

People's Progressive Party

MANIFESTO

PROGRAMME & POLICY



CHEDDI JAGAN



AEROPLANE

DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, Leader, PPP Served in Legislative Council, 1947 to 1953 Leader of House of Assembly and Minister of Agriculture in the 1953 P.P.P. Government. Spent 6 months in jail, 1954, in Part s' non co-operation campaign. President of Sawmill Workers Union for 4 years. Chairman, Rice Rice Producers' Association: Vice-Chairman B.G. Rice Marketing Board.

Educated: Howard University Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois U.S.A.

VOTE

P. P. P.

FOR A NEW DEAL

INTRODUCTION

In the confusion of lies, confessions and personal abuse to which some politicians and political parties have resorted, the real issues of the present election campaign are becoming sidetracked.

It is well at this time to remember that the real issue in B.G. is the ending of colonialism.

Unfortunately the All Party Conference broke down. The fact that it came into existence was in itself a great achievement. It failed, however, because of the vacillation of some of its members.

Where, therefore, there was unity, however weak, there is now only confusion and jockeying for seats. Winning of seats have to some become an end to itself.

For us, the coming elections and the winning of seats are only means to an end: the goal of national independence. We are concerned with the winning not of one or a few seats, or for that matter more seats than any other party. What we are concerned with is the winning of an overall majority of seats.

For it should be clear to any observer that **if a multiplicity of parties and independents are returned without any single party having an overall majority the Governor and the Colonial Office will still be bossing the show.**

There will then be a disguised dictatorship taking the place of the present undisguised regime. The Governor will have the right not only of choosing the five nominated and official members, but also the five elected members of the Executive Council. We will then be no better off than in 1947-53 when the Governor chose all the members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council was merely a rubber stamp.

The only way to defeat the machinations and frustrate the plans of the Colonial Office is for one Party to secure a majority of seats. Such a party can then make its demands, as Dr. Eric Williams recently did after the Trinidad elections. Having been returned in 13 of the 24 seats, Dr. Williams' Party demanded the right to appoint two of the five nominated seats. This was granted after the Secretary of State for the Colonies in a dispatch to the Governor declared that **the principle of nominating members must not be utilized to frustrate the will of the people**. This is now regarded as accepted British constitutional practice, not only in Trinidad, but in Malaya and Mauritius.

It is because of this new constitutional development that the imperialists are united in their efforts to prevent us from securing a majority of seats. To this end they have manipulated the constituency boundaries, changed the method of voting etc. to favour our opponents.

The issue is clear. To be able to carry out certain basic democratic forms and to further the struggle for national independence, our party must secure a majority of seats. With such an overall majority we would demand the right to select not only the five elected ministers but also one of the two nominated members of the Executive Council. This would be almost the same position as under the Waddington Constitution, where we had six out of the 10 members of the Executive Council. We would also demand the right to appoint sufficient nominated members on the Legislative Council to provide us with a working majority. **It is only in this way the Renison Constitution can be made to work in favour of the people.**

LABOUR

The P.P.P recognises that strong, democratic and militant trade unions are essential if the working people are to have their rights fully protected and obtain from their employers just wages and working conditions. The Party pledges itself to do everything to encourage the growth of strong and independent trade unions, free from outside control. The Party further recognises the need for unification in the trade union movement and the elimination of rivalry which tends to reduce the strength of trade unions. The Party believes that trade unions which have the confidence of the majority of workers in an industry or service should be recognised to bargain for, and on behalf of these workers.

The Party sees the necessity for minimum wage laws in all industries, as a needed protection for working people. These minimum wage laws must bear close relation to the cost of living index. Further it is the duty of the government to enforce such minimum wage laws and not leave the burden to the workers whose only reward for seeking the implementation of such laws is victimisation.

We shall seek the extension of the holidays with pay law for all categories of workers and ensure its implementation.

Certain labour legislation introduced by the Interim Government has not been in the best interests of the working class and we

shall seek to alter or revoke such legislation. The 1956 Essential Services Ordinance makes it illegal for workers in (11) services to strike without giving 30 days notice to the Governor. It provides for the establishment of an Arbitration Tribunal by the Governor there by denying these workers their legitimate rights and places into the hands of the Governor dictatorial powers.

