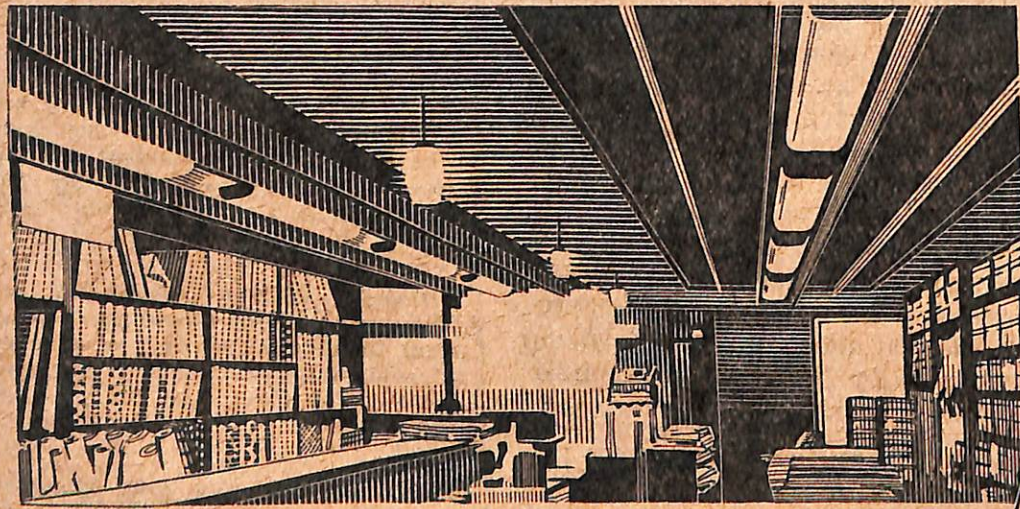
AIJAL — Top leaders of the outlawed Mizo National Front who have been captured by security forces during the last two months will be given a public trial shortly, according to a decision by the Assam Government.

BOMBAY — Forty-eight pilots, dock masters and dredging masters called off their five-day-old strike. When the strike ended, 16 ships were out in stream, while 23 were in the anchorage awaiting berthing. Out of the 40 ships inside the docks, 32 were ready to leave.

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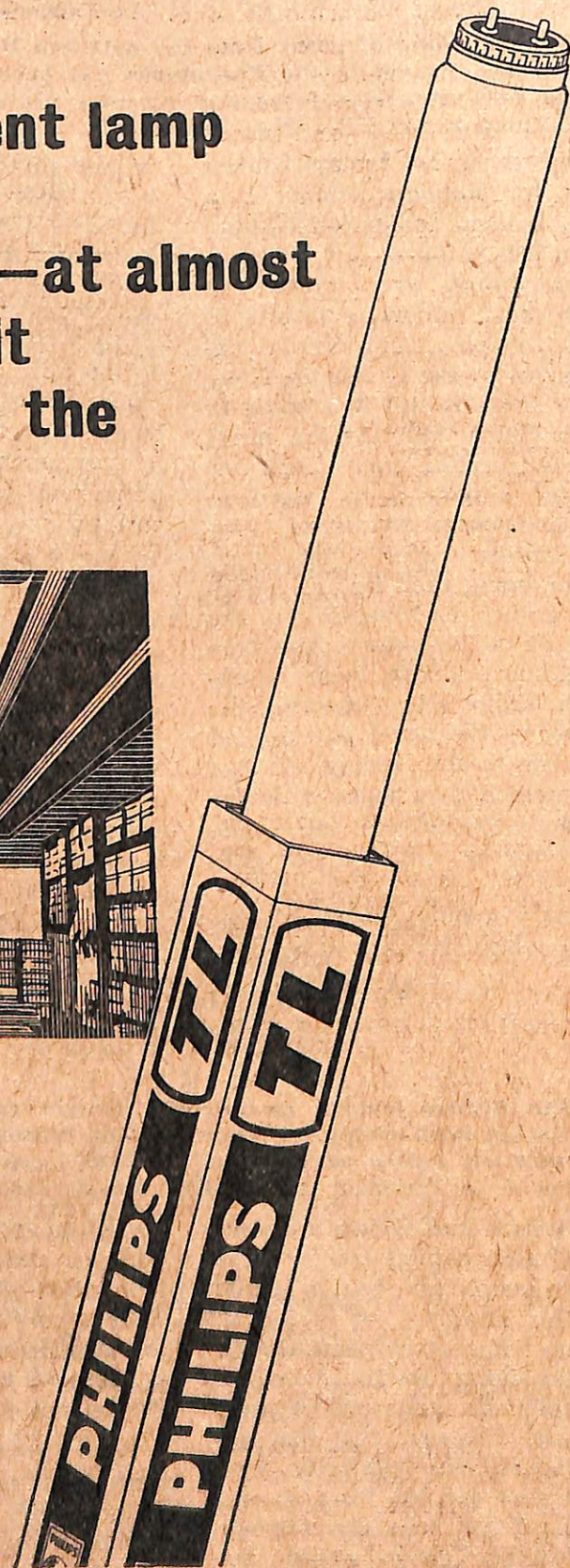


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FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

from page 15

tageous; politically, however, it is hard to reconcile this with friendship with Paris which has only just started to warm up again after several years of coolness.

For Britain herself, admission is a necessity: from 1958 to 1965 Common Market exports rose by 110 per cent whereas Britain lagged behind with a mere 48 per cent—and in order to live, she must export.

Formidable issues bar the door of admission. De Gaulle has so far kept Britain out because he considers her a sort of "51st State" of America. Here are some facts:

American investments in Britain equal US interests in all Common Market Countries put together. Anglo-American defence co-ordination in Nassau touched off de Gaulle's first No. Moreover the US Dollar and the Pound Sterling are, as the only world-wide reserve currencies, much interlinked. Even though the Pound is weak, 40 per cent of world trade depend on Britain's insurance and

Transit cargo port

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Colombo

The possibility of Colombo being used as a transshipment port for Middle East cargoes is being explored by the Port Cargo Corporation. Various port authorities are reported to have been approached with regard to this new venture.

The plan calls for the unloading of containerised cargo from the Middle East bound for the Far East and vice versa in Colombo and then transshipment by other vessels. A report will be made to the Minister of Nationalised Services, V. A. Sugatahadasa when the results of the contacts with the various port authorities have been concluded.

With many ports in the world thinking along the same lines as Colombo and equipping their ports to handle containerised cargo, it will be a tough assignment. But if successful, this could bring much needed foreign exchange. Colombo port is fast becoming efficient but with handling costs high, ships tend to bypass it and unload elsewhere.

banking services. So, soon after admission, Common Market business would naturally shift to London. Furthermore, the "Six" would have to buttress the Pound in moments of weakness and thus indirectly help the Dollar as well. De Gaulle, who dreams of combining Europe's strength to break America's supremacy, will find all this hard to stomach. So his conditions will be stiff.

Besides, either Britain will have to forego cheap supplies of Austra-

lian and New Zealand agricultural products or continental farmers will lose advantages which they just acquired. Developing countries are said to be apprehensive of Britain's entry, since it will lead to a further fall in raw materials prices. If all this could be fairly solved, Britain's admission would doubtless help Europe perform her task of serving the world better.

