[illegible] appropr[illegible]
transmission on Friday [illegible]
January after departure of
Premier and party for the London
talks.

Mr. Norman Manley, Premier, Mr. Vernon Arnett, Minister of Finance: and their advisers Mr. Egerton Richardson, the Financial Secretary, Mr. Arthur Brown the Director of the Central Planning Unit and Mr. Vin McFarlane the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Development left for England today.

News reports have said that they are going to discuss the problems of Federation and Dominion Status with the new British Colonial Secretary, Mr. Ian McLeod.

What precisely are they going to discuss? and why?

I think the word discuss can be misleading. It suggests that the Premier and his party are going to London with their minds already made up. This in turn suggests that a line of policy has already been adopted. As far as I have been able to ascertain this is not the case.

In essence the Premier and his party are going to England on what might more accurately be described as a fact-finding mission.

In what seems to me a most sensible approach the Jamaican government has decided not to make up its mind on its future relations with the Federation until it has got the answers to certain questions which it feels that only the British government can give it.

The first question has to do with development for the federal region. Jamaica wants to know what this development will look like - what agricultural and industrial development programmes are being planned - and what it will cost. And, most important of all, Jamaica wants to know where the money is to come from for such a development plan. Answers to these questions can have a very vital bearing on Jamaica's own money position and on Jamaica's own development position. As an example, if the bulk of the money for Federal development is to be found by levying some form of tax on the unit territories this could have serious effects on Jamaica's taxation position.

To launch development plans need money and it is no more than elementary good sense for Jamaica to want to know the size and scope of these plans and where the money is to come from to pay for them.

The second point on which Jamaica will seek information from the Secretary of State for the Colonies has to do with the setting up of a West Indies Diplomatic Corps. The Federal government is keen to have Commissioners and Consular representatives in all the key countries of the world. This, it feels, will give us

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the status and dignity of a nation among the other nations of the world. West Indians abroad would then be in the happy position of going to their own Consulates for help whenever they are in difficulties. But this again requires money. Where, Jamaica wants to know, will the money come from?

The Jamaican government feels that the British government has had considerable experience in the techniques of setting up new states. Over the past decade they have been intimately involved in the setting up of the state of Ghana, the Federation of Malaya, the Central African Federation and, more recently the Federation of Nigeria. All these experiences have been given them an expertise in the business of nation building and in the economic problems involved in nation building. It is no more than commonsense reason for the Jamaican government to want to benefit from the expert knowledge which the British government has gained from its practical experiences.

When the Jamaican government has received answers to the questions I have mentioned, as well as some others, it will make up its mind as to what its ultimate position will be in the Federation.

That is one aspect of the mission. There is a second, and this has to do with Dominions Status.

The Jamaican delegation will ask the British government, through its Commonwealth Relations Office, how a country can attain Dominion Status.

Are there any rules for attaining Dominion Status? if there are, what are they?

Are there any tests to be passed before a country can become a Dominion? if there are, what are they?

When Jamaica's delegation has received answers to these questions they will make up their minds on Jamaica's future relations with the Federation and we will certainly hear about this in due course.

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NEWS COMMENTARY

Peter Abrahams

The school holidays are over and youngsters are streaming back to school. Parents are going to take a little time to get adjusted to the long stretches of silence in back yards, on verandahs and in homes during school hours. The press and radio have so far shown no more than passing interest to the news of the steady flow of youngsters back to school. There is one aspect of the back to school move that I should like to draw to your attention.

In a certain village up in the rural hills of St. Andrew about five hundred children - perhaps a little less - have joined to general trek back to school. But in their particular school they are without their head teacher. He is a young man who is full of drive and understanding. He has been head of the school for about three years. He has also played a very important part in the life of his community. He ran a thrift club, was a moving spirit in the local JAS, and had created a vigourous parent-teachers association. In short this young man was one of the civic leaders of the community. He was also the only trained teacher at the school. Towards the end of the last school term he was fortunate enough to have his great ability as a teacher and leader recognised by our education authorities. He was awarded a year's scholarship to England to become better qualified. His place has been taken by a retired teacher who now specialises in temporary replacement jobs. The replacement is good but both he and the community concerned know that he is there on a temporary basis and so much of the important activities conducted by the young teacher has come to a stop.

A number of the leaders of the community have asked me whether their teacher will return to their school when he comes back from England. I told them I did not know I told them that promotion for their teacher might mean his being offered a bigger school down in the plains at a higher salary. I told them that few men would turn down promotion and a higher salary.

They asked me - and I pass it on to you - whether this must always be so: whether promotion for the gifted and educated young teacher must always mean that he must leave the rural areas and go down to the cities. They felt, and I agreed with them, that if this happened the children in the country parts were being penalised.

* * *

Aneurin [illegible] the deputy leader of the British Labour Party who is now critically ill in London hospital was [illegible] the British Labour Party's fiercest crusa[illegible] grew up in the Wel[illegible]

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knew poverty intimately. Before and during the war his speeches in the British House of Commons were fierce and fiery. He was the one socialist who could match and master Sir Winston Churchill at the great art of oratory. Indeed, in some of the war time debates Mr. Bevan used his lashing tongue to cause Sir Winston great discomfort.

After the war and with the victory of the Labour Party at polls Mr. Bevan became Minister of Health. He was responsible for that revolutionary step in Britian's Health Services - the setting up of the National Health Service which today ensures that every resident in Britain, whether he be rich or poor, prince or pauper, receives free of charge the best medical attention it is possible to get anywhere in the world.

In his stormy career Aneurin Bevan has often been as fierce a critic of his own Labour Party as he has been of the Conservatives. In those days he and Michael Foot, fire-eating brother of Sir Hugh Foot, led the leftwing of the Labour Party which was commonly known as the Bevanites.

Of late Mr. Bevan has become considerably more sober and only at last year's Labour Party conference he prevented a split in the Party by throwing his considerable weight and prestige in the party behind Mr. Hugh Gaitskel.

* * *

In Iraq, a Jamaican, Mr. Leslie Marsh has been imprisoned without charge since October 9th. Iraq is the Middle East oil country which has been in the news since Major General Abdul Kassem staged his revolution with the aid of the communists, overthrew the monarchy and killed young King Faisal. Since then the country has been in a constant state of turmoil. Kassem and his communist allies have tended to want to fight against each other as well as against their mutual enemies. For a time Egypt's Nasser was their principal enemy.

Last October an attempt was made to assasinate Premier Kassem. He was shot up and had to spend several weeks in hospital. Early this week eighty-eight people were put into a cage in a Bagdad People's Court and accused of being members of the assasination plot. One of the witnesses then gave a detailed account of how Mr. Marsh, allegedly the leader of a spy ring, had been involved in the plot.

The striking thing about the allegations against Marsh and the so-called evidence of his accuser is that they reminded one so much of the Eastern European Communist trials in which people confessed to crimes they had not committed and accused other innocent people of sorts of crimes with a terrible abandonment. Certainly, few people in the Western world will take the charge that Marsh is a British spy as anything more than propaganda to bolster up Dictatorship which is trying hard to win popular support by ing foreign scapegoats.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Jan 2nd. 1961 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: And may I start off by wishing all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year. As this is my first news comment in 1961 I thought I would take just one last lingering look at the old year that is now behind us. As you know, I spent all of last week on a round-up of the ~~xxxxxx~~ news of 1960. What I did not do was to discuss the personalities of 1960; so, for my last lingering look at 1960 I want to look at some personalities. Who, let us ask ourselves, were the outstanding personalities of 1960 here in Jamaica? And can we pick one man and one woman from these outstanding personalities and say that the man was the man of the year and the woman was the woman of the year?

I think in order to do this we must first of all decide just how we are going to judge the outstanding personalities of the year. What yardstick are we going to use? What measuring rod? Are we going to select them from the men and women whose names have hit the headlines most often?

My own personal view is that we should not be completely swayed in our judgement by the past year's newspaper or radio headlines: the headlines are, of course, a good guide, but they are not necessarily our best yardstick. I think it is possible for a person to cause a lot of sensational headlines without really fundamentally affecting the course of history and the unfolding of events.

In thinking about the personality of the years I have asked myself a series of simple questions. First, what have been the most important events in Jamaica in 1960? Second, who were the people

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most concerned with these important events? And third, did any one person have such a tremendous influence on these events as to give them a new shape and a new direction?

In my opinion the two most important events in Jamaica in 1960 were the political developments that led to the decision to have a referendum and the Rastafari crisis. I think these two events dominated all the local news of 1960; and I also think that these two events could also have a very profound effect on the future of Jamaica. The people most concerned with the referendum were Sir Alexander Bustamante and Mr. Norman Manley. Indeed Busta set in motion the events that made Manley decide on a referendum. The person most concerned with the Rasta crisis was Dr. Arthur Lewis, the Principal of the University College. It was the brain of Arthur Lewis that was behind the three-man U.C. team which did a report on the Rasta Movement. It was to Arthur Lewis that some prominent members of the Rasta Movement appealed for help when this country was on the verge of a great social and political crisis. And out of the recommendations of Lewis's three-man team came the mission to Africa and the breathing spell which gave us a chance to take a close look at this problem and set about trying to solve it. Just think of what might have happened if there had been no Arthur Lewis in Jamaica for the Rasta leaders to appeal to. I think we would have faced an acute crisis with possible bloodshed by now. And so, Arthur Lewis is my choice as the man who made the most significant contribution to peace, order and good sense in Jamaica in 1960: Dr. Arthur Lewis is therefore my choice as the man of the year for 1960. Tmorrow evening we will examine the contribution of the women in 1960; so, till then, goodnigh

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Jan 3rd at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told of my choice of Dr. Arthur Lewis as the Manof the Year for 1960. I told you that I had arrived at this choice after asking myself three simple questions. These three questions, you may remember, were: What have been the most important events in Jamaica in 1960? Who were the people most concerned with these important events? And, did any one person have such a tremendous influence on these events as to give them a new shape and a new direction.

Using this same yardstick and asking these same three questions, can we single out any woman whose contribution has been such as to make her stand out as the Woman of the Year for 1960?

I frankly found this a lot more difficult with the women than w ith the men. For one thing, our society is still very much a male dominated world, with all the important political and economic authority in the hands of men. But in spite of this women have taken great strides forward.

I think there have been significant developments in the political world for women. We have Mrs. Iris King sitting in the House of Representatives; and we have Mrs. Edith Dalton-James and Miss Isobel Seaton serving with distinction in the Legislative Council. I think Mrs. Dalton-James is a definite candidate for Woman of the Year on two counts: the first count is her very many years of selfless service to education in Jamaica, and the second count is her magnificent contribution to the State of the Nation debate in Legco which I think she started off and which she set a very high standard indeed. Miss

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Seaton entered the race quite strongly towards the close of the year but I do not think she quite made it. So, although Mrs. Iris King and Miss Isobel Seaton hit the headlines and made quite a bit of news, I would eliminate them both; which leaves Mrs Dalton-James as one strong candidate.

Next, and still among the political ladies, there is Madam Rose Leon who came out of political obscurity in strong fashion and who showed that she had more political guts than most of the men in the Jamaica Labour Party when she refused to be one of those who humbly surrendered the Jamaica Labour Party to Busta's personal rule. In part, of course, there was nothing else Madam Rose could do as she was considered the principal ring-leader. But I think she is a definite candidate because she faced her problems with dignity and courage. Next, there is Mrs. Edna Manley whose contribution to the arts was as outstanding in 1960 as it has been in most other years. I think her production of 'Focus 1960' would have tipped the scales in her favour as the Woman of the Year of my choice if Mrs. Vera Moody had not returned to Jamaica to head our ~~XXX~~ School of Music which will come into being this year. The School of Music is Mrs. Moody's creation. It is something she has worked and dreamed and pleaded and fought for for the best party of 20 years. When we have this great new addition to our cultural life we will have it because of this one woman's determined and relentless struggle. And so Mrs. Vera Moody is my choice as the Woman of the Year for 1960. Tmorrow I will give you my choice of the organisation which has made the most important contribution to Jamaica in 1960; so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Jan 4th at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am near the end of my last lingering look at 1960. After this evening 1960 will be something to refer back to as one refers back to history; it will be part of ~~the~~ our memories of the past, something through which we have been and from which some of us have learned more than others.

Night before last I told you that my choice as Man of the Year for 1960Ø was Dr. Arthur Lewis for his great contribution to the Rasta crisis. My runners-up were our two political giants, Sir Alexander Bustamante and Mr. Norman Manley. And last night I told you that my choice as Woman of the Year for 1960 was Mrs. Vera Moody for her great contribution to the cultural life of Jamaica, especially her years of struggle to have a school of music established in Jamaica: and this year she will head Jamaica's School of Music. And the runners-up for Woman of the Year were Mrs. Edna Manley, Mrs. Edith Dalton-James and Madam Rose Leon. The interesting thing is that my Man of the Year and my Woman of the Year have neither of them dominated the news a fraction as much as have their runners-up. But the contributions of both - that of the man to our most crying social problem and that of the woman to a most desperate need in our cultural life - the contributions of both have been significant and outstanding and will, I am convinced, bring lasting spiritual and material good for the future of this country.

Now what about the organisations? What have they contributed to Jamaican life, to Jamaican material and moral and spiritual well-being?

In the political field I think the P.N.P. has done very much

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better than the J.L.P. which has fallen off very badly and which I hope will soon pull itself together for the good of the country. But I also think the Bogus Voting scandal disqualifies the P.N.P. and so both political parties are out of the contest as far as Iam concerned.

I think both trades unions have done very well for their workers but I think both were confused and at a loss when they were first hit by mechanisation and in the first flush of confusion they almost reacted like latter day Luddites who wanted to destroy the machines because they saw the machines as enemies of men. In a memorable interview with me on one of my Sunday afternoon programmes Mr. Ken Sterling, who has vast trade union experience, told of how he had warned unions to prepare for the coming of the machines for years; but nothing had been. On this score and on the poor effort at workers' educational activity I would disqualify the trade unions. The J.A.S. made a very poor showing when some of its leaders tried to start a town versus country campaign. I think a change of leadership is badly needed in the J.A.S. I think the social and voluntary organisations did much better in their quiet way; and the I think the Jamaica women's Federation made the biggest contribution of the year when it came out in favour of Jamaica doing something about the Refugee problem. It touched our consciences and showed us that Jamaica is not mean and small minded and that we did have a thought for the misery and suffering of others. And so the Women's Federation is my choice as the Organisation of the Year for 1960 for telling us and our government that we are all a part of a wider humanity. And on this note let us draw down the curtain on the year that has died and let us look ahead with hope for tomorrow. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Jan 5 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The first week of 1961 brings us disturbing news from three corners of the earth. In faraway South-East Asia there is the running crisis in Laos with the communists warming up the cold war in a very confused and confusing situation. Nearer home we had the news of the break in diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. Adn from Belgium has come the news of an acute national crisis after the loss of the Congo' massive wealth.

Let us, this evening, devote our attention to the crisis nearer home. What does the break in relations between Cuba and the United States mean to us here in Jamaica, to Cuba itself and to the United States?

As you will have seen from your papers and heard over your radios on Monday of this week Dr. Fidel Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister, spoke to a mass rally and military parade in Havana. Dr. Castro who seems particularly long-winded these days, spoke for nearly three hours. And during the course of his speech Castro accused the United States of using the American Embassy in Havana to bring terrorists and conspirators into Cuba. He then said that within 48 hours the United States Embassy would not have more officials than the number of officials Cuba has in Washington.

The United States Embassy in Havana then had 42 officials and 87 other American employees who did not enjoy diplomatic status. This gave the American Embassy a list of 129 employees. Cuba, on the other hand, had only 11 officials at its Washington Embassy. Castro wanted the number of American officials at the U.S. Embassy in Havana reduced

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to 11. Castro said that the Cubans knew that 80% of the United States Embassy staff were spies.

The next day President Eisenhower reacted sharply to Castro's ultimatum. There is a limit, he said, to what the United States could put up with and still keep its self-respect; and that limit had been reached by this latest move of Castro's. And so the United States would recall all its Embassy officials, close its embassy and so break off diplomatic relations with Cuba. The United States also advised all its citizens to leave Cuba. President Eisenhower made it clear in his statement that this move did not affect the traditional feelings of friendship towards the people of Cuba; and, for the first time to my knowledge, he branded Castro as a dictator when he talked about the people of Cuba suffering under the yoke of a dictator.

One interesting aspect of this affair is that Mr. John Kennedy who will be installed as the next President of the United States on the 20th of this month has refused to associate his incoming government with this action of Eisenhowerss. So we do not know just what Mr. Kennedy is likely to do when he takes office. But as things now stand, we in Jamaica can expect a stepping up of the cold war and the bitterness between Cuba and the United States. I think we can also expect a wave of prapaganda to be directed at us from Cuba. Already pacages of Cuban propaganda literature have been sent to selected people here in Jamaica from Cuba. I have received such a package and I know of a number of other people who have also received them. And then of course there is the very big question of the U.S. Base at Guantanamo Bay. All this means that we can look to quite a tough propaganda war very near us: and for this we will have to be very alert. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Jan 6 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I want to talk about Belgium this evening; and talking about Belgium really means talking about the birth of imperialism and colonialism, its rise to glory, then its fall and, finally its death. Belgium, I think, gives us a kind of text book picture of imperialism and colonialism such as no other country gives us. For this reason I find what is happening in Belgium today more fascinating than anything else happening in the world at this moment.

But let us begin where we should. Belgium is a small country in Europe. It has an area of 11,775 square miles and it has a population of just a little over 9 million people. It has some coal and a few other minerals but by no stretch of the imagination can it be described as a country with rich mineral wealth. It grows wheat, oats, barley and the like; it does some manufacturing and it has a modest steel industry but nothing like that of Germany or Britain. In other words Belgium is a very small European country with modest resources. With very hard work and with very careful planning and with no frills the Belgians could probably get by in this modern world.

Well now, in this little country a crisis has been brewing since June of last year and over the past ten days this crisis has exploded in a wave of violence that threatens to tear the country apart, bring down its government in chaos and topple its young king from his throne. More than half a million workers are rampaging through the streets of the main cities of Belgium tearing up pavements, smashing windows, overturning cars. There have been violent clashes

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between strikers and the police; and the threat of violence amounting almost to revolution hangs over little Belgium.

But what is this all about? Why this violence?

The answer is very simple. Belgium has been rich, fabulously rich for nearly 60 years. Living standards have been among the highest in all Europe and the world: incomes have been fantastically high; and prosperity had become a habit with all Belgians. This has been so because Belgium had the richest piece of Africa as its colony. Having the Congo as a colony has meant untold wealth for the nation; and every section of the Belgian community has shared in the wealth supplied by the Congo Golden ~~Calf~~ Goose.

And then came June of 1960 and the independence of the Congo and the end of the flow of wealth from the richest piece of Africa into Belgium. The money from their export income dried up. Their income from tourism dried up. Their income from shipping dried up. The rich minerals of the Congo were no longer there just for the tapping.

And so the Belgian government told the people that lean days had come and they had to do something to meet these lean days. The government said they had to raise taxes to bring in £40 million more a year: and they had to cut government spending on such items as unemployment benefits and old age pensions by more than £60 million In other words, the end of the Belgian Empire meant that the people of Belgium had to tighten their belts and buckle to. But the people of Belgium had been corrupted by colonial riches for so long that they revolted against ~~this~~ the promise of the hard days ahead. Tomorrow I will discuss this corrupting influence of colonialism; so, till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Jan 7 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I gave you the background to the current wave of violence and lawlessness in Belgium. I told you that what was happening in Belgium fascinated me because it was an almost classic example of the textbook pattern of the rise and fall of colonialism. And I ended up by saying that the people of Belgium - all sections of them - had been so corrupted by the fruits of colonialism that they burst into blind lawlessness when their government told them that the good old days were dead and gone and that they would have to pay more taxes and collect less benefits. The mass of the Belgian people reacted as though lawlessness and violence would bring back their rich Belgian colony. Of course, nothing of the kind will happen. Whatever form of government they choose after this wave of striking, whether they get rid of their king or not, none of this will make any difference to the central fact that without the Congo Belgium is now a poor little country which will have to bunckle to and sweat for every penny it earns.

But the immediate reaction of the Belgian people shows more than words can just how corrupting colonialism can be on those who are part of the ruling nation as well as on those who are ruled.

I know that many Negroes throughout the world were disappointed and ashamed of what happened in the Congo after it achieved independence. They were ashamed of the lawlessness and the violence because they felt it was a bad reflection on the efforts of Negroes everywhere. The trouble is that they looked on what happened in the Congo in a racial light instead of looking on it in an historical

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light. From 1885 to 1908/ the Congo and all its people were the personal and private posessions of the king of the Belgian. He owned them like you and I own our chairs and tables and books. And he did with them as he pleased. His agents mutilated their bodies and destroyed their sense of dignity and self-respect. In 1900 there were about 20 million people in the Congo. In 1908 he handed the Congo over to the Belgian Government to rule as a colony. Between 1900 and the coming of independence the population of the Congo dropped from 20 millions to 13 millions. It is no secret that a large section of the 7 million people who just vanished under Belgian rule did not die natural deaths. And so, in order that the people in Belgium should live well and in comfort violence and death were swift, especially in the early days of Belgian rule. And this sort of thing corrupts one's sense of values, it destroys one's respect for human life and human dignity, it destroys the best instincts in men and brings out the worse impulses in their natures. And this is what has happened with both the vitims of colonialism - in the people in the Congo -, and with the beneficiaries of colonialism, the people of Belgium.

And so the thing has come full cycle. The tragedy of colonialism is not one-sided. And when we look at what is happening in France's Algeria and when we think of what is likely to happen in the Portuguese colonies, I think we can fairly say that the colonialism of Britain has been the most creative colonialism of the 20th century. Of course there have been the corruptions, but they have been on a minor scale. And that was fortunate both for us who were British colonials and for the people of Britain who were share-holders in British colonialism. We have escaped much. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Jan 9 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am sure most of you will agree with me that the really big news here in Jamaica last week was the groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday for our National Stadium; and I think most of you will also agree with me that what made it such an important event was the presence of the great Jesse Owens. When I met Owens I was completely won over by his charm and his simplicity and his great humanity and humility. It was a real joy to meet a man who takes his fame and his glory so lightly. He was approachable to every one; he was friendly; he was not showy; he was thoughtful and courteous to every person he met - it did not matter whether they were rich people with big names or poor humble people. I think this was the one thing about Jesse Owens that I liked most - this fine respect for even the humblest person he met.

And this humanity and humility is something you find among really great sportmen. The really great sportsman is never boasty; he never tries to show off; he never throws his weight around. Only the second-raters do that, not the real champions. And as I watched Jesse Owens and listened to him and talked with him, I thought of Collie Smith. It seemed to me that they had so much in common. How young Collie Smith would have loved to meet this man if he had been alive. Both Owens and Collie Smith had come up from poverty. Both had brought great honour and glory to their countries and to themselves And both had not been spoiled by fame and fortune. Both Collie Smith had the same warmth and love for his fellow men that I found in Jesse Owens. All this made me think what a great tragedy the death

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of Collie Smith was. If he had lived I am sure he would have grown into the kind of man Jesse Owens is today: a shining symbol of what we mean when we talk about sportsmanship and what we mean when we talk of a gentleman. Like Owens, Collie Smith would have helped us to learn that a gentleman is not someone with a pocket full of money and fine clothes and a big car; but rather someone who is thoughtful, someone who is considerate, someone who respects people, someone who is modest, someone who helps his fellow men. And this is an important lesson that we and the world must learn if we are to create the good society of peace and order and fellowship. I think the coming of Jesse Owens to Jamaica was big news and for a change this big news was really happy news.

And so our National Stadium is off to a fine start. Plans are that the building of the Stadium should be completed by July of next year, when we will have the Ninth Central American and Caribbean Games at our Stadium. These games will be a very great event for Jamaica. It will be the first time that we will be hosts to a great gathering of international athletes, and the eyes of the world will be focussed on us. But when the games are over and our visitors have departed and the searchlight of world publicity is no longer on us, the Stadium will still be there. And Jamaican youngsters from all walks of life will have it all to themselves to train their bodies and learn to discipline their minds so that they should grow up clean and straight like our own Collie Smith was, and like the great Jesse Owens is. And to me that is a fine investment for the future.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Jan 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you that I thought the ground-breaking ceremony for the National Stadium, which took place on Thursday of last week was the really big story in Jamaica. It was a story which had colour and drama and a great speech by Jesse Owens. And, for a change, it was a piece of good news which was making the big headlines.

But earlier in the day, on the same Thursday, another very important event took place and it is of this that I would like to tell you this evening. This event took place with no fanfare and no great publicity. The Kingston Rotary Club had asked the Premier to be the Guest of Honour at the first luncheon of the New Year. It is a habit of the Rotarians to meet regularly at lunches and they general invite some prominent person to have lunch with them and then to give them a brief talk. They thought it was a good idea to start off the New Year with Mr. Manley as their guest of honour. Now the Rotary Club is, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ I think, made up of some of the leading citizens of Kingston's community. In the main they are merchants and businessmen; and in the main they tend to be on the light-skinned side. I am simply stating this as a fact and not as a criticism. I should say that as a group the members of the Rotary Club of Kingsto make up a very powerful economic and social sector of the life of Kingston.

For the luncheon on Thursday the members of the Club had invited a very large number of guests to come and hear Mr. Manley's speech; in fact, the guests outnumbered the Club members. Mr. Manley's

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speech was to be on the prospects for this year, 1961. But when lunch was finished and Mr. Manley rose to speak, he said he had decided not to give that speech, or, rather, to refer to the prospects for 1961 by indirection only. And then, in a brief 15 minutes, he had one of the greatest speeches I have ever heard him make.

He talked about some of the main things that had happened in the year that has just passed..He talked about the Rasta business of last June; he talked about the restlessness that is abroad in the country, and he talked about the things that have gone into the making of that restlessness. We have created progress in our political life and we have created prosperity in our economic life. But this progress and this prosperity had not been enjoyed equally by all sections of our society. Add to this all the things that are happening in the world, the vast social and political and economic changes, and you will see that this restlessness is not confined to Jamaica only. It is a world condition. And so he came to the big question which was not simply for his audience to say: What am I to do? But rather, what am I to do to save myself? And then he said that there was no difference between the man in Back o' Wall who rejects Jamaica and the merchant or businessman who withdraws from taking part in the life and problems of Jamaica. And he said that if anybody still asked: What am I to do? His answer was for them to look around and see what needs to be done. It was a brilliant and diplomatic speech but the challenge was clear. For their own sakes our merchants and business men must wake up to the fact that it is their duty to make a real contribution to the society in which they make their private fortunes. For the sake of all of us I hope our businessmen will take Manley's message to heart. The reasons for doing so are all about us. Goodnight.

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2) Plight of small farmer

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Jan 11 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: From time to time I tell you about letters I receive from listeners. Well, this evening I should like to tell you about two that seem to me to be of public interest. The first is a letter from a resident of Harbour View; and with her letter this Harbour View resident enclosed a copy of another letter: but I think it would be best if these letter are allowed to speak for themselves. Her letter to me says in part: "Enclosed xxxxxxxx herein you will find a copy of letter received from the Jamaica Telephone Company Ltd., regarding installation of telephone service at Harbour View....I (and I think others do too) think that the Jamaica Telephone Company Ltd., is really taking a joke too far in this connection hence the reason for forwarding a copy of their letter for your kind attention with the view that if it is possible you will voice your opinion in this matter in one of your broadcasts."

And this is the copy of the letter from the Telepho ne Company which this listener sent me:

"Dear Sir/Madam: We have on our file an application made by you for Telephone Service at Harbour View. Our construction work is now sufficiently far advanced for us to begin planning the distribution network within the estate and to enable us to do this we require to know which applicants will definitely require service.

