

GUARANTEES AND LIBERTIES OF THE GUIANESE PEOPLE

by Janet Jagan

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DURING the Independence debate in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Burnham spent some time on the question of guarantees and the liberties of the people. What guarantees, he wanted to know, will there be for the rights of the individuals, after independence?

He was then reminded that at the initiative of the Majority Party, the Constitutional Committee had unanimously agreed that the new constitution should have a Bill of Rights providing for freedom of the individual as set out in the thirty articles of the United Nations Declaration of Rights.

But that did not please Mr. Burnham. Any government in power, he stressed, could change the constitution and take away from the individual the rights he enjoyed under the constitution. Any amendment must be by a two-thirds majority of the House

of the Opposition is that their arguments are based on the wrong premises. They assume that the PPP, which is apparently the winning political party in B.G. (having won now three consecutive elections) will take away from people their liberties.

Then Mr. Burnham was regarded that this very matter came before the Constitution Committee but his members voted against it. The voting on the motion that power to amend the constitution be vested in the Legislative by a two-thirds majority of those present was as follows:

HOW THEY VOTED

FOR

Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Fredricks, Mr. Davis, Mr. Jai Narain Singh, Mr. Ajodha Singh, Mr. Saffee, Mr. Raj, Mr. Jagan and Mr. Benn.

AGAINST

Mr. Tasker, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Kendall.

DID NOT VOTE

Mr. Bowman.

What better guarantees are needed? In the existing Legislative Assembly there are 35 members of which the Majority Party has twenty. The Majority Party alone could not amend the constitution, for in a fully elected House it would require at least 24 votes to carry an amendment.

The shoe is really on the other foot, for it is the PPP which is the only political force in British Guiana which has consistently fought for the rights and liberties of the people. The PPP opposed the Emergency Laws, the legislation restricting the importation of literature, the bans preventing persons from entering the country, the detention without trial of persons.

More important than all, the PPP has fought fearlessly for independence which is the liberty of the nation to rule itself, which is really the basic human rights.

Greetings From Alan Bush

THE Party has received a letter of greetings from Alan Bush, well known composer, who is writing an opera based on the theme of the independence movement in British Guiana.

"What a wonderful success you have had," he wrote. "I read Thunder every week with greater and greater enthusiasm. With my very best regards to the Women's Section of the Party."

P.P.P. Protest

THE People's Progressive Party and the Progressive Youth Organisation view with grave disapproval the introduction by the United Kingdom Government in the House of Commons, a bill — the Commonwealth Immigration Bill — designed to restrict the entry and residence of the coloured Commonwealth peoples in Britain.

This Bill violates the basic principles of the free association and free movement among the peoples of the British Commonwealth.

A mass protest rally was held at Bowda Green on Friday night.



This composite picture presenting Comrade Women's Section

Premier Speaks At Howard Univer



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