Where is their home?

FROM VERE JAMES

Nairobi

Between 50,000 and 60,000 people of Indian or Pakistani origin will leave East Africa during the next ten years, according to the "East African Standard". In an editorial commenting on the future of recent deportees from Tanzania, the newspaper appeals for a Commonwealth solution to the anticipated exodus, since all the countries involved are members.

The dilemma of Asians or Arabs in East Africa has been exposed by the recent Tanzania Government action in organising checks on employment permits. 73 traders have already been ordered to leave the country from Dar-es-Salaam and others must go from Arusha and Mwanza.

According to a spokesman for the Ministry of Home Affairs the campaign to expel unauthorised or unwanted foreign traders will continue. Those most affected are charcoal dealers, barbers, shoemakers, dry cleaners and other self employed traders "who make no contribution to the national economy" and whose jobs can be done by Tanzanians.

Many are people who have their roots in East Africa. Some have neither been nor want to go to Britain or India. Others are recent arrivals. All are accused by the Tan-

zania Government of evading the work permit regulations.

Both India and Britain have barred the entry into their countries of those whose passports are invalid. India says she will not accept deportees of Indian origin who do not hold Indian passports. Britain states that some persons described in their passports as citizens of the United Kingdom and the Colonies or British Protected Persons have lost their status as the result of the independence of former colonial territories such as Tanzania.

Stateless persons have until now been the jetsam of totalitarian regimes. The democracies of Britain, India, Pakistan and Tanzania, who all subscribe to the ideals of the Commonwealth, will need to reach some solution if the problem is not to explode.

By-election in Ceylon

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Colombo

The sacking of Mr. D. S. Samarasinghe, the unseated MP, from his post of Joint Secretary of Mrs. Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party brings into the open the split in the Opposition's ranks. Mr. Samarasinghe has long opposed Mrs. Bandaranaike's alliance with the Communists and Trotskyites.

The unseating of Mr. Samarasinghe for electoral malpractices was followed by a dispute over the nomination for an SLFP candidate in the by-election. Mr. Samarasinghe, the former MP for this constituency, felt he should have been consulted about the choice of a successor and his

choice would have fallen on his wife. Instead the former Minister of Trade, Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, who lost his own seat at the last election and who is a keen pro-Marxist, has been nominated.

Continued on next page



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FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

from page 17

The Communist Party paper, *Forward*, welcomes the nomination of Mr. Illangaratne who, it says, "has long been connected with all progressive causes".

Mrs. Samarasinghe has meanwhile entered the ring and has announced her candidature for the seat as an Independent, thus splitting the

SLFP vote. In a strongly worded statement she says, "I was forced to accede to the appeals of a large number of voters in Kolonnawa who were perturbed at the feudal, stubborn and unreasonable attitude of the President of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Mrs. Bandaranike."

The ruling party's candidate is the wife of the present Minister of Industries and Fisheries, Mr. Philip Gunawardene.

The election is on February 28.

The week elsewhere

MALAYSIAN MIGRATION

KUALA LUMPUR—The Malaysian Government has begun a planned migration from Malaya, where there is unemployment, to Borneo, where there is a labour shortage. The Malaysian Migration Fund Board expects to sponsor the movement of 1000 families a year. They will work on Borneo rubber and oil palm estates where development has been held up for lack of workers.

TANZANIA TAKE-OVER

DAR-ES-SALAAM—President Nyerere announced the nationalisation of all banks in Tanzania. He said this was part of his Government's plan for development through socialism and hard work! It was reported that compensation would be paid to banks. Later, nationalisation of eight food mills, import-export trade and insurance companies, including the local branch of the Life Insurance

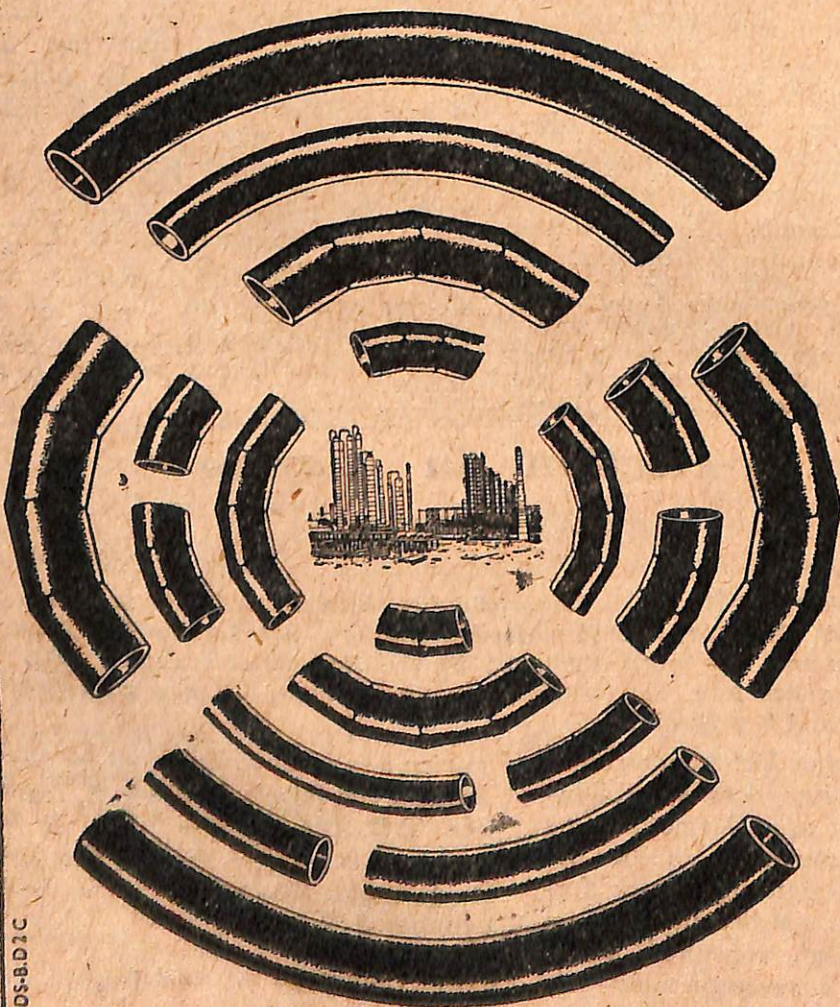
Corporation of India, was ordered.

KOSYGIN'S NO-WAR PACT

LONDON—Soviet Premier Kosygin told British industrialists that trade relations with Russia must be linked with the Soviet economy's planned development. He suggested eight years' joint planning on this basis. Kosygin was addressing the Confederation of British Industry during an official visit to the UK. To parliamentarians, he proposed an Anglo-Russian non-aggression pact.

ANTI-MAO REPUBLIC

BERLIN—According to East Berlin sources, anti-Mao leaders in Chinese Sinkiang are preparing to proclaim a republic of Uighurstan. Saiefuddin and General Wang En-mao, the Sinkiang leaders, are said to be in touch with Ulanfu, head of the Inner Mongolia region of China. According to Soviet sources, millions of Han Chinese have been settled in Sinkiang while thousands of Uighurs have fled into Russia.