"It is anticipated that Shared Service on the Metered Tariff will be available by the 1st April 1961. Due to the considerable distance from Kingston mileage charges will be payable and the rental covering 30 Free Local calls will range from £3. 6.0 to £3. 16. 0

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Jan 12 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I cannot remember when I have felt quite as ashamed of the behaviour of a section of our Kingston community as I have felt over the past week; and I know that a vast majority of the citizens of the Corporate Area feel as ashamed over what happened at the Circus as I do. A bunch of irresponsible young louts - and some of them not so young at that - stoned the circus people and terrified the animals by throwing broken bottles at them; and some clever hooligans went as far as to rob the circus people of a trunk full of their very precious and costly costumes. I have no doubt that these ignorant people thought they were doing something clever and smart. All I can say is that when I heard and read about this I felt more ashamed for the good name of Jamaica and its people than I have ever felt. I felt that this was the height of stupidity, the height of cruel thoughtlessness.

You see, it may seem clever to terrorise strange animals and see how they will react when they are frightened; but it also shows something of the nature of the people who do this. The young man who has no thought about hurting an animal will, later on, have no thought about hurting a human being. And so you get the beginning of a loss of respect for living things, and in the end you have no respect for human life and human dignity: and that is how your young ganster and your young hooligan is made. After you have stoned and terrorised an animal it is not so difficult to terrorise and stone a human being. And so lawlessness begins. That is one aspect of this unhappy business.

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The other reason why I am so upset by this hooliganism at the circus has to do with the circus itself. Before we had Coney Islands, before we had cinemas, before we had all these artificial means of entertaining ourselves or getting entertainment, there were a number of circuses in the world; and these circuses were made up of men and women with a spirit of adventure who had devoted their lives to developing their skills in order to entertain and bring laughter and wonder and happiness to the people wherever they travelled. The entertainment offered by the circus was and still is live and human and personal and the person looking on felt himself involved in all that happened under the big top. And of course, more than to anyone else, the circus brings it magic to the child. Today circuses are dying and the wonderful circus folk are disappearing: they are being replaced by cheap and tawdry Coney Islands all over the world. And I think this is a great pity because the Coney Islands of this world can never offer us what the circus offered me as a child and what it offers my own children. And I feel rather sorry for those grandchildren of mine who are still in the future because they may never see a circus. So you see, these young hooligans were stoning and robbing an old and dying and wonderful institution of entertainment; and I think they have disgraced us very badly. I hope our police will see that this does not happen again. I am taking my youngsters to the circus this week and I know that for them this will be like going into a place of magic. I want them to have their magic with no flying stones and broken bottles. I want them to remember the beauty of something we may not see again. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Jan 13 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: This evening I want to get away from the news a little and discuss one of our greatest medical needs here in Jamaica. The other day a friend of mine told me about a young couple who have a six-year-old little girl; and this little girl has caused them a great deal of heartache and unhappiness. You see, this little girl of theirs is a spastic.

What, you will ask, is a Spastic? A Spastic is someone who when they were born suffered some sort of damage in that part of the brain which controls a person's powers to move. As you know, when you put out your hand to take your cup of coffee or your drink of rum, what happens is that your brain sends a message down to your hand and so your hand moves and picks up the cigarette or whatever it is. When you get up to walk it is because your brain has sent a message down to your legs. When you talk you do so because your brain has sent a message down to the muscles which control your tongue and so you can make sounds. In short, all your movements, all your physical actions are controlled and regulated and directed by your brain constantly sending out messages to the different parts of your body. Your brain has a vast and complicated control system which is busier than almost any other control system on earth. And it does its work with such fantastic speed that you are not aware of it.

But it is very important to note that this control system is only one part of the brain; and of course I am simplifying a very complex and complicated process here. But the important point is that there is a very definite movement control system as part of your

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brain: and if anything goes wrong with this movement control system then things go wrong with your ability to move. A Spastic is a person who has suffered some damage to the movement control system in his or her brain. One of the ways in which the movement control system of the brain can be damaged is at birth. The woman may be very small and the child may have a very big head, and in pushing its way through the child's brain may suffer damage. You might then have a child who cannot control its arms and legs; or it might only affect the legs or only one side of the body. In some cases the child will have no control over its tongue. This little girl about whom my friend told me was a fairly serious case. The child could not speak and had no control over her legs and arms and so she had to be fed and went around in a kind of push-chair. But the child is perfectly sane and perfectly intelligent and if the child had been in England she would by now have learnt to speak and she would by now have developed some control over her movements. Here in Jamaica we are inclined to dismiss these cases as a form of mental deficiency. In England they know the problem is one of muscular control and that other brain cells can be used to take over the job not done by the damaged part of the brain. And so they have clinics where Spastics are trained to regain control of their movements and so be able to lead normal lives. I have seen this miracle performed on what seemed incurable cases in England. I know it can be done here. Bellevue is not the place for Spastics. I think our medical people should take a serious look at the possibility of setting up at least one clinic for Spastics in Jamaica. It will bring hope and happiness into many homes where there is now fear and misery. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Jan 14 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: If news from Cuba - just 90 miles away from us - continued to be disturbing this week, the news from the British West Indies was good and hopeful. True, Dr. Cheddi Jagan is raising a howl about the new electoral divisions in British Guiana. He complains that they were deliberately so worked out to make sure that his party will not win a majority in the coming general election before full self-government later this year. But I think this was to be expected. Jagan is a shrewd politician and this is part of the pattern of his electioneering which has already started. Indeed, all the political parties in B.G. are already campaigning and I think we can expect some real fireworks before B.G.'s election day comes around.

I think the new and interesting factor in British Guiana's political set-up is the emergence of Mr. Peter D'Aguilar as a serious and important new force in B.G. politics. Until the appearance of Mr. D'Aguilar Dr. Jagan and Mr. Forbes Burnham were the two political giants. The Indian community were behind Jagan and the Negro community behind Burham; and this gave B.G. politics the feel and appearance of being along purely racial lines. And this, I felt was a bad and dangerous thing. Nothing could be worse for the future of B.G. than to have a line-up of Indians against Negroes and Negroes against Indians. The emergence of D'Aguilar has changed this line-up completely. Many Indians, especially the influential Muslim group have transferred their support to D'Aguilar's new party and a fair number of Negroes have also joined him. This, I think, is a very

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healthy development in Guianese politics and one which I heartily welcome.

Whether D'Aguilar's party can, between now and the time of the elections in August, build up such a body of popular support as to challenge Jagan's position, is another question altogether and I, for one, am not prepared to make even a guess at this early stage. Jagan himself is getting worried, as his latest protests have shown. And I am not sure that Forbes Burnham is particularly happy about this new development either. So, whatever the outcome of the elections, it seems to me that one thing is certain. The emergence of Peter D'Aguilar has created a new and healthy situation in the B.G. ~~racial~~ political picture, and one which I think will have a lasting effect.

The other piece of good news comes from Barbados which will attain full internal self-government this year. Barbados will then join Jamaica and Trinidad as a territory with complete control of all its internal affairs. There will be a Cabinet like our own which will be completely responsible for the running of the country and will be accountable only to the people of Barbados. This is another step in the unfolding pattern of West Indian political progress.

When I heard this news one naughty thought crossed my mind. Up to now Barbados, like Britain, had no written constitution. It was the proud boast of Bajans that like the 'Mother Country' theirs was an unwritten constitution which had grown by custom and usage over the years. Now the poor Bajans are going to be a little more like us by having a written constitution. I wonder if they have thought about that.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Jan 16 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It was on Thursday of last week that I discussed with you the violence and theft at the circus. You will remember that I told you then that I planned to take my own family to the circus that same week. Well, we went to the circus for the matinee performance on Saturday afternoon, and a glorious time was had by everybody in our party. It was wonderful for our three children and I think mummy and daddy and auntie Sheila had an equally wonderful time. We all drank large quantities of aerated water: we ate so many packets of popcorn that we were not interested in supper when we got home that evening. There were high moments when the kids were so excited that they did not know what to do with themselves. Our eldest daughter had both her hands clenched tightly and hardly breathed at one point when the trapez artists did a particularly daring double sommersault and I had to reach out and hold her hand to ease the tension a little. And then there was a point when the littlest one, our six-year-old daughter was rigid with excitement when she watched the three seals performing. Our boy, who wants to be a horseman, got so worked up when the cowboy act was on that he kept on stuffing popcorn into his mouth until I thought he was going to choke himself. But he did not know what he was doing. All his attention was on the two men and a woman and little girl who kept leaping on and off the fast moving horse, doing the most amazing tricks. And then there was the family who did fantastic things on bicycles; and then there were the two pairs of very funny comics; and the woman doing breath-taking things way up above our heads; and finally there were the six

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lions being put through their paces by one little man who could have been torn to pieces by anyone of those lions if they had wanted to do so. But the lions knew the man and the man showed no fear and so the lions did what the man wanted them to do. There were moments during the lion act when our two eldest children just could not keep on looking and turned their heads away. And so it was that when we finally staggered out of the big tent we were all emotionally tired and relaxed. We had witnessed a wonderful performance in which men and women had at times risked injury or death for our entertainment. And I think there was a sort of feeling of unexpressed gratitude in most of us. I personally enjoyed watching the reactions of my children quite as much as I enjoyed watching the performance. I would certainly advise any adult going to the circus to take a child or children with them. Watching the kids is more than half the fun. And there were hundreds of kids all about us.

I am very happy to tell you that there were no stones or bottles being thrown either inside or outside the circus. The behaviour of the public was excellent. But we had the most awful traffic jam when we left the park grounds. I suppose everybody was in a hurry to get home and so everybody tried to squeeze everybody else's car out of the way and so there was an unnecessarily long hold-up and none of us got away as fast as we wanted to or could have done. I think our motorists will discover that a little bit of patience, a little bit of waiting in an orderly manner, often pays off very much better than just trying to bull our way through everybody else. As it was, tempers got frayed and many of us had become soured by the time we finally eased our cars out of the park gate. We had all had a fine time and with a little patience we could all have reached home still feeling the after-glow of a wonderful experience. ~~So I should~~

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Jan 17 at 6.15p.m.
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Two weeks ago a very important news announcement was made in London. It was the sort of announcement which should have hit the headlines of the world's newspapers - at least it should have done so in that part of the world which is Christian. But this news announcement did not make the headlines of the Christian world's newspapers. Some newspapers and some magazines did carry a small item on it. The handful of church newspapers - mainly in England - did treat it with the importance it deserved. But on the whole nothing much was done about this item of news which I consider to be very important.

Now what is this item of news? It is that there is a completely new translation of our Bible in the English language and that this will be called "The New English Bible". It is planned that this new Bible will replace the Bible we now use. A committee of 16 men who called on the knowledge of an additional 30 men who were great schalors of the Bible have worked in secret for 13 years to give us a new translation of the Bible. And now the first part of their work is done. On March the 14th of this year half a million copies of the first part of the new Bible will be published: the will be the NEW TESTAMENT. And later, about 1967 the second part, the OLD TESTAMENT will be published. And still later - they do not give the date for this - the third part, the APOCRYPHA will be published.

Now as you know, there are a number of English language versions of the Bible. But the English standard version of the Bible, the one which has most authority and which is most accepted in the English speaking

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world is the Bible most of us use. This is known as the King James Version and it was translated from the Greek language some 350 years ago. If you have a copy of this Bible and you look at it you will find that on the outside cover it simply says: Holy Bible. And at the top of the introductory page you will see that it is dedicated to the most high and mighty Prince, JAMES, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc.

This is the King James Version, this is the most widely known and used and loved version of the Bible in the English language. This is the Bible on which I was brought up. When I decided that I wanted to be a writer my teachers sent me to this Bible to see how good and simple and pure English should be written. So this Bible is very dear to me for many reasons. But the experts say that this version of the Bible is so difficult that most people no longer understand it and so people are less and less reading the Bible. They give you an example with the First Epistle General of John: the King James version goes like this: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ".
And the New English Bible version goes like this: "What we have seen and heard we declare to you, so that you and we together may share in a common life, that life which we share with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ".

Certainly, the new version is clearer than the old. But for me the new has not got the beauty of the old. I am prepared to believe that I am prejudiced but I am all in favour of the old version. Still, it is a rule of life that the old must give way to the new.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Jan 18 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last Friday's Time Magazine carried a little story in its business section: I think that particular story has an important lesson for us in Jamaica today, so I propose to tell it to you. I hope our merchants and other retail traders are listening because this story has something to do with them and if they learn a lesson from it, there is a chance that our cost of living will begin to go down instead of going up. Basically, this is a story of good shopkeeping.

In 1884 a young Polish Jew who had migrated to England opened a ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ stall at Leeds market in Yorkshire. There he sold needles,cotton, thimbles, buttons and the like at a penny each. The young fellow was called Michael Marks and his stall was just like any of the market stalls you find in Jamaica. His stall was very successful and so he set up other stalls and the people of England called them 'Penny Bazaars' and flocked to them and patronised them.

Today, 75 years later, the Penny Bazaars that Michael Marks started have grown into the most prosperous chain of retail stores in all of Great Britain. The firm is now called Marks and Spencer and they own 237 stores all over Britain. Last year they sold £150-million worth of goods to the English consumers. And the secret of their success is very simple.

When Michael Marks started his Penny Bazaars he refused to waste his time on keeping paper records. He said ~~xx~~ paper work wasted his time and meant that he could not give his customers the service that they were entitled to: so he did away with paper work and ran his business without records. When Michael Marks died his son, Simon

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- who later became Sir Simon Marks - carried on the business. By this time the business had grown so big that Simon Marks could not keep his finger on every department of it. But one day in 1957, on a busy Saturday, Simon Marks walked into one of his stores and saw two salesgirls carefully filling out forms while angry customers were waiting for service. He asked the girls what the forms were for. They did not know. He found out later that they were to keep track of the goods in the stockroom, to prevent employees from thiefing and to show the store manager when his stocks were low so that he could re-order. Simon Marks ordered the immediate abolition of all these forms. As a result the salesgirls served their customers very much quicker and there was a greater turnover of business: their was no increase in thieving and all the store manager had to do was look at the shelves to know when to re-order. Marks gambled on the honesty of sales clerks and customers and stopped the giving out of store receipts. In all, he dumped 120 tons of paper forms and saved over £2 million. As a result of this he was able to cut all his prices by 5% last year. The customers showed their appreciation byincreasing his sales by 18% between April and September of last year. And Marks and Spencer are doing a roaring business.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our own merchants adopted the attitude of Sir Simon Marks. Just think of how much they can gain by really giving the customer the quick and courteous service which is the hallmark of Marks and Spencer. And what a treat for us, the consumers, if some merchant were to say: "Thanks to you, our customers, and thanks to our efficeint staff, business has been so good that we can make a 5% mark-down in all prices". Simon Marks of Marks and Spencer has proved this can be done. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission On
Thursday Jan 19 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Tomorrow Mr. John Fitzgerald Kennedy will formally become the 35th President of the United States of America. Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower will step from the centre of the world stage on which he has strolled for the past eight years, and Mr. Kennedy will take his place. Eisenhower was 62 when he became President of the United States eight years ago. He is now and old man of 70 and so graceful retirement seems a logical close to a distinguished public life. But in his last statements before retiring he has shown that he is giving up power with a certain tinge of regret; partly because of the things he had hoped to do and had not done and also partly because he is human. The enjoyment and the use of power is attractive to all of us and whatever we say, we all feel a tug at the heart when we have to give it up. That is why you have so many people who try to make themselves life presidents of political parties or trade unions or other organisations. My own feeling is that any time anybody is put into any position for life it is something unfortunate. It is not a democratic process and anything that is not democratic lends itself to copruption and abuse. And this, I think, is one of the great virtues of the United States Constitution today. It provides that no President can hold office for more than two terms of four years each. And this proviso was written into the United States Constitution after the great Franklin D. Roosevelt had been elected to the Presidency for three times running and had headed the United States for twelve years. Now Roosevelt was a great and good President and the people of the United States elected him: and still the Congress

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felt that it was an unhealthy thing for the country to have one man exercising all that vast power for an indefinite period. I think this is one of the healthiest aspects of democracy in the United States. Of course, the American system of governmnet is vastly different from the British system and so we must not blindly compare it with our own. But I do think that if you are going to have a republic form of constitution then the American system with its careful checks and balances of power is the model. I would have been very much happier about the future of democracy in Africa if Ghana's new republican constitution had, for instance, similar checks and balances and a definite limitation of time during which one man could remain as President. But that is by the way. The point is that Eisenhower could not stand for election again even if he wanted to; and so he steps down tomorrow and John F. Kennedy becomes the 35th President of the United States. And Kennedy too, will only be able to hold office for eight years - that is, if he is re-elected after his first four-year term is up; and then he too must step down. Kennedy is 43 now. If he serves for two terms he will still be a compatatively young man of 51 when he has to retire. Incidentally there is the general impression that Kennedy is the youngest man ever elected to the Presidency. This is not strictly true. He is one of the two youngest. Theodore Roosevelt was also 43 when he was ~~xxxxxx~~ installed as President in 1901. But why should we be interested in the Presidency of the United States? What business of ours is it? What effect can the regime of President Kennedy have on our lives here in Jamaica? I'll try to answer these questions tomorrow evening: so till then,

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Jan 20 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember that I ended my comments last night by asking three questions about ~~the United States~~ Mr. Kennedy who was today inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States. Why, I asked, should we be interested in the presidency of the United States? What business of ours is it? What effect can the regime of President Kennedy have on our lives here in Jamaica?

I think just a moment of thought will show your just how much our business it it is. How will Mr. Kennedy's government deal with Castro's Cuba, which is just 90 miles away from us? If the new Kennedy administration can arrive at a settlement with Cuba, if diplomatic relations are restored and there is a return to friendship between the United States and Cuba, the tensions which Cuba has been generating through the Caribbean area might ease. The political malcontents, those who would stir up strife and trouble in Jamaica would suffer a setback and a less restless atmosphere would exist in which we could try to deal with our own social and economic problems. That is one side of it. The other side of it is that if relations between Cuba and the United States continue as they are and grow worse then the Cuban propaganda which has recently started to trickle into Jamaica may become a great flood. The atmosphere of restlessness and tension will be heightened. Those who would like to stir up political trouble in Jamaica would be encouraged and the Cold War would be inside our house instead of just being on our doorstep, 90 miles away. So there you have a very concrete way in which the policies adopted by the President of the United States

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can affect our day-to-day living right here in Jamaica. And what applies for us also applies for the great wide world. The policies that the Kennedy Administration persues in Africa, in Asia, and in Latin America will have very important bearing on what happens in those parts of the world. If President Kennedy adopts policies which meet with the approval of the people and leaders of the under-developed areas of the world, then there is the likelihood of the peoples of those areas giving the United States a greater measure of support than they have done under Eisenhower's administration. And this, as you know, can have a very important bearing on the Cold War between communism and democracy. And that in turn may have a very important bearing on whether there will be war or peace.

In today's world, whether we like it or not, the biggest question of all is the question of peace in the world. And the three countries which can and will decide whether there is peace in the world or not are the United States, the Soviet Union and Communist China. So what happens in these countries and the policies these countries follow are matters of great importance to all of us.

If Mr. Kennedy's government can arrive at a working understanding with Russia and her Chinese ally then the tensions may be sufficiently eased for us to go about our business of building low-cost houses and a better water system for our people and generally try to improve living conditions. My own hope is that this is just what the Kennedy government will do. This is Mr. Kennedy's delared intention and this is something that matters to everyone of us.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Jan 21 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I have some good news for you this evening, especially for the residents of Harbour View. You will remember that it was on Wednesday of last week - on Wednesday January 11th - that I told you about the resident of Harbour View who had written to me about the letter she had received from the Jamaica Telephone Company. You will remember I read part of the lady's letter to you and I also read the letter she had received from the Telephone Company saying that the rental for a telephone in Harbour View will range from £3. 6. 0. to £3. 16. 0 a month.

After that broadcast a representative of the Telephone Company got in touch with me and I spent the best part of one morning and part of an afternoon going into some of the public's complaints about the Telephone Company with them. The meeting was very cordial and friendly and I left feeling that something was definitely going to be done to improve the service to the public. All this is by way of background to the piece of good news I have. The good news is that the lady who wrote to me and all the other people at Harbour View who have applied for telephones will soon get a letter from the Jamaica Telephone Company. This letter will read as follows:

"Dear Sir/Madam, You will have received our previous letter which sets out the charges to be raised for service to Harbour View from one of our Kingston Exchanges as calculated under the tariff approved by the Rates Board. You will appreciate that these charges were those to be applied initially when every line had to be connected to our East Exchange in the Corporate Area thus involving

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considerable excess mileage and that the charges would have been reduced, in most cases, to the basic rental when the new Harbour View Exchange is completed in 1962 and conditions will become the same as in other exchanges outside of Kingston.

"We have recently been examining whether any reduction in charges can be made within the rates structure and we are now pleased to be able to inform you that through the co-operation of the West Indies Home Contractors Limited who have made a site available immediately for the Telephone Exchange it has been possible to arrange for the provision of certain special concentrator equipment for use until the exchange is constructed which will enable us to reduce the mileage charges to approximately one quarter of the rate on which we have originally quoted. Providing, therefore, you are within a distance of one mile from the exchange site the basic rental covering 30 free calls will now be 30/- per month for an individual line and 26/- per month for a shared line.

"If you require service on this basis perhaps you will be good enough to complete the attached slip and return it to us at your convenience. Assuring you of our best attention at all times."

That's the new letter you will receive at Harbour View and I think it is a handsome one which makes me happy and will make you happy too. And I congratulate the Telephone Company for acting wisely here. I hope this is the start of a new look. But they have also told me some of their problems and I'll tell you of this another time. Now, I am happy for the citizens of Harbour View; and credit is due to the Telephone Company for making this piece of good news possible.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Jan 23 at 6,15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The special meeting of the Jamaica Labour Party over the weekend has provided us with some more fireworks. Madam Rose Leon has resigned from the J.L.P. and the business session of the meeting on Saturday ended up in some disorder without completing the lections to the party's executive.

You will remember that the annual conference of the Jamaica Labour Party ended in disorder on November the 12th of last year and that Sir Alexander Bustamante then launched an attack on Mr. Clem Tavares who had been elected to the position of Third Deputy leader at that conference. At that conference Busta also laucnhed an attack at some other person who was not named: but those of us who keep in touch with the goings-on in the parties knew that he was referring to Mrs. Leon. You will also remember that as a result of what happened in November the Executive of the J.L.P. met and decided to wipe out everything that had happened at that conference. It cancelled the elections and appointments and handed all power back to Busta until such time as he decided to call an island-wide conference to hold new elections. You may remember that I spoke about this on November 17th and said that the J.L.P. had become a sort of Crown Colony of Busta's. Well, this weekend's meeting was this island-wide special conference and it has again ended in some sort of disorder and without the election of officers being completed.

My own feeling is that what happened over this weekend has hurt the J.L.P. even more than the happenings of last November. I am sure that if the J.L.P. were faced with an election now it would be somethi

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

of a miracle if it won as many as six seats. In the eyes of vast sections of the public the J.L.P. today is like a ship without a rudder which is being tossed this way and that by the storms of conflict within its ranks.

I think the resignation of Mrs. Leon is going to turn out to be a bigger blow to the party than the present J.L.P. planners realise. Mrs. Leon has served her party faithfully and well for the past 14 years. Whether you are for or against her, this is a fact that you cannot change. She has been loyal to Busta and loyal to the party; and she and Mr. Donald Sangster hxxxxkx and Mr. Edwin Allen have been closer to Busta for a longer period of time than any of the other leading people in the J.L.P. For such a person to accuse Busta of becoming more biassed and dictatorial in his leadership is, I think, a more damaging blow to both Busta and the party than anything the Peoples National Party could have said or done. And I think the leaders of the J.L.P. will discover that Mrs. Leon has strong support from large sections of the rank and file members of the Jamaica Labour Party.

But basically, the really disturbing thing about the J.L.P. situation is that at this moment the country has not really effective opposition party. The J.L.P. today is nowhere near being a party which could offer itself to the country as an alternative government, and that is not a good xxxxxxx state of affairs for democracy. It seems to me that if the J.L.P. is not to destroy itself by internal conflict then it must hammer out a body of beliefs and ideals to hold it together and give it point and direction. Political parties cannot survive solely on personalities, and the J.L.P. today is badly in need of a body of positive policies and programmes to give it a new life and vitality. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Jan 24 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: There has been a most interesting political debate going on here in Jamaica over the past three weeks. I am sure some of you have been following that debate; but I am also sure that for some of you the origins and real point of the debate have become a little lost in the flood of printed and spoken words. This sort of thing often happens and we end up knowing that there is a great argument going on but being quite unsure as to what it is all about. And when that happens we tend to get bored with the whole business and to dismiss it as just another bout of hot air on the part of the politicians. But I think that this is a particularly important debate and so I will refresh your memories on the details of it before I make any comment.

You will all remember that some time last year the House of Representatives passed a Bill to amend the Towns and Communities Law. As you know, there have been a lot of complaints throughout the country, and especially in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew about night noises, especially the terrible racket made by sound systems at night. Under the old law people who played their sound systems too loudly could be fined £2. But this noise nuisance kept on and grew worse and so the government decided that most operato of sound-systems were not afraid of the £2-fine and just kept on being pests to everybody else. So the government decided that there should be stiffer fines to try and stop these terrible night noises, and brought in the new Bill. Under this new Bill the fine for a first offender went up to £10; and if the same offender kept on making too

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

much noise he could be fined up to £50. From £2 for every noise offence to up to £10 for the first and £50 for every other, is a very steep increase. But both sides of the House of Representatives thought this steep increase was necessary to try and stop the terrible night noises, and so the House passed the Bill.

As you know, under our Constitution, when the House of Representatives passes a Bill that Bill is then sent to our Legislative Council for debate and discussion, and it is only after it has been discussed and passed in Legco that it comes back to the House and is then passed into law. The reason for this procedure is to make sure that every Bill is very fully discussed and that all views on it are fully expressed before it becomes part of the laws of the land. Well, the same things was done with this Bill to amend the Towns and Communities Law: it was sent to Legco and Legco debated this Bill on the 30th of December - a little over three weeks ago. At that debate the three lady members of the Upper House led a successful movement to amend the Bill: Miss Isobel Seaton, Mrs. Lenworth Jacobs and Mrs. Edith Dalton-James all expressed the feeling that the new fines were not stiff enough. They wanted the fines to go upt £25 for a first offender and £100 for later offences. They argued successfully and a majority of Legco members voted with them. And so they amended the Bill sent to them by the House of Representatives and then sent it back to the House. When the Houses of Representatives met 13 days ago on January 11th, it unanimously decided to reject the amendment to the Bill which had been made by Legco. Both the P.N.P. and J.L.P. sides of the House voted against the Legco amendment and sent the Bill back...But time is up so I'll tell you the rest tomorrow.

Till then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Jan 25 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember that we were discussing the sound-system noises Bill last night. I had reached the point where Legco had amended the Bill sent to it by the House of Representatives and where the House had unanimously rejected the changes made by Legco and had then sent the Bill back to the Upper House.

Legco met on Friday January 13th to deal with the Bill. They accepted the fact that the House of Representatives had rejected their amendment, and then they passed the Bill in the form in which it had first been sent to them. In other words, they withdrew the amendments they had made and passed the Bill with its fines of up to £10 for a first offence and up to £50 for any later offences.

Legco had had a run-in with the House of Representatives and had lost. But although the member of Legco gave way to the will of the House of Representatives, some of them did so with very poor grace and some of them even declared, as did Mr. N.N. Ashenheim that the Legislative Council was an equal partner with the House of Representati in the business of making our laws.

This, of course, is the whole point of the entire debate. Is the Legislative Council the equal of the House of Representatives? Has it the same rights to make laws, to amend laws, to abolish laws as the House of Representatives has? Can it over-rule the decisions of the House of Representatives?

