

Don't Sympathize— Organise!

by Janet Jagan

Now more than ever before, our party organisation must be in first class shape. One cannot know clearly at this stage what action the new reactionary government will take to achieve their ultimate objective of forming a one party state. But one of their objectives will be to smash the People's Progressive Party. That is one reason why organisationally we must be in top form to resist all and every effort on their part to remove the party of the people from the scene in our country.

We can expect from them little different from what took place in the 1953-1957 period, when every effort was made to wreck the PPP. Can we forget their efforts then to prevent Thunder from being printed and the banning of the Party's youth organisation? and the detention and restriction of Party Leaders? We now have a second interim government on our hands, a puppet body which exists at the sufferance of a minority fascist body called the United Force. It even contains one of the Ministers of the first Interim Government, again as a Minister.

We would be unwise and unrealistic if we did not see in this a threat to our democratic rights to exist as a political organisation. Therefore, knowing this, we must be geared to resist any infringement on our rights. The best way to protect democracy in B.G. is to build our Party stronger than it ever was.

How do we do this? First of all, we must see that every supporter of the PPP is a financial member. This means that we must start on a massive membership campaign, and part of this campaign is to



see that all old members are financial.

Secondly, our Party groups must function at high gear. No more half-hearted attendance at meetings. All members must attend all meetings and see that the business of the group is conducted properly and that effective action is taken by all groups. It is the duty of Group leaders to take on this responsibility and see that interest is maintained and that work gets done. The group is responsible for keeping in constant touch with the membership in the district and to see that issues are explained and that everyone understands the Party policy and direction. Members will be asked to support Party publications by regular purchases and to see that they are widely distributed in the neighbourhood. Payment for these sales must be done regularly and efficiently.

Party education is of primary importance and to this end a full programme is being prepared. The chief aspect of our party education will be regular week-end district seminars.

Our Constituency Committees must be in working shape and all members serving on these committees must be fully

aware of the great responsibility they hold to the members and to the Party Executive. Regular reports of activities and meetings should continue to be sent to Freedom House. The Constituency Committees will assume greater and greater significance as time goes on.

Our Party organisation must be like a useful, worthy machine, requiring frequent oiling, maintenance and repairs when necessary. We must keep it well oiled and always in top working condition. This requires the constant devotion and attention of every single member of the Party. Petty quarrelling and differences must be forgotten. The enemy is outside and we cannot confront the enemy if we are disorganised within.

Let every member of the PPP make a pledge for the New Year — that we will work together in unity to bring unity and peace and freedom to our country. We pledge that we shall not forget the ideals on which this party was formed. We are socialists working to build a society where all men can live in equality, where none will be permitted to exploit others. We will not forget one of the key objects of our party which is "to secure and maintain the interests, well being, and prosperity of the down-trodden people of British Guiana, and to win and preserve civil liberties and human rights."

Sooner than we think we may be called upon to preserve the civil liberties and human rights which have been firmly established here but which, we now see, will soon be trampled upon.