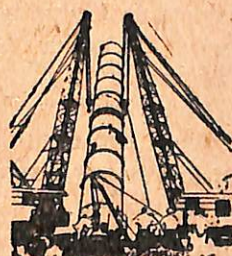
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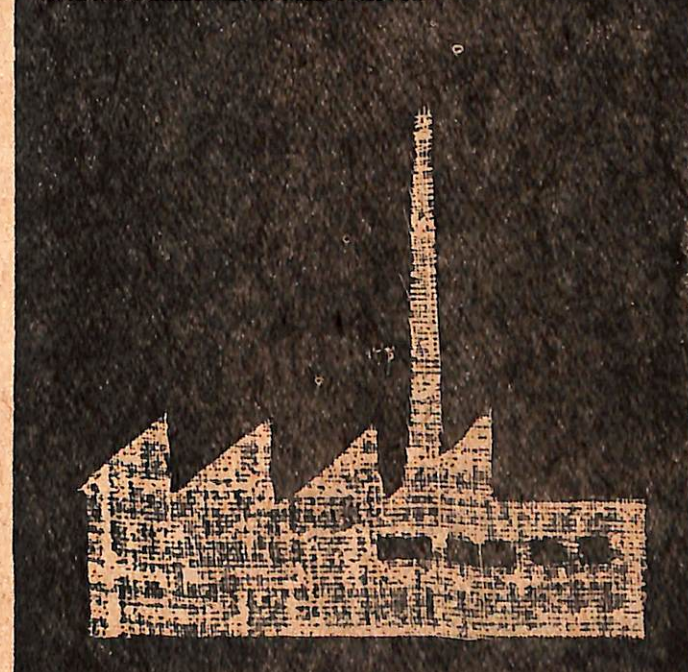
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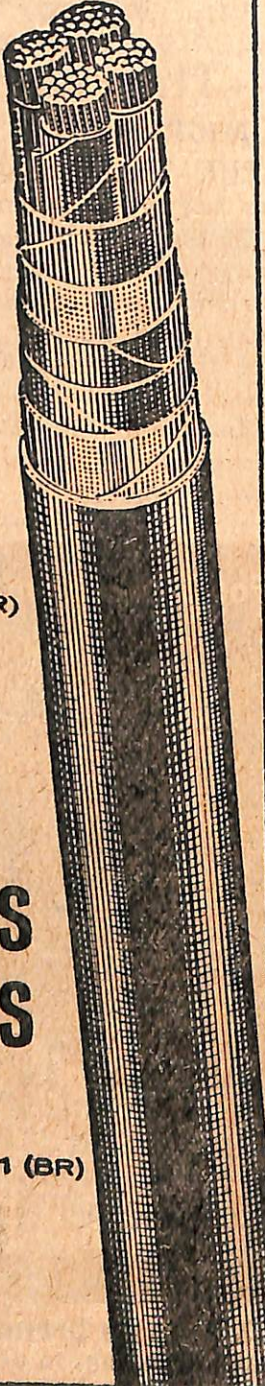


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Indian farmer chases world record wheat yield

"NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE if you set your mind to it," says Kanwar Mahinderpal Singh, the dynamic force behind a co-operative farm venture 20 miles north of Delhi.

In 1960-61 the Delhi Administration held a contest in the Kanjhawa Block for the highest wheat yield per acre. Mahinderpal Singh won this prize by obtaining 57 maunds (4674 lbs) of wheat per acre. (The average wheat yield in the UK is 3200 lbs per acre). In 1965-66 he produced 73.7 maunds (6000 lbs) per acre with a Mexican variety, S277. Encouraged by this, he is entering this year for the world record wheat yield competition.

I met Mr. Singh one afternoon on his farm. He is certainly no desk bound manager, unwilling to get his hands dirty. He is his own tractor mechanic and works long hours.

How have you been able to achieve this great production?

"When I took charge of these 300 acres in 1958 the land was frequently under water, intersected with ditches and ravines, and suffered under a high content of salinity. Almost half the land had never been cultivated previously and the highest wheat yield had only been 12 maunds (986 lbs) an acre.

Neighbours convinced

"For two years tractors worked practically day and night levelling the land, making drains and irrigation channels. The soil was analysed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. We began to use chemical fertilisers such as nitrogen, phosphates, and potash. The neighbours at first thought I was crazy and would deplete the soil of all its strength. Gradually they became convinced when they saw that for three years running, not only had the crop yields been increasing, but a great portion of the alkaline area had been reclaimed."

Do you have further plans?

"Today practically all the land has been brought under the plough and is cropped. With the addition of fertilisers, pesticides, quality seeds, adoption of modern techniques in cultivation, coupled with adequate water,

all crop yields have increased on an average of over 150 per cent. I am confident these yields can be further increased, and we are making every effort to do so."

Which variety of wheat do you produce?

"Previously I was growing Punjab wheats, but since last year I have changed over to the more promising Mexican varieties."

Do you grow other crops

"Being situated in the suburb of Delhi we had 75 per cent of the farm in fodder and vegetables. These crops included green peas, barseem, gram, oats, moong, paddy, sugar cane and tobacco. Today, however, I have switched to the higher yielding



Kanwar Mahinderpal Singh

varieties of cereals (paddy and wheat), because with growing vegetables one is too much at the mercy of the unscrupulous middleman. I am also laying out an orchard of 120 acres with mangoes, citrus, guavas and pomegranates. Since the very inception of the farm we have specialised in seed multiplication."

Is your water supply adequate?

"Our water is obtained through the Jamuna Canal, but this being inadequate it is supplemented by tube wells. I was the pioneer in boring

ON THE Spot

shallow tube wells in this area, and after many experiments I installed eight of them. They utilise the sub-soil water for irrigation and in turn help to lower the rising water table. Because of their relative low cost the neighbouring farmers have also begun installing similar wells.

Have you always been interested in farming?

"No, initially I was not interested. My father, Sir Datar Singh, a former Secretary of Agriculture for India, owned 10,000 acres of canal-irrigated land in Montgomery, now Pakistan. There we created one of the largest private dairy farms and were breeding famous Sahiwal cows and Murrah buffaloes. With the partitioning of India all this was lost. We were then given the present land in separate blocks near the village of Punjabkhor, Delhi State.

150% yield boost

"In 1949 I completed my Bachelor of Agriculture Science Degree from the Kanpur Government Agricultural College. In 1958, when our family were considering selling the land, I thought why not try a hand at scientific farming? So we pooled our lands to form a Co-operative Joint Farming Society.

Farming is a great joy to me now, and my wife and three daughters are as keen as I am. Farming gives you a broader vision on life and a satisfaction in a sense of achievement, to produce more food from land that was previously unproductive."