Another Ordinance enacted by the Interim Government which seeks to restrict the rights of working people is the establishment of Wages Councils to which the Governor has the power of appointment and the final right of acceptance or rejection of its recommendations. Again, too much power is vested in the hands of the Governor.

We shall seek the implementation of those sections of the Venn Commission Report which have recommended for the sugar workers fuller protection and improved conditions. One such recommendation, the provision of light shelters and potable water in the fields, could be of immense benefit in relieving field workers from the intense strain and heat of that type of labour. The Commission recommended baths and rooms for changing clothing as well as canteens for cooking purposes. This is essential for workers who must leave their homes for long periods and who have to travel far distances to their work places. The Venn Commission also recommended a contributory pension scheme whereby the workers contribute 2 1/2% of their weekly earnings and the employers 5%. A pension scheme is absolutely necessary in the sugar industry, which has the unfortunate reputation of casting off old persons with abso utely no security or means of living for the rest of their days.

The principle of compulsory arbitration, whereby employers and trade unions, when resolved in a deadlock, must go to arbitration is one which offers the fullest protection to workers under a friendly government. Unfortunately this same principle can go against the workers and their trade unions if the law exists under a government largely controlled by the Chamber of Commerce and vested interests. This is why the P.P.P. advocated compulsory arbitration and the establishment of a National Labour Board by a progressive government representative of a majority of the people of the country.

In spite of the considerable improvements in the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance and its consolidation, there are yet several weak points which operate against the best

interests of workers. This Ordinance does not yet provide adequate compensation to those who suffer long periods of hospitalisation as well as permanent incapacity. There should be a law restricting hours of work for those engaged in hazardous labour, as a protection against fatigue and prevention of accidents.

Women workers still enjoy an inferior status in the field of labour and the need for equal pay for equal work is apparent. Legislation should be enacted to provide for maternity leave for women workers. Domestic workers, largely women, are without any protection under the law. Provision for minimum wages, minimum hours and protection under the compensation ordinance is long overdue.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The P.P.P. fully realises that the traditional colonial relationship of buying dear and selling cheap is harmful to the economy of British Guiana and will therefore seek to widen the field of our trade relationships and find the best markets for our produce. We will explore every possibility of enlarging our trade relationships and particularly with our continental neighbours, Brazil and Venezuela, etc. The Party feels that most of British Guiana's dollar earnings must be given to us so that we will have sufficient hard currency to purchase freely in that market. Certain controls now used to exclude some goods from entering B.G. must be removed. We feel that this will in some respect help to keep down the rising cost of living. Our party will work for the free trade and exchange of goods on the basis of reciprocal agreements.

We would recommend the establishment of a Government Industrial Board which would examine the setting up of a nd encourage secondary minor industries

In granting aid to new industries, we will give preferential treatment to manufacturing industries as against extractive industries. We will consider the limitation of the export of profits which are earned by extractive industries with the view of ploughing back a certain percentage of the profits for further development.

Foreign capital for the development of industries in the real interests of the colony will be encouraged. Every assistance will be given to the establishment of local indus-

We Walk with the People ..

tries and native capitalists will be given greater encouragement and protection.

The Party feels that in our present stage of development there is no need to nationalise private industries. Like the Governments of India and Ghana we reserve the right to nationalize and will pay just and adequate compensation. We feel that the development of industries, particularly in the fields of mining and hydro-electricity should be the responsibility of Government. To this end we advocate the establishment of these industries either completely by Government or jointly with private enterprise.

We will raise and collect more by way of direct taxation from those who are able to pay and reduce the very high incidence of indirect taxation which falls heavily on the poor. We feel that greater deductions should be allowed for wives and dependents under the income tax ordinance.

We feel that substantial amounts of revenue can be raised by a form of Government lottery which was recently adopted by the U.K. Government.

In view of the fact that in the rural areas there are so few amenities the Party feels that the high taxation imposed on the film industry, which is eventually passed on to the patrons, should be substantially reduced.

