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NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Wednesday June 1 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: ^{news} If/reports of what Mr. Keble Munn, the Minister of Agriculture, said to a farmers' gathering over the weekend are correct, then it looks very much as though we shall soon see the end of price control on beef. ~~xxxxxx~~ You will remember that I told you on Tuesday of last week that strong pressure was being put on government to end price control of beef. Now, if the reports are correct, it would seem that government is going to give in to the pressure and lift price controls. Mr. Munn has, I gather, promised to give out details of just how this is to be done and I think all other comment should wait until we see the details. What does worry me - what I do hope will not happen - is that the cost of lifting price controls from beef might be placed on the shoulders of the people who can least afford it.

One of the reasons why I am worried about who will bear the cost of lifting price controls on beef is because we had a somewhat similar experience earlier this year. You will remember that it was on the first of April that the new property tax increase came into being. Under this increase property tax went up from 8d in the £10 to 1/4 in the £10. Now the increase in itself was, as I told you at the time, very reasonable in my opinion. We had to find money to pay for the services we demand from our public authorities, and government has no money other than the money it raises by taxing us or by floating loans on our behalf in the international money markets: so, in any event we and our country have to produce the money which government spends to give us the services we demand.

~~What I did not expect, and I am reasonably certain government~~

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~~did not expect it either, was what actually happened.~~ What ~~actually~~ happened was that property owners who were also landlords passed the entire property tax increase on to their tenants. But that is not the only thing that happened; they went a step further; they used the property tax increase to make a large additional profit from their tenants.

In the city of Kingston, for example, a man who used to pay £2 a month for a one-room apartment, had his rent raised by 5/- a month. His landlord was very sorry about this and blamed it on the government. The government, the landlord said, was responsible. If the government had not raised his property tax he, the landlord, would not have raised the rent. And so, this landlord, if he is letting six one-room apartments, will be collecting an extra 30/- a month. This means that he is charging each of his tenants an extra £1/ 10. 0. a year ^{more} on every £12 worth of his property that he lets to them. And yet government is at most charging him only 8d a year more on every £10. You see the position: government makes a property tax increase of 8d a year: the landlord passes this tax on to his tenant as almost £1. 10. 0 a year. The landlord now ^{collects} ~~makexxx~~ ~~profit~~ over a £1 more than he did before ~~he~~ the property tax. And the tenant who owns no property is the one who suffers. He pays the property owner's tax increase and gives the property owner an additional profit.

I am sure this was not in the Minister's mind when he made the tax increase. But I hope Mr. Munn will bear this in mind when he deals with the ~~the~~ beef situation.

Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Thursday June 2 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: This has been a very dramatic week for us here in Jamaica: it has been a week in which Jamaica has really hit the news headlines of the world press and Radio. But even more important than all that is one simple fact. ~~What happened this week~~ That fact is that what happened this week is a key turning point for all of us here in Jamaica. It is a point of departure, a point of no return. What happened this week represents as clear a break with the past as anything that has ever happened before in the history of this island. It is impossible for us to go back to a point before this week again. And I think it is right and proper that this dramatic and decisive break with the past should have been made by the two men who have had so much to do with the creating of Jamaica as we know it today.

But let me sketch in the details for you. On Monday of this week Sir Alexander Bustamante announced that he had resigned his position as leader of the Democratic Labour Party of the West Indies. He said he had taken this step so that "Jamaica, the West Indies and the world must understand that our decision that Jamaica should secede from the Federation of the West Indies is irrevocable".

This was clear and decisive and left no room for doubt. The J.L.P., Busta said in effect, had finally made up its mind that it wanted no part of Federation. It was washing its hands of the whole business. From here on the J.L.P. wanted Jamaica to 'go it alone' and have no truck with Federation. As a proof of how determined the J.L.P. was to have nothing further to do with Federation he, Busta, was giving up the leadership of one of the two major federal parties.

Now, as a political move this was very sharp. It showed that The Chief had not lost all of his magical touch for suddenly creating a situation. And his making the announcement on the eve of the St. Thomas nominations was a piece of perfect timing. The drama and excitement of this move made many of us, I am sure, overlook its political importance for the J.L.P. in Jamaica. Up to Monday of this week the J.L.P. has, in spite of all its criticisms, supported the idea of Federation. True, Busta had talked about seceding. But anybody can talk in politics, and the cold fact was that Busta and the J.L.P. were an important part of the federal opposition set-up. Now that he has resigned from the leadership of the D.L.P. the situation is different. But how different? Is the J.L.P. going to go on being affiliated to the Democractic Labour Party of the West Indies? It would be very odd if a party which has now declared itself as completely against the Federation were to go on working as part of a federal party. So, logically, the next step would be for the J.L.P. to cut off its connections with the Federal D.L.P. And if that happens what will be the position of the J.L.P. members who now represent Jamaica in the Federal House of Representatives. Will they resign? If they do not resign then they will find themselves in a very funny position both with regard to the Federal Government and with regard to the D.L.P. Opposition in the Federal House. I wonder whether Busta had thought of these problems? I think his big concern was to make a political play here at home and to catch Manley on the wrong foot. Tomorrow I will discuss how Manley reacted. Till then, Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY FOR
Transmission on
Friday June 3 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: From what I told you last night about Sir Alexander Bustamante's decision to quit the leadership of the ^{Democratic} Democratic Labour Party of the West Indies, and the manner and timing of his call for Jamaica to leave the Federation, it is clear that Busta was trying to put Manley on the spot. I am not saying that Busta does not feel strongly about Federation, and I am not saying there is anything wrong with him trying to put Manley on the spot. After all, it is the business of an Opposition to oppose and to embarrass the government as much as it can. What I am saying is that behind Busta's move was a clearcut play for party political power. In recent years the J.L.P. has made a very poor showing against the P.N.P. on local issues. In the last elections the P.N.P. campaigned on its past record and gave the J.L.P. a very bad beating at the polls. So obviously it looks as though the J.L.P. will have a very bad time if it tries to fight the P.N.P. on domestic issues. And so, being shrewd politicians Busta and his advisers have decided that their best hope of making any impact on the voters would be to raise the Federal issue as a party political fight. I think Busta's call, reported in Thursday's Gleaner, for a referendum right away, and Mr. E.C.L. Parkinson's letter in that same issue of the Gleaner, is clear proof that Manley's come-back was unexpected and upset the calculations of the Opposition badly.

On Tuesday afternoon, the day after Busta had made his announcement that he was quitting the leadership of the D.L.P. and was going to fight against Federation, Manley announced that the choice would

be up to the people of the country: the government will hold a Referendum in 1961. We, the voters of the country, will be asked to cast our votes to say, once and for all, whether we want to remain in the West Indies Federation or whether we want to leave it. The whole responsibility for deciding our future would now be up to us and the government will do whatever we, the voters of the country decided.

Mr. Manley said he was take this course of action because Sir Alexander Bustamante's decision had created a completely new situation about Federation. The basic principles of Federation had, until now, been something on which both parties had agreed. Indeed, the J.L.P. had been the party in power when the first moves towards Federation had been made, and the P.N.P. had just carried on what the J.L.P. had started. But Busta actions had now changed all that and the choice would now be up to the people of Jamaica.

Now, Busta's move had been smart; but Manley's move was smarter. In one quick move he had cut the ground from under Busta's feet. Federation was, now, not a party political issue. He had taken it out of the hands of the politicians and put it fairly and squarely into the hands of the people of Jamaica. The final decision would be up to them.

Well, that is the situation up to date. You and I must make up our minds ~~how~~ on how we are going to vote: whether we are going to vote to stay in the Federation or leave it. We have about a year in which to decide, and once we have decided there can be no going back. So how will we vote? And what will our vote mean. I will discuss some aspects of what our vote might mean tomorrow evening: till then, goodnight/

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Saturday June 4 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams

Good evening: Over the past two evenings I have discussed the new situation that has been created in terms of the political moves of our two great leaders. To me it has been exciting sitting on the sidelines watching the two giants fighting it out, and I am sure you have been as fascinated by their moves and counter-moves as I have been: it is always exciting to watch a battle of champions. But there is one important thing we must not forget, and that is that it will soon be our turn to take the centre of the stage: and all the world will be watching us. We are the people who are going to make the greatest decision of all. You and I; the higgler and the street sweeper, the small cultivator and the big farmer, the domestics who work in other people's home and those who work in factory, farm or field; we are going to be the star performers in the great drama of deciding the shape of this country's future.