Before I express my views on these questions let me tell you my limitations. I am not a lawyer, and so I am not talking to you as a constitutional lawyer. But I do not think it needs a lawyer to

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

see and express the basic principles involved in this debate. The first and most important of these basic principles has to do with the natures of the two Houses of our parliament. The House of Representatives is made up of members who have all been elected by the popular will of the people: they are our chosen representatives. They therefore sit in the House with our sanction and our authority, and they are directly accountable to us for what they do and for what they fail to do. The members of the Legislative Council, on the other hand, are not elected. They are not chosen by us by popular vote. They are appointed. To me this big difference rules out completely any idea that the members of the Legislative Council are the equal partners of the members of the House of Representatives in the business of making the laws of our land. They do not have the same powers as the members of the House of Representatives to make laws or to change laws or to abolish laws. As a point of hard cold fact Legco has very little power of law-making. But it can, and it should have, a considerable influence as a public forum. The members of Legco sit in that House, or should sit in that House, as wise, sober, responsible and distinguished citizens who will discuss our proposed laws in an atmosphere that is less partisan and less charge with aprty politics than is possible in the House of Representatives. That they have done so at times was shown last year when we had a series of very distinguished speeches in the State of the Nation debate. But for Legco to meddle with the day-to-day law amking business of parliament seems to me dangerous for the Upper House itself. That is the exclusive business of the elected representatives of the people. That is why we put them there. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Jan 26 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The people of India are today celebrating the 11th year of their independence as a republic. All over India, all through this day, there have been celebrations and festivities to mark this great day in the history of India. And we in Jamaica will naturally want to salute India today. For as long as most of us can remember, India has been in the forefront of the struggles of the colonial peoples for freedom and dignity and self-determination. India was the first country in the world to raise its voice against the racial tyranny in South Africa: India was the first - and at one time the only - country at the United Nations which argued consistentl for the right of all colonial peoples to run their own affairs and be masters in their own lands. Indeed, I think it is fair to say that without the support and advice of India the great African independence movement which reached its peak last year, would have had a much rougher time, and many African leaders would have made many more mistakes than they have made. And so I think that the people of Africa in particular, and all other peoples moving towards self-government at this moment, owe to the leaders and people of India a very great debt of gratitude. India has been the moral leader of of the freedom movement of all the colonial peoples in our time.

And yet it is surprising how little we know of this great country which has contributed so much to our thinking. I think if you were to ask Norman Manley or Eric Williams or Kwame Nkrumah they will all tell you that they have been greatly influenced by people like Nehru and the late Mahatma Gandhi, and by the years of

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

struggle of the Indian National Congress. So think it is important that we should know a little about India.

India is a vast land area of roughly one and quarter million square miles and it has a population of close on 400 million people. To get an idea of the size and population of India, try to think of it in this way: the United States is about three times bigger than India, but the population of the United States is not quite half as big as that of India. Russia is nearly 8 times bigger than India, but India has nearly twice the number of people that Russia has; of all the countries in the world only China - which is about two and a half times larger than India - has more people than India. That is a the first thing: India is a country of teeming millions of people. It has the highest mountains in the world. It is rich in coal, iron and other minerals and has recently built up a large steel industry. Three quarters of the people are engaged in agriculture and it is one of the leading producers in the world of tea, cotton and tobacco. And yet, because of the size of its population and because its methods are still primitive, India cannot feed all its people. There is a massive dairy industry. Education is free and compulsory and there are 32 universities and 700 colleges. Most Indians speak English which is the language used in schools but the official language is Hindi.

India has made great strides since she became independent. But her problems are great too. The thing that makes India a great symbol for us is the very high value she places on freedom and human dignity. Without that all progress means nothing. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

2) On sex films

NEWS COMMENTARY
for transmission on
Friday Jan 27 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Among my letters from listeners this week were two letters that might be of interest to you. The first letter came from the mother of a spastic child. You may remember that I talked about the problems of spastics on Friday January 13th. I told you then that a spastic was someone who had suffered some damage to that part of the brain which controls movement, so that in some cases spastics could not move their arms or legs or could not talk or could not sit up. I also told you that this generally happened at birth and that it did not affect the intelligence or the ability to think of the person concerned. Well, this mother had listened to what I said on the 13th and wanted to know what could be done. She says her own little girl is very bright, very sweet and very intelligent but there is this problem of movement, and she would like to do something about it if it were possible.

Well, I think it is possible to do something about it. As I told you, there are clinics in England where spastics are trained to ~~regain~~ control of their movements. It would not be costly or very difficult for us to set up one such clinic here in Jamaica. We have hospitals so there is no problem of a building. There is no special equipment needed. All we need is one physiotherapist who has had training in dealing with spastics. It takes about nine months to get a physiotherapist specially trained for this work. I think that if enough parents come forward we should have no difficulty in persuading our medical authorities to either bring in such a trained person or else send somebody to England for this special training.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

It will cost very little and it will bring a world of happiness to parents and children who are now unhappy. I am sure our medical authorities will do something about this if we can show them that there is a clear and urgent need for a physiotheurapist trained in spastic work. So I think the answer to this particular medical problem is entirely up to you. If all of you who have spastic children write to me I will get in touch with the authorities. The important thing is that something can be done. Whether it is done or not is in your hands.

The other letter is from a young teen-age girl. In a very long and carefully thought-out letter she expressed her unhappiness about the large number of sex and horror films that are coming into Jamaica at present. She feels that many of these films encourage a sort of casual and un-moral approach to sex in the minds of young people. She says they make it seem clever to be loose or unfaithful and that this does great harm to the morals and ideals of young people. And then there are the horror films which treat violence and crime in such a way as to make it seem smart and clever. This, she feels, is in part responsible for the rise in crime here in Jamaica.

I have great sympathy with this young lady's views but I do not feel there is very much I can do about this. It is unfortunately true that many people seem to love these films and are flocking to them. We have a Board of film censors whose job it is to pass these films. I feel that if a sufficiently large body of public opinion will speak out against this type of film the Board of film Censors will take note of it. On the other hand, we must be careful not to impose the views and feelings of a small minority on the rest of the community. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Jan 28 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It was on Monday of this week that I discussed the resignation of Mrs. Rose Leon from the Jamaica Labour Party. I told you then that I thought Mrs. Leon's resignation would turn out to be a bigger blow to the party than the present J.L.P. planners realise. Well, almost immediately after my comments the news broke that Mrs Leon is likely to form a new political party. The big question is: What does this mean for the J.L.P.? And what does it mean in terms of the general political situation in Jamaica?

If Mrs. Leon does form her party, as seems very likely at present the split within the rank and file of the J.L.P. is likely to be very wide. As I told you on Monday, I think a very large section of the rank and file members who are now in the Jamaica Labour Party will leave it and follow Mrs. Leon into the new party. Certainly, those J.L.P. Federal M.P.s like Mr. Ken Hill and Mr. Winston Williams who have defied Busta over the question of Federation are likely to join with Mrs. Leon if she decides on a pro-federation policy. In that case they will carry their supporters into the new Leon party. If on the other hand Mrs. Leon decides to oppose federation she will most likely not get the support of the J.L.P. federal M.P.s and you would then in effect have three factions which are opposed to the P.N.P. in Jamaica: there would be the J.L.P., there would be the Leon party (both of which would be against federation) and there would be the anti-P.N.P. but pro-federation faction led by Mr. Ken Hill and Mr. Winston Williams. But my own guess is that Mrs. Leon's party (if it is formed) will decide to be pro-federation.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

I may be wrong on this but I have always had the impression that Mrs. Leon has been for federation in spite of the ~~party~~ J.L.P.'s new stand on the matter. And of course, it will be a politically very wise move both in terms of getting the support of the Hill and Williams ~~supporters~~ followers and in terms of ensuring the future of her new party, for her to be in favour of federation. It would be a risk but all the chances would be on her side. The risk would be that the voters might reject federation at the coming referendum: in that case her party is likely to collapse. But present indications are that the confusion in the Labour Party has made it almost certain that the P.N.P. will win the Referendum; and if that happens it will be the J.L.P. which will be out in the cold and the Leon party which will have a chance of survival and which will grow. In any case, if Mrs. Leon does form her party, I feel it will be only a matter of time before the J.L.P. ceases to be the one big opposition party in our parliament.

Now what does this mean in terms of the over-all political scene in Jamaica. I think it is the beginning of the change in the structure of the parties. I think we are seeing the beginning of the end of the rule of the political giant whose political party is almost his personal possession. I think the reason why the P.N.P. has survived as a tightly knit party in spite of all its troubles is because Manley has not wanted to turn it into his own personal piece of property. The challenge for all the opponents of the P.N.P. is now to forge an opposition which is democratic in its structure and which has a clear plan and programme of action as an alternative government; and this, I think, is quite a challenge. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Jan 30 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I have come across a great wave of alarm and concern over an aspect of labour relations in recent weeks. This concern has come mainly from people who are a part of management in our industries. This concern can be best expressed in the form of a question. The question is: Has an employer the right to fire any of his workers?

I think this is a question we had better look at very closely because a number of our strikes, especially in recent times, have been caused by this question. Just think of how often we have heard that a strike has been called because one or two or three workers have been sacked or laid off. The sacking is announced and straight-away all the other workers down their tools and refuse to work unless and untill the worker who has been sacked is given back his job. This has become such a common feature of our industrial scene that I think it would be foolish for us to go on ignoring it. So let us ask ourselves just what rights and responsibilities the worker has; and just what rights and responsibilities the employer has.

Let us deal with the worker first. He has the right to sell his ability, to sell his skills on the labour market to whom ever he chooses and for as long as he chooses. There is no compulsion about this. In a society such as ours nobody says to a worker 'You must take that job and you must stay on it for so long'. The worker is free to choose; and he is free to leave the job any time he likes. All he has to do is to give the notice required by law and then he can leave the job. There is no way in which the employer can compel him to stay on the job.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

The worker also has the right to demand to to get a fair rate of pay for his work and decent conditions under which to work. And in order to make sure that he gets these, he has the right and the freedom to organise himself into trades unions in coöperation with other workers to make sure that his rights and interests are protected The trade union is his big bargaining instrument when he deals with the employer on questions of pay and conditions of work. These are the basic rights to which every worker is entitled in the civilised world: he has freedom of association; the freedom to hire out or withold his labour; and the right to demand a fair rate of pay for the job he does. But he has respnsibilities too. He should give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay; and he should try to understand and further the best interest of the industry in which he works and he should be concerned with furthering the best interests of his country.

Now what about the employer? I think the employer should have exactly the same rights as the worker. He should be entitled to expect a fair day's work from his worker for a fair day's pay. He should also have the right to organise an employers' association to bargain with the unions; and he too, should have the freedom to hire or not hire labour; and I think the employer should undoubtedly have the right to fire a worker if he has good reason for doing so. Of course, he has the responsibility not to abuse these rights. He must not victimise any worker - and the union will see to that - but for any worker to think or union to behave as though the employer hasn't the right to fire as well as to hire seems to me neither good for the country nor the workers nor for industry. I hope the unions will think carefully on this subject. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Jan 31 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I discussed with you one aspect of labour relations - the question of the rights and the responsibilities of both the worker and the employer in our industry. I told you then that I thought both the worker and the employer owed a certain duty to the country over and above the serving of their own personal interests. Tonight I want to discuss a concrete case which shows how the country can suffer when either union or management or both take up hard and inflexible positions which are concerned with only taking care of themselves and their own interests.

On Friday January 13th we heard and read the news that the Jamaica Public Service Company had a plan in hand to introduce 'hot line' maintenance work. This meant that instead of switching off current in certain areas while work is being carried on, you, the householders could go on having your light and power while repairs are being carried out. You know that under the present system when the company wants to carry out repair or improvement work in any area the people of that area go without their light and power until the job is done. You know how inconvenient that has been to all of us at times. Lights suddenly go out; and those of you who cook by electricity suddenly find your Sunday dinner cannot be got ready on time; or perhaps you are listening to a particularly interesting bit of radio and it suddenly shuts off. Well, this 'hot line' Maintenance would have reduced this sort of thing. The company would have been able to carry out repair work without stwitching off our current. The company had brought in experts from the United States who had more than 35 years' experience in this sort of work. They

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

had trained men in this type of work in many countries of the world, and they said they had worked out such safe methods that they had had only one accident in more than 35 years of 'hot line' work. 12 Jamaicans had already been trained to do this kind of work and the Americans had very high praise for these 12 Jamaicans: they said their ability was above the average and they had learned the techniques of the job very quickly.

Then the National Workers Union stepped in and ordered its members at the Public Service Company not to have anything to do with this type of work until the union's claim for a special rate was met by the company. On Thursday the 19th of this month representatives of both the N.W.U. and the B.I.T.U. met with representatives of the Public Service Company. It came out then that the company had offered the men who would do 'hot line' work wage increases of between 8/- and 14/- a week. But the N.W.U. was not satisfied with this and demanded an increase of 50% on basic wages before it would agree to its members doing 'hot line' work. It said 'hot line' work was highly dangerous and 8/- to 14/- a week increase was too low as risk pay for such dangerous work. So the experts say the work is no more dangerous than the work now being done: but the union says it is dangerous. The outcome is that the company has called off its 'hot line' plan and will carry on maintenance in the old way.

Now, whatever might be the rights and wrongs of this case in terms of labour relations, in terms of us, the ordinary citizens, this failure to agree means that we suffer. We will still have to put up with no lights and no power when work is being done on the lines; and with just a little consideration for the general public this might not have been the case. Our unions and our employers must learn that they have a duty to the public was well as to themselves. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Feb 1st at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: As a rule I find myself having a high regard for Councillor Roderick Francis, Chairman of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Council's Finance Committee. I think he is one of our most responsible and hard-working Councillors. But I found myself in complete disagreement with Mr. Francis' attitude when a special meeting of his Committee discussed the condition of the city's streets on Monday of last week. At that meeting Mr. Francis blamed the citizens of Kingston for the filthy state of our streets. He said the citizens do not have to put out their rubbish every day because the K.S.A.C. had agreed to remove rubbish twice a week. He added that it was up to the citizens to assume their share of responsibility otherwise we will not be able to solve the problem.

Now, what Mr. Francis says about the responsibility of the citizen is perfectly fair and reasonable - or at least, it would have been if that was the whole story. The citizens must be responsible; the citizens must co-operate with the cleaning authorities in keeping the city clean. But there must be something or somebody to co-operate with. It is all very well to call on the public to do their part. The big question is: is the Public Cleansing Department of the K.S.A.C doing its part? Are we getting the kind of service we are entitled to? Is a genuine effort being made to solve the street cleaning problem? Has street cleaning ceased to be the political football it once was in K.S.A.C. affairs? I am afraid the answer to all these questions is still no. I do not think we are getting the service we are entitled to. I do not think a genuine effort is being made to solve the problem. And as for the political football part, I think

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

Councillor Vicky Grant answered that one when she said that when there were differences between the workers it was the public who suffered; and then she added: "We are certainly not going to sit here and allow workers to tell us how to run the city." From all of which you will see that street cleaning is still very much a political football.

You will remember that last year all the blame for the state of our streets was heaped on the head of Mr. George Minott. Well, Mr. Minott was removed from the post of Superintendent of Public Cleansing and we were promised a great new effort. In fact, I think that effort was made for a few weeks and things began to look up: but they soon slipped back again and the city is as filthy as ever today.

The K.S.A.C. is now in the process of asking the Government for an additional £5,000 to make up its expected deficit for Public Cleansing. I hope the Minister of Home Affairs will take a really careful look at the operations of the Public Cleansing Department before giving the Council a penny more to spend on public cleansing. Indeed, I think it is high time that the whole public cleansing situation in Kingston is brought to the attention of the central government. I should like to see the government appoint an independent and impartial committee of enquiry to look into the running of the K.S.A.C. Public Cleansing Department. I should like such a committee to have powers to examine all books and accounts, and to make recommendations to overhaul or change or reorganise this branch of service so as to give the public a really decent public cleansing service. What we now have is a very, very poor thing indeed. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Feb 2nd at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Earlier this week I was the guest of the Parent-Teachers Association at the Vauxhall Senior School on the Windward Road. This area, as I am sure you know, is not one in which the richer section of our community lives. In the main it is a working class area. So my surprise and my pleasure at the very fine school buildings and the beautifully clean and airy classrooms was very great indeed. It warmed my heart to think that youngsters from relatively poor homes had the opportunity to finish their schooling in such a pleasing place. And it seemed to me that it was in a place like that that the quiet and undramatic progress that is being made is best seen. We so often tend to overlook things like this and to take them for granted. We are worried about the cost of living; we are worried about the housing problem; we are worried about unemployment because all these things are very real and very immediate; and it often looks to us as though nothing good is happening and no rpogress is being made. So it is a good thing for us to know and to remember that there are fields in which great progress is being made, and I think the Vauxhall Senior School on the Windward Road is one of the signs - and an important one - that everything is not gloomy and that important progress is being made in spite of all our difficulties and our problems.

But let me tell you about the meeting in the big school hall which was filled to overcrowding. The subject we were to discuss was the behaviour among our teenagers; and there were a large number of parents and guardians and teenagers and they were all very interested

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

in the subject.

I think three important points came out of our discussion. The first was that most parents and teacher and guardians often did not try to understand some of the mental problems faced by teenagers. A teenager is no longer a child: but at the same time a teenager is not quite an adult yet. He or she is in that in-between stage where adjustment is not easy. If an adult treats a teenager like a child, the adult will want to make all the decisions for him or her. You will want to tell them what to do, what to think, how to behave. And they almost always resent this. And so their bahaviour seems to the adult to be sullen and aggressive and with no appreciation. From the point of view of the teenager, it is hard to feel like a grown-up and be treated like a child.

The second problem the teenager faces is that of adjustment. This is difficult enough at the best of times, but it is made worse when grown-ups behave as though they have never been teenagers themselves. Many grown-ups will talk about their teenagers to other adults in the presence of their teenage children and this embarrasses the youngsters no end. These parents have apparently forgotten how upset they were when they were teenagers and adults did the same thing to them. And so you have the angry outbursts and the feeling of being misunderstood on the part of the teenagers.

The third point has to do with trust and understanding. As one young girl said to me: "Why don't our parents trust us and try to understand that we do not want to be wicked". I know many parents left that meeting thinking a little more about their teenage youngster It seems to me important that we should all try to understand some of the problems that make teengagers behave as they do because growing up can be either very beautiful or very painful and ugly.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Feb 3rd at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: There has been a great deal of discussion in the local press lately on the question of tourism. People have written "letters-to-the-Editor" to say that there is a slump in our tourist trade. There are reports that most of the North Coast hotels are empty, with only a handful of guests here and there. And a number of letters have been published giving reasons for this state of affairs. There has almost been as many different views as there xxxx has been letters. Some writers have said our tourist trade is in a slump and the reason for it is the fantastically high prices charged by north coast hotels. Others have replied that this is not true: that our hotel charges compare favourably with those of any of the other tourist resorts in this part of the world. People have brought out figures, and it is unfortunately true that with skill it is possible to make certain kinds of figures prove almost anything you want them to prove. Other people have said that there is no real slump in the tourist trade, that this is just a seasonal fall off which will soon right itself. Yet others have blamed the economic recession in the United States which they say has caused American money to be tight. Still others say that the fall off in tourists is because the Jamaica government will not permit gambling on the North Coast and so the tourists go to the places where they are allowed to have their little fling at gambling. And as recently as on Wednesday of this week a feature article in the Gleaner for a new approach to tourism in Jamaica. The article says that the present approach of those concerned with tourism is to herd rich Americans

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together like horses in monstrously expensive stables. The article calls on the Tourist Board to put an accent on things Jamaican in its promotion of tourism. /Sell Jamaica's everyday charm, says the article, instead of selling something phony and snobbish.

So there you are: these are just some of the many different views being expressed as a result of the fall off in our tourist industry. Now the question is: what does all this matter/to you xxx or me? I think it matters a great deal to all of us. Tourism is a very important part of the economy of Jamaica. I think many people sometimes tend to forget that tourism earns more dollars for Jamaica than any other industry. It also helps our employment situation considerably; so I think it is the business of all of us to take an intelligent interest in the tourist industry.

Now, basically we sell a service to the tourist. In exchange for his money we offer him our sunshine, our white sand beaches and the comfort and services of our hotels. If he feels that he is getting good service for his money he will be happy and he will come back: if he doesn't, he will not come back. The fact that he does not seem to be coming back suggests that something is wrong. And I think it is because there is this feeling that something is wrong that we have had this spate of discussion. I think it is good that this discussion is taking place because tourism matters to the economy of this country. I have some views of my own on this whole question but time is up so I will give them to you tomorrow evening. Till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Feb 4 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you about the discussion now going on concerning the problems of tourism. You will remember I gave you a summary of the different views expressed as to why there seems to be this fall off in our tourist trade. You will remember that I ended by saying I will give you my own views this evening.

My own view is that some of the problems the tourist industry face are related to our own social and economic problems. Let me give you a few examples of what I mean. The last time that I was up in the United States I tried to persuade the editorial director of a very famous magazine to come a spend a holiday in Jamaica. I was surpised at the man's reaction. He said no very firmly. He had been to Jamaica once and that was enough for him. When I questioned him I discovered that he had been very distressed by the poverty he had seen around him and this had spoiled his holiday completely. Now I am not saying that this is a typical reaction but it is representative of a section of the American people who are socially conscious. Some people, whether they are from America or elsewhere find,it embarrassing to have a good time in the midst of poverty.

Another example: when I was in Puerto Rico last year I found tourists and Puerto Ricans travelling on the same buses in San Juan and nobody saw anything strange or out of the way in this. And there were Puerto Ricans eating and drink in all the tourist hotels and in the restaurants tourists and Puerto Ricans mingled freely because there was one standard price for all of them. And when the tourists wanted to take a ride into the country they got into taxis known as

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Publicos and paid exactly the same money the Puerto Ricans pay and got exactly the same treatment. The Publicos are communal taxis which have fixed routes. You may have a fleet of publicos going to Red hills, another fleet going to Spanish Town or May Pen and so on and there will be one standard charge and the taxi will pick up as many passengers as it can carry. Trinidad has a similar system of public taxis and you can travel from one end of the island to the other for a tiny fraction of what it will cost you in Jamaica.

The position in Jamaica is very different. How many Jamaican families can drop into a big north coast hotel for dinner or a drink of an evening? We just cannot afford their fleecing prices. And so the prices make the tourist hotels out of bounds to us. On top of which we know that some of these hotels are not happy to see us enter as guests. By the same token tourists hardly ever get the opportunity to meeting Jamaicans in their travels. And then there are the Jamaicans who feel that the tourists are to be fleeced whenever they meet them. And so contact is very limited, and when contact is made the experience is generally unhappy for the tourist.

I do not think we want to impose Jamaican ways on the tourist; but I do think we want to make it possible for the tourists who do want to to make contact with Jamaicans and Jamaican ways. One of the few hotels where this is at all possible at present is the Myrtle Bank. Most of the other hotels have an iron curtain of high prices that make any worthwhile contact impossible. I think the tourist industry wants to offer tourists a greater variety, and I think the Jamaicans who deal with tourists must stop trying to fleece them. The alternative is that our tourist industry may become a thing of dimishing returns. No man, not even a tourist, will return to be squeezed a second time. And that is, I think, one of our problems with tourism.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Feb 6 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last Friday night the much talked-of dinner was held at the Myrtle Bank, and it turned out to be quite a shock to some people. Tickets to the dinner had been sold for 10/6d each. Mr. Abe Issa had allowed the National Council for Refugees the free use of the lawn of the Myrtle Bank hotel and had also contributed the food and service of his waiters for free. When I turned up at the hotel it was a beautiful moonlit night and the tables with the spotless white table cloths looked very attractive in the bright moonlight. There were more people than either I or the Refugee Council had expected. I think there were well over three hundred people. They were well dressed and the whole thing looked like a very classy affair. But there was an air of tension and ecitement about the place. And then the waiters in their white jackets started moving among the tables carrying trays of soup. This looked like the first course of the dinner. It was a small bowl of pea soup with a little too much salt in it and not very well cooked. When people had finished eating the soup and perhaps waiting for the next course, Miss Nita Barrow got up and told them that they had had their dinner. There was nothing more to be had; just a bowl of soup and a roll of bread. That, Miss Barrow and the other speakers said, was all the dinner any one of the 30 million-odd refugees in Africa, Asia and Europe would be eating that night; and their soup would be more watery and less nourishing than the pea soup we had just eaten. And that was all their dinner, night after night, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ for months and years and sometimes for all their lives.

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I think many people realised for the first time then just what being a refugee really meant. And most of them did not mind paying 10/6d for a small bowl of peasoup. But there were a few who were angry, who felt that they had been robbed of their 10/6. These were the people who had no sense of fellowship for the misery of homeless and helpless people. But thank heaven they were a tiny minority. The majority were so shocked and impressed by just how little refugees had to eat that the contributed well over £200 to the collection on the spot. I think this was wonderful and heart-warming and it showed that Jamaicans do care about the misery of others and that we are not just a 'gimme, gimme people' as some critics of Jamaica have said. We can give too because we are our brothers' keepers.

Now there is one point that many people have been curious about. What, they have asked, will happen to this money that we are collecting. Well, the answer is simple. This money, every single penny of it (nobody is going to use any of it for expenses) will go to the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees and he will use this money as Jamaica's contribution towards solving the world problem of refugees. The Jamaica National Council for Refugees may ask the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees to use this money on a special project such as helping with the education of refugee children, or for feeding the famine stricken and starving people of the Congo, or any other special project that may seem most urgent. The important point is that every penny of this money will go to the United Nations as Jamaica's share in solving this most tragic of all human problems. And I think we can all be proud of Jamaica's effort so far. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Feb 7 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The news the Dr. Arthur Lewis might resign from the Principalship of the University College of the West Indies, is very disturbing news indeed. As you know, rumours have been going about all over the West Indies for the past few weeks that Dr. Lewis might resign. I think that if Dr. Lewis does resign it will be a tragedy for the University College and a very serious loss for the rest of the West Indies. In his short spell back in the West Indies Dr. Lewis has already shown us the very high qualities of leadership he can contribute to West Indian society. You will remember that in my very first broadcast in this year 1961 I slected Arthur Lewis as the Man of the Year for 1960 because of his outstanding contribution towards resolving the Rastafarian crisis. You will remember that in that broadcast I asked you to think just what might have happened if there had been no Arthur Lewis in Jamaica for the Rasta leaders to appeal to. But because Lewis was here and was trusted the Rasta leaders appealed to him and so the three-man U.C. team went among the Rastas and wrote their report and made their recommendations which resulted in a tremendous easing of tension and the setting up of the Mission to Africa which is likely to leave Jamaica later this month. And all this came about because of the creative leadership shown by Dr. Arthur Lewis. This is the sort of thing I mean when I say Lewis has already shown the high qualities of leadership that he has to offer us. And those who know the University College will tell you that his leadership has been equally striking there. He has personally gone out and collected vast sums of money for developing

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and expanding the college and its services. And to those of us who are interested in the College and who are looking on from the outside there is no question but that Arthur Lewis's coming has given it a freshness and a sharpness and the beginnings of a sense of direction which seemed to us lacking before. Why then, you might ask, is there all this talk of Dr. Lewis resigning if he is in fact doing so well?

