

Five More Jailed

On Thursday, July 1st at Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate's Court, Pandit Misir, prominent P.P.P. member, along with Lloyd Duncan, Edwin Mercurius, Vincent George and Lawrence Vincent protested against "coming here every day and coming back again and still coming back and yet the case can't seem to start." Misir told the Court that he would not be coming back again and that he was uplifting his own surety. The others also intimated to the Court that they wished to uplift their own surety and would not be attending Court.

Magistrate Burch Smith then ordered that the defendants be immediately taken into custody and locked up until July 8th. These incidents arose out of charges against Misir and others for holding a procession at Vreed-en-Hoop on Empire Day. It was the second time a Special Court was called at Vreed-en-Hoop to hear this case. Barrister Luck represented the Party members.

Court Finds Party Secretary Guilty

On July 1st a crowded court room heard Magistrate Bolders give his decision of guilty in the case of unlawful possession of a

Manual of Riot Drill brought against Janet Jagan by the Police. Overruling Barrister Burnham's no case submission, Magistrate Bolders fined Mrs. Jagan \$150 or three months imprisonment with hard labour. Barrister Burnham told the Court that "The judgement was predetermined. The findings of law laid down by this Court are miserably wrong". Magistrate Bolders expressed surprise at the statement coming from a member of the "English Bar" Replying, Mr. Burnham said—"Though a member of the English Bar I have to get the permission of a policeman to carry on my practice and I see no point in crediting me with a sin in one

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EDITORIAL

ON THE BANNING OF BOOKS.

Fascism first made a strong entry into British Guiana when on February 27, 1953 the old Legislative Council passed the Undesirable Publications Ordinance. At that time it was vigorously opposed by the People's Progressive Party which picketed the Public Buildings protesting against the bill. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the Party's sole Legislative member at the time made a historic oneman stand, speaking for six hours in an attempt to delay the passage of the bill which would rob the people of their rights. This bill which was passed and was popularly called the "Luchko Subversive Literature Bill," sought legal means of banning not only books, but films, material for reproduction in the press, and the opening and detaining of postal packets by the Postmaster General. Its purpose was to place a ban on all new ideas and regiment thought and knowledge in accordance with the whims and fancies of the body empowered to issue orders making specific publications unlawful.

Under this Ordinance the Governor in Council can issue orders making it illegal to bring into the Colony any publications, recordings, films, dies, tools and postal packets. Any person who imports, publishes, sells, offers for sale, distributes or reproduces any publication, engraving or importation of which had been prohibited can be charged, and if found guilty be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 and/or to imprisonment not exceeding 12 months. In addition, the Government can seize all these prohibited articles. Another section of the bill states that any one who without lawful excuse has in his possession any publication, engraving or die, the importation of which has been prohibited, shall be subjected to a fine of \$250 and/or imprisonment not exceeding six months.

During the General Elections, the Undesirable Publications Ordinance became a key issue. The people were thoroughly against the Government having any control over their reading and resented deeply the efforts to restrict and regiment their ideas. In other words, the people vigorously opposed the denial of their civil liberties. It became an election issue of the utmost importance. The People's Progressive Party pledged in its manifesto that it would remove from the Statute books that and all other legislation which denied the people their rights.

REPEAL OF ORDINANCE

Four months after the passing of the Ordinance and two months after the Party won an overwhelming victory at the polls, the Minister of Education, Mr. L. F. S. Burnham introduced in the House of Assembly a bill intituled "An Ordinance to repeal the the Undesirable Publications (Prohibition of Importation) Ordinance 1953" In the objects and reasons it was stated—"It is now considered that this Ordinance should be repealed since it was a denial of a human right". This Bill approved by the House.

When the Bill went to the State Council, it was passed with the exception of one clause. This clause concerning the invalidation of acts was recommended for deletion. When the bill was returned to the House of Assembly in the latter part of August, the House did not accept the State Council's recommendation. See next page

About five weeks later, the Constitution was suspended Governor was given full powers of administration. The parts to repeal the Ordinance was cited as one of the Party in the White Paper. Therefore the Undesirable Publications Ordinance remained in the statute books of British Guiana. Ordinance the Governor has since banned 22 publications common knowledge that thirteen persons have already been with being in possession of prohibited publications.

Under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948 (of which Great Britain is a member nation) it is stated "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference, to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

It is, of course, abundantly clear that while this principle may apply to Great Britain where there are no restrictions on the people may read, it does not apply to this colony. evidently a double standard whereby the people of British Guiana are denied the right to read what can be purchased in any bookshop in England.

LIBERTY LOST

The free exchange of ideas which is so essential if the progress cannot be achieved unless the most important condition in this exchange is free from any restrictions. Once these conditions imposed, once literature is prohibited, the liberty of the most precious possession, is lost. When one considers the publications banned by the Governor, it is clear that the motive of this prohibition is that Guianese must not read about the matters that are happening all over the world. They must not be given an example, that young people in other countries are uniting against colonialism; or they must be kept ignorant of the real state in Kenya; or they must not know what is taking place in the people's democracies.

Guianese, in other words, must read what the author permits. Their knowledge of world affairs, economics, culture, etc. must be obtained from the capitalist press and the books that the commercial concerns chose to import. According to the minds of Guianese must be sheltered from ideas which would lead them to think—to think differently from the way in which they want them to think. That is the crux of the whole matter.

The people of this country have displayed a great thirst for knowledge and new ideas. Literature containing new ideas shattering lies spread by the reactionary press, posing the truth have been eagerly snatched up by the people the time many years ago when Dr. Jagan first began importing and distributing books on a wide scale, there has been a new political awareness that had never before been seen. Those who want to be assured that their opposition to British colonialism know that they must build a tide of knowledge. That they are fighting a losing battle.