And when we have decided the responsibility will be ours. We will not be able to blame Busta or Manley or the P.N.P. or the J.L.P. We will not be able to blame the unions or the bosses or the Gleaner or the radio. The responsibility for the decision we make will be ours and ours alone. If we decide to take Jamaica out of the Federation, that will be our responsibility; and the results that come from such a decision would also be ours and ours alone. If we decide to stay in the Federation, we will be solely responsible for that decision and the results that flow from it. If glory and honour come from our decision we will be responsible for it and the

glory and the honour will be ours. If disaster and shame come from it, that shame and disaster will be ours; not Busta's, not Manley's; ours. So the greatest challenge of all is to us, the voters of Jamaica.

And believe you me, all the world is going to turn its eyes on us on that day when we go to cast our votes. The Africans will be watching; the Asians will be watching; the Americans and the Europeans will be watching; and the people of the other islands of the Caribbean will also be watching.

And when the votes are counted it will all be finished and we will have set a course for our future and for the future of our children. And then the world will pass judgement on Jamaicans and on the choice made by Jamaican men and women. If the world thinks our choice was small-minded and petty and selfish, they will look on us as small-minded and petty and selfish people. If they think our choice was big and brave and one of courage and high ~~high~~ faith, they will say that we are big and brave and full of high faith. They will say this, not of Manley or Busta, but of the people of Jamaica.

This Referendum will be a great challenge to the people of Jamaica. And so it seems to me most important that in the coming weeks and months the people should take a very close look at the whole question of Federation. Let there be a great debate on it through the land. So that when the day comes for voting we will know just what we are voting for and how important it is. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Monday ~~Wednesday~~ June 6 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am sure the entire country shares Mr. Manley's sympathy and regret at the accident suffered by Mrs. Ian Macleod, the wife of the Colonial Secretary, who slipped and ^{fractured} broke her leg on Saturday while visiting the Polio Rehabilitation Centre at the University College. ~~This is a very sad accident~~ And with Mr. Manley, we all wish her well with a good and quick recovery.

One of the unhappy results of this accident was that government had to cancel the State Reception it had planned for Saturday evening in honour of the Macleods; and so thousands of people have missed the chance of meeting Mr. Macleod who has proved himself a dynamic Colonial Secretary since he has been at the Colonial Office.

When Mr. Macleod took over office from Mr. Alan Lennox Boyd there were three particularly difficult and tricky problems facing Britain in ~~her~~ what was left of her colonial empire: two were in Africa, and one was right here in the Caribbean. The most difficult of all the three problems was that in Kenya. A bitter war of race and colour had just ended there. The 66,000 white settlers and the more than 5½ million black Africans looked at each other across a wide gulf of racial fears and hatreds. Mr. Macleod stepped into this ugly and unhealthy situation early in March of this year and brought the representatives of black and white together at the conference table. There he persuaded black and white to work out a new Constitution for Kenya which would ensure that the country's future would not continue to be plagued by racial fears and racial hatreds: and when black and white could not agree Mr. Macleod did not hesitate to interfere and put forward his own ideas. In the end,

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Tues Monday June 7 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will recall that it was about two weeks ago that I told you that any listener who wanted them could have copies of these commentaries sent to him or her. Now, what has happened is that both this radio station and the sponsors and I have received a flatteringly large number of requests for copies. I am naturally very pleased about this because it means that quite a large number of people are really listening to the commentaries. But quite a problem has come up. A number of people have written to ask for copies of every commentary to be sent to them every day. Now if we were to do this we would need a complete staff to deal with just this sending out of commentaries. And, knowing human nature, a large number of people might say 'Well, we will get the printed copies of what he said so there is no need to listen to him'; and if that happened the whole purpose of these news commentaries would be defeated. So, what I should like to suggest to you is this: By all means write and ask for those of the commentaries which have really interested you and of which you want to keep a more permanent record. This we can and will send to you quite happily. But to send out copies of every commentary every day will be a little too much for us to handle. I am sorry about this and I do hope you will understand. And, of course, I am very grateful to all of you/^{who} have written to me. I welcome and appreciate your letter very much even though I cannot answer all of them individually. Many of the commentaries have been built up by ideas sent to me by listeners. But let us turn to the news now.

The dramatic moves made by Busta and Manley last week has tended

to push the rest of the news a bit to one side. One of the important events of last week had to do with labour relations.

You will remember that as a result of the Gleaner strike the government set up a Board of Enquiry to look into the printing industry. Professor Harry Woods, a Canadian, was appointed as Chairman; Mr. Dudley Thompson was appointed workers' representative and Mr. Hubert Arnold the employers' representative. The Board held its first meeting on Monday of last week, and straightaway we were presented with a situation of high drama. The representatives of the Master Printers' Association said that they were not prepared to take any part in the enquiry because of the way in which the chairman had been appointed. When Mr. Michael Manley and Mr. Hugh Shearer were in Canada recently they had met ~~Mr~~ Professor Woods and, the M.P.A. concluded, Mr. Michael Manley had advance knowledge of the Professor's appointment. So the Association washed its hands of the whole enquiry and walked out. The next day the N.W.U. issued a statement in which Mr. ^{Michael} Manley denied that he knew in advance that Professor Woods had been appointed, and charged the Master Printers with launching an attack on the government, and with trying to mislead the public by distorting the facts.

But just what are the facts? I think it is almost impossible for any outsider to get all the facts. But I also think there are clear signs that politics have crept into what should be a clearcut labour relations question. I will try to look more closely at the whole question tomorrow evening; so, till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Tuesday June 8 at 6.15p.m

Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I touched on the events which led to the Master Printers' Association walking out of the Enquiry into the printing industry. You will remember that they did this in objection to the way in which the chairman of the Board of Enquiry, Professor Woods, was appointed; and their main argument was that Mr. Michael Manley, the Island Supervisor of the National Workers Union, knew in advance of Professor Wood's appointment.

Now, if Mr. Manley did know in advance of Professor Woods' appointment then the Master Printers' Association would be perfectly right in their action because they could then say that Professor Woods might have been unduly influenced. But Mr. Manley denies that he knew in advance that Professor Woods was or would be appointed. He said clearly that he did not know of Professor Woods appointment until he arrived back in Jamaica.

The crux of the question, then, is this. Mr. N.N. ~~Ashenheim~~ Ashenheim, speaking for the Master Printers said ^{to Prof Woods} "It is clear that Mr. Michael Manley received information in Canada about your intended appointment at a time when that information should not have been communicated to him behind the back of the other side."

Now if Mr. Ashenheim's charge is correct and Mr. Michael Manley knew about Professor Woods' appointment in Canada, from whom did he receive that information? Could it have been from Professor Woods himself? Professor Woods said he met Mr. Manley only once at a lunch. Mr. Hugh Shearer of the B.I.T.U. and a Mr. Kidd were also at that lunch; so there would be at least two witnesses if the Professor had told Mr. Manley. So clearly if Mr. Manley received the information it was not from Professor Woods. Who else could have told him?

The statement of the Master Printers Association says that this information was given to Mr. Manley by Mr. Carl Goldenberg. Mr. Goldenberg, you will remember, was the Chairman of the recent Commission that enquired into the Sugar Industry and issued a report known as the Goldenberg Report. I am sure you also remember that that Report was strongly in favour of the workers demands and recommended wage increases and bonuses which means that for ~~the~~ 1959 and 1960 the sugar industry will be paying out a combined wages bill of about £10 millions. Now it was this selfsame Mr. Goldenberg who was asked to suggest someone to Chair the Printing enquiry Board. He suggested Professor Woods. It was he who told Mr. Manley in Canada that he had suggested Professor Woods. But neither he nor Mr. Manley knew whether the government had accepted his suggestion until the government made its official announcement.

Now, one fact is quite clear. The employers in the Sugar industry did not like the Goldenberg Report. They think, and I am inclined to agree with them, that it is going to create a crisis in the sugar industry. Naturally the employers in the printing industry are scared stiff of a report that might be as favourable to the printing workers as was the Goldenberg one to the sugar workers. And since Prof Woods was nominated by Mr. Goldenberg, they want to have no part of him. This I find reasonable from the employers viewpoint. If they had based their objection on this fact I think they would have won more sympathy than they will by trying to turn the issue into a scandal situation with political ~~undertones~~ undertones. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY
 For transmission on
 Thursday 9 at 6.15p.m

Good evening: It is quite some time since we last took a close look at political events in the larger world outside so I think it might be a good idea for us to take a look at two trouble spots this evening. There has been a revolution in Turkey, and there are violent riots now going on in Japan. The background to what is happening in both Turkey and Japan is really very interest; so, with your permission, I will deal with Turkey this evening and with Japan tomorrow evening.