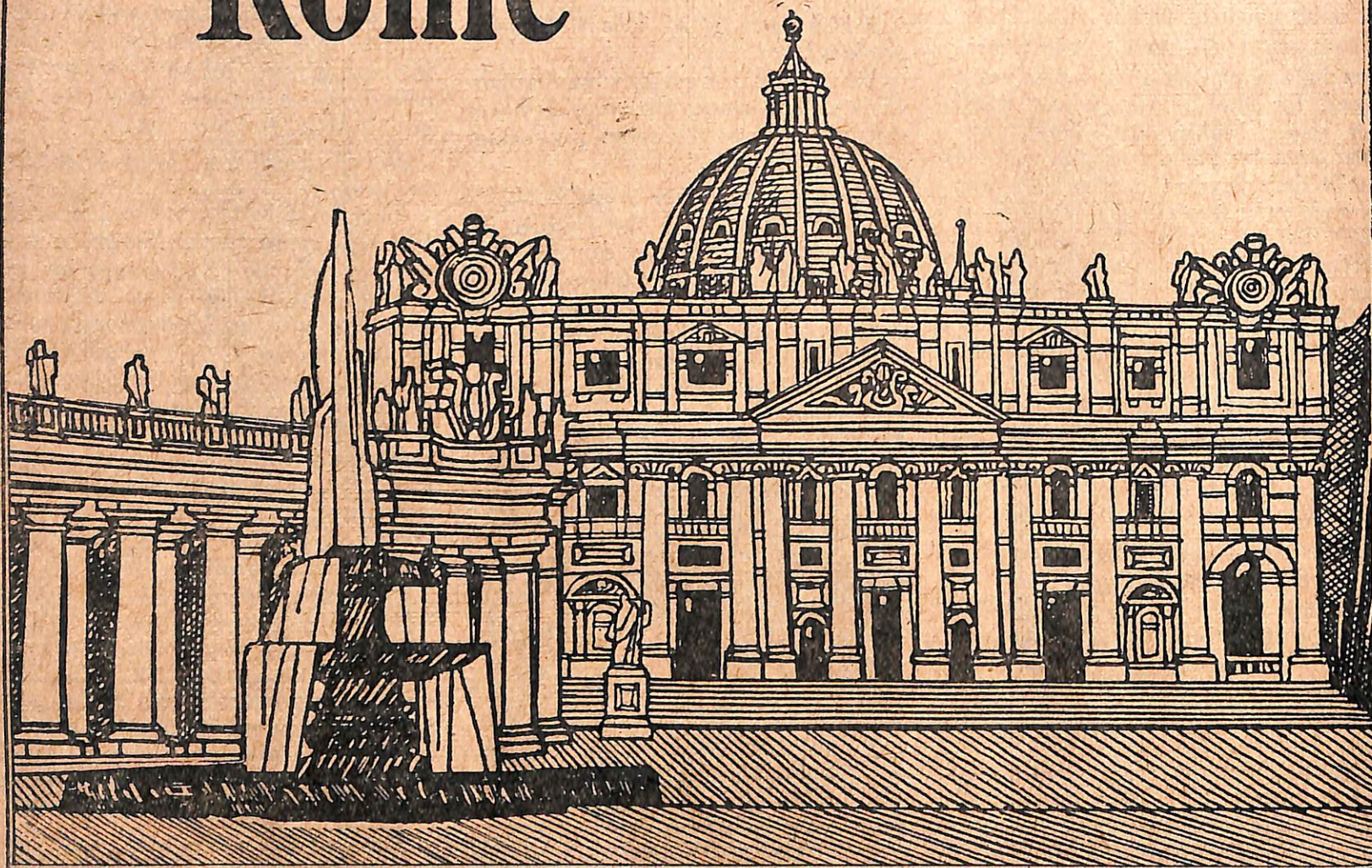
Can India become self sufficient in food?

"Most definitely, and one day could even export food. Production in this country could well be increased by over 50 per cent in a very short while, provided there are timely supplies of fertilisers and pesticides, small projects for irrigation, simplified credit facilities for the farmer and last but not least, that farming is put on industrial lines.

"In fact if we can boost our yields by 150 per cent, there is no reason why others can not do this. It is a pity for a country like ours with such

Continued on page 23

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On the spot—from page 21

vast resources, and with all the natural sunshine, to have to go around the world begging for food."

What reforms are necessary in Indian agriculture?

"Firstly, the land must go to the tiller, for only then comes the incentive for him to work harder in order to produce more and thereby earn more. Also, with a land ceiling of 30 acres which offers an annual remuneration of only 3000-4000 Rupees per family, how many people from industry will give up their jobs to go over to agriculture?"

"The Government has imposed no restrictions on the number of industries or urban property one may possess. These curbs on agriculture, therefore, must be removed and incentives given so that more of the intelligentsia can take on India's most vital industry. Ceilings should be on the fragmentation of holdings and not on the land the tiller can till.

"A floor price for food crops should be fixed. These prices must be remunerative when compared with cash crops. Finally, much more emphasis needs to be placed on importing fertilisers than on importing food. One bag of fertiliser will produce more than three bags of grain.

"We need to set ourselves a goal and then fight to reach it. Once we have the conviction we can surmount all problems. Life is so short we need to find our aim and stick to it."
G.H.

viewpoint

COMPETITION

* "Vote for the individual and not for the party"—do you agree?

Closing date: March 3

** Should the President have more power to intervene in political affairs?

Closing date: March 17

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Send entries of 500 words or less to Viewpoint, HIMMAT, First Floor, 294, Bazargate Street, Bombay-1

BOOKS

NEHRU: A Contemporary's Estimate, by Walter Crocker. (George Allen & Unwin. Pp 186. Price 28 sh.)

As Australian High Commissioner in India, Mr. Crocker had plenty of opportunities to know Mr. Nehru closely and well. At the same time his wide knowledge and experience of the world enabled him to see Mr. Nehru as a world figure and to estimate his permanent value. This has led to his producing a book which, Arnold Toynbee says, "will make a lasting place for itself" among the many books on Nehru.

He brings out the great qualities and achievements of Nehru and at the same time he does not mince words in criticising him. Fostering union, seeking social justice, empha-

sising the scientific approach, opposing prejudices and superstitions, and above all, the setting up and maintaining of a secular state, with planned moves towards an industrialised and partly socialist economy—these were the chief merits on the home front. In foreign policy the ceaseless striving for peace, the insistence on non-alignment and winning for India an estimable place among the nations of the world—these were the credits.

But Mr. Crocker is critical of the actions connected with Goa and Kashmir and he complains that within India "the mystical fabric of authority has been rent" and "India's greatest wealth, the contentment of the Indian people," has been destroyed.

It is a distinction of this book that the narrations and discussions proceed in a most attractive and eloquent way. Intimate knowledge, effort to be fair in all judgements and pleasing eloquence give a distinction to the book as a whole.

P.L.S.