I think part of the reason is precisely because he is doing so well. When you shake up a large institution like the University College you are bound to tread on many corns and to hurt very many little dignities. And this has happened at the university college and some people have reacted violently against some of the changes Dr. Lewis introduced or planned to introduce. Just how violently some people have reacted is shown by the story of what happened to the confidential memorandum circulated to the Salaries Committee by Dr. Lewis. This was a private document in which Dr. Lewis set out his views on the rates of pay received at the University College and comparing them with rates of pay in England. In that paper Dr. Lewis pointed out that a lecturer at our university got £900 a year more than he would get for doing the same job in England. He then proposed that the University College should adopt the same salary scale as British universities and in addition it should also give family allowances, leave passages and housing at a rental of 10% of salary. There are other suggested allowances as well. Dr. Lewis also suggested certain differences in allowance to West Indians and to people coming from abroad to work for the university. The most important point here was that West Indian staff members of the University College would not get the same 'home leave' conditions as, say, an English staff member. But time is up so I'll complete this comment tomorrow evening. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Feb 8 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: We are still on the subject that Dr. Arthur Lewis might resign as head of the University College. Last night I tried to set the stage to this problem for you and I ended up by telling you of the ppoposals made by Lewis on salaries and allowances. Lewis had said the academic staff of the U.C. was overpaid because it fixed its own salaries and that he wanted U.C. salary scales to be pegged to British University scales of pay. He also suggested certain differences in allowances to West Indians and expatriates, the most important of which had to do with 'home Leave'. Now, this question of 'home leave' is something I have already expressed my views on and you know I don't like it one little bit. Dr. Lewis's proposal was that West Indian staff members could go on home leave with their families anywhere in the British West Indies but if they went to England it would be regarded as 'study leave' and only the staff member's passage would be paid. The University College would not pay for him to take his family with him. As can be expected West Indians at the university college reacted violently against this. To them this was a form of discrimination. To me it makes sense and I am all for it. For a West Indian the West Indies should be home.

But the really important point about this whole document was that it was a private and confidential document, something for circulation and discussion inside the university. But someone at the University College then handed this private document to the Daily Gleaner and it was published in the Gleaner on January 9th. Now, as I see it this handing of the document to the press was no more and

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no less than a betrayal of Dr. Arthur Lewis by some member or members of his staff. And it was this act of betrayal which started the talk that Dr. Lewis might resign .

Now I am not saying that this is all the story. Other aspects of the story have recently come to light. It seems that the Federal Government is not giving the University College the support it feels entitled to. The details of just what is wrong between the University College and the Federal Government are not very clear. Hoever, Mr. Robert Bradshaw, the Federal Finance Minister is due in Jamaica towards the end of this week and we can only hope that the differences between the University College and the Federal Government will be satisfactorily settled.

But I think it is wrong to pretend that the betrayal of Dr. Lewis' confidential document by someone at the university had nothing to do with this crisis. My own opinion is that that betrayal brought things to a head.

The tragedy about this whole business is that here again we have a case where people are so concerned with their sectional self-interests that they seem prepared to go to any lengths to protect those private vested interests. I think this has been a sad and unhappy business, reflecting credit to no one except Dr. Arthur Lewis. Dr. Eric Williams has declared his own distress at the news that Dr. Lewis might resign. He has appealed to Dr. Lewis not to do so and not leave the West Indies. I think it would be a great tragedy for the University College if Dr. Lewis left. I hope he will stay and carry through the great work he has started but for this he must have the loyalty of his staff and the support of all of us. I sincerely hope that he will get this and that he will decide to stay.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For tranmission on
Thursday Feb 9 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last Saturday the pro-P.N.P. weekly newspaper, Public Opinion carried a news item under the heading: "Sugar Shortage Hits Local Manufacturers." The story told how the shortage of granulated sugar over the past two to three weeks has resulted in a big drop in production of sweets, syrups, wines, flavourings and other local products which depend heavily on sugar. The story said that at least one firm - the Aspinall Manufacturing Company - had stopped production, and that others like Lannaman's, Jureidini's and Bennett's are all on reduced production. All have been getting about half the amount of white sugar they need and normally get.

Well, this sugar shortage has now spread into the retail trade and many householders have been affected over the past week or so. I am sure many of you housewives have had a bad time trying to get white sugar from your grocers or super-markets. I know a number of families including my own, which have been without white sugar for all of this week. My wife has been unable to get white sugar at the place which normally supplies her with it.

The question is: what is the story behind this shortage of white sugar? And how long is it likely to last? When Public Opinion carried the story of the shortage among manufacturers last Saturday it also mentioned the fact that last year we sold 39,354 tons of sugar to the United States and said that some people had given this as the reason for the shortage. I suppose in a sense you can say that was a reason, because if we had not sold that sugar to the United States we would not be faced by a shortage on the home market right now. On the other hand, when we sold

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the sugar to the United States our domestic supplies seemed assured. There were enough stocks on hand and the industry had every reason to believe that by the time the stocks in the stores ran out a new supply would have come in. And in any case, if we had not sold the 39,354 tons to the United States we would have lost the dollars from that sale and we would have had a large surplus on hand which would have been no good for either the industry or the workers or the country. My point is that the present shortage in not due to the fact that we sold nearly 40,000 tons of sugar to the United States.

As you may know, the Monymusk estate manufactures all the refined sugar which is sold to local householders as well as to local manufacturers. There are still people who think our white sugar is imported, but they are wrong; it is all made here. Usually there is a month's supply of 1,200 tons on hand and it was expected that Monymusk would start its crop early in December of last year. But then three things happened. First there was a strike of dock workers in England. This held up certain machinery parts which were needed for the new crop. Second, there was a strike at Monymusk itself. And third, there were the very heavy rains and bad weather at the time when crop should have started. And it was these three factors which caused the delay in starting the crop; and these inturn led to the shortage we now face. As you may know, the new operations at Monymusk also means that this year no cane can be stored in the yards, so the factory can only grind what has been cut and brought in each day and so cutting becomes very important. But I understand that we are over the hump now and that fresh stocks should start coming in by the end of this week. So white sugar should again be plentiful next week. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Feb 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you about the shortage of white sugar, which is something temporary and will soon be behind us. Tonight I want to tell you about a shortage which could be serious and which could be permanent unless we do something about it.

Some of you housewives may already have begun to experience some difficulty in getting your detergents. You know much better than I do just how valuable and important those packets of detergent are in terms of your family's laundry. You soak the dirty clothes, rub them gently and tha wash is done. And you do all this in cold water. Also, with detergent you can get grease off plates and other things with the greatest of ease. And for those of you who do all your own housekeeping and use labour-saving devices like washing machines life would be almost impossible without detergents. But really, I don't have to tell you all this; you know it.

Well, as I said, there is a danger that you may find it harder and harder to get hold of detergents in the weeks and months ahead. And this is likely to be so because restrictions have been placed on the importing of detergents. The story behind these restrictions is very interesting.

As you know, we have a young and growing soap industry in Jamaica which produces very good soaps at reasonable prices. But soap cannot especially hard soap, cannot do all the things that a detergent can do. So, in 1958 and 1959, as a result of popular demand, we imported almost twice as much detergents as we did in 1957. In other words, in each of those two years our imports of detergents almost doubled when compared with what we imported in 1957. Naturally, this upset

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the local soap people very much and they complained to the government about the rough time they were having as a result of the competition they were getting from the detergents. As I understand it, the local soap people then asked the government to protect the local industry by restricting imports of detergents. My further understanding is that the government was rather reluctant to do this. As you know, the import of foreign soaps is already restricted under the Oils and Fats Agreement, so that the soap industry is protected from competition by foreign soaps. Apart from some luxury soaps which we do not produce in Jamaica, all other soaps are serverly restricted and only industrial soap is allowed in freely. But this was not enough for our local soap people. They wanted detergents restricted. The government, I understand, told them that it would give them protection as soon as they produced a local detergents. And there, I think, the matter should have rested until our local soap industry produced an efficient local detergent. But it did not rest there. In the last quarter of 1959 it was decided that the importing of detergents should be restricted to the 1957 figure. In other words, since the last quarter of 1959 we have not imported in any one year more detergents than we imported in 1957, no matter how much we needed. And now stocks are beginning to run out and detergents are becoming scarce. Soon, this scarcity will grow worse unless you housewives protest very vigorously about it. I am all for encouraging our local industries and I am all for affording them a fair protection: but I am completely opposed to the ordinary people of this country being punished to serve the interests of any industry. And so I am completely against this restriction on the importing of detergents. It is against the interests of every housewife in Jamaica and so it is bad. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Feb 11 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Since Wdenesday of this week the spotlight of the West Indian scene has been on Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. All the leaders of the various units of the West Indies Federation are in Port of Spain now. Yesterday they all went to Chaguaramas and signed the pact which finalises the new Leased Bases Agreement bweteen the United States and the West Indies. And then they witnessed the ceremonial and symbolic hoisting of the flags of the United States, the United Kingdom, the West Indies and the flag of Trinidad and Tobago at the same time. This was the outward and visible symbol of the new equality between the governments and peoples of the West Indies on the one hand and the peoples and governments of the United Kingdom and the United States on the other hand, in the setting up and running of bases in the West Indies. From here on the Americans are in the West Indies and have bases in the West Indies, not because Britain or anyone else said so, but because the elected representativ of the West Indian people said so. And this completely new and important arrangement wasformalised in Trinidad yesterday. That, I think, was the best thing that happened on the Federal scene this week.

There were other happening that were not so good. Dr. Cummins, the Premier of Barbados, arrived in Port of Spain on Wednesday to take part in the final stage of the bases ceremony; and one of the first things he said warned that we could expect some trouble among the Big Three of the Federation.

You will remember that Mr. Manley recently gave us the news with

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regret that the next meeting of the inter-governmental conference to revise the Federal Constitution had to be postponed and would not now take place until about May of this year. This postponement, he said, meant the putting off of the date of the Referendum here in Jamaica.

Shortly after that announcement Dr. Eric Williams expressed his own disappointment at the proposed delay and urged that the meeting be held on the 16th of this month. Dr. Williams argued that the affairs of the Federation were drifting because of this delay, and that it was important for us to have a representative in Washington right now to present the West Indies case for technical assistance and the like to the new Kennedy Administration.

When he arrived in Trinidad on Wednesday Dr. Cummins flatly rejected the idea of holding the inter-governmental conference to revise the federal constitution on the 16th of this month. Barbados, he said, was still being run by Bajans and nobody was going to tell them how to run Barbados. They could not attend an inter-governmental conference before April because they had their own budget to see to and a whole heap of other business: and that was that. Reports are that Dr. Cummins spoke with great heat and feeling. I expect some of this feeling will come into the open when the Federal Labour Party meets today under Mr. Manley's chairmanship. Many observers feel that Barbados is now deliberately delaying the constitution meeting because Sir Grantley Adams is worried about his position as Federal Prime Minister. These observers think he fears that independence for the West Indies might mean the end of him as Prime Minister of the West Indies. I am inclined to that opinion too. In any case, look out for some stormy words from Port of Spain. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Feb 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

PASSED FOR BROADCAST as amended
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So Patrice Lumumba is dead. The news is that he was massacred by tribal villagers in Katanga on Sunday evening. So ends the life of one of the stormiest political figures to come out of the African Revolution

Good evening: ~~Last night I told you that we had neglected what was going on in the outside world for many weeks and that it was time for us to take a look at the outside world. And then I discussed the recession now taking place in the United States and how West Germany had contributed to this state of affairs.~~

As far as Africa is concerned this is the biggest and most important news of the week. It is the news that will make the most headlines all over the world.

~~Tonight I think we should still look to the outside world, but towards Africa this time. And as far as Africa is concerned the biggest question right now, the question making most headlines all over the world, is:~~ The question is what happened to Patrice Lumumba? How did he die? ~~Where is Lumumba? Is he still alive? Or is he dead?~~ And what does this mean for the unhappy Congo?

I am sure most of you still remember the startling and dramatic way in which the name of Lumumba suddenly became a household name all over the world a little under 8 months ago when the Congo set out on its unhappy road of independence. Before June the 30th of 1960, very few people had ever heard of this man. And then suddenly, almost over night, he was all over the world's newspapers. And somehow the name Lumumba and the chaos in the Congo became the same thing in our minds. You will remember the dreadful struggle for power that took place among the Congo politicians after the Belgians were forced out. And I have told you how unprepared these people were for independence and that I thought the Belgians should bear the major blame for this. Anyway, for a brief and stormy period Lumumba was Prime Minister and Kasavubu was President and things fell apart as the politicians bickered with each other and the Russians and the Americans fought

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their Cold War battles over the beat-up body of the infant Congo Republic. Then, you will remember, Moise Tshombe, the leader of the rich Katanga region, broke away and established his own indpendent state of Katanga with the help and advice of the Belgians. The United Nations forces tried to keep the peace without much success. And then a young soldier called Mobutu took over power from the policians and tried to run the country with a bunch of young students. But Mobutu and his students did not do much better. Mobutu arrested Lumumba and kept him a prisoner in Leopoldville. Lumumba escaped once and tried to make his way to Stanleyville where is own supporters had set up their own independent state. But Mobutu's soldiers caught up with Lumumba and brought him back after having beaten him up pretty badly. And still there was no peace and order in the country. Famine crept on the land and children and old folk were the first to die of the starvation that spread through the land. At last it began to look as though Kasavubu and Mobutu could no longer successfully keep Lumumba in prison, so they made a deal Tshombe and sent Lumumba down to Katanga for safekeeping away from his supporters. Lumumba arrived in Katanga on the night of January 17th. Then he disappeared. Last week came the announcement that he had escaped from his prison. But words began to get around that Lumumba was dead and that Tshombe had cooked up the escape story so that the body of Lumumba could be found and explained away. Then, today we heard that Lumumba is dead. ~~The next few days should tell us whether this is true or not. But whether he is dead or alive,~~ And the manner of his dying is as confused and confusing as was the manner of his living, the chaos that is the spirit of Patrice Lumumba will linger over the Congo for a long time. The Congo tragedy will unhappily get still worse before it gets better.

Goodnight.

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The U.S. Recession & Germany

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Feb 14 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: There has been so much to comment on in Jamaica and in the West Indies over the past few weeks that I have rather neglected to look a t the great wide world outside our shores: so let us try to make up for this a little this evening.

I think three very important things have happened w hich have held the world's headlines over the past week or so. First, there has been the mounting talk of the recession in the United States. This, as you know, has reached us in Jamaica in the form of a fall off in the tourist trade in January and also in the form of the proposed cut in the amount of money American tourists will be allowed to spend in taking duty free good back to the United States. As Mr. Abe Issa. the Chairman of our Tourist Board has made clear, this could be a very serious thing for our tourist industry. We could lose an enormous amount of money from the drop in In-Bond buying if this were to happen. This is a very clear example of how what happens in the outside world can affect us.

The second important topic which has been making world headlinss and which is connected with the United States recession is the strange money argument between the United States and West Germany. Some aspects of this argument are most ironic indeed.

As you know, at the end of the Second World War Germany was brought as completely to her knees as any industrialised country ever was. Her ecomony was destroyed. The Russians to millions and millions of pounds worth of her plant and machinery as war reparations - which is a fancy way of talking about the spoils of battle which the winner

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takes from the loser. In short, Germany was completely broke, completely down and, some people thought, completely out. When the Russians had finished taking their spoils of war out of Germany, there was very little left for the French and British and Americans to take, even if they wanted to. But they were very much more generous than the Russians, partly because the Germans had not done such massive damage on their soil as the Germans did no Russian soil, and partly because they were afraid of ~~what~~ communism taking over all Europe if Germany were reduced to too great a poverty. But not only did they leave the little Germany had left, the United States pumped vast sums of money into Germany to help put the German economy back on its feet. The Germans for their part, took all the aid the United States could give and worked really hard to put their country back on its feet. The result was an economic miracle of the first order. The West German rebuilt their economy and then went after the export market. They cut into the markets of Britain, they cut into the markets of France, and they cut into the markets of the United States which had given them so much help. Today the Germans are once more a wealthy, flourishing nation and the economic top dogs of Europe. And towards the end of last year a very odd thing happened. German competition was draining gold out of the United States and the Americans were in trouble. They asked the Germans to help them check this flow. But the Germans were not interested in helping those who had helped them. They were out for all they could get and America's problems were none of their affair. And it is this German toughness which has contributed quite a bit to America's present recession. To me this looks like a case of biting the hands that fed you. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Feb 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Not so long ago - less than 10 days ago - the people in our district caught a cow thief. They caught him red-handed trying to lead the stolen cow away. The vast majority of the people in our district are cultivators and small farmers. They get their living off a small piece of land, and some of them rear a cow or two or a few goats or a few pigs, as well as domestic creatures like a few chickens. In short, ours is a very typical rural Jamaican community of small farmers. Ours is a community of law-abiding people and there is very rarely any serious trouble or violence among us. But on the night they caught the cow thief some of the men of our village went nearly wild. They tied the thief to a post and then they started to beat him. They gave him a really terrible beating. And if one of our leading citizens had not jumped in and protected the man with his own body, they might have beaten that cow thief to death. As it was the man who protected the cow thief, a very popular and well-loved member of our little community, took some very hard licks; his clothes were torn and he was badly bruised in places. But in the end he managed to talk some sense into the people and their blind and bitter anger came under control. And so the police came and took a still living cow thief to hospital.

In our community it is the habit to gather at our local rumshop in the evenings and talk about the important events of the day; and for many days the catching of the cow thief was the main topic. Many of the men felt that they should have beaten the cow thief to death as an example to other cow thieves. And as they talked all their bitterness came to the surface again. They had lost many cows and goats over the

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past twelve months. Just about four months ago thieves had one night slaughtered and taken away six goats belonging to an old lady who had to bring up a family by herself. And over Christmas thieves had slaughtered two cows, skinned one and put it into their car, and left one half-skinned because they had been frightened away. And in the earlier part of last year many other cows and goats had been stolen. And there had been nothing the people could do about it. They had reported some of these thefts to the police, but without hope of any result. Indeed, many people said bitterly that it was a waste of time to report these thefts to the police. In the case of the two cows over the Christmas season, the owner had phoned up the police about eight in the morning, but the police did not show up until about four in the afternoon. And by that time whatever trail there might have been had gone completely cold. And so, when they caught the cow thief, and it was the first cow thief they had ever caught in our district, the people were all for taking the law into their own hands. And those of us who said it is not good for our community or for the country if we did so, had a very rough time of it.

Now all this may seem very small to you, but I think it is very important. Once we start taking the law into our own hands about one thing, no matter how small it is, then we will start taking the law into our own hands with all sorts of things. And sooner or later the rule of law will break down and lawlessness will spread. I think the police have a very special responsibility here. They must do their duty in such a way as to gain the respect and confidence of all the peop le. If they don't the people will take the law into their own hands; and I think that will be a very sad thing for Jamaica. So I hope they will take this cattle thieving more seriously. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Feb 16 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It was on Monday of this week that we had the announcement from the Katanga government of Moise Tshombe that Patrice Lumumba had been killed the evening before by African villagers. But by that time many people had already assumed that Lumumba was dead, that he had been murdered shortly after he arrived in Katanga on January 17, and that the Government of Katanga was a party to the murder. You will remember that I gave you the background to the rise and fall of Lumumba on Monday evening. I told you then that the chaos and confusion he had spread in his life will long linger over the Congo even though Lumumba himself is dead. I think we are now in a position to see the pattern of that confusion a little more clearly. And right now, it promises not only to affect the Congo, but to affect the whole wide world, including us here in Jamaica. It seems to me that the death of Lumumba is being used to stir up hatred and bitterness and violence. It is being used to breed race hatred; it is being used to create divisions among people; it is being used to try and destroy an international civil servants; and it is being used as a weapon in the bitter cold war between East and West. Indeed, as I told you on Monday, it is not unlikely that we may see great new waves of violence sweeping through the Congo. But even worse than that, it could lead to the Congo becoming a battlefield of real war, with the Russian communists backing one side and the United States another. This has been the danger I feared most ever since the troubles in the Congo began. It is something I have often talked about in these commentaries. And now that danger is more real than ever it was during Lumumba's life time.

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And this is a danger not only to the Congo but to all Africa. A war between communism and democracy on African soil could do untold damage and could destroy much of the great progress that has been made over the past 10 years; and none of us, I am sure, want to see this happen in Africa. And yet it might come to that because of the death of Lumumba.

Right now many people all over the world are caught up in a great wave of pro-Lumumba sentiment and to these people Lumumba is a hero and a martyr, a great man who has been evilly done to death. I agree that he has been evilly done to death. ~~I think the Katanga government of Moise Tshombe murdered him in cold blood. Tshombe has in fact now become a tool of the Belgians who are still trying to regain a foothold in the Congo.~~ But was Lumumba the great man the propagandists say he was?

I have told you often on these commentaries that I thought him and irresponsible and young man with very little understanding of the political realities of the world in which we live. And so he became a tool in the power struggle between the great powers. The Russians backed him because they wanted to gain a foothold of influence in Africa. The Americans opposed him because they feared communism. And so the confusion in the Congo was compounded with the Belgians playing their own game in Katanga. Throughout his short and fantastic career Lumumba was a puppet on the political scene, tossed this way and that, and then finally destroyed by the spirit of violence he himself helped to bring into being. Patrice Lumumba was no hero, no great man. But why all this fuss now? Why all this trouble in the United Nations and elsewhere? And where will it lead? I will try to answer these questions tomorrow evening, so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Feb 17 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I ended my comments last night by telling you that I personally did not think Lumumba was either a hero or a great man. I told you I thought he was a political puppet of the great powers and their struggle for influence in Africa. And then I ended by asking why there was all this fuss and trouble throughout the world as a result of his death.

You may remember that on the day we heard the news of Lumumba's death the communist representative at the United Nations called for a special meeting of the U.N. Security Council and demanded angrily and bitterly that Mr. Hammarskjold should resign his position as secretary-general of the United Nations. Moscow radio took up the theme and denounced the United Nations and the Belgians and said that they would not recognise Hammarskjold as Secretary of the United Nations any longer. The first big demonstrations took place in Russia, and then we had waves of demonstrations all over the world. The hate campaign was on; and the hate campaign was directed at the United Nations Secretary, at the United States and at the Belgians. From Red China's radio came the comment that the killing of Lumumba was a 'western provocation' of the peoples of Africa and Asia on the part of the imperialists. In the United Nations itslef there were such demonstrations in the public galleries that the meeting had to be stopped for a time. And we even had meetings here in Jamaica. And somehow, whether by intention or not, these meetings all took a turn which gave one the impression that they were denouncing the United Nations in general and the secretary of the United Nations in

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particular. Mr. Hammarskjold became the big culprit. At times it almost sounded as though Mr. Hammarskjold had himself killed Patrice Lumumba. And yet, those of you with good memories will remember that this is not the first time that the Russians have launched an all-out hate campaign against the Secretary of the United Nations. They did it during the war in Korea and they did it so well that the forced the resignation of Mr. Trygvie Lie who was then the Secretary of the United Nations. They did it again when the United Nations sent its force into the Congo. In the Korean war the communists would have taken over all Korea if there had been no United Nations force there. And in the Congo communist influence would by now have been complete if there had been no United Nations force. And since the United Nations force is under the control of the Secretary of the United Nations, it is the Secretary who has proved to ~~the~~ be the block to communist plans. And so they want to get rid of the position of secretary of the United Nations; because without its secretary the United Nations would be unable to take any action anywehere. It would just be a talking shop. And it is because the Russians want a weak United Nations that cannot act that they are building up this hate campaign against the Secretary of the United Nations. Their aim is to weaken the United Nations, to make people lose their respect for it and so to win a greater freedom of action for themselves to spread communism throughout the world. And many of the people who have been holding their protest meetings about Lumumba have, unknowingly, been serving this great aim of the Russians. But that is only one side of the story. There is another side to it too, an ugly and sinister side which most people have almost completely ignored up to now. I'll tell you about this tomorrow when complete this examination of the Congo situation. So till then, goodnight

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Feb 18 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: In the first week of January, on Friday January the 6th, I told you about the strikes and riots which were then paralysing Belgium. I told you then that Belgium was going through a crisis because it had lost its Congo colony and all the wealth that came from that colony. I told you that without the Congo Belgium would slip into being a mean and poor little country and that the people of Belgium would have to tighten their belts and really get down to working for their living instead of living off the backs of the black folk of the Congo. But I also told you the Belgian people had become so corrupted by the fruits of colonialism that the revolted against the idea of having to work harder and go without that they staged a series of strikes and riots that crippled their country.

You see, for the Belgians the fruits of empire had been very sweet indeed and most Belgians were not prepared to give them up without a fight, and so some of them worked themselves into good positions with the Katanga Government of Moise Tshombe. Today Tshombe has a vast number of Belgian advisers and experts to help him run Katanga. The Belgians have done their work well. They have brain-washed Tshombe so carefully and well that he is doing most of their dirty work for them. The Belgians wanted Lumumba dead and there is no certainty that he was not in fact killed by a Belgian. There is one story that a Belgian officer shot him to death on the evening of January 17th when he arrived in Katanga. Whether that is true or not, the Belgians are officers in Tshombe's army. The Belgians are supplying Tshombe with arms and planes. Congolese Negroes are the government Ministers but the real running of the country has gradually slipped

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back into the hands of the Belgians. They are the experts and the technicians and the military advisers. Tshombe's tough attitude to the United Nations, his refusal to allow the United Nations to investigate the death of Lumumba, are all engineered by his Belgian advisers. And recently the Belgians have grown a little more bold and a little more daring - and this is where the ugly and sinister side of this business that I mentioned last night comes into the picture.

The Belgians know that they can never hope to regain political control of the Congo. The United Nations and the nations of Africa would never allow it. But they do hope to regain some of their lost economic wealth. They may not be able to get all of it. They may have to share it with someone. But from their point of view it is better to get a half or even a quarter of what they formerly got rather than lose everything. And so they have set out on the road of economic imperialism and they are using Moise Tshombe as a tool in this effort. The idea is to build up Tshombe's military strength to such a point that when a show-down comes he will have the forces to take over the whole Congo with the Belgians as his silent but very active partners taking their share of the spoils. With this idea in mind the Katanga government has now set up recruiting stations in places like Rhodesia, South Africa and Kenya. They offer good money and hire race-hating whites as officers. So there is the mess: scheming communists on the one side and scheming Belgians on the other and none of them care a fig for the people of the Congo. I think the only answer is to diarm everybody and let the U.N. run the Congo until law and order is restored and really free elections can be held; but that is going to take quite some doing. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Feb 20 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Tonight I want to tell you of something which I think is very ugly and which is trying to creep into Jamaican public life. Perhaps the best way of showing you just what I mean is to tell you of a threat that was made to me last Friday morning. You will remember that on Thursday and Friday and Saturday of last week I discussed the death of Lumumba and the present situation in the Congo. The first broadcast was on Thursday evening. Early on Friday morning the telephone at my office rang and a man spoke to me. I know the man and he knows me but because I have no witness to prove what he said to me, I cannot give you his name. What this man said to me amounted to a very clear threat. He had listened, he said, to what I had said about Lumumba the night before. He went on to say I was a stooge of the imperialists; and then he said he was warning me. He said I should remember that I was an alien in Jamaica and that he would deal with me and that this was a clear warning that from now onwards I had better look out./ Then he slammed down the telephone. That was the gist of what the man said. I am not giving you his exact words because I do not remember them exactly. But I am giving you the exact spirit of the threat he made.

Now this man apparently did not like and did not agree with what I said. But there is nothing wrong with that. I am sure many of you do not agree with all that I say. And many of you have sometimes written to me to tell me when you disagreed with me. This is the right of each and everyone of us in a free society. We have the right to diagree and express our diagreement without fear. I think that free discussion and disagreement is one of the important signs of the

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democratic health of any society. What I do think is dangerous for the society is when anybody tries to suppress our right to express our opinions frankly and freely and without fear. And one of the ways in which people have tried to destroy freedom of speech has been by the use of threats. They have threatened those whose opinions they dislike with the use of violence. If they are people with any kind of public following they have worked up a prejudice in the minds of their followers against the person whose views they dislike. Sometimes they have used the arguments of race and colour or the fact that the person whose views they hate was not born in a particular country. In this way they have tried to silence that person. This, I think, is what that particular man was trying to do with me. And he was doing this because he has strong political ambitions and because he probably feels that he is more likely to achieve his ambitions if he could frighten and intimidate people like me into silence on certain topics. I personally refuse to be frightened.