Let us begin by locating Turkey. If you look at a map of the world you will see that to the south-east it is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, and further south by Syria; to the east it is bordered by Persia and to the north-east by the southern part of Russia; and to the north by the Russian Black Sea; and it just touches Greece in Europe at its north-western tip. It is, in fact, almost at the heart of that area of the world known as the Middle East or Asia Minor. So much for where it is. Now let us look at what it is and how it became what it is.

~~Until just before the First World War~~ Almost up to the ^{middle} ~~beginning~~ of the last century - that is almost until the year ^{1850 or so} ~~1900~~ - Turkey had a great sprawling empire known as the Ottoman Empire, and the rulers of Turkey were masters over vast stretches of land and sea. Egypt was a part of the Ottoman Empire, and parts of what is today Russia also belonged to it. Cyprus was a part of it; and so were Tunisia and a host of other countries. But the Russian and European challenge began to nibble at the Ottoman Empire to such an extent that after the First World War she lost Iraq, Transjordan and Palestine to Britain.

And she lost Syria and the Lebanon to France. After that the decline of the once powerful empire was swift and her enemies tried to destroy her. It was at this point, when Turkey was practically on its knees and in danger of being completely destroyed, that a great leader came forward. His name was Kemal Ataturk. He preached a new nationalism. He told his people that the old days when their country was a great Muslim empire were over and would never come back. He said in order to survive they must learn new ways. He set himself up as a dictator and ordered that the Mohamedan Church should no longer have any say in the political affairs of the country. He ordered the women to be freed from the Muslim veil and to be given the same education and rights as men. His great call was for Westernisation and industrialisation. And when he died, his right-hand man, Ismet Inonu, became dictator in his place and carried on his work. By 1950 the work that Ataturk had started was so well done that Inonu could give up the dictatorship and order free elections. In those elections the party founded by Ataturk and now led by Inonu was defeated and Adnan Menderes became Prime Minister. Inonu accepted the will of the people as he had promised Ataturk he would do, and became the leader of the opposition. But Menderes, who had had no share in the making of modern Turkey began to behave like a dictator, and in ten years he nearly destroyed the great work done by Ataturk and Inonu. And that is why, ~~xxxx~~ ten days ago, the people of Turkey turned on Menderes and threw him out of office. I think Ataturk and Inonu have done their work so well that no dictator can last long in modern Turkey today.

Tomorrow we'll look at the Japanese riots. Till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Friday June 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: For the past ten days or so there have been almost daily demonstrations and marches through the streets of Tokyo, the capital of Japan. It is likely that these demonstrations will go on on every fine day there is until the 19th of this month when President Eisenhower is due to visit Japan. These demonstrations are really big things. Two weeks ago more than 30,000 students, trade unionists and members of the Socialist Party opposition in the present parliament of Japan, marched through the streets shouting "Down with Kishi" - Nobusuke Kishi is Japan's Prime Minister. They also carried placards reading: "U-2, go home!" The U-2, you will remember, was the U.S. spy plane captured by the Russians. Other slogans said "Ike don't come" and "Yankee go home".

Now, if you don't know the ways of Japanese politics you might think that this is strong anti-American stuff. Of course part of it is inspired by the communists who are definitely anti-American but the whole story is very much more complicated, and to understand it we must understand the strange attitude of the Japanese towards democracy.

Before the Second World War there was a parliamentary system of sorts in Japan. But parliament and almost everything else in Japan was under the control of the Emperor on whom the Japanese looked as a god. The Emperor's powers were absolute. He could cancel any decision of parliament; and, in any case, only the powerful members of the nobility who were in favour with the Emperor could get into parliament. After the war when the Americans occupied Japan they

stripped the Emperor of his vast powers and reduced the nobles and warlords to the same level as the ordinary citizens. They introduced genuinely free elections and a real parliamentary system of government by the will of the majority.

The mass of the Japanese people welcomed this. This new freedom was great fun. And to show how much they really appreciated this freedom they went in for demonstrations on a really great scale: students, priests, taxi-drivers, workers - all demonstrate whenever they feel there is something they don't like and want to have themselves a ball. Just over two-weeks ago when Kishi's government made a new treaty of alliance with the U.S. and got it passed by a large majority vote in the Japanese House of Representatives, there were violent demonstrations against what the Japanese called "the tyranny of the majority". We accept rule by the majority party as right. But not so the Japanese. They feel that the government should not pass a law unless the opposition approves of it. And to show how strongly they felt about it 200 opposition members held the speaker of the House as a prisoner so that he could not open the session. 500 policeman were ^{needed} ~~needed~~ to free the Speaker; and when he reached the floor of the House he was again attacked and nearly choked to death by opposition members. So you see, politics in Japan make our politics look like a very respectable middleclass tea party. The slogan of "Ike don't come" is partly due to this great political ball they are giving themselves, but it is also due to the fact that they are afraid of the two great giants of the East, Russia and China. It is this, more than anti-Americanism which is responsible for the present riots.

Goodnight

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Saturday June 11 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am sure that all citizens - and especially citizens living in the Corporate Area - must be sick and tired of the talking about cleaning up the city of Kingston. The Public Cleansing Committee has now passed a resolution, moved by the Mayor himself, that Mr. George Minott, the Superintendent of the city's Public Cleansing Department, should be retired immediately. Well, I have, and I am sure most citizens have reached the point where we could not care less what happens so long as the city is cleaned up. As it is now it is a standing disgrace to the Public Cleansing Department: it is a standing disgrace to Mr. Minott: It is a standing disgrace to the Public Cleansing Committee: it is a standing disgrace to the new Corporation Council; and it is a standing disgrace to the Mayor himself. These are hard words but I think it is time they were said. As ~~the Mayor~~ Mr. Spaulding has said himself, it has now reached the sad state where little children have to sweep away the dirt from the front of their homes. This is not good enough. And praising the children does not alter this filthy situation one jot. If getting rid of Mr. Minott will change this situation, then get rid of him. But make sure the situation is changed and changed quickly. And it will not be changed by talking but by doing. At present the KSAC passes the buck to Mr. Minott and Mr. Minott passes the buck right back to the KSAC, and our streets remain filthy. My own frank opinion is: do whatever needs to be done but clean up the city. And if the job of keeping our city clean is too big for our present KSAC then, in fairness to the voters and taxpayers they ought to resign.

Now let me touch on another unhappy subject. It is exactly two weeks ago that I told you about the dirty, suggestive magazines which are being sold in drugstores, book stores and grocery stores here in Jamaica. As a result of what I said then a number of parents have written to me expressing their concern over this importing of dirty, sexy literature. But let me confess frankly that although I received a fairly large number of letters I had hope for a lot more because I am sure that if I could show the government department concerned that a really large number of people objected to this sort of stuff, government would put a ban on importing it. I know that most parents agree that this stuff should be stopped; I know they would like to see it stopped. And yet some of ^{them} find it too much trouble to sit down and write a note to say this. One very anxious mother has written to ask what we can do about this. I am quite sure in my own mind that we can get government to ban the importing of this filthy stuff. Government is reasonable and will pay attention to the clearly expressed wishes/ ^{of parents}/. But it is up to the parents to show their wishes in this matter. That was why I asked you to write to me when I spoke on this subject two weeks ago. And as I said, many parents have written, but not enough.

In the United States, from where all Jamaica's dirty literature came, the problem has got out of hand because it has been left too long. And parents there are desperately worried. If we leave it too long here we may find ourselves in the same boat. But we are still in a position to stop it, if we act now.

Goodnight,

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday June 13 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: We have just had a week of flooding rain at what is, for us here in Jamaica, an unusual time of the year. There has been great damage and hardship throughout the island: some of our roads have been washed out and others have become studded with dangerous potholes. The cost of the damaged is likely to run into quite a large sum of money: I think a quarter of a million pounds would not be too high a guess.

