

Dr Jagan's defence before His Worship Mr R.G. Sharples.;

Sir, I told you that I was not going to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty because in the first place to do so would presuppose ~~no~~ a recognition not only of the validity of the Emergency Order, but also the justice of that Order. You have also refused me my only application to have His Excellency the Governor brought here as a material witness. The whole case depends upon his opinion which is set out in the Order. He says "and whereas with respect to Cheddi Beret Jagan with a view to prevent him from acting in a manner prejudicial to Public Safety and Order."

Sir, those words "Public Safety and Order" are indeed a very strange connotation. Let us go back to the Emergency Order, it was not my action or indeed the action of my colleagues in the Peoples' Progressive Party either as members of the Government ~~or~~ of the House of Assembly.....

The magistrate.- I am not interested in the ~~the~~ House of Assembly I am trying a case in which you are charged with a breach of the Emergency Regulations. What are you doing now. Are you submitting that there is no case to answer,? Either you make a defence or not. This is a court of Law.

Dr Jagan.- I am making a statement from here. I am making a statement from the dock, which I am entitled to do.

The magistrate.- You do not want to give evidence?.

Dr Jagan. No.

The magistrate.- You do not want to call witnesses in your defence?

Dr Jagan.- No Sir, with the exception of Sir Alfred Savage, whose application you have refused.

The magistrate.- You will understand of course that if you wish to make a statement from there, that statement would not bear the same weight ^{as} the one on oath.