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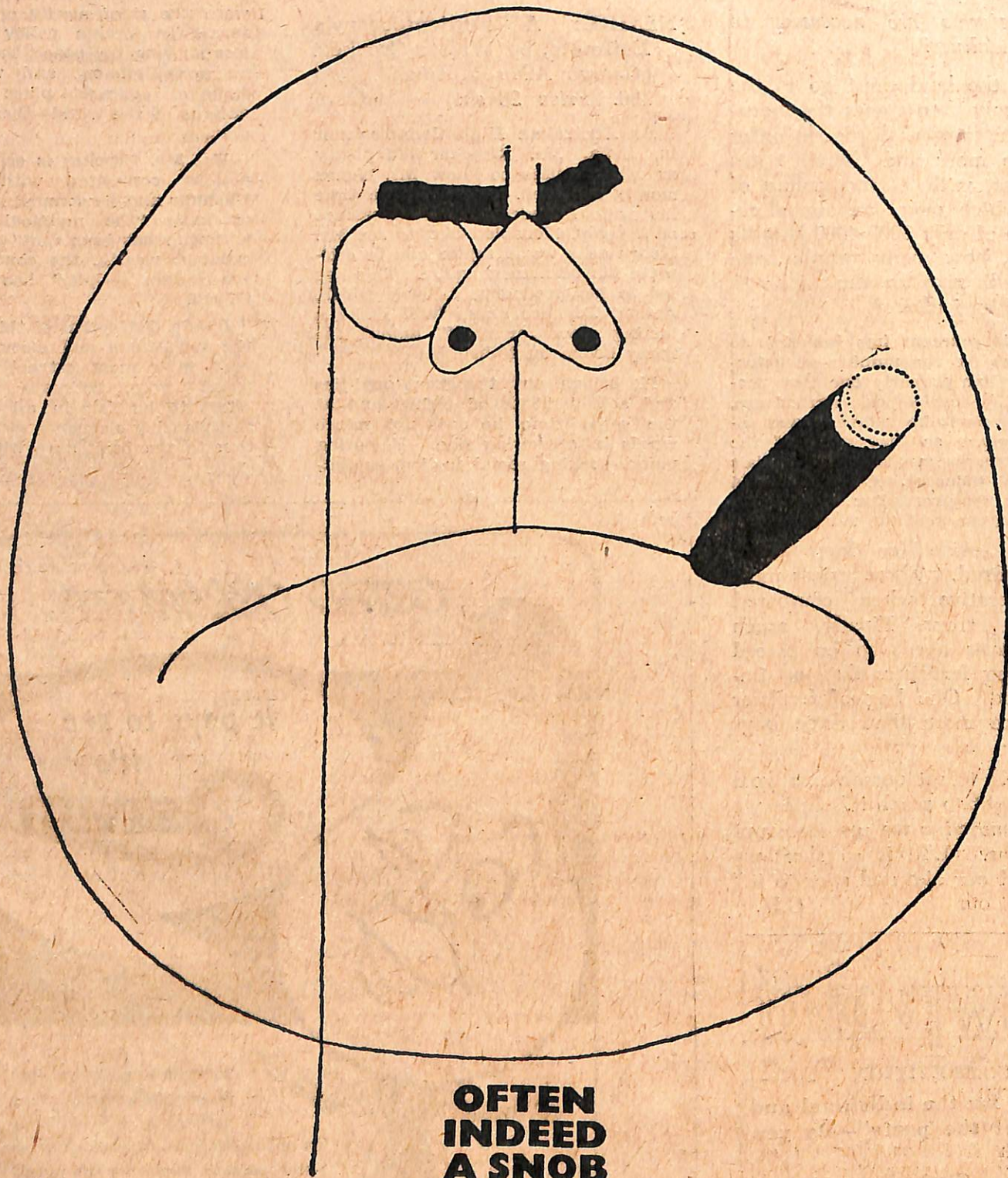
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But that is only when we must insist on a specified raw material rather than compromise with a non-standard substitute.

Or when we must reject what our own factories have produced, which do not conform to specifications.

Or when we must recommend to industry new methods of using our products and processes rather than preserve the old ways, which obstruct standardisation.

Or when we must question the ultimate quality of what we make, as we continually do. Yes, we are snobs, of a sort.....

INDIAN OXYGEN LIMITED 

This was a Life

**SHER SHAH
1486—1545**

Born Farid, son of an Afghan landholder, he was named Sher Khan by the Sultan of Bihar, whose life he saved by killing a charging tiger with his sabre. He assumed the title "Shah" when he laid claim to the throne of Hindustan.

In youth Sher Shah shone at studies. As administrator of his father's land he took as a guideline "That stability of government depends on justice". As a soldier he excelled in ruses. To capture the Bengal fortress of Rohtas he asked shelter for his womenfolk. But only the first carts to enter contained women. From the others, once inside, sprang Sher Shah's men who seized the gates, letting the rest of his army in to take the fort.

When Bihar's Sultan died, Sher seized power with the Sultan's widow's help. Next, he got control of the strong fortress of Chunar by winning the love of its guardian, the widowed Ladu Malika.

In 1539, Humayun, the Mogul Emperor, marched against his rising power. Sher Shah scattered his army in a surprise attack. A water-carrier saved the fleeing Emperor by carrying him across the Ganges on his water-skin. Humayun rewarded his rescuer by letting him occupy his throne for two hours. The water-carrier used the time to provide his family with large estates.

Next year Sher Shah again defeated Humayun and drove him from Hindustan. His five-year reign in Delhi prepared the way for Akbar, Humayun's son. He put down fractious nobles, punished crime, promoted trade and built highways including the 2000-mile road from Bengal to Peshawar.

Realising stable rule required regular revenue and contented peasants, he had land surveyed so taxes could be justly assessed, and devised rules to prevent extortion.

Sher Shah supervised his government in person. His favourite saying was, "The great must always be diligent."

He died after an explosion while besieging Kalinjar in Central India. Mortally wounded, he continued to direct the assault. When it succeeded he said, "Thanks be to God"—and never spoke again.

Letters

"VOTE FOR PARTY"

In your advice to voters (HIMMAT, February 3), you say the party is not the criterion but the man. Our experience has clearly shown that however good the man may be, so long as the government is by a party he is unable to do what he feels good to the common man. Mr. Menon and Mr. Nanda as Ministers, Mr. Sri Prakasa as Governor and also Smt. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Mr. Humayun Kabir, have all spoken of the ills inside the government and the party running it only after they had come out. But enough harm had already been done, and the existence of a few good men inside the government had no effect.

Even Dr. Radhakrishnan, being the President and functioning as the executive head of the government, has recently expressed in his Republic Day speech the defects in the present government. Obviously he, too, could not mend the ways of those in power and the helm of affairs.

Hence as long as the present system of Party Government continues we have to vote only for the party or parties grouping together for common cause.

T. S. RAMASWAMY
Secunderabad

NEW LEADERS

I have been a regular reader of your esteemed weekly right from its inception. I very much appreciate its frankness, forthrightness and fearlessness. The essays have always been candid and uncannily true. I cannot but praise Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi for their candour and shrewdness.

As was pointed out by Mr. Gandhi on many an occasion, India is in a dire need of good leadership. This "slide to disaster" is not what India deserves.

Mother India cries and asks her noble motives and broadmindedness to lead her to a glorious destination. MRA, under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi, has taken up the tough job of finding and training the leaders whom India wants today. I wish him every success in his job.

K. DASARADHARAMAYYA
Hyderabad 7

"FOOD AS LEVER"

According to reports published in a section of the press, Mr. Minoo Masani has defended the terms dictated by the USA in regard to trade with Cuba and North Vietnam and has further stated that there was no need for India to feel ashamed of having accepted these conditions.

No one can deny that the USA is entitled to insist that countries receiving aid should agree to the said conditions. But to use urgently required food as a lever to obtain acceptance by

India of these terms was singularly unfortunate.