Why did we have this flash of flooding at this time of the year? I think it was part of the after effects of the Chilean earthquake. Chile's earthquake you will remember shook up places as far away as the heart of Eastern Europe; and tidal waves after the earthquake hit countries as far away as Japan. It is natural that such violent earth tremors must have their effect on the weather. We, I think, just caught the backwash of this weather disturbance in a week of flooding rain.

Many people have been asking whether these underground atomic tests did not have something to do with Chile's earthquake. I am not an expert in these matters so I cannot speak with any real authority but it does seem to me that there might be something to this idea. An atomic or hydrogen explosion is a really violent affair. It is so violent that British and American instruments can record it when such/^{an} explosion~~s~~ takesplace in Russia. If such a heavy blast is let off deep inside the earth it will give the earth quite a shaking. And if it is let off near the line of cracks in the earth's surface, it could so shake the crack as to widen it and set off an earthquake such as the one that hit Chile.

So, you see, it is not unreasonable to feel that all these atomic explosions, especially the underground one, might have a very important bearing on earthquakes and weather conditions.

Now lets go on to something else. The little war between Mr. Rudolph Burke and Sir Robert Kirkwood about whether the J.A.S. is doing its job properly, has taken another new turn which I personally do not like. As I have told you before, I do not think the Agricultural Society is such a sacred cow that no one dare criticise it. I also told you I thought it was a good thing for agriculture that this scrap had developed between Sir Robert and Mr. Burke. You will remember there was a lot of heat in the exchanges between Mr. Burke and Sir Robert; but it was good clean heat with neither man insulting the other personally even though it seemed to me that Mr. Burke was playing to the gallery quite a bit. It was Mr. Claude Hamilton who first introduced a sour note into this debate by implying that Sir Robert was a rat deserting a sinking ship. This I found nasty and offensive. And now Mr. Willie Henry has joined in in something of the same spirit. In his attack on Sir Robert on Wednesday of last week Mr. Henry found it necessary to describe Sir Robert as 'impertinent' and 'a foreigner'. I do not think Sir Roberts place of birth or the colour of his skin should come into this thing. We do not want black race prejudice any more than we want white race prejudice. Both are equally evil. Sir Robert Kirkwood has made Jamaica his home. He is no more a foreigner than Mr. Henry. It is Jamaica's lack of prejudice that I am proud of and that I love her for. Let us keep Jamaica that way, even when we engage in heated debate.

Tomorrow I will tell you about the arrest of a man who was responsible for the death of over six million people. Till then. Good

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Tuesday June 14 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: There is a three-cornered debate going on at the moment. I think this debate is going to get blown up into quite an international situation within the next few weeks. The three parties who are concerned in this debate are the Jewish state of Israel, the government of Argentina and some very influential people and papers in the United States. The cause of the debate was the arrest of a man called Adolph Eichmann who is certainly the greatest mass killer alive today. Indeed, I don't think any other man in the whole history of the world has been responsible for the death of as many people in such a cold-blooded and systematic way. ~~xx~~

But let me sketch in the details for you.

On the 13th of last month a bald, ugly man with big ears and a long nose was walking along ~~one~~ of the main avenue of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. It was in the evening and the man was going home from work. Suddenly ~~are~~ car swerved to the pavement, the ~~door~~ opened and before the man knew what was happening he was bundled into the car and it shot away and was lost in the thick evening traffic. The man was ~~Adolf~~ Adolf Eichmann. His kidnappers were five Jewish secret service men. For 15 years Eichmann had lived in fear of just this thing happening; now it had happened. For the Jewish agents this was the end of a manhunt which had been going on for years and which had taken them all over the world in search of this man. That night the white-haired Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, received a telegram which read: "The beast is in chains." Three days later Eichmann was a prisoner in

Israel and admitted who he was before a court of law. Now, who was he? Adolf Eichmann was head of the Jewish Section of Hitler's Gestapo in Germany. Hitler had given him the job of 'solving the Jewish problem'. Eichmann set about 'solving' the problem allright. His way of solving it was mass murder and he went about it in a most businesslike way. He drew up a great list of all the Jews in Germany. These were then rounded up systematically and sent to slave labour camps like Buchenwald in specially organised goods trains into which they were jammed like cattle. When they got to the camps the strong and able-bodied were set to work; the old and the weak were ordered to dig their own graves and were then destroyed in their thousands. This happened with Jews from Hungary, Poland, Austria and all over Europe. The skin of murdered Jews was used to make lampshades for Hitler Germany's house wives. Jewish men and women and children were experimented on in the same way as scietists experiment with guinea-pigs - the only difference was that while the scientists would not hurt or torture their guinea pigs unnecessarily, Eichmann's experimenters got a great kick out of the suffering of the Jews. To them, making the Jews suffer was part of the fun of finding a 'final solution' to the Jewish problem. The German scientists under Eichmann got worried about the cost of killing Jews and came up with a quick and cheap gas which they named 'Zyklon B". Millions of Jews died by this gas. And when the count was taken after the last war, it showed that Eichmann had been responsible for the killing of six million Jews. And now this beast was in chains and parts of the free world were protesting. Why? I will go into that tomorrow, so till then; goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Wednesday June 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you about the capture of Adolf Eichmann who, as head of the Jewish section of Hitler's Gestapo, was responsible for the systematic slaughtering of six million Jews. I only touched on some of the horrifying details of this cold-blooded slaughter. Just pause and think of it. Think of all the people of Jamaica being killed calmly and scientifically: and when you have thought of that just remember that if every man, woman and child in Jamaica were killed it would only amount to a quarter of the number of all the Jews who were killed by Eichmann's ~~orders~~ orders. You know how you felt when you heard a hundred Africans were killed in South Africa. How would you feel if you were a Jew who knew that this man had done this to so many of your own people? But you do not have to be a Jew to see the breath-taking horror of this man's crimes.

But Argentina is protesting bitterly. She wants Israel to return Eichmann. She says Israel has violated her sovereignty by taking him out of the country. And if Israel did return Eichmann to Argentina, would he be tried for his crimes? I doubt it. Many other Nazi war criminals are doing very nicely in Argentina. It is believed that Martin Bormann, is in safe hiding there. And what of the protests from America? One influential American paper has said Israel should hand Eichmann over to the West German Republic for them to put him on trial. The West German Government has so far look on this proposal coldly. They do not want any part of what promises to be a very tricky situation. The argument is that Eichmann's crimes were committed in Germany and he should therefore

be tried and punished in Germany. Another suggestion, this time from the President of the World Zionist Organisation, Nahum Goldmann, who is based in New York, was that Israel should hand Eichmann over to be tried by an international court. The Israeli action has been described as a breach of international law, and one U.S. official has said// that for Israel to try Eichmann "is going to cause a serious loss of world confidence in the objectivity of the Israeli government".

Israel's Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, has said that it is easy for people, especially American journalists, who have never suffered Nazi atrocities to be objective. ~~They have never~~ ~~experienced~~ ~~Eichmann's~~ ~~in~~ ~~1945~~ I frankly agree with Mr. Ben-Gurion on this. The Americans did capture Eichmann in 1945; but they allowed him to escape and slip through their fingers. Eichmann's punishment was not as important to them as it was to the Jews whose loved ones and dear friends had often been his victims. So it is easy to talk about legality and objectivity. The world has tended to adopt a similar attitude about the racial tyranny in South Africa. And let us face it, if the Israelis had not set about catching this human monster himself he would still have been free today. The forces of international law, all those who are now talking about objectivity and legality, would not have raised a finger to capture and punish the greatest murderer in the history of the world. I personally am wholly behind Israel in the Eichmann case.

Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Thursday June 16 at 6.15p/m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The news of Mr. Macleod's impact on Trinidad's Dr. Eric Williams is extremely interesting: so interesting in fact that I wish our news service from the Federal capital were a little fuller and a little more complete than it is. From Dr. Williams' past performances I am sure you all know that he is a tough-minded little man who sometimes goes after what he wants like a bull in a china shop. It is therefore quite a high compliment to the diplomatic skill and human warmth of Mr. Macleod that he has won the confidence and friendship and respect of Dr. Williams. The news from Trinidad is that the Colonial Secretary and the Premier of Trinidad have become firm good friends who admire each other. And confidence and respect for each other often does, as I am sure you know, lead to happy results. This has been so in Trinidad.

Mr. Macleod and Dr. Williams, I understand, have settled all the outstanding differences between Trinidad and Britain on the island's constitution - and they have done this without any of the stormy scenes which are such a common feature of most of Dr. Williams' negotiations. This, I feel, was a great achievement for Mr. Macleod.