What is bad about this sort of thing is that it leads to the politics of disorder and violence. If people who believe in threats gain even a small measure of power they will try to become dictators, brutalising anyone who disagrees with them. And slowly, lawlessness and violence will take the place of the present orderliness with which we conduct our public affairs.

It is an unfortunate fact that there are people in Jamaica today who are prepared to use any methods to gain their ambitions. But fortunately for us they are very very few in number and the vast majority of the people are not behind them. If these people had their way Jamaica could so easily be turned into another Congo. And I am sure none of us want that. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Feb 21 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last week a very great English editor passed through Jamaica on his way to Cuba and other points in Latin America. The editor's name is Kingsley Martin and the paper which he made great and which made him great is the NEW STATESMAN AND NATION. The New Statesman is, I think, the most respected political journal in the whole wide world. It is read by political and social and cultural leaders in every single country of the world. And this is so because it is one of the most authoritative and fearless papers ever published. Mr. Kingsley Martin himself is a socialist, but to the best of my knowledge he is not a socialist who belongs to any political party. And in the years when the British Socialist Party was in power Kingsley Martin did not hesitate to give it some very hard licks when it did not do what he thought a socialist government should do.

But the great thing which has made Kingsley Martin and his paper popular among the leaders of Asia and Africa and indeed among our own leaders here in the Caribbean, has been the stand taken by Kingsley Martin and the New Statesman on the issue of colonialism. When the great sub-continent of India was going through her own struggle for independence the New Statesman was often the only paper in the Western world which supported the Indians. Its reports from and on India were factual and masterful and I think they did more than anything else to win British public opinion over to the idea that India not only had a right to independence but that it would suit Britain's best interests to free India. This crusade for Indian freedom took a long time but the New Statesman never wavered in its support of the Indians.

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And so Kingsley Martin won the love and respect of the Indian people and their leaders. The late Mahatma Ghandi was a friend of his and so is Mr. Nehru and so indeed is nearly everyone of the leaders of Asia.

And the same thing applies to Africa and the African leaders. The New Statesman has always crusaded for African freedom. The New Statesman and the London Observer were the first English papers to support Kwame Nkrumah in his struggles. And when there was the great wave of hatred against Jomo Kenyatta in England during the Mau Mau troubles, Kingsley Martin again gave steady support to his African friend even though he deplored some of the methods used. And so it has been all over the world. The Englishman, Kingsley Martin, has used his paper and its great influence to crusade against racialism, against oppression and against poverty. I personally think that he has made a greater contribution to the freedom of the Negroes and other formerly oppressed peoples than a number of would-be present Negro leaders.

Now I have told you all this in great detail because I think the views of such a man on Jamaica should matter to all of us because he is a genuine friend and because what he thinks and writes carries a great deal of weight in the outside world. Well, shortly after he arrived here he got in touch with me and we spent an evening together.

The thing that was uppermost in his mind, the thing that worried him most was all the talk he had heard, both in Europe and in certain circles here in Jamaica, that there was a growing racialism here in Jamaica. He wanted to know if this was true and he felt that it would be a great tragedy if it was true. And yet people had almost convinced him that it was so. Tomorrow evening I'll tell you just what he found out; so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Feb 22 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you who Kingsley Martin is and I told you of the great contribution he has made to the struggles of the colonial peoples through his New Statesman and Nation. I told you that he xxx passed through Jamaica last week and that we spent an evening together. I also told you that he was worried about all the talk of a growing racialism in Jamaica. I got the imppression that some people in England as well as some people here in Jamaica had almost convinced him that a lot of racial feeling was being whipped up between different sections of the Jamaican community. And Kingsley Martin was very distressed about this. He said that in his paper and everywhere in the world that he has been, he has used Jamaica as an example of a place where men and women and children of different races, different colours and different creeds lived and worked and played and learned and prayed together in peace and harmony. In this, he had said, Jamaica was leading the entire world, was showing the world a rare and unique example of how really civilised people should live. And now, he said, he had been told that this was not so; and if it was not so then it was a tragedy for both Jamaica and the world.

I did not think there was much point in my arguing with Kingsley Martin. He knew how I felt about Jamaica. He knows I think Jamaica is the one country in the world where the individual Negro has a great political and social freedom than anywhere else. I had said so in a book about Jamaica. So, instead of telling him these things again, I took him to my friends in the village near my home. I wanted him to ask them these questions and let them answer him.

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And so we had one of the most interesting discussions I ever took part in, and I was proud of the way the men of our village dealt with the great editor. They told him the facts of Jamaican life in no uncertain terms and they questioned him closely as to where he had got his information from about racialism, and then they told him their views on the question.

First, it would seem that he got most of his information from white or lightskinned people. My friends told him that some of these people did not understand what was behind some of the social restlessness in the community and so they put it down to colour because they themselves were conscious of colour. The real problem, they said, was not colour but poverty and opportunity. People wanted homes, people wanted jobs, people wanted opportunity - and this was the cause of some of the social restlessness, not any strong feelings of colour. "We are all too mixed in races to mess around with colour" one man said. "But some of the pale ones among us still favour lightness and this we don't like."

And so they talked for more than three hours with the great editor. And I think he left our village with a different picture from the one with which he came. And I am glad for that because I should hate him to paint a picture for the outside world of a Jamaica messed up with racial hatreds. Jamaica has many problems: problems of jobs, of housing of schooling, of creating a better future for all citizens. But thank heaven it has not yet got a real racial problem and it need never have one if we tackle the problem of jobs and homes for the poorest sections of the community. I hope we have made this clear to Kingsley Martin.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Feb 23 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am sure we are all glad that the illegal bus strike is over; but I am not so sure that many of us are glad at the way in which it has ended. I think the manner of the ending of this strike is a sad and sordid business. I do not think the National Workers Union can take any credit for this sorry business; I do not think the Ministry of Labour can take any credit for this sorry business. Or perhaps they can take the blame, because it seems to me that both the Union and the Ministry of Labour have tried to white-wash and appease workers who have deliberately broken the law and put thousands of citizens of the Corporate Area to very great inconvenience.

The government of Jamaica - our government which represents all the people of the country - has said through the Premier that the strike was totally without justification and that the government expected the laws of the land to be observed. The Premier also expressed the hope that the striking bus crews would return to work at once. That statement was issued on Monday evening. But the strike did not end immediately. The J.O.S. workers flouted the law of the land, and so Sunday, Monday and Tuesday were bus-less days for the citizens of the Corporate Area.

Now, this strike was not called by the union. Public Transport is one of our Essential Services and under the law the union would have had to go through certain formalities before it could call a strike. But this was a wildcat strike, something decided on by the workers off their own bat because an inspector who was not even a member of the union was sacked. The Sacking took place on Saturday and on Sunday

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the strike was on. Then, the union came in at the tail-end on Monday with a statement which tried to whitewash this piece of illegality in industrial relations. It offered its services to the Ministry of Labour - and now I'm quoting the union's own words - "with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement of the matter". In other words, the law regulating labour relations in an Essential Service has been broken, but because it has been broken by workers let us behave as though no law has been broken and let us have a conference to settle the matter. And when the union finally did persuade the workers to go back it was only under certain conditions to which the Ministry of Labour seem to have agreed. I am sorry to say it, but when I read and heard about these conditions for returning to work I felt that the union and the workers deserved every single one of the hard and harsh words the Gleaner had written in its editorials of Tuesday and Wednesday, and it made me very sad because I am a strong believer in trade unionism. I think responsible trade unionism would have condemned this strike out of hand. I know the union leaders have their problems but I think they owe it to the good of the trade union movement to tell the workers when they are wrong and so to educate them. As it is, this kind of thing brings trade unionism itself into disrepute. And then there is the question of the rule of law. If any group of people, no matter to what party of union they may belong, if any such group can break the law and get away with it, then we are in danger of a collapse of the rule of law. The law has been broken. It seems to me that it is up to our law officers to now take action to restore the rule of law. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Feb 24 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I was very glad indeed to see that all three of our trade unions have come out with a strong statement condemning the recent wave of burnings of canefields. The sugar industry has lost thousands of ~~xxxxx~~ pounds w orth of cane as a result of this firing of canefields. I think the most disturbing part about this business of firing canefields are the reports that workers on the canefields stood by and would not lift a finger to help put out the fires. If this is true then it seems very strange to me. It is like a man standing by while ~~a~~ the house in which he lives goes up in flames. Now the man may not put out the fire because he does not own the house. He may say that is the business of the landlord who makes money out of the house. All of this may be true: but the question is, will this man be better off or worse off after the house is burnt to the ground? One thing is certain, that man will not have a house to live in. Whatever may happen to the owner of the house, the man who used to rent it will now be homeless. And so with this business of the firing of cane. In the long run it is the people who earn their daily bread from the sugar estates who are going to suffer most. I am glad all three unions made this particular point very clearly and I hope the firing of our canefields will come to an end.

And now for something a little personal. You will remember it was on Monday that I told you about the gentleman who made the telephone threat to me. Since then a number of people have been in touch with me by phone and on the streets and by post to tell me what they thought about it. I think one letter sums up the feeling of most of

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these listeners and so I will read it to you. It says:

"Dear Mr. Abrahams, I am a frequent listener to your daily commentaries each evening over R.J.R. amd have always admired your frank and fearless comments. I was particularly thrilled however at your broadcast on Monday the 20th instant, so much so that I immediately sat myself down to write this letter to assure you of the full support of all right thinking Jamaicans. The person mentioned in your broadcast on Monday evening means no good to Jamaica and is only interested, as you said, in his own personal gain. I hope that you will keep up the good work and continue to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men as you so ably did no Monday." That is the letter from one listener expressing what many of you have said to me. I thank you very much and I will do the best I can.

And finally, my good friend Vere Johns, has taken a lick at me in Wednesday's Star for supporting the cause of refugees. Vere says that there are tens of thousands of Jamaicans living in dire misery without food, without clothes, without shelter, without jobs, without everything. He says they are our own Jamaican refugees and should have first claim on what we have and so he says charity must begin at home. I frankly think this is a very powerful agrument and I certainly would not call Vere names for putting it up. I think though that he just does not know the meaning of refugee if he describes any Jamaican as a refugee. The truth is that millions of people, many of them in Africa, xkxx live in conditions that will make that of the poorest Jamaican look like luxury. And these, the Bible tells me, are my neighbours too. It is the old question of: Am I my brother's keeper? And, Who is my brother? Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Feb 25 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It is possible that the attention of the world's newspapers may soon be focussed on a completely new trouble spot in Africa. I say 'it is possible' because the territory I am referring to is a British Protectorate. If it were not a British Protectorate I would have said it is definite. But the British have developed a smartness and skill in handling their colonial problems and so they often avoid actual violent clashes.

The African territory I am referring to is the British Protectorate of Northern Rhodesia, which, as you may know, is a part of the Central African Federation. The other two partners in the Central African Federation are Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Northern Rhodesia has a land area of 290,320 square miles and a population of 2,300,000 people. Of this population more than 2½ millions are Africans, about 70,000 are white, and about 10,000 are Asians. Mining is Northern Rhodesia's chief industry and the country is rich in copper, cobalt, zinc and lead. In agriculture it produces corn, w heat potatoes, tobacco, groundnuts, casava, rice beans, cotton as well as many other crops. It also has a flourishing livestock and cattle industry.

In politics the territory is divided into six provinces and is run by a governor and an executive council of five official members The is a Legco with 14 appointed and 12 elected members. In theor only land-owning British subjects can vote. In practice ~~xexyxfex~~ every white person over 21 and very few black people had the right to vote. The whites in fact ran the country and the black majority were and still

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are discriminated against as complete;y as blacks are discriminated against in South Africa. As a part of the Central African Federation the whites of Northern Rhodesia pay lip-service to the British idea of partnership between the races. But in fact their colour bars are as rigid as those in South Africa.

Now, on the north Northern Rhodesia borders on the Congo and what happened in the Congo has caused a restlessness among the Africans in Northern Rhodesia. And so, after some agitation the Africans of Northern Rhodesia got the Colonial Office in London to agree to give them a new constitution which would give the Africans a greater say in the running of their country. The British Government then invited the leaders of the Africans as well as the leaders of the whites to go to London to work out the details of a new constitution. In London the Africans demanded a straightforward consitution such as our own in Jamaica where we have rule by the will of the majority. The whites fought bitterly against it. They were not prepared to give up white power to a black majority, so last week the walked out of the conference and the talks broke down. The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Macleod, then came up with a plan of his own to create a power balance between black and white but both sides rejected this. The Africans said the British Government had betrayed them to the white settlers. The white settlers threatened to use force or to join up with South Africa if the British Government forced through its plan. Mr. Macleod, on the other hand, seems determined to carry his plan through.

So there it is, a new and dangerous trouble spot in Africa that could so easily burst out in violence. I think it is going to need all Britain's skill to resolve this one is a peaceful manner. What is certain is that the day of the rule of the white settler is fast dying in an Africa on the move. Goodnight.

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Why The Switch to JBC

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday February 27 at 6.15 p.m.
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The time is the same; the voice is the same; but the place is different. Why? Many people have asked me why and I know many more have wondered why I Have switched these news commentaries over from RJR to JBC. And because of the nature of the relationship which has developed over the past year between you who listen, and I, I feel I owe it to you to explain why you now have to tune to JBC to hear these commentaries.

The superficial explanation is very easy. I am a free-lance in radio, which simply means that I work on a contract basis much as a builder who contracts to build a house or a painter who contracts to paint a house. The builder or painter will work for you only until the job is done and then he is on his own again. Well, I contracted to do a year's news commentaries for RJR. The year ended last Saturday and the contract expired. I could have renewed the contract for another year but I did not. Instead, I signed a contract for a year with this station. Why did I sign with this station instead of with RJR where I have spent a very happy year? There was no fight, no quarrel, no argument about money.

There are two reasons why I made the move. The first is personal. For nearly all of the year at RJR I worked with Mickey Hendriks and a great friendship and understanding grew up between us. It was he who had first invited me to come and do these commentaries. He had to read my commentarie to make sure that I put nothing into them which could lead to RJR being sued in a court of law for libel or slander or defamation. Well, when you work with a man for a year you get to know him pretty well, and I discovered that Hendriks cares genuinely for Jamaica and for its progress and the welfare of its people. So, when Hendriks became general manager of JBC and asked me to do my commentaries over this station my friendship and regard for him made it easy to say yes.

My second/

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My second reason has to do with JBC itself. As you know, when this station was set up it was done as a public corporation. In other words, it was set up with tax payers' money. You and I and every Jamaican paid to get this station going, because the government has no money of its own. All the money it has it gets from us or it gets in our name. And so we are all shareholders in this station. This radio station belongs as much to you and me as it does to its Board of Directors or to its General Manager or to the people who work in it. It belongs as much to the JLP as it does to the PNP. We all of us have a share in it, whatever our politics or whether we have no politics. I think too many of us have looked on it as 'the government'station. It is nothing of the kind. I think that to an extent JBC itself was to blame for the feeling that it was the government station. As I said, it is nothing of the kind. It belongs to all of us and I think it is up to us to see that it becomes a genuine mirror of Jamaican hopes, Jamaican criticisms and Jamaican dreams. This is the great job which radio can perform for us in Jamaica. It can entertain us and in the process of entertaining it can also educate us to the vision of a fuller, richer and freer life for all our citizens. And since, like you, I am a shareholder in this station it will be fun to do my share with my commentaries in the weeks and months that lie ahead of us. So, till tomorrow evening: goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Feb 27 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The time is the same; the programme is the same; the voice is the same; but the place is different. Why? Many people have asked me why and I know many more have wondered why I have switched these news commentaries over from R.J.R. to J.B.C. And because of the nature of the relationship which has xxxxxxxx developed over the past year between you who listen, and I, I feel I owe it to you to explain why you now have to tune to J.B.C. to hear these commentaries.

The superficial explanation is very easy. I am a free-lance in radio, which simply means that I work on a contract basis much as a builder who contracts to build a house or a painter who contracts to paint a house. The builder or painter will work for you only until the job is done and then he is on his own again. Well, I contracted to do a year's news commentaries for R.J.R. The year ended last Saturday and the contract expired. I could have renewed the contract for another year but I did not. Instead, I signed a contract for a year with this station. Why did I sign with this station instead of with R.J.R. where I have spent a very happy year? There was no fight, no quarrel, no argument about money.

There are two reasons why I made the move. The first is personal. For nearly all of the year at R.J.R. I worked with Mickey Hendriks and a great friendship and understanding grew up between us. It was he who had first invited me to come and do these commentaries. He had to read my commentarie to make sure that I put nothing into them which could lead to xxx R.J.R. being sued in a court of law for libel or slander or defamation. Well, when you work with a man for a year you get to know him pretty well, and I discovered that Hendriks cares

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genuinely for Jamaica and for its progress and the welfare of its people. So, when Hendriks became general manager of J.B.C. and asked me to do my commentaries over this station my friendship and regard for him made it easy to say yes.

My second reason has to do with J.B.C. itself. As you know, when this station was set up it was done as a public corporation. In other words, it was set up with tax payers' money. You and I and every Jamaican paid to get this station going, because the government has no money of its own. All the money it has it gets from us or it gets in our name. And so we are all shareholders in this station. This radio station belongs as much to you and me as it does to its Board of Directors or to its General Manager or to the people who work in it. It belongs as much to the J.L.P. as it does to the P.N.P. We all of us have a share in it, whatever our politics or whether we have no politics. I think too many of us have looked on it as 'the governmet station. It is nothing of the kind. I think that to an extent J.B.C. itself ~~is~~ was to blame for the feeling that it ~~is~~ was the government station. As I said, it is nothing of the kind. It belongs to all of us and I think it is up to us to see that it becomes a genuine mirror of Jamaican hopes, Jamaican criticisms and Jamaican dreams. This is the great job which radio can perform for us in Jamaica. It can entertain us and in the process of entertaining it can also educate us to the vision of a fuller, richer and freer life for all our citizens. And since, like you, I am a shareholder in this station it will be fun to do my share with my commentaries in the weeks and months that lie ahead of us. So, till tomorrow evening: goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Feb 28 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Agriculture is still the largest single employer of labour in Jamaica. We have a flourishing bauxite industry, tourism has made great strides in recent years and is a major dollar earner, and we are doing very well with our secondary industries. There are factories going up all over the place. But in spite of all this agriculture is still the undertaking which gives work and therefore a living to the largest number of people in Jamaica. It is still the standby and the backbone of the national economy. And the sugar industry is a very important and a very dominant factor in our agriculture. And so what happens in the sugar industry is important to all of us. And something new and very important and very far-reaching is just coming into being in the sugar industry.

I have just received an advance copy of a little yellow covered booklet which bears the title: "The Sugar Workers Pension Scheme" and this sets out the details of the scheme and what it means to the sugar workers.

It is a scheme under which all registered workers in the sugar industry can get a pension when they reach the retiring age, which is 65 for men and 60 for women. This means that at the end of a lifetime of working in the industry the sugar worker can retire in the knowledge that there will be a little money coming in to him or her regularly each week until the day he or she dies. But you know that nothing in this world is for free and so the sugar worker has to make a contribution to this scheme.

Anyone who is 18 years or over can register to join this scheme.

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When you do register you are given a card with a number on it and this is your proof that you are covered by the scheme. You are then expected to pay a contribution to the scheme. For every one pound you earn in any one week you pay a sixpence. If you earn £2 in one week your contribution will be a shilling. But you are not the only one who pays. When you contribute a sixpence, the employer for whom you work must contribute a sixpence too. So for every sixpence you pay you are credited with double the amount and only you, the sugar worker, will benefit from it.

If, after 10 years of contributing you reach the age of 65 and want to retire you will be entitled to a pension for the rest of your life. I understand that at present the lowest amount of pension any worker can draw is 15/- a week. But the sugar worker who workers for longer than 10 years and contributes for longer than 10 years will naturally draw a lot more money when the day of his retirement comes around. If you work in the sugar industry you will get one of these booklets and so you will be able to study all the details for yourself. To me the important thing about this scheme is that it offers every sugar worker a basic security in old age. Our old folk will no longer be thrown on the scrap heap when their usefulness is over. They will be sure of a steady income of their own; and that, to me, is a sign of real progress.

I hope something similar will become possible for every working person in Jamaica in time. I think a national pensions scheme along these lines will be a very good thing for all the working people of Jamaica. The good society should always provide for those who are approaching the sunset of their lives - and the poorhouse is just not good enough, nor is charity. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Mar 1st at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Friday February 10th - on this same programme though from another station - I talked about the shortage of detergents faced by housewives. I told you then why there was this shortage. Some of you may not have heard me then so I will do a quick recap of what i said then.

Towards the beginning of February many housewives began to find it difficult to get their own favourite brands of detergents. Towards the end of the first week of February housewives experienced great difficulty in getting any kind of detergent and by the middle of the month there was a real shortage and those housewives who run their own homes and run labour saving devices had a real bad time of it. And so on the 10th of February I told you the story behind the shortage. As you know, we have a young and growing soap industry which produces very good local soaps are reasonable prices. But you know that soap, especially very hard soap, cannot do all the things a detergent can do. It will take an age to melt in a washing machine using cold water. Washing those greasy plates after dinner will become a real labour needing hot water. For these and many other reasons the housewife has come to depend on detergents. So much so has this been the case that in 1958 and 1958, because of popular demand by housewives, we imported twice as much detergents as we did in 1957. But the result of this was to upset our local soap industry. The people in the soap industry complained to the government that the competition they were getting from detergents was affecting them very badly. I understand that the people in our local soap industry then asked the

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government to give the local soap industry a measure of protection by restricting the imports on detergents. As you may know, our local soap industry is already protected from competition by foreign soaps. Only industrial soap and some luxury soaps that we do not produce here, are allowed in. Anything that could compete with our soap industry is kept out, which I think is a good thing for our soap industry and for our foreign exchange position.

But the question of detergents was completely different. Foreign soaps could be kept out because we had soaps of our own. But to keep out detergents would be to punish the housewives unfairly. In fairness to the people in our local soap industry, I do not think they asked for the complete banning of detergents. But they did press for restrictions. At first, I understand, the government promised them protection from imported detergents as soon as they produced detergents locally. But then, and I do not know just how this happened, restrictions were imposed on detergents. In the last quarter of 1959 it was decided that the importing of detergents should be limited to what was imported in 1957 and only 500 tons of detergents were allowed in last year. This was a drop of nearly a half of what was imported the years before and so there was this shortage. But the protest I made about this business on the 10th of February has had some effect. I understand that we will be allowed to import 25% more detergents this year. Instead of 500 tons we will be allowed 625 tons this year. And it is now expected that we will have our own detergents factory within the next 12 to 18 months. So this is a little bit of good news for the housewives The detergent shortage should ease up somewhat. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thurs ~~Saturday~~ Mar 2 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Tuesday of this week another milestone was reached on the high road of African freedom. The voters of Kenya went to the polls on Tuesday and this time they went as men and women who had the right to vote on a common voting roll. They were voting to elect 65 members to the new parliament of Kenya. And this time they were not voting ~~xxxxx~~ on a communal roll to elect a handful of Africans to a predominently white parliament. The black folk who voted on Tuesday had, for the first time in the history of Kenya, the same voting rights as the white settlers. The first results show that the party headed by Tom Mboya has won a majority of seats. Just how big Mboya's majority is, is not yet clear but right now it looks as though Tom Mboya's party will be the dominant party in the new Kenya.

On the face of it this may seem like just another election in which the Africans have finally come into their own and won a majority. But this election is much more than that: ~~xxxx~~ it is very much more than that.

This is the first great victory for the Africans in that part of Africa which has officially been called British multi-racial Africa but which has in fact been white Africa. I was born in that part of Africa and I grew up in it. It is a vast stretch of land beginning way up on the borders of Ethiopia and sweeping down the body of that great continent until you reach the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip. On the east it is bound by the Indian Ocean, on the west its borders are the Congo and the Portuguese colony of Angola to the south. British multi-racial Africa is made up of Kenya, Tanganyika, the two

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Rhodesias, Nyasaland and the Union of South Africa. In this vast land area you have a population of less than 3 million whites people and more than 30 million black people. And the black people of what has up to now been 'white Africa' have known the sting and the whiplash of racial and colour discrimination in a way no other group of Negroes have ever known it. Perhaps only the Negroes of the Southern States of the United States have had a similar experience. Certainly, never in the history of Jamaica or the West Indies have you experienced anything quite like the colour bars under which Jomo Kenyatta and Tom Mboya and I and millions of Africans grew up. It was complete and devastating. The three million whites of multi-racial Africa enjoyed a privilege and a power and a good life not enjoyed by white folk anywhere else on earth; that is why they resisted African demands for a share of that life so ferociously. But last year the wind of change caught up with them and on Tuesday the Kenya Africans went to vote. Mboya's Kenya African National Union has won 16 seats so far and so he has the right to name 4 ministers to the Cabinet. And the Kenya African Democratic Union has won 9 seats so far which means they can name 2 Ministers. But both these African parties have declared that they are not prepared to take part in the government until Jomo Kenyatta is released. This now has become the clearly expressed will of the majority and so Kenyatta should be freed at once.

This Kenya election is also a pointer to the future that is in store for the other multi-racial states of Africa. If the whites in these areas are wise they will swim with the tide. To go on resisting it is to invite trouble and disaster. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
~~For Thursday~~ Mar 3 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I wonder how many of you have followed the very interesting and curious developments that have taken place recently about the price of eggs. Almost since the beginning of this year we have all of us been able to get as many eggs as we wanted and at extremely reasonable prices. And, miracle of miracles, the price of eggs was going down. We had all of us been complaining about the rising costs of everything and so it was a joy and a relief to see the downward trend in egg prices. In January we still paying the old prices of between five shillings and six shillings a dozen for eggs. In February prices began to tumble fast. They went down to 4/9 then 4/6 then 4/-. Then they went down to 3/9 and some lucky people even got their eggs for 3/6 a dozen.

I am sure you all remember how Mr. Allan Isaacs, the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, had lashed out at the high prices at which local foodstuffs were sold. You will also remember his calling on all of us to eat more eggs, to give our children more eggs so that the community should be a healthier and better fed community. And so we welcomed the fall in the prices of eggs because it would reduce living costs and because it would give us an opportunity to eat more eggs and grow healthier.

But last week we heard of a crisis in the egg business. There was, we were told, a price war going on. We were told that hundreds of small poultry farmers faced the danger of going out of business if the price war kept on and eggs continued to be sold at 3/9 and 3/6 a dozen. So, on Friday of last week the egg producers got

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together and decided to set up an organisation to be known as the Egg and Broiler Producers Association. And one of the first decisions the Association made was to raise the price of eggs. They agreed that they will not sell their eggs to the wholsesaler at the old prices. On Thursday of last week the wholesaler had bought his extra large eggs from the producer at 3/3 to 3/6 a dozen and we, the consumers had paid between 4/- and 4/6 for them. But after the Friday decision of the egg producers the wholesaler was forced to pay not less than 4/3 for a dozen of the extra large eggs. Note that it is not less than 4/3. There is nothing to stop them charging more than 4/3. This means these eggs will have to be retailed to us, the consumers, at anywhere between 5/- and 6/- once more. Pullet-sized eggs were no longer to be sold at 2/6 but at 3/6. And medium-sized eggs were to be sold at 3/9 instead of at 2/9. All of this added up to a general increase of a shilling a dozen on all sizes of eggs.