If India had agreed to these terms because the course of action India was asked to take was right and proper, it would be a different matter. To browbeat India into accepting these terms as a condition before food, urgently required by people facing imminent starvation, could be made available to it, and for India to have agreed to these terms under these circumstances, was bad diplomacy on the part of the USA. It is nothing less than setting a dangerous precedent, humiliating India and mortgaging her sovereignty.

It is difficult to believe that a man with so sharp an intellect as Shri Masani has should have failed to appreciate the difference between agreeing to the terms voluntarily and freely and agreeing to the same terms under compulsion and under such humiliating circumstances.

G. A. ABBA

Bombay 11

BULLDOZING MINISTER

This is to fill in the question mark on the cover of HIMMAT (February 3).

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra will be Mr. D. S. Desai (not out of office). His bulldozing antics have already cowed and mowed down opposition, though one of them has put in a feeble protest in some vernacular magazine. Does might still rule in India?

B. VINOD

Poona

ALL PARTIES IN DOCK

In his article, "Surprises in West Bengal", Mr. Ajit Das accuses the Left Communists of "holding out many pledges" which were "inspired by selfish ideological or party interests" and being "expert in cashing in on all tricky situations to their own advantage". He also dubs them "the gods that failed".

But what is a trifling omission in his accusation is that he ought to have put all the political parties in the dock. In fact, such is the nature of all the political parties of this land.

Then about the number of candidates. Three hundred and sixty-seven from the opposition parties and 280 from the Congress gives the people of West Bengal 647 people to choose from for 280 Assembly seats, i.e. about 2-3 people per seat. Surely that is not such a "frustrating situation" in a democracy which presupposes the privilege to choose.

As for his remark that "some of the stalwarts will be left out of the legislature", I think the country would have shaped better if there had been some stalwarts.

RATNA SEN

Calcutta

INDIA ARISE leaves for Europe



Moment of history

by Rajmohan Gandhi

IT IS IN GIVING that we receive. On Saturday last, 63 men and women from India, Ceylon, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and America left New Delhi by an Air-India Boeing for Lebanon. Beirut will be their first stop in a journey through the Middle East, Europe and Britain.

Forty-six of them are Indians. All of them take part, on or off-stage, in the "India Arise" show, which is the story of a challenge met.

These men and women have gone to give Moral Re-Armament to the nations they will visit. Their aim is not response or the creation of a new Indian image. It is to help other nations solve their problems. They want so to live and work that God might use them to give men they meet qualities of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love.

Far from perfect

Their desire is to enable each country they go through to find and play its special role in rebuilding this broken world.

These men and women are far from being perfect. Like all of us, they have their ups and downs. But their strongest wish is to be of service and help to other nations and the Almighty will honour that.

In my knowledge this is the first time that a group of Indians of this size is going to move unitedly across continents with the dominant purpose of giving. Their action marks a moment of history.

Costly and moving sacrifice has been responsible for the opportunity they have. Their journey and their expenses in the Middle East and Europe will be paid for by friends and fellow fighters over there.

Here is letter from a friend in London telling about it: "How I wish that all those who are coming could have shared with us here the wonder of these last days as money has poured in from all over the country for the fares of the 'India Arise' party. Our target of the first £15,000 was topped about half an hour before we received notification of the sum to be remitted to Delhi. Behind each gift is a story often of real sacrifice or

fight. The widow who wrote, 'India's immediate needs are more important than my future.' The trade unionist who gave his complete unopened pay packet of £14. The secretary who gave all the savings she had of £5. The retired missionary who gave £1500. The button manufacturer who gave £500 after one conversation over lunch. The surgeon who gave a day's operation fees amounting to £100. The ward sister, 'born in India and my father and grandfather before me'."

Generous help from Switzerland, Holland and Scandinavia, added to the British effort, brought the figure to £15,000. More is being collected.

Those who invited "India Arise" to Britain and Europe offered to raise all the foreign exchange required for the journey and thereby made it easier for our Government to grant permission and P forms. The offer was a courageous step in faith. It was vindicated by the large number of ordinary men and women who contributed at considerable cost to themselves.

The cost of clothing and equipping the "India Arise" force and of giving them training before they set out was about Rs. 50,000. This is being raised in India through donations by friends and relatives of those who were invited and by others who believe that financing their journey is an investment in India's future and the world's.

Content to serve

The "India Arise" men and women will, I believe, be used to change people where they go, bridge divisions and heal hates. This will happen not because they are basically virtuous, but because they are honest about their natures and have decided to use their lives for other people.

They will be happy to give their show when asked, or work without it if that is felt right. They will be content to give their best in whatever work or opportunity comes to them.

It is their life together which will matter most of all. Over the last months they have learned invaluable lessons. They have understood the forces of ambition

and jealousy in their lives and discovered how these can be answered.

Problems at home are no barrier to giving answers abroad. Exporting men and women who have some knowledge of how to deal with human nature can become India's normal way of life.

As a show, "India Arise" has been a remarkable triumph inside India for the last nine months—in Bombay, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madras, Andhra, Bengal, Rajasthan, Delhi and Punjab. There is no doubt whatever that it will win audiences everywhere to a new appreciation of India and what she stands for.

But a new world, a world where man no longer cheats, hates, worships or exploits his fellow man, is the target of "India Arise's" men and women, and a new Indian image will be the fruit of their battle, not its aim.