You will remember that it was towards the middle of last year that Mr. Julian Amery, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited the West Indies. He spent a short time here in Jamaica and then went on to Trinidad for constitutional talks with that island's leaders. The leaders of Trinidad wanted their constitution to be brought in line with ours. Under their constitution certain civil servants, like the Chief Secretary, were members of the Cabinet.

This meant that civil servants who had not been elected by the people and were therefore not responsible to them, could have the same say in making the policies of the country as the elected Ministers of the people. The Governor, too, had more powers than has our Governor in Jamaica. He had powers of discretion which gave him the right to put any government department, other than finance, under the control of a civil service member of the Cabinet. And it was generally known in Trinidad that the intention of the Colonial Office was to continue keeping control of the police in the hands of the civil service.

This Dr. Eric Williams and his colleagues did not want any part of. And he expressed himself in his usual blunt manner. At one time, in July of last year, it looked as though the constitutional talks would collapse completely. There was even talk then of the Trinidad government resigning and calling a general election on the constitutional issue. In the end Mr. Julian Amery left Port of Spain with the question unsettled, and with Dr. Williams declaring firmly that his Government and party "Will not sacrifice one ounce of principle".

Then, last week, Mr. Macleod flew down to Trinidad and things immediately began to look up. My information is that when the final draft of Trinidad's new constitution is written that country will have exactly the same set-up as we have in Jamaica with the police under the control of an elected Member of the Cabinet, and with the Governor's powers being about the same as those of our Governor. And all this has been worked out without any fuss, I gather. All of which confirms my view that Ian Macleod is quite a man.

Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Friday June 17 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Tuesday of this week Mr. Manley laid a Ministry Paper on the table of the House of Representatives. I should like all those of you who are thinking of going to England to try and get hold of this Paper and to read it very carefully. This Paper is known as Ministry Paper No.20 and you should be able to get copies of it from the Government's Public Relations Department. The text of this Paper was also published in full in the Daily Gleaner of Wednesday June 15.

I think it is a most important Paper and I think anybody who is thinking of going to England should benefit greatly from it. It sets out the whole history of Jamaican migration beginning way back in the 1800s and brings the story right up to date, with so many of our people going to Britain. It speaks frankly about the problems and hardships any migrant to Britain is likely to come up against. And I think it is important for would-be migrants to face the facts and face them squarely.

Let us look briefly at the history of migration. Between 1881 and 1921 146,000 Jamaicans left the island. 46,000 went to the United States, 45,000 went to Panama, 22,000 went to Cuba and 43,000 went to other countries. In this days migration was mainly to this part of the world, not to Europe.

But during the years of the Second World War the picture changed. 7,000 Jamaicans went to Europe in the armed forces, mainly in the R.A.F. Many of these men stayed in Britain after the war. Movement to the United States became restricted and the movement to Britain

grew. In the early days of the movement the migrants were mainly men who knew a skilled trade: carpenter, mechanics and so on. In 1953 just over 2,100 men migrated to Britain. But in 1956 17,300 people went to England. In 1957 over 13,000 went, and in 1958 another 10,000 more went. And between January and May of this year - in just five months - more than 10,000 Jamaicans left the island for Britain. Now, these are only people who have gone to Britain from Jamaica. If you add to this the people who have gone from the other West Indian islands, you get a really large figure of West Indians in Britain.

Things were not too bad while the West Indians could get jobs in Britain, while there was almost full employment. But at the beginning of last year you had a situation in Britain where 600,000 workers were unemployed. And it is a fact that ~~where~~ there is a great deal of unemployment and a coloured man and a white man go after the same job, the white man is likely to get it in nine cases out of ten. Whether we like it or not, ~~there is race prejudice in Britain though~~ *people understandably give first chance to their own kind in their own country.* ~~it is very rarely shown in a vicious sort of way!~~ And of course, ~~there is the other side too~~, there are generous and kindly people who will go out of their way to help. But getting jobs is already tough and it is going to get tougher. Today 90% of West Indian women looking for jobs through labour exchanges are unemployed; and its likely to get worse for both men and women. And/~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{I know} nothing more miserable than being broke and hungry in a really cold country. So read this Paper and get all the facts before you go. It gives you all the facts fairly and squarely; and it shows that going to England can work out as a really rough and hard business, as many Jamaicans who are already there have discovered to their cost.

Goodnight

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Saturday June 18 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Thursday of this week we got the news that Mr. Morris Cargill had resigned his seat as an M.P. in the Federal House of Representatives. Mr. Cargill, you will remember, won the St. Mary seat for the Jamaica Labour Party in the Federal elections of 1958. When Mr. Robert Lightbourne resigned his seat in the Federal House last year to fight and win a seat in our local General Elections, Mr. Cargill took his place as Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Federal House of Representatives. This meant that he was the effective leader of the team of J.L.P. members of the Federal House. As well as resigning his seat Mr. Cargill has also resigned from the Democratic Labour Party of the West Indies. Mr. Cargill is thus the first member of the J.L.P.'s Federal team who has followed the lead Sir Alexander Bustamante gave three weeks ago when he resigned his leadership of the Democratic Labour Party of the West Indies.

Now two very interesting things emerge from Mr. Cargill's resignation. The first is that from his statement it would seem that his resignation is a personal and private decision. You will recall that when I spoke about Busta's resignation on June 2nd I asked what it was going to mean to the J.L.P. I asked whether the J.L.P. was going to go on being affiliated to the Demoractic Labour Party of the West Indies. I also asked whether the J.L.P. members in the Federal House were going to resign. I suggested then that they might find themselves in a very funny position if the J.L.P. did not cut its connection with the D.L.P. and if the J.L.P. M.P.'s did not resign from the Federal House. I would make a guess - and I think it

is a reasonably sure guess - that the J.L.P. M.P.'s have in fact discussed the questions I raised. I think the form of Mr. Cargill's resignation can be interpreted as meaning that they could not arrive at any agreement. And this, in turn, can be interpreted to mean that there is not general agreement within the J.L.P. on Busta's decision to fight for outright secession. All this could add up to quite a few headaches being in store for the J.L.P. in the weeks and months that are ahead. I think the J.L.P. would have made a much more dramatic impact if, after Busta's announcement to quit, their M.P.'s had resigned as a body and the J.L.P. had cut off its connections with the D.L.P. This would have shaken the West Indies and world; it would have shown the party's unity on the issue of seceding. In party political terms I think the J.L.P. missed a great opportunity.

The second interesting about Mr. Cargill's statement of resignation is his views on the Federation itself. Mr. Cargill says that the Units of the East Caribbean need a strong central federal government. But a strong central government will mean that the economy of Jamaica will be at the mercy of the East Caribbean. Jamaica on the other hand needs a weak central government, but this will mean that the islands of the East Caribbean would be at our mercy. So, says Mr. Cargill, the best thing is to scrap the whole business and let the East Caribbean have a Federation of its own, with which we will co-operate without being committed in any way.

This is a very novel point of view which I hope to get Mr. Cargill to discuss on one of the Saturday evening forums on Federation. And by the way, the first of these forums, with Mr. Manley and Senator Douglas Judah, is at 9.15 this evening; so please listen in.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Monday June 20 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Things have been moving really fast in Africa over the past few weeks, so I think it is time for us to take another look at some of the things that are going on in Africa because what happens in Africa today is going to have a profound impact on all the world tomorrow. It is in this sense that Africa can truly be called the Continent of the future.

Now, some of the things that have happened, like the political crisis in the Congo, has made world news headlines. Others, like the recent goings-on in Guineas, have not been noticed very much in the world's press. Yet, what is happening in these two countries is more important than most of the news you see on today's front page headlines.

The Belgian Congo, as some of you may know, is due for complete independence at the end of this month. Elections for the first parliament of an independent Congo have already taken place at the end of last month. Out of these elections had come such chaos and such confusion that nobody, not even the people of the Congo themselves know where they are going or what is going to happen to them.

The elections were a real riot. In the first five weeks of the campaign 57 people were murdered. Tribesmen chased each other through the main streets of the cities of the Congo; defeated candidates set fire to polling stations; there were beatings-up, arson and murder on a frightening scale. And these scenes of violence did not end with the elections. They are still going on.

Now there are three main political leaders in the Congo. The first is a tall, thin bearded man of 34 called Patrice Lumumba.

