

TWO STUDENTS MET, & WED

Now they lead a country

Daily Worker Reporter

THE tale of two students, who met in Chicago in 1940 and today lead the Government of their country was told yesterday by one of them, 32-year-old Janet Jagan, of British Guiana.

Mrs. Jagan, who is American by birth, met her husband when she was studying nursing and he dentistry at the University of Chicago. When they married and returned to his native country of British Guiana, in 1943, there were no popular organisations there except trade unions.

Today Dr. Jedi Jagan is leader of the People's Progressive Party Government of British Guiana and head of the first government to be elected by universal franchise, which won 18 out of the 24 seats in the Legislative Assembly elections this May.

And his wife is general secretary of the party, editor of its monthly paper, Thunder, and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

On her way back home from attending the Women's International Congress at Copenhagen last month, Mrs. Jagan told me yesterday how this great movement has been built in the space of ten years.

Small group

"It started from a small group of people—we called it the Political Committee," she said, "which organised support for the trade union struggles in British Guiana, but combined this with explaining the need to fight for our civil rights, for self-government, against British imperialism.

"When a big strike in 1948 was put down with shooting, this movement became very well known, for the work it did to help the strike and win active support from the whole people for it.

"The other important movement from which we sprang was a movement among the women, who began to organise themselves and demand better housing, education, better wages and the vote.

"Because of the work we had done my husband was elected as an Independent to the Legislative Assembly in 1947 and for five years he was alone there in voicing the needs of the people for higher living standards and for democratic rights."

Suffrage won

When the British Government sent its commission to British Guiana in 1950 to investigate the need for constitutional changes, the People's Progressive Party organised a great demonstration to meet it, demanding universal suffrage and an elected, instead of a partly appointed, Assembly.

"Of course the Commission gave away as little as possible, so that much of the power in British Guiana still rests with the Colonial Office.

"But we did win universal



MRS. JAGAN

suffrage, and we did explain to the people the importance of using their vote," said Mrs. Jagan.

"I think the party has won such support because it has succeeded in combining fighting for the small local school house with explaining the real big fight with British Imperialism.

"Now we have to tackle all the problems with which Imperialism faces us," she said. "That is how we shall really prove our party's worth."

First problems the Government has to tackle are those of land reform and irrigation. That brings it straight up against the big sugar companies, who own the coastal land and maintain feudal conditions for the small peasant farmers.

"Our work has only just begun, so let nobody think we can sit back and say we've arrived," was Mrs. Jagan's final, smiling word.

Where to find our £3,750

MANY keen readers today will be looking, with me, at this holiday month in front, and thinking "Where is the full £3,750 for our Paper's Fighting Fund to be found?"

Many new readers, interested and curious about this unique feature of the British Press—the Fund Column of the paper whose readers build its own independence—may well be asking: "Where does the Daily Worker find its givers of £3,750?"

It is all-important that I answer both these questions at the outset. The struggle to win will be fierce, against the holiday tide—but I firmly believe we can win, and we **MUST**.

I can answer them in one. The money is to be found in the pocket of every peace-lover and Socialist throughout the entire country.

There are thousands upon thousands **MORE** pockets than have been drawn upon till now; with hundreds upon hundreds **MORE** of our keen readers explaining why we need it.

IT MUST BE FOUND! WE NEED EVERY ONE OF YOU!

One reader who has understood and begun, writes thus, with 4s.:

"I don't know why I have not sent before, certainly not through lack of feeling for our paper. It must be that it seems such a small drop in the ocean.

"There must be many who think as I did, what difference will it make? Two make? We've been wrong. It makes **ALL** the difference."

We start with the tiny sum of £35 16s 11d.

BARBARA NIVEN

Send donations to Barbara Niven, People's Press Fighting Fund, Daily Worker, William Rust House, 75 Farringdon Road, London, E.C.1.

MAKING U.S. RIDICULOUS

A cut of 84 per cent in the £381 million requested by President Eisenhower for the Voice of America and other foreign information agencies was recommended yesterday by the American House of Representatives Appropriations Committee.

The Foreign Information Programme, said the committee, employed far too many people, many of whom spent their time on work which made the United States look "ridiculous."