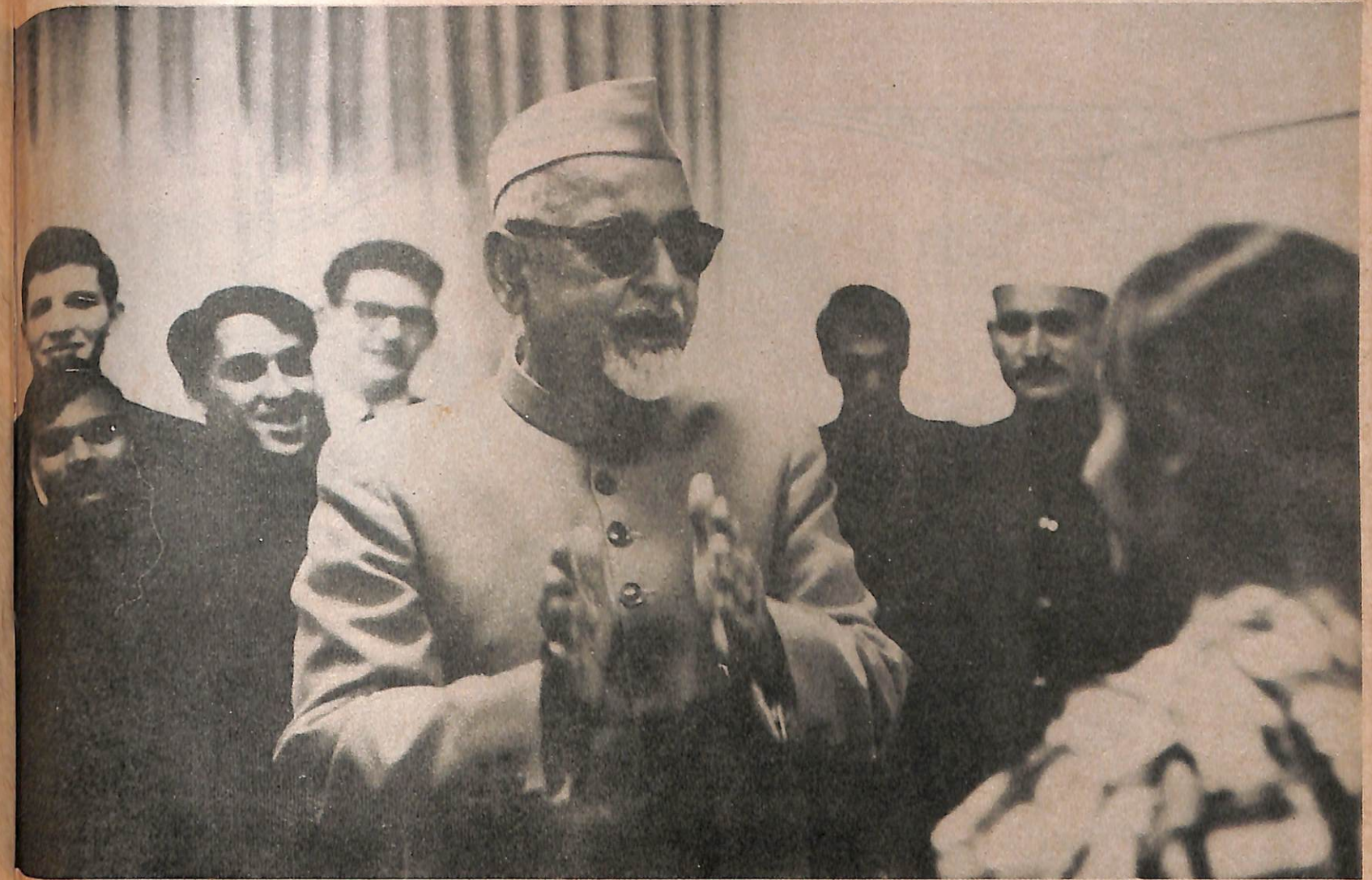
Brahmin and Harijan

What India can do in and for the Middle East, Europe, Africa, the Americas and the rest of Asia ought to be the rightful concern of the man in the street, the student, the peasant and the worker, as well as of the officials of India's External Affairs Ministry.

An extraordinary range of backgrounds is represented in the "India Arise" force. There are Brahmins and Harijans, rich and poor, old and young, city folk and villagers.

In a written message given for use on their journey the Vice-President of India, Dr. Zakir Husain, says: "I am so glad that 'India Arise' is going on this important journey abroad. I know the work you are doing of putting right what is wrong in the world. But you should never forget that it is difficult work and requires immense patience. The youth must aspire to live for the country and for the future of man. I wish you every success on this journey."

We in India may be, and should be, conscious of our hates and fears and selfishness, but the world seems to need us. This group of our men and women launching out into the world may set a pattern for a solution of India's internal problems as well as for our relationship with the rest of the world.



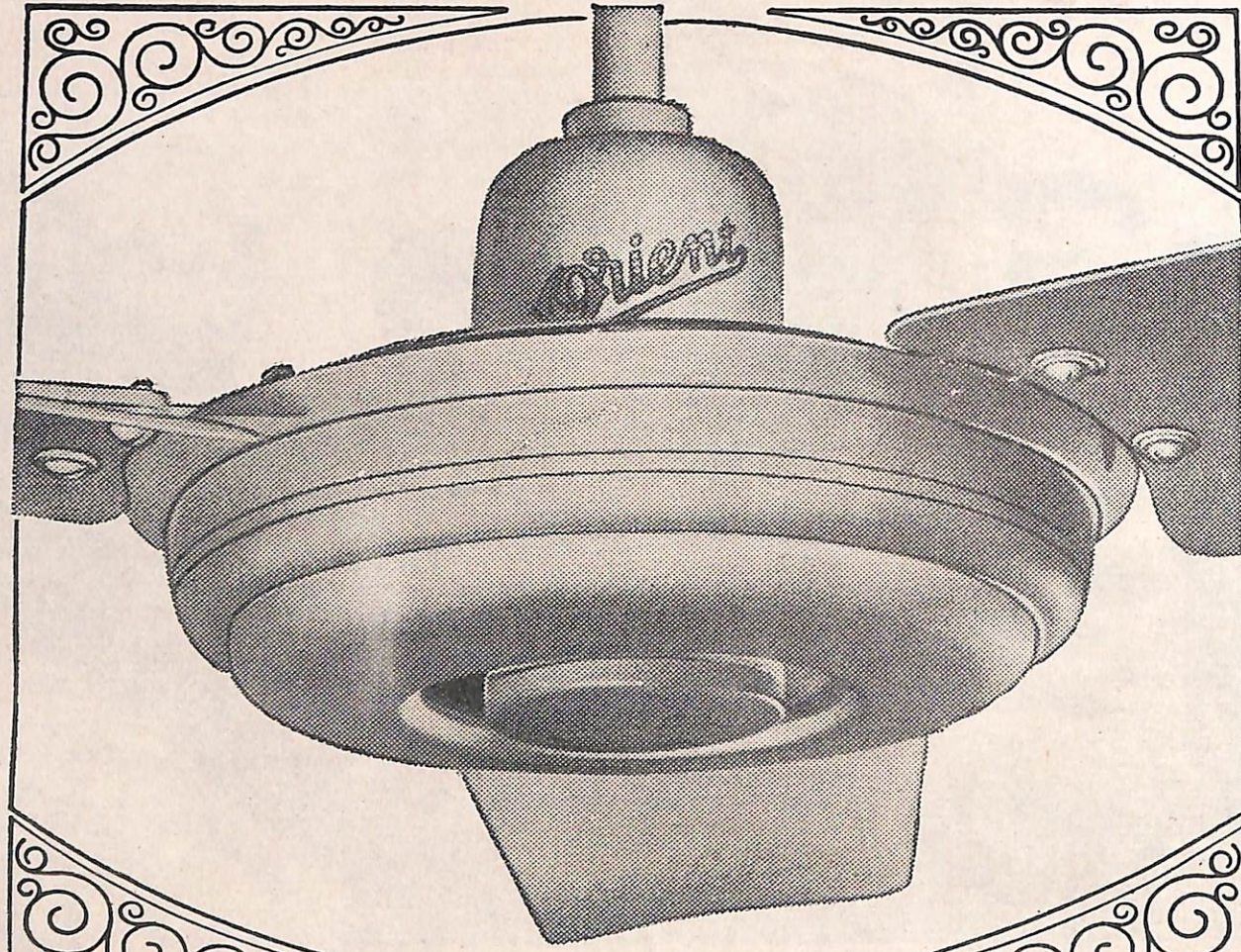
▲ Vice-President Zakir Husain gave a reception to the cast of the Moral Re-Armament musical INDIA ARISE on the eve of "your important journey" to the Middle East and Europe. He told them, "Getting independence was a difficult job, but what you have taken on is equally difficult."



▲ The 63-member cast of INDIA ARISE left Palam Airport, New Delhi, last Saturday.



▶ Their arrival in Beirut was televised in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Cyprus and Turkey. They were welcomed at Beirut Airport by Mr. Melhem Salman, Director of Youth for the Lebanon.