Lumumba is a real fire-eating sort of a man whom the Belgians describe as a communist. I do not think he is any more a communist than Kwame Nkrumah was. But I do know that he is not an honest man. He was formerly a clerk in a post office and it was while he was working for the post office that he stole about £800, was found out and sentenced to six months in jail. The second man is 43-year-old Joseph Kasavubu. He is an honest, conservative type of man whom the Belgians would like to see as the first Prime Minister of the independent Congo. The third man is Moïse Tshombe. Very little is known about Tshombe except that he is the leader of the very rich Katanga region from which the Belgians have taken thousands of millions of pounds in precious minerals. Tshombe knows that his region is possibly the richest piece of all Africa and he wants to secede and form his own independent state.

From all this you will see that with only days to go ~~xxxxxx~~ before they are independent, the African people of the Congo are in one of the worse messes that has ever hit Africa. Why is this so?

I think this mess was to be expected. I personally expected it to be even worse, and the reason is this: From 1885 until 1960 the Belgians ruled the Congo with an iron hand. They did not allow any political parties; they did not allow freedom of opinion or freedom of the press: in short, they did not give the Africans a chance to learn to practice the art of politics. And now the Africans are suddenly having to learn and learn the hard way. I think we can look forward to a great deal more trouble in the Congo. Tomorrow I will talk about Guinea and the Russian moves in Africa. Till then,

Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Tuesday June 21 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you about the mess in which the Congo is only a few days before it is due for independence. I told you that this mess was due to the fact that for nearly a hundred years the Belgians ruled the Congo with an iron hand, crushing all ^{of the Africans} ~~their~~ attempts/to think or act politically. The Africans were not allowed to form political parties or take any part in the running of their country, not even at village level. This was like tying a child to a cot in a dark room from the time he is born until he reaches the age of 21 and then letting him out into the bright light of day. That child will not be able to walk or to see; and it will suffer great pain and trouble before it learns to walk and to see. This is the Congo situation.

That of Guinea is rather different. Guinea, you will remember, was a French colony until 1958 when she became independent. The French had allowed political parties and political activities in their colonies, so the transition to independence was not as charged with violence and blood-letting as in the Congo. But when independence came to Guinea the French gave her the choice of remaining in the French Union (which is something like our Commonwealth) or going it completely alone. The people of Guinea chose to go it alone. When the French heard this they pulled out fast. They took all their money out of the country; they recalled all their civil servants; they took their books and papers, their machines -some of them even removed their desks and inkwells. They left the people of Guinea nothing with which to carry on, and the country faced some very serious problems. There was no money to carry on

the business of the country and there were no experienced civil servants to take care of the day-to-day affairs of the country. President Sekou Toure, himself, knew much more about being a political agitator than he did about the very tricky business of governing a country.

The West wished the new republic and its President well, and there were even people in Britain and America who criticised the French for the way in which they had pulled out. But Guinea needed expert help much more than good wishes. The country was on the point of being bankrupt. At this point, a year ago, the communists stepped in. They offered aid, they offered trade, they offered technical assistance. Guinea accepted this. Communist experts from Czechoslovakia, from Hungary, from Poland, from East Germany and even from Communist China, flocked into the country. They aided, they entered into trade deals and they gave advice on the business of government. Last month Guinea was economically sounder than when the French had pulled out. But she also had 'People's Courts' and a secret police along communist lines. And two weeks ago forty people, including a man who had formed an opposition party with the permission of Sekou Toure, were put on trial. Nineteen people were sentenced to death for 'plotting against the state'; the others got long prison sentences. Freedom of speech, freedom of opinion are dying fast and communism has a strong foothold in Guinea. And now the Congo also looks ripe and ready. The communists have started their move into Africa. Soon Khrushchev will visit tomorrow's continent. If the West does not watch out they will lose the battle for the hearts and minds of the Africans: and whoever wins that battle wins the Cold War of power politics in the world. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Wednesday June 22 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Things are really beginning to hum on the Federal scene and I think that between now and the date of the Referendum here in Jamaica, federal politics is going to be the dominating ~~xxxx~~ force in our public affairs. I think this is a very good thing. I think the great debate which has now started is something we should have had at the outset of the Federation. On the other hand it was difficult to have such a debate so long as it seemed that both Jamaica's main political parties were for Federation. As long as that was the case there was very little point in debating something on which the parties were in agreement. Now, of course, the situation is different: the issue has become dramatically alive and the people of Jamaica are going to have the last say on it. So now the great debate is on.

What are the issues which we can say are settled so far in the great debate? First, Mr. Macleod has made it quite clear that Britain believes firmly that Federation is the best thing possible for the islands of the Caribbean. Britain would like to see us make a success of the Federation. But Mr. Macleod has made it plain that the decision is up to us. The second point that has been settled is our relations with the Commonwealth. It would be a proud day/ for Britain, said Mr. Macleod, when she could sponsor the West Indies as a full independent member of the Commonwealth. The third point which has been settled is that of financial aid for the Federation. Mr. Macleod has made a straightforward statement that even after independence the West Indies will get financial aid from the United Kingdom. These then, are three points on which

we do not need to have any further debate. Let me repeat the three points: 1) Britain is completely in favour of the Federation; 2) we will be welcomed into Commonwealth membership as an independent nation as soon as we've settle our own differences; and 3) there will be financial aid for us even after we have achieved our independence.

Another important issue which is a part of the great debate has also been partly settled: that is the question of Chaguaramas and other U.S. bases in the area. All the Unit territories on which there are American bases will be able to argue their own cases for themselves when next the bases agreement is discussed. This means that Dr. Williams will be able to argue his own case for Chaguaramas. Jamaica will also be heard on its leased bases. The West Indies Big Three - Adams, Williams and Manley - achieved complete agreement on this question which has for so long been the cause of bitter comment by Dr. Eric Williams. This means that the question of bases is not likely to be part of the great debate on Federation.

With all this/ ^{apparent} agreement on the Federal Labour Party side, what is happening in the Democratic Labour Party? At the moment there seems to be a great deal of confusion. I mentioned this confusion when I discussed the resignation of Mr. Cargill on Saturday. Now we hear that Mr. Albert Gomes as well as two other prominent members of the D.L.P Opposition have been suspended by their party. I think the D.L.P is going through a very difficult period of not knowing quite where it is at the moment. But I think, and I hope, that this confusion will soon be sorted out so that both the D.L.P and the J.L.P. can make their contribution to this great debate. It is important that all sides and all points of view be presented to the people of Jamaica and the West Indies. That is the strngth and virtue of democracy. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Thursday June 23 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: What happened here in Jamaica over the past few days should make us all think very seriously and very soberly about what we mean by the 'rule of law' and what the rule of law means to us as citizens of this country. I think many of us have taken our relations with the forces of the law for granted. The law and those who enforce the law are there for our protection: that was as much as we knew or cared about, ^{it} And of course we almost always thought the law was a nuisance when we, as individuals, ran up against it. But suddenly over the past three days we have been shocked and shaken by seeing how a handful of men have challenged and defied the law and order of our land. They have killed two young soldiers in cold blood, and two others are seriously wounded.

Now what is the story behind this? On Tuesday morning trucks loaded with soldiers and police made their way to the foothills of St. Andrew's Red Hills. They were on a large-scale raid in the Belevedere area where it was suspected that Rastafarians had stored away arms and ammunition. In their raid they disturbed and thoroughly upset one family - that of a civil servants. This family was naturally as angry and indignant as any of us would become if police or soldiers were to barge into our homes and we know that we have done no wrong. The reaction of this family was the natural reaction of all law-abiding citizens to the law.

But hard on this incident came tragedy. The Rasta camp was found deserted and I suspect the ~~xx~~ young soldiers rather relaxed. Suddenly five of them were ambushed from behind. There was gunfire and one soldier dropped down dead. Three others were gravely injured

and one died of his wounds later. So there are two soldiers dead and two are in a serious condition, especially one who has two bullets in his chest.

Now ~~ix~~ this is a hard and a sad thing to have to say but it is the truth and it must be said. I have heard talk about these being white soldiers and so on. That is not the point. The important thing to remember is that these soldiers - the white ones, the black ones and the police - went on this raid at the orders of our government. They were servants of the people we elected, therefore they were our servants, and they died serving us. Please never forget that: these young men died in our service, doing their duty to see that our law and order and the peacefulness of our ways are maintained. I think the Premier expressed the unhappiness and sympathy of all Jamaicans except a handful of mad fanatics when he said how much he regretted the death of these young men of the Hampshire Regiment.