Due to a reduction of taxes in the sugar industry before the ending of the 4th Legislative Council in 1953, the Government revenue derived from that industry was considerably reduced. At that time the export, acreage and distilleries tax were eradicated, thus robbing the Government of nearly a quarter million dollars.

In view of the expanding needs for education, etc. an overall production tax should be imposed which will bring back to the Government the above mentioned sum.

The P.P.P. will endeavour to protect the natural resources of the country and in doing so will take particular care about long term leases to mineral producing lands and will insist that lands from which bauxite and other minerals are extracted must be reconditioned, i.e. levelled and reforested, in the interest of future generations.

The Party will explore suitable markets for its timber and seek to establish a centralised system of marketing.

COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIOR

The P. P. P. shall seek better administration of the Public Works Department and so reorganise the Department to eliminate once and for all wasteful expenditure, graft, corruption and inefficiency.

The Party shall pursue a programme for the progressive construction of permanent all weather roads throughout the colony, paying close attention to the many expert reports already submitted and seeking to avoid the constant repetition and waste connected with surveys and re-surveys which have been holding back progress.

Development of the interior, land settlements for the interior and protection of labourers in remote parts of the country will be pursued with the utmost vigour.

We will seek to institute a better system of communications for the Northwest District and other remote parts of the country.

HEALTH AND HOUSING

A great deal of the dissatisfaction with medical and health services is connected with faulty administration and inefficiency. The existing hospitals are not providing the population with adequate nor satisfactory medical services. They must be brought up to standard as regards equipment, diet, nursing and medical care. There is a need for more prenatal, post natal and infant clinics, free for those who cannot afford, in all parts of the country. We shall improve and extend dental and medical facilities for school children.

We recognise the urgent need for more midwives in the rural areas, to be subsidized by the Government and will implement this as speedily as possible.

We shall discontinue the present system whereby country patients pay fees to Government Medical Officers. Past experience has proved that many doctors have taken advantage of this privilege to the harm & additional burden of the lower income groups.

We shall coordinate the functions of the Medical Department with local Government, education and agriculture with the intention of instituting a broad campaign for preventive medicine. Along with this campaign there shall be an offensive against the terrible unhygienic conditions existing in British Guiana and special efforts to improve the water supply in the rural areas.

HOUSING: We shall [1] Accelerate the rental-purchase housing scheme so that it will afford more security in housing for the middle and lower income groups which are presently suffering from the acute housing shortage.

[2] Extend and accelerate government rural housing schemes.

[3] Encourage pre fabrication and standardized building construction material for the purpose of stimulating low cost housing.

[4] Tackle the slum clearance problem which goes hand in hand with subsidized rentals for lower income groups.

[5] Acquire and prepare more lands for building purposes, especially for the encouragement of aided self-help schemes.

[6] We will immediately enter into negotiations with the Sugar Producers with the view of acquiring lands on which extra-nuclear houses have been built by sugar workers.

The Party will extend the Rent Restriction Ordinance to the whole of the country, to include all premises and rented building land. Further, the Party shall continue its efforts to obtain security of tenure for employees living on lands owned by the sugar estates and mining companies,

AGRICULTURE

The P.P.P considers that the future welfare and development of B.G depends on the availability of adequate areas of lands suitably drained and irrigated. Towards this end the Party plans to have:-

1. A programme of land reclamation, whereby large areas of land along the coast lands and rivers, abandoned to bush and swamp, can be made available for agricultural purposes.

2. An equitable distribution of agricultural lands, and a change in the system of crop and stock production, with special emphasis on a more effective utilisation of the land.

3. The setting up of a land commission to investigate the possibility for the acquisition of land, its development and land settlement, To formulate a positive policy as regards land settlement which will embrace agricultural planning for the achievement of a balanced economy. The need for diversification, dairy and livestock farming is essential in land settlement.

4. A coordinated overall plan for the provision, control and maintenance of all drainage and irrigation works under a single authority in order to provide efficient drainage and ir-

rigation for the most effective utilization of the agricultural lands in the country.