Now the reason for the fall in prices in the first place was because there was an over abundance of eggs in the island and when you have large stocks of any commodity prices are bound to drop to their natural value in the open market. But now the egg producers have decided to stablise prices to suit themselves. Now it may really be necessary to push up prices to protect the industry. But once more the burden is pushed onto the back of the general consuming public. So what about a little protection for the consumer? Since there is now a minimum price to protect producers, I should like to see a maximum price ceiling to give the poor exploited general public a little protection too. Goodnight.

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of Labour.

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Sat ~~Friday~~ Mar 4 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Some of us have not so far been happy with Mr. Wills Isaacs' reports on his trip to Israel. There are people, Vere Johns is one, Matthew Strong is another, who have hoped that Mr. Isaacs would return from his Israeli trip loaded with information to help the country. For myself, I had hoped for a new insight into agriculture from our Minister of Trade and Industry. I think one of the greatest miracles performed by the Israelis is the way in which they have made the desert bloom and bring forth food for man. I think they have a great deal to teach us in how to use our land and how to get the best out of it. This is one subject on which I would have dearly liked to get first-hand information from Mr. Wills Isaacs. Perhaps it is still to come; I certainly hope it is.

In the meantime, Mr. Isaacs has returned, seemingly refreshed and has made an interesting series of statements since his return.

In an address to the annual conference of the Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers last week, Mr. Isaacs said something very interesting ~~xxxxx~~ on all this talk about race-hatred which is going on in Jamaica today. He said that if the people at the top had not preached race hatred it would not have come to the country. I think ~~xxxx~~ this was both a criticism of the past and a warning for the future. There are people who are today talking in racial and colour terms and it is no use pretending this is not so. There are people who feel that they are at the lower end of the economic scale because their skins are dark. ~~We recently had the case of representatives of a local Afro-West Indian organisation calling on the commercial banks and~~

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~~urging them to employ black people~~. This, I think, is a sure sign that something is wrong. The front offices of big firms are still, to a large extent, populated by the fair-skinned only. I should imagine that this was the sort of thing Mr. Isaacs had in mind when he talked about race hatred at the top. Any action nearly always compels a reaction. No man or woman likes the idea that certain jobs are closed to him or her on grounds of skin colour. And so you have the reaction.

Then, on Wednesday of this week, Mr. Isaacs spoke at the luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce. This time he spoke about the relations between workers and some of the employers. He said many employers are a credit to the country but there were others who treated their workers badly, who refused to recognise trade unions, and that these people are a danger to the social structure of the country. He said the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' is too large and the government will have to bridge this gap by compulsion if the employers themselves did nothing about it. He also warned foreign investors not to look on Jamaica as a place where they could get cheap sweated labour.

And on the day before Mr. Isaacs had a look at the tourist industry and warned that some of the 'get-rich-quick' types in the industry were hurting Jamaica's good name abroad and that they might lose their concessions unless they mended their ways.

So, all in all, Wills Isaacs has tried to wake us up and make us think on a number of important matters since his return from Israel. This, I think, is a good thing and a realistic recognition of the restlessness that is abroad in Jamaica today. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Mar 6 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Today is Ghana's Independence Day and because it is Ghana's Independence Day it is a very important day in the story of political development in Africa; For Ghana was the country which pioneered the political awakening of the great African continent. It is true that there were independent states in Africa before Ghana. There was Ethiopia (except for the brief Italian occupation in the 1930s) which has been an independent country since back in history, going to a time before Christ. There was the Union of South Africa which achieved its independence in 1910 and used it to oppress the black folk of the country. There was Egypt which achieved its independence in 1922 and used it as the toy of a fat young king until Nasser came on the scene. Libya achieved its freedom from the Italians in 1951. The Sudan achieved its independence from joint Anglo-Egyptian rule in 1956; and Tunisia also won its freedom from the French in that year. And then, of course, there was the tiny Republic of Liberia which had been established by former American Negro slaves in 1847. All these were independent countries before Ghana but somehow their independence did not touch the lives of the vast majority of the black peoples of the African continent. It was only when Ghana emerged that a great political awakening swept the African continent. In less than 10 years that political awakening has changed the entire face of the African continent. Why did Ghana have this tremendous impact on the rest of Africa?

I think there are two factors to account for this. The first had to do with the times in which we live; and the second had to do with one man and the people with whom he worked.

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The times in which we lived at the end of the 1940s and the beginning of the 1950s were times of great social and political change. Political imperialism was on the way out. The people of Asia had won their freedom from colonialism and now it was Africa's turn. About that time - in the early 1940s - the late George Padmore gathered a group around him which was to plan the struggle for African freedom. This group became famous as the Pan-African Federation. The leading personalities in this group were Padmore himself, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Wallace Johnson Sierra Leone, Dr. Peter Milliard of British Guiana, Dr. Mnandi Azikiwe of Nigeria, T.R. Makonnen and myself. In June of 1945 Kwame Nkrumah arrived in England from the United States and joined the group. In October of 1945 the group organised the Fifth International Pan-African Congress over which the great American Negro scholar Dr. W.E.B. DuBois presided. Two hundred delegates from Africa, the West Indies and the United States attended that conference and made their plans to achieve African freedom. Nkrumah went home from the conference and started the movement that led to Ghana's independence. He was imprisoned but the people voted him into power while he was in jail and so he had to be released. When he came out of prison he said: "I came out of jail and into the Assembly without the slightest feeling of bitterness to Britain. I stand for no racialism, no discrimination against any race or individual, but I am unalterably opposed to imperialism in any form". And then he set about the task of building his country and being an example to Africa and the rest of the world. That so much of Africa has won freedom peacefully is due to the example of Ghana and Nkrumah. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Mar 7 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I gave you a little background picture of Ghana's independence and of Kwame Nkrumah who has, to a greater extent than is given to most men, almost created modern Ghana as we know it today. I also told you of some of the people who were behind him in the early days of the struggle for African independence. Of these George Padmore was by far the most outstanding and the most dominant. Indeed, I think the entire African continent and its peoples owe Padmore a debt that they can never pay. Padmore was a West Indian; he was a Trinidadian; but Padmore became so identified with the African struggle that few people thought of him as anything but an African and what a contribution he made! Quietly and without fuss or ranting he taught two generations of Africans the political facts of life. And when Nkrumah had consolidated his power he called Padmore to Ghana and Padmore became his adviser on African affairs and so he influenced Nkrumah's policies more strongly than anybody else until he died last year.

Thanks to the teaching and advice of Padmore, Nkrumah worked and planned for an African freedom greater than that of only Ghana. He saw himself as the leader of a United States of West Africa; he saw Africa as a great power bloc influencing world events. But here he ran up against the problem of personalities. Many of the other African leaders refused to surrender top leadership to him and there were differences in outlook too. There were sharp disagreements between Nkrumah and Tom Mboya at the last Pan-African Conference in Accra. And the Nigerians have tended to keep aloof from all Nkrumah's plans. Nigeria is a vast

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country of over 370,000 square miles with a population of more than 33 million people. Ghana, on the other hand, is a small country (by African standards) of just over 91,000 square miles and with a population of slightly less than 5 million people. And so big Nigeria refuses to be led by little Ghana. This is something similar to the attitude of many Jamaicans towards the small islands of the Eastern Caribbean.

But in spite of this, there is one thing which all the African leaders of Britain's former colonies and her present colonies have in common: this common factor is the determination that there shall be an end of all racialism in Africa and that all the African people shall have the right to determine their own futures according to the will of the majority. And this fact, I feel certain, is going to be the biggest talking point and the cause for most disagreement at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference which opens in London tomorrow. As our newspapers have told us, the racial question looks like overshadowing this year's meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers. And since this is the case it might be a good idea for us to take a look at the issues involved because I think they can affect the future of the entire Commonwealth. But let us first look at the countries attending the conference; they are: India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Malaya, Ghana, Nigeria; New Zealand, Canada, Australia, South Africa, the Central African Federation and the United Kingdom. The first six of these countries are what we might call non-European countries; the last six are European or European dominated or, to be more exact, countries where white folk are the majority or else run the country. I will look at the main issues tomorrow, so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Mar 8 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: What is the most important single issue facing the Commonwealth Prime Ministers whose meetings begin in London today? I think if we look at the qualifications of the 12 heads of state now meeting in London, the answer will jump at us. By what authority does the Prime Minister of India attend this conference? By the will of the majority of his fellow citizens who voted him into power. The same thing can be said for Ceylon. The first woman Prime Minister in the Commonwealth is there by the will of the majority of her fellow citizens in Ceylon. The case of the President of Pakistan is a little different. He took power when the elected government of Pakistan collapsed after widespread corruption, but he too is in power with at ~~xxxxxx~~ least the consent of his people. The Malayan Prime Minister is there because he was elected to power, so is the President of Ghana and the Prime Minister of Nigeria. The same goes for New Zealand, for Canada, for Australia and for the United Kingdom. These people are heads of state by the freely expressed will of the majority of all the people of their countries. So much for ten of the 12 Commonwealth representatives now in London.

But there are two more: there is the Prime Minister of South Africa and there is the Prime Minister of the Central African Federatio These two have also been elected to their offices, but unlike the others, they were not elected by the will of the majority of the citizens of their countries. The South African Prime Minister was elected by only the white citizens of South Africa of whom there are roughly 3 millions in that country. The fifteen million black citizens

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have no say at all in the running of their country. Much the same sort of thing applies in the Central African Federation where less than a quarter of a million whites have all the political power and nearly 8 million black Africans have hardly any say at all in the running of their country or in the electing of their Prime Minister. So there is the problem. The two odd-men out; the two Prime Ministers who do not represent the majority of the people of their countries. It is they who make up the big challenge to the Commonwealth today. So the racial question which overshadows this Commonwealth Conference is not one created by black folk. It is a problem created by the white folk in a certain part of Africa who want to hold on to the old colonialist style power with its colour bars and racial discriminations.

How are the Commonwealth Prime Ministers likely to deal with this problem? All of them, except the two of course, have at one time or another expressed the total opposition to the racialism practised by these two countries. A few of them, notably the non-European members and Canada have said flatly that South Africa should not be in the Commonwealth. But Britain herself does not like the idea of throwing anyone out of the Commonwealth. Just why Britain feels like this I find hard to understand because she is doing her best to get rid of racialism in Kenya and Northern Rhodesia. But it looks very much as though Britain will use all her considerable influence with the other members to keep South Africa in the Commonwealth. I personally think Britain is dead wrong in this. If the Commonwealth is to survive as the world's greatest attempt at inter-racial co-operation then there should be no room in it for a single racialist state of any kind.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Mar 9 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Yesterday morning the Governor opened the new session of our parliament for the year 1961 to 1962. This was the high ceremonial occasion for this year's parliament, and as always, it was a grand show to watch. In part the opening of parliament is always something of a fine show, much like a stage play: things are planned to the last detail. You have a timetable for when the Members of Legco will arrive and take their places, xxxx for when the Members of the House of Representatives will arrive, for w hen the Governor's lady, the Premier and the other Very Important Personages will arrive. And finally you have the time when the Governor will arrive and inspect the guard of honour, when he will enter the House and mount the throne and be handed the speech with which he will open parliament.

This ceremony is an almost exact reproduction of what happens when the British parliament in London is opened. The same ceremonial ritual is gone through, the timing is equally tight and careful, and the Queen is the last to arrive. She inspects the guard of honour, enters the House and has the throne speech handed to her. Of course, instead of us having the Queen here in Jamaica, we have the Governor who is the Queens representative. He acts for her, carries out the duties she would have carried out herself, had she been here. And this same ceremony, much as it was witnessed at Gordon House yesterday, takes place at the opening of almost every parliament in the Commonwealth. If you are in Canada at the ceremonial opening of the Canadian parliament you will witness the same thing; you will see

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the same thing if you are in Nigeria at the state opening of parliament in that great Dominion. And you will see the same thing in Malaya and Australia and New Zealand; and you would have seen the same thing in India and Pakistan and Ghana before they became republics within the Commonwealth. But even in these countries, although the Presidents have replaced the Queen as the Head-of-State, the ceremonial opening of parliament is still very much based on the pattern set by the British parliament. This is one of the symbolic links that binds the Commonwealth together. It symbolises government by the will of the people and it symbolises the rule of law.

But this, of course, was not always so. There was a time, way back in history, when the British parliament did exactly as the king or queen wished. There was a time, more recently, when our parliament reflected the wishes of the Colonial Office. The members of the British parliament and others fought, long ago, against the absolute rule of the king or queen, and won, and so parliamentary democracy was born. And more recently our own parliament and people - and George William Gordon was one of them - fought against the rule of the Colonial Office until our own parliamentary democracy came into being. This has been the case with all the parliaments of the Commonwealth.

And so, when the Governor read his speech opening parliament yesterday, he did exactly what the Queen does in Britain or the Governor or Governor-Generals in any of the Dominions. He read a speech in which the Cabinet had laid down its policies for the new session. He did the reading but the policies and plans are those of our elected representatives. Tomorrow I will look at the most important highlights of these policies as expressed in the speech from the throne. So, till then, goodnight.

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Sharing the nations wealth.

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Mar 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you of the symbolic im portance for demoracy of the opening of our new session of parliament which took place on Wednesday and in which the Governor delivered the speech from the throne. I also told you that this speech laid down the broad outlines of the policies the government will follow during this parliamentary year. What are the main points of these policies? And how are they likely to affect us?

For me, and I am sure this is true for the vast majority of Jamaicans, there was one sentence that stood out in the Governor's speech. This was the sentence: " It will be the major concern of the Government in the year that is ahead of us to seek ways and means w hereby the benefits of our growing economy may be spread more widely among the people of the land, so that it may be made manifest that sooner or later all will share and none will be forgotten." That is the sentence. ~~Let me repeat it.~~

To me this is the most important sentence in the whole speech. I think it is fair to say that that sentence shows a sharp and clear shift/ i emphasis in the government's approach to the problems facing Jamaica. To make clear just how important this shift is we will have to go back a little.

It seems to me that our domestic affairs here in Jamaica have gone through two very important phases since this government took office in 1955. The first phase was political. The government concentrated much of its energies in consolidating the political power which had been won from the Colonial Office and also in getting more power.

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You will remember that it was during this period that we had all these contitutional changes leading up to Cabinet Government. It was during this period that the Ministry of Home Affairs came into being and that we took charge of all our domestic affairs, including the police. It was during this period that a native Jamaican (and a black one) became the island's Financial Secretary and therefore the head of our Civil Service. It was during this period that a native Jamaican (and again a black one) became the top civil servants in our education Ministry. And so it went right down the line: more and more political power coming into the hands of the elected representatives of the people. That was the political phase.

Second there was the economic phase when the government strained all its energies to build up and expand the economy of this country. Massive efforts were made to attract foreign investors. Factories went up. A lot of money went into the I.D.C. which had the big job of selling Jamaica to the investors and so attract capital into Jamaica. Jamaica needs this capital and this investment if her money position is to be sound and strong. That was the second phase, the looking for money and business phase. And we have seen some of the prosperity that flowed from it.

But the main results, the nicest fruits of this prosperity, were largely confined to only a section of the community. Very many other people felt left out of this new prosperity; they had no share in it and so many said this government only took care of the middle classes and there was frustration abroad. And that is why that sentence in the Governor's speech is so important. The new phase, the phase of trying to help the majority is promised in it. Tomorrow I will discuss this new phase; so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Mar 11 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: What is the government going to do in this new phase? What does it propose to do to make sure that the majority of the people of the country will share in the benefits of our growing economy so that no one will be forgotten?

The speech from the Throne said that the government hoped to provide houses throughout the country for working class people and others in the low income group. This is of first importance. Housing is a desperate need. But just how many houses will be provided and just how will the poor people get them? The Throne speech gives no details and I don't think we can expect it to; it is just a broad outline of policy. The details will be supplied by the Minister concerned with Housing. What I hope is that the Minister and his advisers will go very carefully into the question of whether these houses will be sold or rented because this is very important.

I should very much like to see the government adopt the methods used by the London County Council in its dealings with low cost housing. In the London County Council low cost housing estates people are not allowed to buy the houses. They rent them at a very low figure. When I was in England it was possible for poor people to get such a house with two bedrooms for between 30/- and £2.10 a week, depending on their income. There were superintendents on theses estates and it was the duty of these superintendents to see that the tenants observed the housing regulations: only a certain number of people were allowed to live in a house of a certain size and it was the duty of the tenants to see that their yards are kept clean and

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that the house and garden did not fall below a certain standard. Once a year the London County Council painted these houses without charging the tenants for this. The result was that these estates soon became attractive places which were clean and beautiful and healthy places for young children to grow up. Of course, anybody who did not obey the rules of the housing estate or who did not pay his rent lost his tenancy. I think a series of housing estates for the really poor, based on the pattern set by the London County Council, would be a wonderful step forward. But this will mean a lot of work and will require a great deal of co-operation from the tenants themselves. This is priority number one: homes for the poorest sections of the Jamaican community and this the government has promised to start this year.

Next is the big question of jobs. The government says it will try to increase the numbers of works projects throughout the country so as to find more work for more people.

All this is going to need a lot of money and the government has no money except what it gets from us or in our name and so taxes are likely to be revised though we don't know the details yet.

Another important feature of this new phase is that there will be a new Ministry to look after the welfare and culture of the people. The job of this Ministry will be to build up a pride in being Jamaican and West Indian.

This then is the new phase in which the big effort will be to give the small man his fair share of the good things that are available in Jamaica today. And this is something worth working for. Goodnight.

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

Good evening: I want to tell you the story of two elderly people who are in Jamaica now. This couple is likely to leave Jamaica by the end of this week and never come back again. I met this couple on Saturday evening. They are Americans. The man is a retired university professor; he is a person of wide learning and culture and has a deep interest in human being and their social problems. His wife is a very charming and motherly person. They are both oldish people who have visited many countries in their time. They are not rich; but they are certainly not poor. I should imagine that they own their home in the United States and that it is a large and pleasant sort of house. I should also imagine that they also have a fair amount of money saved up in the bank after a lifetime of working. In other words, this was a comfortable middle-class American couple.

Four months ago this couple left their home in the United States to make a tour of Latin America and the Caribbean Area. Although he is retired the man still does some work for the university and he still writes books, so this tour would probably supply material for a book. They started their tour in Argentina and made their way up the South American continent, stopping in Venezuela and Brazil; then they crossed over to Trinidad and journeyed up the islands and now, this week, they are in Jamaica. But they are not going to stay in Jamaica as long as they had hoped and planned to stay. They just cannot afford it.

The woman told me sadly that of all the places they had been to

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during their tour of the past four months, Jamaica was the most expensive. She said that each of them were paying 14 dollars a day at the hotel where they were staying in Kingston. I asked and she told me the name of the hotel. It was not one of the three best hotels in the Corporate Area. In Europe or the United States it would have been classified as a second-class hotel, and for this they were paying just over £9 a day for an ordinary double bedroom. I know the hotel and so I know that the food and service they got was nothing to write home about. Now this old couple just wanted the room; they were prepared to feed themselves but the rules of the hotel were that they had to take ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ food and everything or pay for it: that was that. So they are paying, but they are not staying as long as they planned to and they are not coming back.

I think this little story of these two people sums up more completely than anything else I know just what is wrong with our tourist business. People come here, they are clipped, they go away, and they don't come back. Oh, I am sure we can go on doing it for a long time still. But it is a business of diminshing returns. Sooner or later this important industry of ours is going to price itself right out of the market. We can argue as cleverly as we like about it; we can paint as rosy a picture as we like; we can produce figures to save our face; but the fact is that too many middle income tourists come here, feel that they have been clipped and leave Jamaica in disgust and determined never to return. Of course, the smart operators do not care, so long as they make their money fast. But in the long run Jamaica is likely to suffer, and this, I feel strongly, we should not allow to happen. The interests of Jamaica should come first. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Mar 14 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It is a clear and sunny day in one of Jamaica's most famous secondary schools. It is the break period and the kids are running around on the wide stretch of green grass that is the playing field. There are lots of shade trees and there is a cool breeze blowing. It is a delightful setting: the kind of setting I would have loved to grow up in and learn as a boy. Suddenly, a bunch of boys get hold of another boy and drag him behind the protection of some trees so that what they are doing cannot be seen. There they pin down the one boy while the others take punches at him. One of the boys gets a thorn bush and scrapes it across the pinned fellows legs until they bleed. Someone else gives him an almighty punch in the stomach that leaves him winded. They rough him up really badly and then they let him go.

Now this is not just a story. It is something that happened just the other day in one of our famous secondary schools. When the parents of the boy told me about it they were terribly distressed. Why was this little boy roughed by his school fellows? The parents are not sure that they have the whole story but they were very distressed when their boy told them he had to explain that although his mother was white his father was coloured. You can be sure of one thing and that is that these schoolboys got their ideas from us, the grown-ups. What they did was a criticism of us, of how we conduct ourselves in our homes and in our dealings with others.

Let me tell you another true story. A man who is a well respected member of his community went to the police station to bail out a

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friend who had been arrested. Luckily for him, he took someone with him. At the police station one aggressive policeman started talking roughly to him/so he talked back, and before he knew where he was he was in a prison cell and he himself had to be bailed out by the man who had come with him. In the process a packet of his cigarettes were captured and although the police case was dismissed in court later he was four pounds the poorer in lawyer's fees.

Now I am not saying that all schoolboys go in for roughing up the odd-man-out at school; and I am certainly not saying that all policemen abuse their authority. But I am saying there is a lot of this sort of thing going on.

It seems to me that there is a definite decline in our respect for the rule of law, that/some people are too inclined to break the law and get away with it, that some people are too inclined to violent actions and violent words. And I feel that our police are not always entirely free of this. The poor person, the humble person, generally finds his encounters with the police very distressing. We hear all too often of people being beaten up before they are arrested. No policeman has any business to beat up anybody, no matter how humble he is. The law says they are to use just enough force to subdue someone who is violent, no more. It seems to me most important that all of us: you and I, the policeman on his beat, the politicians, community leaders should conduct ourselves in such a way as to show our respect for the rule of law. In this way we will be examples to our children and to each other. If we fail in this then the pattern of violence will grow in our society and this in turn will lead to serious social unrest, which is something very few of us want. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Mar 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I think we often tend to be a little over-serious about the news, so let us try and be a little gay this evening: and let us be gay about a serious subject: let us be gay about prejudice.

I wonder what you would do if, in about five years' time, your daughter suddenly said to you: Mummy or daddy or mamma or papa, I am going to marry a man from Mars. Or she might announce that she is going to marry a man from Venus or from Mercury. Just what would you say? Just what would you do?

You may be inclined to dismiss this whole thing now but it is not quite as fantastic as it sounds. The Earth on which we live is one of four planets orbiting round the Sun in broadly the same area in space. The other three are Mercury, Venus and Mars. Mercury is 36 million miles from the Sun; Venus is 67 million miles from the Sun; the Earth is 93 million miles from the Sun, and Mars is 141 million miles from the Sun: so the distances are not too great in terms of heavenly space. There are other points of similarity too. The distance round the Earth at the Equator is 7,900 miles; that of Venus is 7,700 miles. Mercury and Mars are smaller and the distance round Mercury is 3,100 miles a nd that around Mars in 4,200 miles. The Earth has one satellite which we call the Moon and Mars has two moons. The two smaller planets have no satellites. There is hardly any difference between the density on earth and on Venus, and that on Mars and Mercury is not very far off that of the earth; and all three of the others have enough water. So you will see these four planets have a lot in common. So why should they not have life in common too? Why should there not be living beings roughly like ourselv

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on Venus, Mars and Mercury? I personally can see no reason for there being no living beings on these planets. And these are of course only the planets which are near us and near the sun. There are others, still in our own solar system, but further out in space. There is the great Jupiter which is nearly 500 million miles away from the sun; there is Saturn which is nearly 900 million miles away; there is Uranus which is nearly 2,000 million miles away; there is Neptune which is nearly 3,000 million miles away; and there is Pluto which is going on for 4,000 million miles away. And man on the earth is nearing the point where he can make the journey out into space.

So there you are: and what will you do if, in five years, your daughter said: Mummy, I'm going to marry a boy from Venus? And suppose this boy's skin is green and he has a tail and a single eye in the middle of his forehead? But suppose also that he is very intelligent and very sensitive? What will you do? What will you do if he had a big head full of brain but a tiny little body with feelers where his hands should be?

In the old world which is fast dying we have wasted a lot of time on a lot of stupid prejudices. We've had class prejudice, colour prejudice, shade prejudice among people who are basically the same; who, apart from different shades of skin, are alike. Some of this prejudice still lingers today. So what are we going to do when we meet living beings who are as intelligent as we are, or who have a greater intelligence, but who are so very different from us as to be fantastic to us? So, ladies and gentlemen, I offer you the green little man with one eye who wants to marry your daughter. He is just around the corner in the future. What are you going to do or say?

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Mar 16 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: So, at long last, the big question of South Africa's relations with the Commonwealth has been settled. After May of this year that country will no longer be a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations; she will no longer enjoy the special prestige that goes with Commonwealth membership; and she will no longer enjoy the special preferential treatment in economic matters that all Commonwealth members share. As long as she remained in the Commonwealth she had the moral support of that great association of nations and this has been a great comfort and aid to her. Now all that is gone. Now she is on her own. Now she will have to defend her racialist policies by herself in world councils. I think the government of South Africa will now find itself just about the loneliest, the most isolated and the most condemned government in all the world. And I think it is now only a matter of time before the strong wind of change now blowing through Africa will bring down the last and greatest of all the racial tyrannies in all the world today. And I personally am frankly and profoundly happy that this has happened.

As long as the racialist South Africa was in the Commonwealth we were all of us tainted with the guilt of the rulers of that country; we were all of us a party to the exploitation and the racial oppression. Now, it seems to me, the Commonwealth and all its members have grown one size bigger and considerably truer to the high and noble principles of the Commonwealth ideal. Certainly, the Asians, the Africans, the Canadians and we here in the West Indies, have a greater pride in our Commonwealth membership today than we had yesterday morning.

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And while I'm on this matter let me clear up just one other point. In Tuesday's Gleaner and again over this radio station yesterday morning, Mr. Morris Cargill said that there was no difference between Ghana's President Nkrumah and South African Prime Minister Verwoerd except that Nkrumah is black and Verwoerd is white; he said that they are both dictators and that if South Africa is to be expelled from the Commonwealth then Ghana should be expelled too. This is the sheerest nonsense. Nkrumah has been elected to the position he holds by the will of the majority of all the people of his country. No section of the people of Ghana have been or are denied the right to vote either because they are black or white or because they belong to this or that tribe. That is not true of Verwoerd. Verwoerd was elected by the whites only who are the minority in the country. The black majority just does not have the right to vote. That is a key difference between Ghana and South Africa and a key difference between Verwoerd and Nkrumah. This is something Mr. Cargill should know without my having to tell him. Whatever we think about Nkrumah he was elected by the freely expressed will of the majority of the people of his country. Verwoerd was not. We are all entitled to our own opinions of Ghana, but I do not think any one is entitled to twist the truth to fit those opinions. I also feel that Mr. Cargill is selling Jamaica short when he dismisses Jamaica's stand on South Africa as 'sentimental'. I think Jamaica has played an important and noble part in the events which have led to South Africa withdrawing from the Commonwealth. And for this I think all Jamaicans can be justly proud. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Mar 17 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember that on Thursday and Friday and Saturday of last week I discussed the Governor's speech from the Throne in which he gave us the outlines of the governments policies for the Parliamentary year 1961/1962. You will also remember that I quoted to you this sentence from the Governor's speech. The sentence says: "It will be the major concern of the Government in the year that is ahead of us to seek ways and means whereby the benefits of our growing economy may be spread more widely among the people of the land, so that it may be made manifest that sooner or later all will share and none will be forgotten."