Now who are these ~~killers~~ ^{men} who did not hesitate to shoot? There are, I understand, five of them. ^{Their identity is obviously not yet known but} Reports have it that ~~these five~~ are 1) Reynold Henry who is the son of the Rev. Claudius Henry who is now in prison awaiting ~~trial~~ ^{is now in Jamaica} on a charge of Treason. Reynold Henry is himself an American citizen; ^{it is also reported that in Jamaica} 2) there are three Americans ^{whom he knows that} who are friends of Reynold Henry; and 3) there is Calvert Claude Beckford, alias 'Thunder' for whom the police have been looking since the arrest of Claudius Henry. ^{is still at large} These ~~then~~ ^{are} the five ~~killers~~ ^{men on the run.} They have shown that they are cold-blooded and that they will kill without thinking twice. The big question we must face is: how did these four Americans get into the country and how did they and ^{the man} Beckford succeed in hiding from our authorities for so long? I will ^{who is thought to be} talk about this tomorrow; so till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Friday June 24 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember I ended my comments last night by asking how these ~~four Americans~~ ^{men who were} ~~Claudius Henry's son and his~~ ^{on the run} ~~three friends~~, as well as Calvert Beckford - how did they succeed in staying hidden for so long. ^{ed}

Reports are that Reynold Henry arrived in the island about two weeks ago/and illegally. And these same reports have it that his three American friends slipped into the country a little before him. And of course Beckford has been at large for a long time now in spite of the police offer of a reward of \$50 to anybody who would give information leading to Beckford's arrest. ^{if anyone had the info} So these five ^{they have} ~~men~~ had at least two weeks to make their plans before the police and the military went after them.

Just think about it for a while. We have five men; one is wanted by the police; four have entered the country illegally. The four do not know the country very well, and the fifth is a man on the run. What does it mean? I don't think we can escape the meaning of this. It means that there were people to help these men. It means that there are people in the ^{state} Corpante Area of Kingston and elsewhere who gave food and shelter and comfort to Beckford. It means that when the Americans slipped into this country they knew that there were people who would hide them and feed them and keep a watch for them. In short, it means that there are other people behind the five men. If the five men were alone, if they had ~~now~~ nowhere and no-one to turn to, they could not have last a week.

I think it is fair to say then that behind these five men there is some sort of organisation or some group of people who believe in

terror and violence and murder to get their way. The evidence would suggest that there are people in this country - a small group - who are prepared to see this country set on fire and for a reign of terror to take the place of our present peaceful manner of progress.

But you know Jamaica and you know that this sort of thing cannot go on without some people who are not a part of that group knowing and learning about it. I am sure that there are many people who are not a part of this group of terrorists who saw Beckford when he was slipping from one hiding place to another. And I am equally certain that some innocent citizens must have got wind of the other four from time to time. But for reasons of their own they did nothing about it and said nothing about it.

One of the reasons for this, I think, is that there are many people who feel they do not want to have anything to do with the police. They will shrug and say it is none of their business; it is the business of the law or of government. Others were frankly afraid of what might happen to them, and so they did nothing and said nothing. And then, of course, there were others - there always are - who thought these men might be doing this sort of thing for the good of the country. But what kind of good? What have they offered the people of the country? What happened to all the money that was collected from poor people who hoped to go to Africa and who are still here? No; I don't see any good they have to offer. But I see great danger for our society when decent citizens help criminals by their silence. The rule of law is not something which belongs only to the government or the police. It belongs to all of us; it is there for our protection. Without it no real progress is possible. But I'll see you more tomorrow; so till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Saturday June 25 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: What, exactly, do we mean by 'the rule of law'? Now I'm no lawyer and I am not thinking of a lawyer's definition. I am thinking as an ordinary citizen who wants to live freely in his own country and move about without fear. I'm thinking as a citizen who works for what he gets and who lives in the assurance that no man can just come and take from me and mine what I have earned by the sweat of my brow. I'm thinking as a citizen who wants to think as he pleases and speak his mind without fear or favour. Both you and I want to know that we can go to bed in peace at night and get up in peace in the morning. We want to feel that we leave our families safely behind at home and that we will find them safe when we return from our day's work. We do not want to be bullied by anybody because he is bigger or stronger; we do not want to be pushed around by anybody because he is richer or more powerful. In order for such a situation to exist you and I, all of us, have accepted and live by a body of rules. Often we do not know the origins of these rules; some are written, some are not written; some we find in our religion, others are the laws made by the government of our country. Quite often, when someone does something we say to him or her 'You can't do this'. There are times when we may not be able to explain why he or she cannot do such a thing, but we do know that it is against the rules. The rules by which we live are our protection. They ensure order and security and peace in our lives. We need those rules to make our lives as peaceful and comfortable and happy and creative as possible. This would be my own grassroots definition of the rule of law. I think you can carry this definition

into the political life of a country. It becomes more complicated, there is more organisation, and you have an agency - the police - to see that the rules are observed. But the basic principle is the same. We choose men to speak for us in parliament. And in order to decide which group of men should make up the government we have elections with two or more parties. Before elections were introduced into the world men generally settled who would rule a country by fighting it out with axes guns and the like, and the side that won became the rulers. Today, instead of killing each other to see who should rule, we vote against each other. We have progressed to a point where we see killing is wrong and so we use the vote instead. And in a truly democratic country we can turn out any government simply by using our votes. There is no need for guns and for murder.

But there is one very important thing we must never forget. How our country is ruled depends on us more than it does on the politicians. If they know that we are watchful and critical they will take good care of our public business because it is our business. The same thing applies with the rule of law. Those who helped these five ~~killers~~ and those who said it was none of their business were equally guilty of introducing lawlessness into this country. And lawlessness is the greatest enemy of any country's peace, security and progress.

To sum up then: what has happened in these past few days, with terror stalking through our beautiful hills is an attempt by lawless men to destroy the rule of law in our society. We must all of us take a hand in stopping them or else they will destroy the rule of law which is the foundation of our progress and all we hope to build for the future of this country and its people. Believe me, this is our business, yours and mine.....Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Monday June 27 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking



Good evening: You will remember that it was two Fridays ago - on June 10th - that I commented on the mass Japanese demonstrations that finally led to the cancelling of President Eisenhower's visit to Japan. I told you then that these violent demonstrations were against what the Japanese called "the tyranny of the majority". I also told you how the Speaker of the Japanese House was nearly choked to death by Opposition members who tried to prevent him from opening a session of the House. You will remember I ended by saying that all I had said proved that Japanese politics made our politics look like a very respectable middle-class tea party; and that one part of the reason for these demonstrations was that the Japanese were giving themselves a great political ball, and that the other part of the reason was that the Japanese were afraid of Russia and China - the two great giants of the East.

Now these comments which I made two Fridays ago disturbed one of my most loyal and consistent listeners. He felt that I had treated the problem too lightly, especially after the demonstrators forced the cancelling of Eisenhower's trip to Japan. He felt that this was very much more serious than a bunch of students merely giving themselves a political ball.

Of course it is a serious situation: the Cold War aspect of it is deadly serious to both the Russian and Chinese communists who have made Japan their number one target, and to the United States who has just lost her greatest political defeat in the Far East. But in spite of the seriousness of the situation it is hard not to see the comic

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side of it all. I find the idea of a bunch of P.M.s, most of them fat and middle-aged, playing hide-and-seek in their parliament buildings, I find this comic. Think of Busta and ~~Sanger~~ Sangster chasing Speaker Coke up and down the stairs of Headquarters House with Shearer, Lightbourne and Leon waiting in dark corners to trip him up!

And of course there is this thing to the demonstrations: the people, the hundreds of thousands who came out of the streets and shouted at the instructions of communist cheer-leader, most of them did not care what it was all about. They were just doing a job for which they were paid. The enemies of the Kishi Government, the communists, had established a definitely scale of pay. For taking part in a demonstration you were paid a dollar. For taking part in a minor riot the fee was a dollar and a half. And during ^{the} height of the "Ike Don't Come" riots the pay was often doubled and each demonstrator got \$2.80. To poor students this was a quick and easy way of making pocket money. And for the unemployed this was not a bad day's work. It is estimated that something in the neighbourhood of ~~\$1.50~~ one and a half million dollars was paid out to rioters against Eisenhower's visiting Japan.