5. All capital works on drainage and irrigation as a direct responsibility of the central government.

6. An investigation and a comprehensive review of the basis and incidence of rates and taxes on agricultural lands. Immediate implementation of reforms in dealing with crown lands with respect to their disposal, control, use and development. In this respect we are happy to note that the Interim Government has seen the wisdom of the P.P.P's 1953 policy as regards resumption of crown lands not beneficially occupied. While we agree in principle with the recent land acquisition ordinance we are concerned with the way in which it will be administered.

7. Security of tenure extending to both building and agricultural lands. A revision of the Rice Farmers Security of Tenure Ordinance to give real protection to rice farmers and the deletion of those offensive sections which have added burdens to the rice farmers. Security of Tenure legislation must be extended to all agricultural lands.

8. Legislation to provide for compensation for land improvements

9. The Party will seek better prices for cane farmers; restoration of pig rearing and coconut oil industries for the benefit of villagers and the provision of protection and assistance to these industries; the establishment of a stable poultry industry and its protection from competition from abroad; fostering of increased milk production by encouraging the manufacture of butter and cheese and by protection against foreign competition. The Party will seek better prices for cane farmers by the establishment of a Cane Farming Ordinance which will set out a precise formula for the calculation of such prices. It will also encourage a system of peasant cane farming, preferably operated in a producers' cooperative in conjunction with the growing of other crops.

10. The Party will seek for the democratic reorganisation of the Rice Marketing Board. It shall continue to strive to safeguard guaranteed markets for rice producers. While the Party sees the necessity of efficient milling, it does not agree with the present Government policy of huge centralized mills. It will encourage rice millers to modernise their factories.

11. Fast and economic transportation of farmers' produce and refrigeration in transport.

12. The P.P.P. will stimulate the fishing in-

'We Build for our Children's Future'

✓ **dustry.** Particular attention will be given to the rearing of fish in fish ponds and canals. **THE PARTY PLANS TO ESTABLISH:**

1. A system of agricultural credits which will be less rigid and bureaucratic as that obtaining at the present time. More money will be provided to the Credit Corporation for further aid to agriculture and industry. Provision will be made for greater elasticity in cases of non-payment of loans due to crop failure.

2. Agricultural machine stations in order to provide agricultural machinery for the small farmers for the preparation of their lands and harvesting of their crops, etc.

3. Agricultural cooperatives for production, ownership of agricultural machinery and marketing of agricultural produce.

4. An agricultural training school in B. G. and also more places at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture for Guianese.

5. Fixing of farmers' prices after giving full consideration to cost of production and guaranteed markets which will further encourage and stabilize production by small farmers.

6. Subsidiary industries e.g. canning etc, to encourage increased production of agricultural products. Subsidisation for new agricultural products such as cotton, soya beans, and peas in order to encourage a diversified agriculture.

7. Crop insurance for farmers to offer protection to farmers who suffer from recurring losses through flood, drought, etc.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Legislation to reduce pensionable age to 55 years. Abolition of the Means Test. Payment of the same pension to Old Age Pensioners in country as in town.

The Party believes that it is the duty of the community to safeguard its fellow citizens from the hazards of poverty, misfortune, sickness and unemployment. There should be a thorough investigation into the possibilities of government embarking on such schemes as family allowances, unemployment benefits and more substantial financial assistance to widows orphans and impoverished persons.

The Party will implement a comprehensive system of social insurance.

We would recommend the setting up of a Commission to investigate the incidence and causes of juvenile delinquency and

to this end would call for expert assistance from abroad.

Further we would at the same time investigate into the suitability and usefulness of the Essequibo Boys School and the Belfield School for Girls.

We have noted the advance in prison reforms since 1954 and would seek further for the rehabilitation of prisoners. There is much room for improvement of prison diet. A well run prison farm is of vital importance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Reorganisation and reform of local government councils. A commission of enquiry to review the Marshall Plan with a view to ascertaining the measure of acceptance of the Report by representative opinion in the country.

Wholly elected councils and universal adult suffrage will be instituted.