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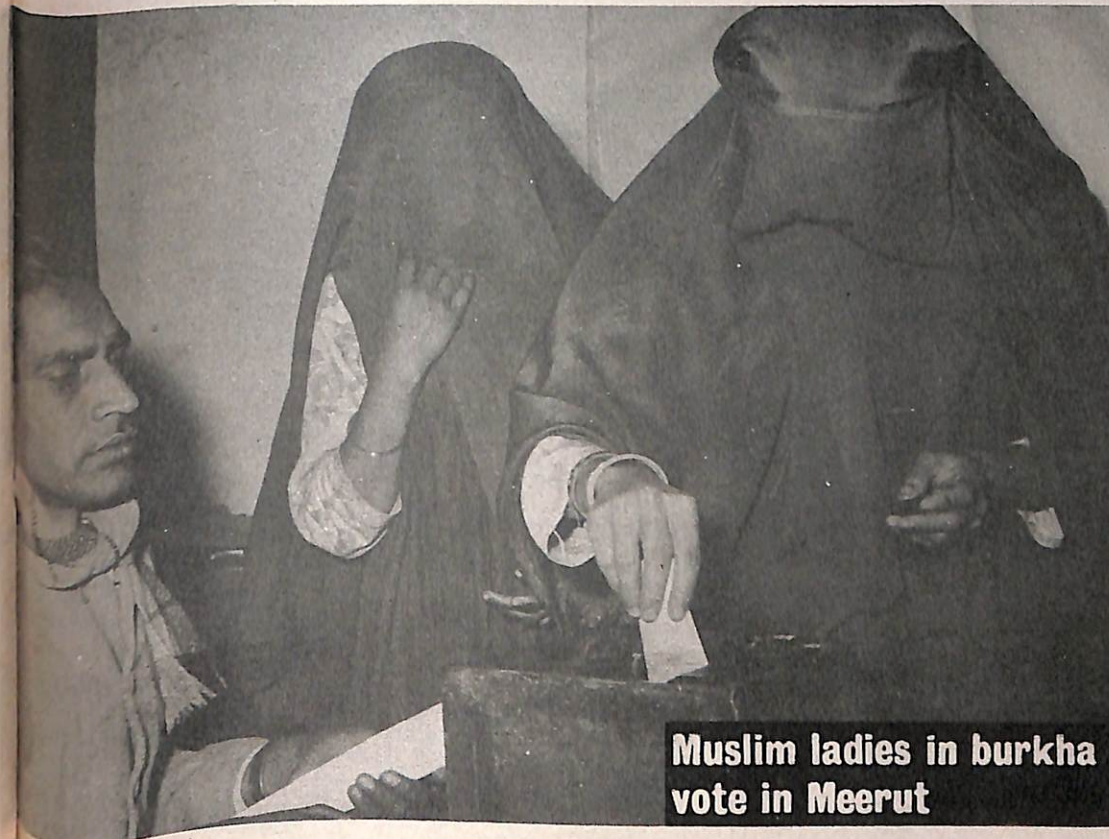
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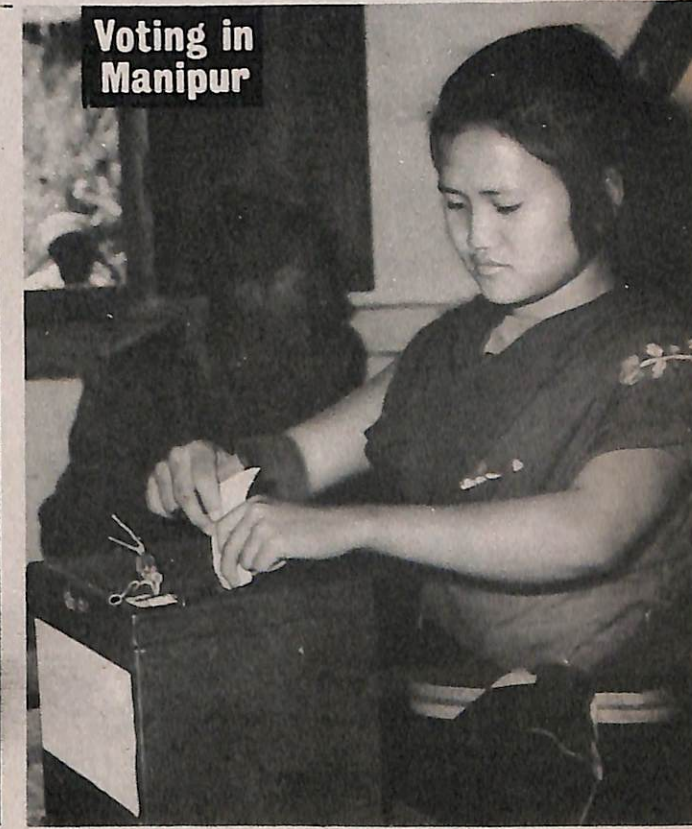
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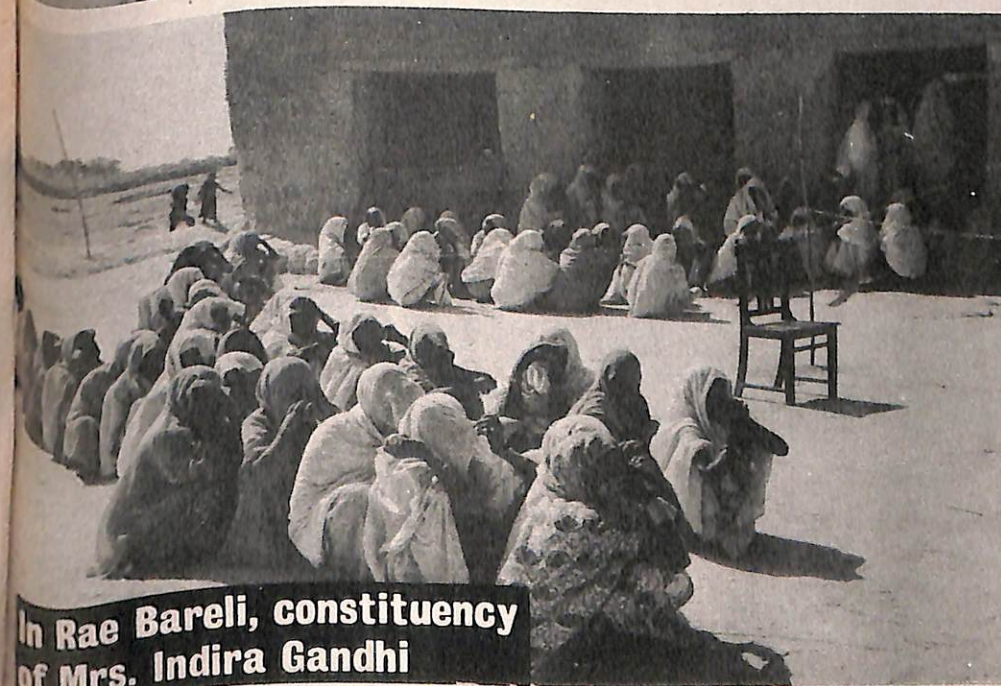
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by Rajmohan Gandhi

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