I told you then that I thought this was the most important single sentence in the speech and that it was the signal of a sharp and clear shift in emphasis in the government's approach to the problems facing Jamaica. We know that possibly the biggest single problem in Jamaica is the great gap between those who have and those who do not have: the problem of the poverty of large sections of our community. And the sentence I quoted meant that the government was going to make every effort to close that gap. But as I told you, the Governor's speech was just a broad outline and the details would be filled out in parliament later. Well, yesterday the most important single one of these details - the Estimates of what the nation is going to spend this year, and how it is going to spend it - was tabled in the House of Representative

Now, figures are always difficult and I am not too hot on them myself; but I think we ought to try and understand them because they sum up all our hopes and plans for this year: so please try and keep

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with me as I try to pick my way through them.

First of all the Government plans to spend a gross amount of money running into £43,149,896 this years. Much of this money will be for the services that we are so used to and take so very much for granted because they are with us every day of every week of every year. These ~~xxx~~ services are our government ministries and the various government departments which fall under them and without which the country cannot function. The cost of all these services come under the heading: Recurrent Expenditure. The gross amount of money the government plans to spend under this heading this year come to £31,440,083. When this figure is deducted from the grand total of our gross spending of over 43 million pounds we are left with a gross figure of £11,709,813.

Now this sum of money - this £11,709,813 - makes up the provision for financing and development and other projects for the year. This is the additional money we plan to spend over and above the cost of running our government for this year. And this is quite a tidy sum of money. Some of it will go into our great low-cost housing projects: indeed the financing provisions has a Housing Fund of £905,485 as one item. In total, we plan to spend over £4 million more this year than we did last year and much of this is going to be in sharing the prosperity of the country more widely. And the bulk of this money will, of course, have to come from us in the form of taxes. One warning of this is that it is going to cost more to run a car. But if we want progress and a stable society then we must pay the price. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Mar 18 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: In the newspaper world, and indeed in radio too, a certain kind of news story is known as a scoop. You know that there is always great competition among people concerned with the news to be first with a story of something happening. Well, the reporter who gets a story first and whose story is first published or broadcast, has a scoop: he has scooped all his other rivals in the business of gathering the news. Well, in newspaper slang, I have a scoop for you this evening. My scoop is not an earth-shattering piece of news. It has nothing to do with politics: I have not discovered oil on my piece of land up in the hills: I have not discovered a murderer whom the police could not find: I have not succeeded in solving the problem of how to get money without working for it: and I have certainly not solved the problem of keeping my families' expenses within my family's income.

My scoop has to do with the little luxuries of life. You know how much all of us appreciate good and thoughtful service. If you go into a place for a meal and the waiter or waitress greets you smilingly, it makes you feel better and you enjoy your meal so much more. If there are flowers on the table and the tablecloth is fresh and clean it makes a moderately good meal seems good and it makes a good meal seem excellent. And after such a meal you are more willing to give the waiter or waitress a decent tip. This is the way we express our appreciation for a pleasant service. And this pleasant service is the luxury part of our meal. We all have to eat, and where we must we eat in surroundings that are not pleasant. But pleasant surroundings

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give a new joy and a new pleasure to the business of eating. We like it when the barman remembers our name and greets us as though he is really pleased to see us when we drop in for a quick one. We feel flattered when we go shopping and the attendant stops having a long conversation with the girl at the other counter and comes to us with a cheerful smile and eager to please. These are the little luxuries that go with living in civilised communities. When the people in government departments, people in our post offices and our tax offices serve us promptly and with courtesy, we feel what a fine civil service we have and we sometimes even forget to curse the high taxes we have to pay. Courtesy begets courtesy. But, alas, how very rarely do we have service and courtesy to lull us into this pleasant mood. And so let us give three cheers when it does happen. And so to my scoop.

Beginning on Friday, March 24th at 8 o'clock in the morning, we will be able to pick up our telephones, dial 117 and hear a pleasant voice telling us the time. This will be a round-the-clock service. We will be able to dial 117 at any hour of the night or day and the same pleasant voice will give us the time of day or night. This is the story behind the advertisement that Tim is coming, and this is my scoop: just a small luxury which we can make use of if we wish to. Of course, like all luxuries we will have to pay for it as a phone call. And of course we don't have to use it but it is there in case we want it. I congratul the Telephone Company on the coming of Tim. Remember you can dial Tim at 117 as from next Friday morning. You will get the correct time and no back chat and that is a pleasant little luxury. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Mar 20 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It looks very much as though there is a serious crisis brewing inside the ruling British Conservative Party. At the centre of this crisis stand two men whose views are bitterly opposed. These two men are Lord Salisbury and Mr. Ian MacLeod, Britain's Colonial Secretary in Mr. Harold Macmillan's government. The point on which these two gentlemen are so bitterly opposed is Britain's policy in those partsof Africa which are not yet independent and in which Britain still has a major say.

I think we will understand the bitter conflict between these two men a little better if we know a little about their backgrounds and the kind of men they are.

Lord Salisbury whose full name is Robert Arthur James Gascoyne-Cecil, is the Fifth Marguess of Salisbury. He is one of the truest and bluest of the English aristocracy. He has a family tree that is as old and distinguished as the history of Britain. Throughout the history of the making and the breaking of the kings and queens of Britain you will find a Salisbury high up in the affairs of the country. Before parliamentary democracy came to Britain the Salisburys and a handful of other aristocratic families ran Britain and the British Empire. There were times in history when these people even manipulated the kings and queens of Britain like puppets. With the coming of democracy the great lords - the dukes and earls and marquesss lost much of their power. Some disappeared completely from the political life of Britain. But others survived and built up new forms of power. And among those who survived the Salisbury line has

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emerged as the most powerful in the political life of Britain today. His influence in Britain's Conservative Party is tremendous. It was the influence of the present Lord Salisbury which in the days before the outbreak of the second world War helped to bring down the Chamberlain Government. Salisbury was the most powerful force urging Sir Anthony Eden, when he was Prime Minister, to occupy the Suez Canal after Nasser's decision to nationalise it. We all know that that particular little adventure ended Eden's political career for good. But Salisbury went on from strength to strength. He was the British Government's chief spokesman in the House of Lords until 1957 when he resigned because he said Macmillan's government was not tough enough in dealing with the rebellion in Cyprus. He wanted the rebellion put down by force and none of this nonsense of giving colonies their independence. He condemned Macmillan's government as soft and liberal.

Salisbury has vast holdings of land in East Africa. The capital of Southern Rhodesia - Salisbury - is named after his grandfather who did a very big job of building and promoting the expansion of the British empire. All this has made the Salisburys - and this present Salisbury in particular - great conservative imperialists who do not want to see the disappearing of the empire. That is the one man.

Ian Macleod, the other man, comes from humble beginnings. You will not find his name in the history books. Before he went into parliament he worked for a newspaper. He holds his high office today not because of his birth or wealth but because of ability. Tomorrow evening I'll tell you what these two men are fighting about and what their fight means for Britain's Conservative Party: so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Mar 21 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you that a crisis is brewing inside Britain's ruling Conservative Party. I also told you that Lord Salisbury and Mr. Ian Macleod, the Colonial Secretary, were the two men whose opposing views were at the centre of this crisis. Our questions this evening are: What is the crisis? How has it come about? And what does it mean for Britain?

The crisis has been brought about by the political events that are now unfolding in the British Protectorate of Northen Rhodesia. Some of you may remember that I spoke to you about Northern Rhodesia on Saturday, February the 25th. I told you then that I thought this might soon become the new trouble spot in Africa; and I gave you a background picture of the country and its people. You may also remember that at that time a conference was taking place in London to work out a new constitution for Northern Rhodesia. As you know, Northern Rhodesia has a white population of 73,000 and a black population of just over 2¼ millions. The black Africans were pressing for a new constitution which would put political power into their hands: the white settlers were resisting this ferociously all down the line. When it looked as though the conference would collapse completely, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Macleod came up with his own proposals for a new constitution. The Macleod idea was that there should be two voters rolls: one for the blacks and one for the whites; and that each of these two groups would elect 15 members to parliament. That would account for the electing of 30 members. But the new parliament would have 45 members, so Macleod came up with the idea

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that the remaining 15 seats would go to candidates elected by black and white voters alike voting on a common voters' roll. This method ensured that in spite of their small numbers the whites would have at least one third of all the seats in parliament. But the white settlers were not prepared to accept this. They want all real political power in their hands; and so they started a powerful lobby in Britain and Lord Salisbury emerged as their champion. Salisbury gathered 97 Conservative backbenchers behind him and they put down a motion in the House of Commons asking Macleod to 'go slow' in Africa. Only Macmillan's skill prevented the motion from being debated in the House. But Salisbury got up in the House of Lords and launched the most bitter and vicious attack on Macleod and then the pressure was on for Mr. Macmillan to fire his Colonial Secretary. At the moment it looks as though the Salisbury supporters are on top. Their pressure has certainly begun to tell. If the Salisbury supporters win then there are two courses open to Macmillan. He can either ask Macleod to withdraw his plan for Northern Rhodesia or he can ask him to resign. If Macleod is forced to resign then I expect a number of progressive Conservatives to go with him. If he waters down his plan then he and Britain are likely to lose much of the goodwill they now enjoy among the Africans; and we can then expect a lot more trouble in the Rhodesias and the Central African Federation. In any events, and whoever wins, we are now approaching the show-down in British multi-racial Africa. I think that if Macleod wins out then the change to rule by the majority may be peaceful: if Lord Salisbury wins then I expect a new eruption of bitterness and violence in the Rhodesias.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday Mar 22 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The government's decision to increase car licences is most unpopular. I have heard some really bitter comments on this decision from people who are normally very strong supporters of the government.

As you know, those of us who run cars will, from the first of April, pay a lot more to have our cars on the road than we now do. If you have been paying £10 a year to licence your car for the roads, you will now have to pay £12 a year. If you have been paying 12 pounds a year, you will have to pay £16 a year from the First of April. And if you are that class of car owner who has been paying £16, you will have to pay £20. And those of you who have paid £20 in the past will now have to pay £26 a year.

The increase is all-round. Taxicabs and contract carriages will have to pay £12 instead of the present £10. Owners of motor cycles will pay £2.10. instead of £2. And motorists are bawling about this. They feel that they are being harshly and severely punished for being motorists, and that this is being done to them and them alone as only one section of the Jamaican community.

It is very interesting that only a few days before this raise in our car licences was announced, Britain's motoring community made strong representations to the British Chancellor of the Exchequer for a cut in motor taxation. The British Automobile Association, The Royal Automobile Club and the Royal Scottish Automobile Club, issued a statement on March 13th saying that Britain's motoring community was being squeezed dry by the high rate of motor taxation.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

The Standing Joint Committee of these three organisations then appealed to the British Government to cut motor taxation when the British Government's Budget comes up next month. They complained that the government got more than £600 million out of motor taxation and that this was out of all reasonable proportion compared to what the British Government spent on the roads. So you see, while we are bawling because our road taxes are being raised, the motorists in Britain are bawling to have their road taxes reduced.

And yet, when the new road tax comes into being, many of us will pay a lot more in motor taxtaion than the British motorist is paying at present. British motorists at present pay a flat rate of £12.10. for all classes of private cars. It does not matter how big or small the Britain's car may be; it does not matter about the size of the engine; Mr. or Mrs. or Miss John Bull pays the same flat £12. 10 a year: and he and she are now bawling that this is too much.

Now if cars were luxury items in Jamaica it might have been possible to put up a strong argument in favour of this tax increase. But they are not. Our public transport system is just not adequate enough for large numbers of us to do without cars. In Britain there is such a good public transport system that you can live 20 or 30 or 40 or 50 miles outside London and still be sure of getting to work in London on time. In Jamaica you've had once you live 10 miles outside any big city or town and even in the towns things are not so good.

I think the only justifcation for this tax increase is that the government needs money for other development projects. But why punish only the motorists who are in any case going to be taxed in their capacity as citizens. Like most of you motorists, I do not like this one. But then, who likes tax increases? Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

Workers, Post Office workers, and the
Demand for Higher Pay.

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Mar 23 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The Estimates of the Government's Expenditure Budget for the Financial Year beginning on April 1st has had a very stormy reception. On Monday of this week junior medical officers - the civil service name for doctors who are not specialists - stayed away from work. This happened in practically all the public hospitals throughout the island. Our public medical service comes under the Essential Services Law, so the doctors could not go on strike. Instead, they went on two days' sick leave. The reason for this action was that the doctors were not satisfied with the pay they were getting, and this years Expenditure Budget does nothing about giving them pay increases; or, at least, there is no indication from the document itself that their pay will be increased: and so they took their two days' sick leave.

On Tuesday morning postal and telegraph clerks, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ postmen and others concern with getting out our mail at the General Post Office in Kingston, went on strike. This strike soon spread to the rest of the island and our entire postal services came to a stop. Again the complaint was that the Expenditure Estimates showed no increase for these post office workers.

On Wednesday porters, orderlies and kitchen workers at the Kingston Public Hospital and at the Jubilee Maternity Hospital also went on strike. And again the reason was because no provision for wage increases had been made for them in the Estimates of Expenditure for the coming financial year. And ~~on Wednesday~~ yesterday ~~it looked very much as though~~ other sub-ordinate staff in the government services ~~might go~~ went on strike, bringing government services to a stop.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

Now, what are we to make of all this? What is the way out of this situation, if there is one? Let us try and look at just what the possibilities are.

Mr. Manley announced on Wednesday that there was a block sum of money proposed under the Estimates for dealing with the wage demands of government workers. This is a sum of £425,000. And this sum of money will be allocated by the Finance Committee of the House to meet the various wage demands. So it looks as though at least some of the demands of the workers in government service will be met.

Now, £425,000 is a very great deal of money; but there are a vast number of conflicting demands and it may be that in trying to make this money go around the government will not satisfy everybody. And what will happen then? Will we have another round of strikes? I don't know and I think it would be interesting to see.

I think there is one point that we all have to face and face quite squarely, and that is the question of where the money comes from. Where does the government get its money from? It gets its money from us, all of us: from the young doctors who went on 'sick leave', from the postal workers who went on strike and from the hospital staff who are also striking: from every person living and working in Jamaica. And so, every time wages go up, especially wages and costs in government services, we must brace ourselves for other things to go up too. Taxes, duties, charges and costs are likely to go up sooner or later. So, take it any way you like, sooner or later we, the taxpayers will have to pay the bill. Tomorrow I will take a closer look at this bill which we have to pay. So till then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

but the good society is built on grapling with problemt in an orderly and sensible manner and with a profound respect for the rule of law. The strikers who are employed by the Government have now had the promise of the head of the Government so I personally can see no reason why the strike should not now come to an end.
Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

JB.C.

NEWS COMMENTARY for
transmission on Friday March
24th. at 6.15p.m.

Good evening.....

You have just heard the Premier's appeal to all workers now on strike to go back to work. Manley said, that no worker will lose anything by going back to work. He gave his promise that the Government will deal with the question of wage increases on Thursday of next week. He said that nothing can be done before Thursday, and he also said that whatever pay increases are arrived at will be back dated to April 1st. I don't have to go on, you have heard him for yourselves.

The question now is.... will the workers go back to work? or will they continue to stay out? and this in turn leads to another question and that is, if the workers grievances have been met is there any other reason for them continuing to stay out. Now there may be some workers who feel that the Government should announce these increases just like that. This cannot be done, as Manley has pointed out because there is a considerable amount of detailed work involved so whatever happens nothing can be settled before Thursday, and surely Manley's promise should satisfy those who had any doubt in their minds.

Now could there be any other reason beyond the question of wages ? Could it be that there are people who for reasons of their own want to embarrass this Government ? If so, what is it that these people want? Do they want to bring down the Government? If they do, what will they put in its place? What kind of Government do they want and would that be the kind of Government you want? Would it be the kind of government the Post Office workers want? Would it be the kind of Government the majority of the people of this country want?

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

Please do not misunderstand me. I think the subordinate staff in Government service have a valid case. And I think Manley's statement is a clear recognition that the Government accepts the validity of that case. Manley has said " we are working on this thing and we will let you know as soon as possible", now go back to work. You have my promise ". That part of it is clear. What I am concerned about is the simple fact that many different people have for different and conflicting reasons tried to exploit the valid grievances of the workers. I think it is important that all of us should stpp and ask ourselves, as Manley has suggested, where are we going ? Where are we going if we are so unconcerned about others that there is nobody to prepare food for sick children. Where are we going if pregnant women who are about to give birth have to be turned away from our hospitals?

I personally have always held the view that the biggest problem in Jamaica was the problem of ~~poverty~~ poverty, the problem of the unequal ~~bad~~ distribution of the wealth of this nation. It seems to be an odd thing that just at the time when the Government of this country is gearing all its energies for a giant effort to close this gap between those who ~~hire~~ hens and those who do not ~~hire~~ hens, it seems to be odd that at such a time, so many of us should appear to be losing our sense of perspective. I think it would be tragic if we did lose our sense of perspective. I think Jamaica has gone so far in such a short time that it would be ~~most~~ a great disaster if this peaceful pattern of progress were to be disrupted because we have lost our sense of perspective. Of course there are problems. Life is never without problems but the good society is built on grapling with problems in an orderly and sensible manner and with a profound respect for the rule of law. The strikers who ~~have~~ are employed by the Governement of the head of the Government have had the promise I personally can see no reason why the strike should not now come to an end.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday Mar 25 at 6.15p.m
Peter Anrahams speaking

Good evening: The way Wednesday's issue of the Star put it, the reason why the porters, orderlies, ambulance drivers and kitchen staff went on strike at the Kingston Public Hospital and at the Jubilee Maternity Hospital was because of the proposed increases in salaries and travelling for government Ministers and M.H.R.s. Now it may be that that was the reason for the strike: I do not know. The way the Gleaner had it was that the government was proposing to carve a "liberal slice" ~~xxixxx~~ of our £43 million Expenditure Budget in pay increases for themselves. Now £20,000 (the figure quoted by the Star) is less than ~~a quarter~~ one 20th of one percent of the Budget Estimates and yet to the Gleaner this is a liberal slice of our Budget. Anyway, Sir Alexander Bustamante has now declared his opposition to any pay increases for Ministers and M.H.R.s until everybody else's demands have been satisfied: so we do not know whether the matter will go before the House or not.

But let us look at the facts and ask ourselves whether these people are entitled to pay increases or not. First let us look at the jobs they are doing. How important do we consider these jobs, and what do we think these jobs are worth?

Now these men are all our servants, elected by us to run the country on our behalf. Our Ministers of government have the full responsibility of seeing that all our services function, of seeing that the peace is kept, that there is order in the society and that the interests of all citizens are protected under the rule of law.

The first Minister, the Premier of the country, now gets £2,500

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

for doing this job. [And this year he happens to be getting a new car. ~~In addition he gets an official car and driver and the estimated cost of this runs to £3,450. So his salary and transport come to a total of £5,950 at present.~~] This means that the managers of any one of the big banks of Jamaica draw a lot more money than the Premier of Jamaica. Certainly I don't know of any manger or Managing Director of any really sizeable Jamaican business firm who draws only £2,500 in salary. And certainly, when it comes to transport and other expenses as well as salary then the figure is at least double that of what the Premier draws in salary and transport. The same thing goes for the Minister of Finance who now earns £2,200. Indeed, the Senior civil Servant in the Ministry of Finance, the Financial Secretary, earns more than the Minister of Finance. Indeed this civil servant also gets a bigger salary than the Premier and all the other Ministers at present. There are nine Ministers who each earn £2,000 a year and the Permanent Secretary of each of them earns more than his Minister. Our M.H.Rs all earn £850 a year with £300 each in office allowances. Junior civil servants and people in business who are in executive positions all draw more pay than our M.H.Rs.

My own opinion is that we are underpaying our Ministers badly, considering the big responsibilities they are carrying. I personally think that Manley's services to the country are worth a whole heap more than the £3,500 that was proposed; and I think Arnett is worth a lot more than the £2,750 proposed. And the same goes for the other Ministers. It seems to me that we should also do a lot better by our M.H.Rs if we want the best talent in the country to go into the political service of the country. Certainly with salaries going up all over the place I should like to see those who are serving the country getting a decent reward for their labours. I think they are entitled to it.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday Mar 27 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The Cold War between the East and the West is in a very critical stage right now. But for a change the new crisis is not due to anything happening in Africa. The crisis spot is a little country in South East Asia called Laos. And so important is this crisis that the British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Macmillan, yesterday broke his stay in Trinidad to fly up to Key West in the United States for a conference with President Kennedy. And to day the Foreign Ministers of the countries making up the South East Asia Treaty Organisation have begun a three-day conference in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand: and the subject they will discuss almost to the exclusion of anything else is the problem posed by what is happening in Laos.

But before going on to the problem of Laos itself it might help us to understand what is going on if we had a little background information. So let us begin with Seato - which is the short name for the South East Asia Treaty Organisation. Some of you may still remember the Civil War in Korea which went on from 1950 to 1953 and which ended with that unhappy country divided into Communist North Korea and non-communist South Korea. You may remember that in that war the Chinese Communists gave armed support to the North Koreans and the Americans, under the flag of the United Nations, gave armed support to the South Koreans. After the end of the Korean war and as a result of it the Americans initiated the setting up of an organisation that would be similar to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Nato, you will remember, was set up in Europe after

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

the Second World War as a military alliance of Western European States with the avowed intention of defending Western Europe from any communist attack. Under this arrangement Western Europe's military forces were integrated under a single over-all command. Seato was an extension of this idea to South East Asia after the Korean War.

Eight countries met in Manilla in the Philippines in 1954 to work out the Seato arrangements. These countries were: Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. These countries agreed to form a defensive alliance to co-operate in providing for their mutual security against any armed aggression, and also to provide for the economic progress and social well-being of their peoples.

But unlike the Western European alliance in Nato, some of the major South East Asia countries stayed out of Seato. India, Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia and Japan did not join Seato. In fact, Seato had more non-Asian than Asian members and this is one of its greatest weaknesses. India's Nehru flatly refused to have anything to do with it and this led to its being looked on with a great deal of suspicion. Laos itself, the country which will occupy most of the attention of the Seato foreign ministers, is not a member of that organisation and that creates another problem. But in order to understand that problem we would have to look at the situation inside Laos itself. Tomorrow evening I will try to take a closer look at the situation inside Laos; so till then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday Mar 28 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Laos is a country of 91,400 square miles with an estimated population of a little over 2 million people who are of Indo-Chinese origin. In other words, it is a country that is about as large as Great Britain but it has a population which is less than a quarter of the population of London. It is one of the least developed countries in South East Asia and the only mineral mined is tin. It produces rice, corn, vegetables, tea, coffee, cotton and tobacco. Native handicrafts are a fine art and the people go in for silk weaving, pottery-making and for leather and metal handicrafts. The only modern industry is rice milling.

The people are a cheerful, laughter-loving people who are small in built and their king who is five feet eight inches tall is something of a giant. In the main they are followers of Buddha and Buddhism is one of the most peaceful religions of the world. Buddhists have never gone in for crusades or inquisitions or holy wars; and so the people of Laos have a strong impulse towards peacefulness and gaiety. From 1893 till 1954 they were under the French and then they became independent. From the date of their independence there has been a civil war of sorts going on in the country. But amazingly little blood was shed over the seven years of their civil war. First one Prince then another would become Prime Minister, overthrowing each other in most gentlemanly ways, and all of them always respected and served the king. It was not until the cold war between East and West developed that the civil war became serious and one of the Princes became the leader of the Pathet Lao.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

But even so, for a long time both the Americans and the Russians have had a hard time persuading the side they back to take the war seriously. The Americans have poured vast sums of money and huge amounts of weapons into the country to support the non-communist government of Laos. On the other side, the Russians have poured equally vast quantities of arms and other materials into the country to support the Pathet Lao rebels. Both sides have sent in large numbers of experts and technicians to teach the Laotians the ways of war and now it looks as though the war is at last taking a very serious turn, with the rebel Pathet Lao poised for a really full scale attack. So last month President Kennedy sent a personal message to Mr. Khrushchev with an offer to end the mounting crisis which could easily be the start of a general war. He offered to withdraw the American military aid if the Russians will agree to do so too; he offered to declare publicly and in writing America's acceptance of a genuinely neutralist Laos if the Russians will do so too; and he offered U.S. to Laos through an international body accepted by both sides provided the country is re-integrated under a nationally elected government.

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko, met Mr. Kennedy yesterday and present indications are that a cease-fire might be worked out. This will be a great relief to the whole world. But the really disturbing thing about this situation is the fact that whether there is war or peace in Laos does not depend on the people of that country but rather on the Russiand and the Americans. It is this that makes the Cold War so dreadfully disturbing and dangerous.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

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

Good evening: Among the letters I have received from listeners was one asking me to comment on a matter which seems to have caused quite a bit of concern among some people. You will remember that our annual All-Island Art Exhibition closed last weekend. Well, this listener's letter was concerned with one picture in that exhibition. The picture was Albert Huie's "Reclining Nude", a photograph of which was published in The Star of March the 14th. This listener was very concerned because a nine-year-old little girl had come home from school and told her mother about it, and also because other boys and girls had taken the paper to school to show the photograph to their friends. My listener thinks this is very bad and asks me to say what I think about it.

Now I know that this listener is expressing the feelings of a number of other people. I know that some people in the Anglican Church have threatened to raise a row about this picture - and perhaps they have done so. What I am not so sure about is whether these people objected to Huie's painting as such or whether they objected to a photograph of the painting being printed in the Star. In any case, and whatever the reason for the objection, I think we ought to treat it with the seriousness it deserves. Parents have a right to be concerned about whether a nude painting is going to affect the morals of their children; and I think some so-called progressive people sometimes defeat their own ends by dismissing this concern as prejudice. Dismissing a point of view, even if you think it is all wrong, never teaches anybody anything.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

In discussing this Huie picture I think we ought ask ourselves first of all whether we consider the human body to be dirty and smutty and indecent. For myself, I can see nothing indecent in the human body. In itself the human body often is very beautiful, but like all beautiful things it can be used for ugly purposes. We all know of the suggestive photographs of Pin-Ups that appear almost daily in a section of our press. These are generally pictures of overdeveloped young women who excite not by their nakedness but by the skimpy clothes they wear and by the manner in which they pose. I would like to see a campaign against some of this type of 'cheesecake' picture which to my mind does more harm than any genuine work of art of a nude. It seems to me strange that churchmen do not protest against this type of picture but are up in arms against a work of art like Huie's.

Throughout the history of mankind the greatest artists have always made a thing of beauty out of the human body. We would have to abolish some of the world's finest works of art if we were to get rid of all the nude paintings or ~~xxxpixtxrxx~~ sculptures of the human body. We would have to get rid of the wonderful paintings of Michaelangelo from the Cistine Chapel in Rome; we would have to get rid of the Venus di Milo; we would have to get rid of Botticelli's Venus Coming out of the Sea; we would have to get rid of nearly all Renna~~issance~~ art with its accent on the ~~beeaty~~ of the human body. I certainly don't want this to happen. There is a lot of smut to get rid of, but let us be careful not to throw away the beauty with the smut. Huie's painting is art, not smut, so let us leave it alone. It is a thing of beauty. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday Mar 30 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The long Easter weekend is with us once more, and I am sure it is very welcome to all of us. Between now and Tuesday morning of next week those lucky ones among us will be able to relax, go to the seaside or up into the hills or be among=our friends and families. Some of us will not be so lucky: some of us will have to work right through this long weekend. But I do hope employers will take it easy where people have to work over this weekend. There are places like hotels and restaurants and certain other essential services which cannot just close down and where people will either have to be on call or on duty. I hope that in such places the employers will remember that this is the Easter weekend and that they will do whatever they can to give their workers a chance to relax and to enjoy some of the fun of Easter, especially on Easter Monday.

I think one of the things I have missed most here in Jamaica at Easter time is the Easter Parade. In South Africa where I grew up as a boy at a time before the ugly racial horror had developed to its present stage, people always had a grand time at Easter. Easter was a great public social occasion, especially among the dark people who lived in the slum backwaters of the big cities of South Africa.

