

## PARTY LIFE:

# Party Secretaries

by Janet Jagan

The hub of the wheel that makes up the Party's various organs and bodies is the Party Secretariat. The Secretariat meets weekly and is the body that fixes dates and agendas for Executive and Central Committee meetings and deals with the numerous matters that require early decisions which cannot await meetings of the higher bodies. It also determines which matters require decisions by the Executive and/or Central Committees.

The matters which the Secretariat deal with are far and wide, including such matters as those relating to the Party's overseas groups, discipline, wages, appointments to boards and committees, legal and property matters, sending delegates abroad, national matters, problems in regions, districts and groups, initiating activities of a local or international nature, and any matters raised by the several Secretaries.

Party Secretaries, of which there are at this time eight, are appointed by the Central Committee after each Congress. Secretaries are required to present reports on their work to the Central Committee which meets quarterly. The PPP Secretaries include the following:—the General Secretary, the Secretaries for Organisation, International Affairs, Education, Propaganda, Mass Organisations, Membership and the Executive Secretary.

In a previous article on Party Life, we already dealt with the numerous responsibilities of the General Secretary. The Organising Secretary has the responsibility of overlooking the whole of the Party's organisational sphere. This includes the Party Structure, that is, the Groups and the District and Regional bodies. He is responsible to see that these function as expected. Assisting him in this and other tasks is the Organisation Secretariat, the Organising Committee, as well as the several Party Organisers and Supervisors of Counties.

The Organising Secretary, who is also a Member of Parliament, oversees the programmes and reports of the Party Organisers and sees that they are fulfilling their duties effectively. He oversees the national program-

me of the Party as regards public and bottom house meetings, seminars, campaigns, public protests and a wide range of Party activities.

One of his important tasks too, is guiding the organisation of Congress every three years and seeing that the annual District and Regional Conferences take place.

The International Secretary has the ultimate responsibility of keeping up-to-date on all international events and advising the Party on positions to take in numerous situations that arise from time to time. Frequently, those issues which require special attention are dealt with by press statements or seminars or other activities. He must be involved in all of these.

Also the International Secretary devotes special attention to establishing close relations between our Party and other fraternal parties throughout the world, sending communications as well as examining and making use of materials received from abroad.

The International Secretary also has the responsibility of seeing that appropriate delegations represent the Party at the various conferences and occasions to which the Party is invited from time to time. Due to his responsibilities, he travels extensively on behalf of the Party, prepares reports, interviews visitors and on the whole, widens the scope of the Party's relations, makes more friends for the Party and enhances our visibility abroad.

The Education Secretary is responsible for lifting the level of ideological understanding of Party members. He assists in the all 'round political education of the Party members and youth and women's arms. He does this through the Party School, Accabre, in the organisation of educational seminars, bottom house meetings, lectures and the dissemination of political literature. He is mainly responsible for setting out the curriculum and texts for study at Accabre College.

He is also responsible for arranging scholarships for students and in organising the methods of allocation of such scholarships. To do this, he has an Education Committee which meets when necessary to advise on such activities.

The Education Secretary has the task too, of advising the Party on national educational matters. He keeps abreast of all developments in the field of education. As a Parliamentarian, he speaks on educational matters in the National Assembly. He also sits on the Board of the University of Guyana, as one of the People's Progressive

Party's two nominees.

The Propaganda Secretary has as his main responsibility the propagation of the ideals, positions and policy of the PPP. He does this through press releases, handbills, booklets, posters and films. He has to assist him a Propaganda Committee which meets to formulate plans for publishing pamphlets and seeking various means to propagate the ideas of the PPP.

With the latest technology, particularly the use of video, the Party is now seeking to establish a special section to deal with the more frequent showing of such films and producing our own.

The Propaganda Secretary has conducted several seminars to guide Group Propaganda Secretaries in their work. The Propaganda Secretary is, besides, a Member of Parliament, senior journalist at the *Mirror* and editor of the Party's official organ, *Thunder*.

The Mass Organisations Secretary is responsible for finding methods of spreading the Party's influence in other groups of people, in grass roots organisations for farmers, for villagers, for parents and teachers and all aspects related to working people. He relates the Party to peasant bodies, ratepayers and tenants organisations, parent-teachers associations, sports and culture, religious organisations, self employed, professionals, market vendors, etc.

The Membership Secretary is responsible for the growth of Party membership, both in quantity and quality. He and his committee go into questions that come up from time to time in relation to membership, that sometimes require a thorough interpretation of the Party Constitution or a recommendation to the Central Committee.

Basically, the Membership Secretary studies the Party membership, noting the need for membership campaigns and for new members to understand their role in the Party.

A relatively new Secretarial post is that of Executive Secretary, whose duty is to see that decisions of the Central and Executive Committees and the Secretariat are fulfilled. The Executive Secretary, also an M.P seeks to promote continuity of decisions, to see that all aspects are implemented and not forgotten, that sub-committees set up for particular matters function until their purpose is fulfilled.

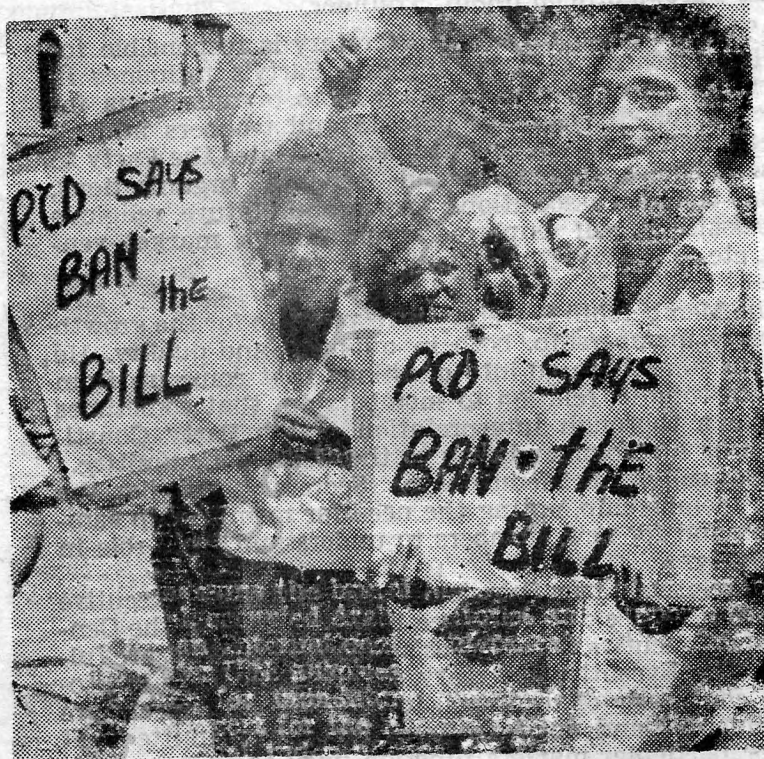
The Executive Secretary prepares agenda for the



Party bodies, to see that matters are not dropped or forgotten and that decisions requiring reviews or new evaluations continue to flow.

All Party Secretaries work as a unit in the Secretariat, being called upon to give advice and make decisions on matters that go far beyond their particular field of responsibility, but bring to the forefront their experience, training, political comprehension and common sense.

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