

69 Main Street
Georgetown.

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The Editor
Daily Chronicle
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Dear Sir,

In your article "Guianese Love Statism" you are indeed to be praised on the stand you took on the question of trained personnel from abroad. I agree that our economy cannot stand the strain of the high salaries which many of these people are receiving. These salaries are derived from the Taxpayer's money, and as such should bear some relationship to the average wages or salaries of the ordinary working class people in this country. As long as we are forced to continue buying at high prices whether imported trained personnel or imported goods manufactured by labour working for 4 to 5 times local wage rates, and to sell at cheap prices local agricultural products, so long will the standard of living of the inhabitants of this country remain low.

That these high salaried trained personnel are imported into British Guiana is not the fault of the working class of Guiana. That there is continued importation of overseers who have little or no experience in the sugar industry when these same positions can be filled locally at less cost and by more experienced men is not the fault of the inhabitants of B.G. It is not that "Guianese Love Statism" but that Statism is foisted upon them. In any discussion of Statism it is important to know who are in control of the State, and for whose interest is the state governed. We are all too familiar with the Hitler Gang ruling Germany for the interests of the Steel and Chemical trusts and the I.G. Farben Industries. Our country is not governed by working class people; high property qualification still debar the majority of the working people from holding responsible positions in the Village, Municipal and Legislative Councils. For this very reason the TUC is to be congratulated for their stand to remove these high property qualifications, and to introduce the system of recalling members who in positions of responsibility may act contrary to the wishes of the people.

How can we expect any decent housing schemes to be carried out by the state dominated by land-owners and property-owners and real estate businessmen when any such scheme will tend to lessen the demand for housing thereby introducing the risk of reduction in the value for land and property? The state control of importation and distribution failed because it was controlled for the interests of a small minority of businessmen. This permitted a small group not only to get wholesale and retail profits, but also lucrative profits in the black market. The price control is not effective because the regulations against black marketeers are not stringent enough. When an ordinary man steals, he is sent to jail, but when the black marketeers are caught stealing from thousands of consumers, they are fined a few dollars.

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In all these cases, we see Statism at work - a Statism which is akin to fascism. Not until we have the working classes getting control of the State, will we have a "Statism" interested in the economic and political democracy for the majority of the people.

Yours sincerely,

Cheddi B. Jagan, D.D.S.

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