The building of community centres and mortuaries will be accelerated. Grant-aids for the establishment and improvement of village markets to achieve the highest standards of hygiene.

EDUCATION

The P.P.P seeks to remodel the educational policy with a view to meet the needs of the colony.

The first charge of the Party will be to investigate the schools building programme and to accelerate it. The Party will reverse government's decision to restrict entry into primary schools to seven year olds and over.

All schools built out of government funds will be controlled by Government. Arrangements will be made with the main religious groups for religious instructions at specified times whenever parents desire it.

Teacher-training will be accelerated and more scholarships will be made available to primary school teachers. The Party aims at setting up nursery schools but will aid private kindergarten schools where these schools are functioning efficiently. The system of provision of the adequate school meals for needy school children will be reviewed.

The Party aims to establish more technical schools in order to train our youth to run our industries. In the early period however, scholarships will be available at the Technical Institute to pupils who show the aptitude for this type of training. The Party will establish corn centres in domestic science along the lines of Carnegie Trade School in other centres.

Secondary Education, etc. Secondary education in town and country will be made available through scholarships to all who can



Cheddi Jagan
Eastern Berbice



Jessica Huntley
New Amsterdam



Ajodha Singh
Berbice River



Sheik Mohamed Saffee
Western Berbice



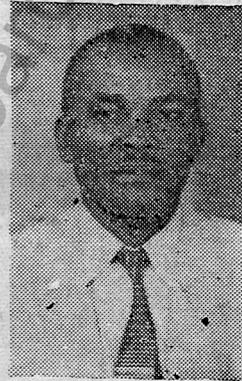
Edward Beharry
Eastern Demerara



Balram Singh Rai
Central Demerara



Dr. Charles Jacob Jr.
North G'town



Eric Gilbert
Central G'town



Patrick Alleyne
South G'town



Fred Bowman
Demerara River



Ram Karran
Demerara Essequibo



B.H. Benn
Essequibo River



Janet Jagan
Western Essequibo

benefit from and show an aptitude for it. Assistance will be provided for the establishment of secondary schools in areas where no provision has been made for them and the system of aiding secondary schools will be continued and improved when necessary. The party aims ultimately at free secondary education.

Scholarships will be made available to teachers in secondary education, but in the early period short courses will be held for secondary school teachers. The ultimate aim will be to establish Training Colleges for Secondary school teachers.

The curriculum of secondary schools will be revised to suit the needs of the colony.

The Party plans to assist commercial schools after investigation into the needs of the country. Opportunities for employment will be provided graduates of these schools in the government service.

By means of scholarships and bursaries we will open to all who are suited by ability and aptitude the field of higher education at the U.C.W.I. and other institutes of higher learning.

We will launch a drive to end illiteracy

ART, CULTURE AND SPORTS

We will give encouragement and practical assistance in the development of art, drama and music and work for the establishment of the Cultural Centre in Georgetown as a beginning. Increase of library facilities especially in rural areas and broadening of material at libraries.

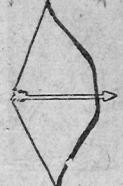
The Party will assist in the improvement of Sports in British Guiana.

FEDERATION

The P. P. P. welcomes the new West Indian Federation. However, it regrets that the Colonial Office has saddled the Federation with a Colonial Constitution. It supports B.G.'s participation on the basis of dominion status for the federation and internal self government for each unit territory.

If elected to power, the P.P.P. will commit B.G. to federation **only** after the people have expressed by way of **Referendum** the desire to enter the Federation.

SAMPLE BALLOT

1	BROWN	
	JOHN EDWARD MERCHANT	
2	DHANRAJ	
	PETER FARMER	
3	GOUVEIA	
	CHRISTOPHER BARISTER	
4	MOHAMED	
	NOOR RICE MILLER	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

*Voting takes place on
Monday August 12th
from 6a.m. to 6p.m.*

Place an X with a lead pencil in the space next to the Symbol of the Candidate for whom you are voting.

ALL VOTES ARE SECRET!

VOTE EARLY

VOTE P.P.P.