The People's Progressive Party's remarkable and persistent efforts to eradicate fascism from this country will always be a beacon to the progressive forces fighting to end all tyrannies. Party's efforts to restore all civil rights to the inhabitants of this country will never cease and we have every confidence that the collective and persistent efforts of the people that the law will finally be repealed.

SUPPORT P.P.P. BOYCOTTS BY DRINKING LESS RUM

Written by Editor- Janet Jagan July 1954

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respect and lack of status in another". Highlight of the case was the conflicting evidence given by Police Officers King and Sampson. Supt. King claimed he received only one copy of the Manual of Riot Drill while Sampson claimed that he gave King two Copies. Notice of appeal was given.

Khanto Start Fast

Mohamed Khan who was sent to jail for breaking the restriction orders placed upon him by Governor Savage has decided to go on a fast in protest against the Emergency Orders. Khan in writing to the Governor demanding an end to the Emergency Regulations.

EDITORIAL**IN THE BANNING OF BOOKS.**

ism first made a strong entry into British Guiana when on July 27, 1953 the old Legislative Council passed the Undesirable Publications Ordinance. At that time it was vigorously opposed by the People's Progressive Party which picketed the buildings protesting against the bill. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the sole Legislative member at the time made a historic stand, speaking for six hours in an attempt to delay the passage of the bill which would rob the people of their rights. The bill which was passed and was popularly called the "Luckhoo Literature Bill," sought legal means of banning not only books, but films, material for reproduction in the press, and the opening and detaining of postal packets by the Postmaster. Its purpose was to place a ban on all new ideas and thoughts and knowledge in accordance with the whims and fancies of the body empowered to issue orders making specifications unlawful.

Under this Ordinance the Governor in Council can issue orders making it illegal to bring into the Colony any publications, books, films, dies, tools and postal packets. Any person who publishes, sells, offers for sale, distributes or reproduces any publication, engraving or importation of which had been prohibited can be charged, and if found guilty be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 and or to imprisonment not exceeding 12 months. In addition, the Government can seize all these prohibited articles. Another section of the bill states that any one who has in his possession any publication, or die, the importation of which has been prohibited, is liable to a fine of \$250 and / or imprisonment not exceeding six months.

At the General Elections, the Undesirable Publications Ordinance became a key issue. The people were thoroughly against the Government having any control over their reading and resented the Government's efforts to restrict and regiment their ideas. In other parts of the country people vigorously opposed the denial of their civil liberties and became an election issue of the utmost importance. The Progressive Party pledged in its manifesto that it would repeal the Statute books that and all other legislation which infringed on the people their rights.

REPEAL OF ORDINANCE

Within a few months after the passing of the Ordinance and two months after the Party won an overwhelming victory at the polls, the Minister of Education, Mr. L. F. S. Burnham introduced in the Legislative Assembly a bill intitled "An Ordinance to repeal the Undesirable Publications (Prohibition of Importation) Ordinance and the objects and reasons it was stated—"It is now considered that this Ordinance should be repealed since it was a denial of the people's right". This Bill approved by the House. When the Bill went to the State Council, it was passed with the deletion of one clause. This clause concerning the invalidation of the Ordinance recommended for deletion. When the bill was returned to the House of Assembly in the latter part of August, the House did not accept the State Council's recommendation.

About five weeks later, the Constitution was suspended and the Governor was given full powers of administration. The P.P.P. efforts to repeal the Ordinance was cited as one of the Party's "crimes" in the White Paper. Therefore the Undesirable Publications Ordinance remained in the statute books of British Guiana. Under that Ordinance the Governor has since banned 22 publications. It is common knowledge that thirteen persons have already been charged with being in possession of prohibited publications.

Under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948 (of which Great Britain is a member nation) it is stated that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression"; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

It is, of course, abundantly clear that while this human right may apply to Great Britain where there are no restrictions on what the people may read, it does not apply to this colony. There is evidently a double standard whereby the people of British Guiana are denied the right to read what can be purchased in any bookstore in England.

LIBERTY LOST

The free exchange of ideas which is so essential if there is to be progress cannot be achieved unless the most important medium for this exchange is free from any restrictions. Once there are restrictions imposed, once literature is prohibited, the liberty of man, his most precious possession, is lost. When one considers the 22 publications banned by the Governor, it is clear that the motive behind the prohibition is that Guianese must not read about the many things that are happening all over the world. They must not be aware, for example, that young people in other countries are uniting to fight colonialism; or they must be kept ignorant of the real state of affairs in Kenya; or they must not know what is taking place in the new people's democracies.

Guianese, in other words, must read what the authorities will permit. Their knowledge of world affairs, economics, culture, science etc. must be obtained from the capitalist press and the books which the commercial concerns chose to import. According to this law, the minds of Guianese must be sheltered from ideas which may cause them to think—to think differently from the way in which the rulers want them to think. That is the crux of the whole matter.

The people of this country have displayed a great hunger for knowledge and new ideas. Literature containing new concepts, books shattering lies spread by the reactionary press, pamphlets exposing the truth have been eagerly snatched up by the people. Since the time many years ago when Dr. Jagan first began importing and distributing books on a wide scale, there has been a new awakening and a political awareness that had never before been seen: That is what they fear. Those who want to be assured that there will be no opposition to British colonialism know that they must hold back the tide of knowledge. That they are fighting a losing battle is clear.

The People's Progressive Party's remarkable and consistent efforts to eradicate fascism from this country will always serve as a beacon to the progressive forces fighting to end all tyranny. The Party's efforts to restore all civil rights to the inhabitants of this country will never cease and we have every confidence that by the collective and persistent efforts of the people this infamous law will finally be repealed.

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