But let us look at the serious and sinister part of the business. Japan has a population of roughly 93 million people. The Japanese communist party is a tiny party with only 47,000 members. But they have the might of China and Russia behind them and they are hell-bent on making Japan communist. Will they succeed? I'll try to answer this question tomorrow evening. Till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Tuesday June 28 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking



Good evening: When Douglas MacArthur the 2nd, U.S. Ambassador to ~~Japan~~, picked up his telephone and made a call to Manila a little over a week ago, the United States suffered its greatest political defeat in the Far East since the end of the Second World War. MacArthur's phone call was to President Eisenhower. It advised the President not to come to Japan. MacArthur told the President that the Japanese Government could not guarantee his safety.

A few days before Eisenhower was due in Japan, and when the riots were at their height, Ambassador MacArthur asked Premier Kishi what he proposed to do to ensure the President's safety. Kishi's answer was that he would organise a pro-Government and pro-Eisenhower demonstration. In other words, all Kishi could do was to hire hundreds of thousands of people to stage counter-demonstration and riots in favour of Eisenhower's coming. MacArthur rightly saw this as no guarantee of the President's safety. And so the trip was called off.

Japan, which was once the most powerful country in the Far East, was in no position to defend one distinguished visitor, let alone herself. Her great army, her great navy, her great air force, did not exist any longer. Today she has an army of only 170,000 troops. And all they have for arms are obsolete World War Two weapons. She has a navy of only 28,000 men and her largest ship is a small thing weighing only 2,300 tons. She has an air force with about 500 trained pilots, but she has less than 400 planes. In short, Japan was so weak that she could not cope with any serious internal trouble let alone an enemy from outside. And for this situation the

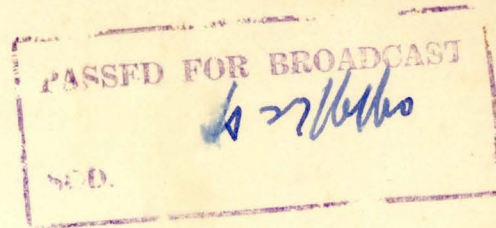
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United States was directly responsible.

At the end of the last war the United States occupied Japan and imposed a new Constitution on that country. This Constitution brought in sweeping changes. It gave the Japanese people a greater freedom than they had ever had. It broke up the large estates and gave the land-hungry Japanese peasant a greater share in the country's wealth than he had ever known before. It imposed political freedom and parliamentary democracy on Japan.

And with this the United States also did a big job of economic rehabilitation. It pumped \$6 billion dollars into the Japanese economy and invested heavily in Japanese industrial development. Today Japan is the most prosperous and industrialised country in the Far East. Japan's industrial and economic growth since the war has made Red China's so-called 'great leap forward' look like a joke.

But this U.S.-imposed and American style democratic constitution had one clause, Article 9, which said: "Land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained". And so Japan is in no position to defend herself. The Russians and the Chinese are using threats to force Japan to break with the U.S. If she breaks with the U.S. she will be completely at the mercy of the communists; if she does not, the communists can easily stage a revolution with which her armed forces cannot cope. That is the situation. The big question is: Will the U.S. risk a world war to defend Japan from communism?.....Goodnight



NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday June 29 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking.

Good evening: I wonder how many people know that Jamaica spends roughly £2,000,000 every year on importing fish. I find this a very curious situation. We have the sea around us. And I don't think that anybody has proved that our sea has any less fish or that the fish to be found in the Caribbean Sea is any less tasty than fish from other seas. I find it very curious that we have no really worthwhile fishing industry.

I know that government has now set up a Committee to go into the question of setting up a really worthwhile fishing industry, and I know that Mr. Allan Isaacs, the Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, is keenly interested in seeing the fishing industry developed. Mr. Isaacs has promised to let us know as soon as the Committee has made its recommendations: he has also said that money will be available for borrowing from finance corporations in Jamaica. I think you will find that this money to borrow is more likely to be there for groups working co-operatively rather than for individual fishermen, unless they are very big operators.

I think that one of the greatest obstacles we have had in the past was keeping our fish fresh until it reached the markets and the consumers. It is no use catching huge quantities of fish which will rot before they reach the markets. I don't think we can hope to have a really worthwhile industry until this problem of preserving the fish is beaten. I am sure that Mr. Isaac's Committee will pay particular attention to this problem of keeping our fish fresh until it reaches our tables.

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And, of course, once the problem of storage is solved there is no reason why we should not, over a period of time, build up a canned fish export industry which will bring money into the country, as well as easing our employment situation. I am sure there is no need for us to keep on sending £2,000,000 out of the country for fish. Our fishermen are as good as any. Let us give them the tools to do the job and contribute to our development.

Now let me touch on another aspect of agriculture, though a political one this time. In his column last Sunday, under the heading: 'Political Farmers', the Gleaner's Political Reporter dealt with the controversy which has recently so stirred the J.A.S., the farmers and the country as to lead to a full dress debate in Legco. The Political Reporter raised a very interesting new point. He pointed out that Mr. Rudolph Burke was both President of the J.A.S. and a Minister of Government and member of the Cabinet. This, he said, put Mr. Burke in the position of a man having to ride two horses, and that when a man has two horses to ride one horse must follow unless he is a circus performer. The Political Reporter feels that Mr. Burke should either be asked to resign from the Cabinet, ^{or} else from the J.A.S. His argument is that the present position makes the J.A.S. a tool of the government, hence the spate of 'political farmers'. I think I am inclined to agree with the Political Reporter. For the good of the country's agriculture Mr. Burke should either give all his time to agriculture or make way for someone else who will do so. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
~~Friday~~ ~~July 2nd~~ at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking



Good evening: The news that the government of Cuba has taken over an American oil company is, I am sure, no surprise to those of us who have been following the unfolding of events in our big sister island. This had to come: it was just a matter of time. Now it has come, and I think the after-effects of this action of Dr. Fidel Castro are going to be felt by all Cubans in the months ahead. I think the taking over of the oil company is going to create a completely new situation in terms of Cuba's relations with the United States, Latin America and the world of international business. Just what that new situation is going to be is something no-one can tell at the moment. Certainly, the withdrawal of American business from Cuba will be speeded up; the coldness between Cuba and the countries of Latin America will sink to freezing point; and Cuba will not be able to raise a penny on the international money markets of the world. Her dependence on Russian aid and Russian trade will become even greater than it is now. And even if she did refine Russian crude oil where will she sell it if Western distributors decide to boycott her oil, as is very likely? And what of Cuban sugar? What would happen if the U.S. decided to ~~re~~ cut drastically the amount of ^{Cuban} sugar to be sold in the United States? The way I see it Dr. Fidel Castro is leading Cuba into a really difficult and messy situation which could spell a whole heap of trouble.

Now why is he doing this? There are many people who are ready to dismiss Castro out of hand as a madman who is out to ruin his country. And yet, in terms of the people of Cuba, Castro has done a

great deal of good. First, there was the heroic fight against the Batista dictatorship. It took high courage and great faith to keep up that fight and bring it to a successful end. And then there is the great programme of land reform. Before the Castro revolution vast estates were concentrated in the hands of a very few people. The vast majority of peasants were landless and lived in hopeless poverty. Castro took over the vast estates and gave them over to the peasants in the form of collective farms. Today there are some 1,392 collective farms; there are 2,900 'people's stores'; there are 1,215 new schools; there are 15 fishermen's co-operative bodies; there are 80 sewing schools; and there are 1,000 schools where grown up people who never had the chance to do so as children can learn to read and write. All this adds up to a great exercise in idealism for the good of the people. One Cuban peasant, speaking for the vast majority of his fellows, has said: "I'm 100% better. Before, there was no work. Now there's work all year. Now we are eating - rice, eggs, beans." This peasant earns a regular 88 dollars a month and his comment on the whole business was: "If this is communism, let it come".

This peasant and his fellows do not know that in order for this to happen Castro's government has ignored its international debts and obligations and has taken over other people's property without paying them for it, and that their country is being increasingly isolated from the rest of this part of the world in which they live. In terms of her own interests Cuba's attitude to the United States seems to me silly. And yet some good has been done for the people. I think it is her future that is most worrying. Is absolute power going to corrupt Castro and his friends absolutely or will the Castro revolution find its way again?///.....Goodnight.