On the morning of Good Friday everybody was up very early and there was a great deal of washing and scrubbing and little boys were generally cleaner than at almost any other time of the year except Christmas and New Year. I remember being held down in a tin bath in our backyard by my mother, my sister and my aunt while my brother gave me a really good scrubbing. And then there was the dressing up. Everybody put on their best clothes and then everybody went to church. It did not matter what church you went to - so long as you went to

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church. There was very little of the sectarianism that seems so pronounced in our churches today: Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists, Methodists, Anglicans - they all mixed freely and worshipped Gos side by side and shared the Easter story at those early morning services on Good Friday. And after the service, at the church door, there were old ladies each with a basket of hot cross buns wrapped up in snowy white cloths and piping hot. And these buns were given to everybody as they came out of church: and of course the little boys went from old lady to old lady and stuffed themselves full of hot cross buns.

Our churches were sort of social levellers. It did not matter how poor you were - and in those days most of the dark folk of our slums were unemployed - the churches, especially at Easter time, brought us together and made us all equal, whether we were brown-skinned or black-skinned, whether our clothes were good and unpatched or whether they were patched. So my strongest remembrance of Good Friday is of the drawing together of our people; the putting aside of petty spites and jealousies and a reaching after the true spirit of brotherhood. If this spirit did not last all the year round that was our failing - but at least we tried.

Then of course there was Easter Monday - great day of celebration and fun; and big fat hot cross buns were a penny a piece and there were so many around that everywhere you went people offered you hot cross buns and coffee. And round about eleven o8clock in the morning the streets suddenly filled with girls who looked prettier than you had ever seen girls look. And all of them were wearing Eater bonnets. And they strolled up and down the streets until far into the afternoon being admired by young men while the old folk looked on and remembered their youth. Easter, when I was a boy in South Africa, was a very wonderful time and I always look back to it when Easter comes around. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday Mar 31 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: As this is Good Friday I am going to tell you a fable and you will have to draw the moral of it for yourself.

There once lived a Jamaican called Theophilus Street. He was tall and handsome and very proud. He was smart, and he knew it. He had a great deal of intelligence, and he knew it. Mr. Theophilus Street was a very fussy kind of person and like all fussy people he always found fault. In fact, this business of finding fault became the most important thing about Mr. Theophilus Street. He looked at the way Jamaica's Government was being conducted and he did not like what he saw, and he said so loudly. He looked at the way Jamaica's business was being conducted and again he did not like what he saw and again he said so for everyone to hear. He looked at Jamaican agriculture and did not like it; he looked at Jamaican industry and did not like it; he looked at Jamaican workers and did not like them. In short, everywhere he looked and whatever he saw in Jamaica displeased him. When he saw a pale-skinned Jamaican making good and rising to the top, he accused that Jamaican of practising a colour bar and being a capitalist and an imperialist: when he saw a dark-skinned Jamaican making good and rising to the top, he accused that Jamaican of having sold out his people, of being a traitor, a lackey of imperialism and a stooge of the white man. In the end, the patriotic Mr. Theophilus Street saw himself as the only good Jamaican in the world and saw everybody else as a bunch of no goods. And this led him to decide that he would not call himself a Jamaican anymore and so he called himself a bloodman.

In time, as happens to all living things, Mr. Theophilus Street died and found himself in purgatory,; you know, the place where the dead are sorted out and sent either along the ~~white~~ clean road going up the hill to the Pearly Gates of heaven or else down the ~~black~~ dirty road that leads to the deep pit which is always

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

on fire and from which you hear the most awful screaming and bawling. Anyway, Theophilus Street got to purgotary and saw people of all shapes, sizes, races and conditions lining up in front of a little customs shed. The very tired looking little customs man seemed to known everybody and as each person approached him he looked at his list and said "Up" or else "Down". Just beyond the customs shed were two fearsome men with long forks. These two escorted the people who had to go down. The people who were sent up did not need any escort but those who were sent down generally fought like brutes and the escorts had to poke them with the forks to get them going.

Anyway, at last it came to the turn of Theophilus Street to face the customs man. The customs man looked at his list then straightened up: "Oh dear," he said. He seemed embarrassed.

"Which way do I go?" asked Theophilus Street, but he was just being polite because he was certain the customs man would say "Up" and he could see the Pearly Gates far up on the crest of the distant hill. He thought it would be wonderful to get up there and to find rest and perfection, not to hunger and not to thirst and not to work and yet to have everything.

The customs man shook his head sadly and a touch of fear crept into the heart of Theophilus Street. Suddenly he saw the possibility of being driven down to the pit by the two men with their forks and panic hit him. He started telling the customs man how good a person he had been. But the customs man cut him and said "They" had decided. Theophilus Street braced himself to be driven down to the pit but again the customs man shook his head. "They" did not want him in either place. And suddenly there was darkness all about him and everything else had disappeared and he knew he would have to spend all eternity alone in the dark.

How, ladies and gentlemen, would you read the moral of this Easter fable? I should like to hear from you. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday April 1 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: For the past three days I have deliberately not commented on what newspaper people call the "hard news". I have ignored the crisis in Laos, I have said nothing about the wages proposals for the sub-ordinate government employees; I have said nothing about the visit of the British Prime Minister to Jamaica though I am sure we are all glad to have him here; I have said nothing about the Rasta Mission which leaves for Africa on Tuesday and I have not commented on developments concerning our street cleaning situation in Kingston. I have done this because it is good at times to get away from the hard news. It is good for us to turn in on ourselves at times and check our bearings, ~~and do a little stocktaking~~. And I cannot think of a better time than this Easter-tide to get away from the hard news and do a little stocktaking.

I think one of the things I should like all Jamaicans to think about particularly at this time is whether we are giving Jamaica and Jamaicans all the credit that is due to them. I have the feeling that there is something of a destructive urge abroad in Jamaica today; that if some people had the choice between building up and tearing down they would choose to tear down. And this is not a healthy thing. But the question is: is it really true? Do Jamaicans have more of an impulse to destroy rather than to build up?

On the face of it, it looks like that. All that we hear, all the news that is reported suggests that people are out to destroy instead of to build. And you know, our thinking and our attitudes are influenced by what we hear on our radios and what we read in our papers. And if we are always reading and hearing of how bad things are, and of how much trouble there is and of how unstable our society is and if people keep on saying how much prejudice there is: if we hear this sort of thing day after day we soon end up by accepting it and believing it.

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And the moment we start believing that everything is bad and hopeless, from that moment things do in fact become bad and hopeless because all men are the prisoners of their beliefs. And when you reach the point where a man believes something really strongly it is very hard to undo that belief even if it is a false one that is not supported by any facts. This, I think, is one of the real dangers facing this society today. And we who handle the news have an especial responsibility where this is concerned. And so as my contribution to trying to balance the good and the bad I want to tell you of a little party that is probably still going on as I speak to you.

Earlier this week a lady whom I do not know phoned me to say that her daughter's birthday was on Good Friday and that this little girl wanted to share her birthdaywith children who are less fortunate and who would not have birthday parties of their own. And the mother wanted to know if I would help then to find ten such children between the ages of seven and twelve. As I talked to the lady I realised that they were not well off people. They did not have a car so there might be a problem of transporting the children. Both the mother and the father of the girl went out to work but they and their daughter wanted to give really needy children and Easter treat. I confess frankly that this thing stirred me very deeply. So I set to and did my part of finding where we could get some youngsters who were really in need of a treat and how they could be transported. And because the parents are working people the party was arranged for today instead of yesterday; and ten homeless youngsters have had and are probably still having a wonderful time.

Now this is not a big thing but I think it is very important, and I think that as long as this sort of thing happens then none of us have any business to go about selling Jamaica and Jamaicans short. Unfortunately this sort of thing good news is very rarely appearing in our newspapers. I think it should. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday April 3 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I hope you have all had a happy and restful Easter weekend and that you are all refreshed for the working week that begins tomorrow. Of course, not all of us have been able to rest for the entire weekend but in spite of that it has been a nice break from the usual routine.

The people who handle the news, the men and women in radio and the press, had their long weekend cut short this morning to meet the British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Macmillan at a press conference at King's House: and this was the first time during his Jamaican visit that the journalists had the full attention of the British Prime Minister for the best part of an hour.

What did we make of him? What manner of man is Mr. Harold Macmillan? And what did we learn from him?

I think it was probably the first time that some of our Jamaican journalists had to deal with a really top-ranking world statesman and I think some of them found the experience a little disconcerting. Many of them said to me after the conference: "But he didn't answer a single question. He evaded everything we asked. I have nothing to write about," and so on.

In a sense that was true. Mr. Macmillan gave nothing away. His answers to questions were careful and guarded; and at times he side-stepped questions. Any journalist who went to the press conference expecting the British Prime Minister to make any flat statements was doomed to disappointment.

For instance, when he was asked whether Britain would give

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Jamaica the same aid and support if she voted to go it alone in the coming referendum, he sidestepped the question. He said it was up to the people of Jamaica and the people of Jamaica alone to decide and he was not going to anticipate their decision. But implicit in his answer was the suggestion that the British Government would prefer Jamaica in the Federation. He did not say it, so no-one can quote him as saying it and yet the idea was there. When he was asked for his opinion of the small demonstrations on his arrival and during his visit to Gordon House, he looked at his questioner and asked "What demonstrations?" He said he had not seen any. But he did answer a number of questions. For example he said the British Government would stick to the principle of the formula put forward by Mr. Macleod to solve the representation problems of the Central African Federation. But all the answers were in such carefully chosen words that it was difficult for the journalists to get their teeth into anything solid. In short, we witnessed a charming and brilliant display by a man who knew all the time that whatever he said could go far beyond this island and echo around the world. One flat statement from such a man on any one of the tricky subjects on which he was questioned, could easily create a crisis situation in the world. He knew this and so he was cagey and careful and played it very close to the chest.

My strongest impression after the Macmillan press conference was that Mr. Macmillan was acutely conscious of the fact that with Russia's Khrushchev and America's Kennedy he carried the responsibility for the fate of the world, and he was not going to treat that lightly: he was friendly, charming - but tough and in control all the way.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday April 4 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Just about an hour ago the Governor-General of the West Indies, Lord Hailes, opened the Caribbean Trade and Industrial Exhibition at the George VI Memorial Park. It is estimated that more than 2,000 visitors from the other islands of the West Indies as well as from non-British Caribbean areas are taking part in this exhibition. There are about 250 booths showing the trade and industrial products of about the same number of manufacturing concerns. There will be displays from Trinidad, from Dutch Surinam, from Puerto Rico, from British Honduras and from lots of others; and there will be one booth showing products from as far away as Austria in the heart of Europe.

Now, what is the point of all this? What is the point of any exhibition? What is the point of any trade fair?

First and foremost it is a shop-window; it is a place where you show off what you have and what you can do. And you show off what you have because you want to attract customers for your goods. So really this is a piece of business promotion when you come right down to the heart of the matter. But as well as being a piece of good business promotion the trade fair or the trade exhibition or the trade exposition - as it used to be called - is also an indication of the progress achieved by certain areas of the world or by certain groups of nations.

The idea of these trade expositions began in Asia along time ago when Asian merchants brought their goods to the commercial fairs which were known as bazaars. From Asia the idea spread to Europe and

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the French were the first Europeans to hold an exhibition of manufactured goods in Paris in 1798. They won such great prestige and sold so much of their manufactures that the held a second exhibition in 1802. The idea then caught on with other countries and England held her first exhibition in 1851. For that exhibition the Crystal Palace, an enormous structure made largely of glass, was put up in Hyde Park. There were 15,000 exhibitors from all over the world and more than 6 million people visited the exhibition. The cost of putting up this exhibition was fantastic, running into millions of pounds, but the exhibition was so successful that entrance fees came to within £200,000 of paying for the entire cost. And when you consider the sales that resulted from the exhibition then you will see what a profitable enterprise it really was. The United States followed with an exhibition in 1876, and from there on you had great exhibitions every few years in some part of the world. Brazil held a Centennial Exhibition in 1922 and the great British Empire Exhibition was held in 1923: and so it has been going on down the years till we come to our own which is now open. It is part of the great world tradition of salesmanship and showing of achievement. Ours is small compared to some of the massive efforts of the distant and near past; but it is a sure sign that we are forging ahead, and that is the important thing. I hope as many of you as possible will go to see this exhibition: there will be entertainment too by the way. For myself, I congratulate the Jamaica Junior Chamber of Commerce on this fine effort to show just what young Jamaica can do. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday April 5 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: There are some people who are very worried about a number of things going on in Jamaica today. Of all the worries, the cost-of-living is possibly one of the most far-reaching. We are all of us hit by the high cost of food; by a rise in the price of bread; by a penny more on our rum or our sugar or our meat. None of us escape this and the poorer we are the more heavily we feel the burden of the cost of living. The question is: Why is there this rise in the cost of living and is there anything we can do about it?

Let us first deal with why things cost more. First, there is more money in circulation today than at almost any other period in Jamaica's history. It is all about us, we can see it. There is an atmosphere of boom in the country. Some professional people are making a great deal of money; some business people are making small fortunes - and in some cases the fortunes are not so small. Workers in some industries, bauxite is one, are taking home large pay packets. Workers who a few years ago were satisfied to take home £2 or £3 a week are now often not saitisfied with four times that amount. Everyone sees everyone else flourishing and wants to join the boom bandwaggon. There are more cars now than ever before; there are more labour-saving devices - there is more of everything and everything costs more.

And yet, when we stop to think about it, is the money we have today worth as much as it was five or ten years ago? Can one pound today buy as much as it could buy five or ten years ago? When you

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take home £5 today, do you take home as much, in terms of what you can buy, as you did when you took home £2 ten years ago? Think of the price of food ten years ago then think of the price of food today; think of rents ten years ago then think of rents today; think of the price of land ten years ago and then think of the price of land today; think of the cost of putting your children through school ten years ago and then think of the cost today.

I think once you start thinking along these lines you will realise that the value of our money is being debased very seriously. Every year our pound buys less than it bought the year before. Where one pound could once feed a family that same family now needs five pounds: so in fact the five pounds of today has an exchange value that is worth only one pound when compared with what a pound could once buy. And so the family must have more money: where £3 once fed, housed and clothed the family, it now needs £10 or £15 to feed house and clothe it. And so the value of our money gets debased and costs go up and because costs go up they are chased by demands for higher wages to meet the higher costs and we are set on an inflationary spiral going up and up. This is a very serious situation. To deal with this situation countries like the United States and Britain have systems of stabilising prices. But if you stabilise prices then you must stabilise wages and profits too. Will our employers accept a cut in their profit margins? Will our workers accept a wage freeze while we try to restore the value of our money? At the moment I doubt if either workers or employers will. And yet that seems the only way out of this spiralling situation. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
FOR Transmission on
Thursday April 6 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The subject of race and colour has become a big talking point in Jamaica ever since the eruption of the events in the Congo. Before events in the Congo commanded the attention of the world there was, on the whole, very little public discussion of race and colour in Jamaica. Indeed, when I first arrived in Jamaica just under six years ago, nobody talked about the subject. I still remember that the Jamaica Press Club held a little function for me in 1955 and that the organisers of the function were in a bit of a predicament. They wanted their members to know that I was a dark South African, that I was black and not white, but in those days the Gleaner made no reference to a person's colour. So all they could do in their publicity was to say that I was a South African, and pass the fact of my colour on by worth of mouth. So you see, as recently as 1955 there was this impulse to play down colour, to ignore it or to treat it as though it did not exist. I was very struck by this at the time because I had come to Jamaica from a world in which colour consciousness was a dominant and ever present fact. I had just come from Europe by way of the United States: and in Europe, as you know, there is colour consciousness even when there is no colour prejudice; and there was more colour prejudice in the United States in 1955 than there is today. So, with this background, I was particularly struck by this shying away from colour, even from the mention of colour, by the Jamaicans: so in the months that followed I explored this thing very carefully.

Some of you may remember that I came here originally to write

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a book about Jamaica at the invitation of both the Jamaican Government and the British Government. In order to do justice to this job I first travelled through most of the other islands before coming here and wandering all over the island and going into its past history and all its social and political problems and developments. In all my researches I paid especial attention to the question of race and colour and in that book I commented on the fact that most Jamaicans seemed so shy away from any discussion of the subject. Everybody's impulse was to suppress questions of race and colour. And yet there were things I could not help noticing. Only girls of a certain skin complexion entered the Miss Jamaica Beauty Contest. And to offset this the Star in 1955 ran its own 'Ten Types, One People' Beauty Contests as part of the 'Jamaica 300' celebrations. I commented on this contest in the book and described it as both racial and non-racial. There were many other such little pointers that came to my attention. I mentioned the banks: I mentioned the fact that BWIA in those days had only fair-skinned stewardesses. (Of course this is no longer true of BWIA and I like to think my comments in that book had something to do with the fact that we now have stewardesses of all shades of colour on BWIA planes). There were other pointers which I also mentioned in that book. And yet, at the end of that book I said the Jamaicans had lived out the multi-racial problem and were now reaching a stage where race and colour did not matter, only a persons worth as a person. I said in this they had much to teach the world. The question is: how does this conclusion fit in with all the race and colour talk in Jamaica today? Or did I miss the boat completely in 1955? I will give you my answer tomorrow evening: so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday April 7 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember I ended my comments last night by asking whether I was wrong to say, as I did in my book on Jamaica, that the Jamaicans had lived out the multi-racial problem; and that they were now reaching the stage where race and colour did not matter, only a person's worth as a person. I do not think I was wrong then; and I still hold to this view today. Of all the countries where I have been and where I have lived - and they include countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America - nowhere have I, as a Negro, felt as free in dignity as I do right here in Jamaica. This is a fact and it is a fact that we must face. Psychologically, emotionally and politically, the individual Negro in Jamaica is as free as you can find him anywhere else on earth - if not freer. He is free to speak his mind, to abuse his political leaders and to vote them out of office if he gets fed up with them. This is a simple fact. But just to stop at this simple fact would not be the whole story. There is more to the story but I am stressing this fact because it is important for us to try and bring reason to our discussion of race and colour. I think those people who describe Jamaica as a little South Africa are either misguided or out to make mischief. It is nothing of the kind and anybody who wants to put himself forward as a leader should know this elementary fact.

But in spite of the basic fact of the freedom of the Negro in Jamaica, there are things that are wrong; there are attitudes, practices and approaches that are wrong and that carry racial and colour overtones with them.

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It seems to me that there is a distinct danger in Jamaica today that anybody dark-skinned Jamaican who protests against what is wrong in our society will be branded as a trouble-maker or an agitator. The people who feel that there are no racial problems of any kind in Jamaica seem to me to be slipping into this frame of mind. Anybody who dares to say that everything in the garden is not lovely becomes a dangerous agitator to be hounded and persecuted.

Of course there are people who are out to exploit the restlessness among their fellow Jamaicans. There are people who are plainly out to make as much trouble as they can. There are people who are plainly ambitious for political power and who see the racial bandwaggon as the only means of getting there. On the other hand there are people who are genuine and sincere in their belief that there are elements of inequality of opportunity in our society and who want to get rid of these inequalities of opportunity. For myself I see nothing wrong in this. Indeed, I think it is good that something which has been regarded as not to be discussed should come out into the open. And I think it would be both a grave and dangerous mistake to slump those who sincerely want to get rid of such inequalities as still exist, with the agitators and trouble-makers. Not everybody who objects to the shade prejudices in most of our banks and insurance offices is a trouble-maker or agitator. It is the easiest thing in the world to bury our heads in the sand and say there is nothing wrong and that it is all the fault of the agitators. The more creative thing, the more socially useful thing, is to seek out what is wrong and set it right. In the long run that is the only way to beat the trouble-maker and agitator and strengthen the foundations of the rule of law. Tomorrow I will suggest some areas in which we can correct what is wrong: so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday April 8 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Which are the areas in Jamaican life where shade prejudice still operates strongly?

First let us be clear about where there are absolutely no problems of shade and colour. The country's civil service, at both the national and local level, is completely free of any hint of race or colour prejudice. Right through the civil service men and women are judged by ability and ability alone. The same is true of the politics of the country. Our representatives are elected by the people and so they are a mirror of the people. So our legislature, our local authorities and our civil service are all completely free of any taint of colour, shade or race prejudice.

It is in the private sector of our economy that the shade game shows up most markedly. I have mentioned the banks already. All I want to say here is that there is one bank, the latest to arrive in the island, which has broken this pattern of using only fair-skinned people. In the last ten days or so I have asked a number of dark-skinned and very presentable young women whether they had ever applied for jobs to the banks. I deliberately asked only young women whom I knew to be competent as short-hand typists or accounting clerks. They were young women in jobs. None of them had ever applied, none of them had ever thought of applying because they knew the shade of their colour ruled them out. This is a fact of life in Jamaica today and I think it is foolish to shut our eyes to it.

There are slight variations on this theme in insurances companies and in a number of our shops, though the larger department store types seem to be getting over it. Now every employer is free

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to hire any kind of person he wants but if in a predominantly dark-skinned society that employer surrounds himself with light-skinned workers only then he must not shout racial hatred when he is accused of practising a colour bar in employment, because that is exactly what it is to the person at the receiving end. Now of course there is the question of qualification. No one should feel they have any right to a job just because they are either pale-skinned or dark-skinned. But quite often prejudice hides behind the question of qualification.

On this subject I would most strongly urge the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce to discuss the matter as something of serious public concern. I would also suggest that they keep the press and radio out of their discussions until they have arrived at some definite decisions. It seems to me important that our business community face up to this problem.

Finally, it was certainly no agitator but a very responsible young business executive who complained to me that the representatives of our I.D.C. in both Britain and the United States were all the 'right' colour. Our Tourist Board representatives abroad too, he said, would give the outside world the impression that most Jamaicans were white.

I have tried to be dispassionate, to balance the books on this question of race and colour over the past three evenings. I think it is something we can lick quite easily if we set about it now. Race and colour are fundamentally unimportant in Jamaica - only acts of discrimination and prejudice make them important. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday April 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Friday of last week Mr. Edward Seaga made an impressive and startling and disturbing speech in our Legislative Council. Mr. Seaga, as we all know, is one of the Jamaica Labour Party's nominees sitting in our Upper House. He is also the youngest member of Legco and he is probably one of the few genuine scholars with any capacity for serious research who has gone into politics. Mr. Seaga has also emerged as one of the leading personalities in the Jamaica Labour Party since last year's shake-up in that party. I think it is fair to say that much of the basic thinking of and for the Jamaica Labour Party today is being done by a small group of which Mr. Seaga and Mr. Robert Lightbourne are the key figures. All of this gives added importance to the speech made by Mr. Seaga in Legco last Friday. Indeed, it is my opinion that Mr. Seaga's speech could so very easily be the opening shot in a sustained assault on P.N.P. economic policy by the J.L.P. I think the J.L.P. now feels that it has got hold of something really solid and it is going to hit the P.N.P. hard with it. And that, let us face it, is what a parliamentary opposition is for. It is the duty of the opposition to oppose; it is the duty of the opposition to embarrass the party in power; it is the duty of the opposition to challenge and question the policies of the party in power. At times the opposition has very little solid grounds on which to attack the government and win the support of the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ public. But every now and then the opposition gets hold of something that it feels is really worthwhile, and then it goes to town on the subject. I think we have a case like this right now

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and I shall be very surprised indeed if the opposition does not make something really big out of it. In fact, since I do not think that the opposition is made up of a bunch of fools, I am willing to risk the chancey game of prophecy and say flatly that the J.L.P. opposition will try to make this subject the one big issue on which they will attack and challenge the P.N.P. Government this year. So much for the background: now for Mr. Seaga's speech.

In his State-of-the-Nation speech on Friday Mr. Seaga divided the 'Haves' and the 'Have-nots' into two clear groups: those who earned more than £300 a year he calls the 'Haves'; those who earn less than £300 a year he calls the 'Have-nots'. (he does not say how he arrives at this definition.) He said that only 115,000 people or 7% of Jamaica's working population earn more than £300 a year. He said 93% of Jamaica's working population earn less than £300 a year. In other words, out of every hundred working Jamaicans, 93 earn less than £6 a week and among the remaining seven you are likely to find people earning anything from £6 a week to £100 a week. Then Mr. Seaga goes a stage further. He says in the financial year 1957/1958 the islands gross national earning came to £177,077,000 out of which the 'Haves' earned nearly £57 million and the 'Have-nots' earned a little over £120 million. But in the next financial year, in 1958/1959 the gross national income was £182,624,000 of which the 'Haves' earned just over £65½ million and the 'Have-nots' earned a little over £117 million. This means that the 'Have-nots' earned £3 million less in 1958/1959 than they did in 1957/1958. The 'Haves' on the other hand, earned £8½ million more than the year before. But time is up so I'll carry on with this matter tomorrow evening: till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday April 11 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I ended my comments last night by quoting to you the figures used by Mr. Eddie Seaga in his State-of-the-Nation speech in Legco last Friday. You will remember that he used the financial years 1957/1958 and 1958/1959. And his figures showed that while the earnings of the 'Haves' - those people earning more than £300 a year - while their earnings had gone up by £8½ million between the years 1957/1958 and 1958/1959, the 'Have-not' - those earning less than £300 a year - earned £3 million less in 1958/1959 than they did the year before.

Now, if we take these figures just as Mr. Seaga has given them to us then there can be no question about it but that this is a fantastic and shocking state of affairs. The logic of Mr. Seaga's figures is that 93% of the population are living in the most shocking economic conditions imaginable.

To tell you the truth, I find these figures of Mr. Seaga so startling that I want to know a lot more about them. As a scholar I am sure Mr. Seaga will understand my point. It is not a question of doubting or not doubting his figures, it is simply a question of proving his point. In scholarship nothing is accepted as a fact until it is proved as a fact. This is reasonable and logical when you are dealing with facts as against ideas. So I hope Mr. Seaga will reveal to us his source material, and how he arrived at his figures. I think it is important that we should get this statistical material checked and verified beyond any possibility of argument or doubt. I find, for instance, that there is a very big doubt in my mind about Mr. Seaga's figure of the numbers of people he classifies

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as belonging to the 'Haves'. My mind frankly resists his proposition that there are only 115,000 working people in Jamaica who earn more than £300 a year. I should imagine that the workers organised into the three trades unions - the N.W.U., the BI.T.U. and the T.U.C. - have a combined membership of well over this figure and that a very large proportion of them membership is in the more-than-£300-a-year class. But in any case, I should like Mr. Seaga to explain and back up his figures for us.

Indeed, I think it is important that the government spokesman in Legco either confirms or deny these figures of Mr. Seaga's. But one of the things I do hope we will avoid is to drag so many red-herrings across the trail that all figures are made meaningless. It is not necessary in this case. We can all agree on figures for our gross national earnings. We can all agree on establishing how much of this is earned by the 'Haves' and how much is earned by the 'Have-nots'. It seems to me that if our two parties can agree on these figures then we will begin to have a realistic basis for looking at the problems facing Jamaica. We might then also have the beginnings of seeing a way out of these problems. I firmly believe that to know our problems, to understand our problems is the essential foundation for being able to solve them. So I hope that out of this very challenging speech of Mr. Seaga's will come some of the answers we need in order to understand the problems facing us to today. Once we have the facts we will be better prepared to act; so I hope it will be possible for both parties to agree finally on a single body of statistical facts on which to base our judgement and decisions for future action. This seems to me a matter of fundamental importance for Jamaica today. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday April 12 at 6,15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember that I have often said that we tend to ignore good news and play up the bad news. Well, last week a small but important piece of good news took place: but none of those people who are always blowing their tops about racial discrimination said anything about it. It sometimes looks as though these people only want to gripe and blame but are never willing to give credit where it is due. If they were prepared to give credit perhaps we would have had a demonstration to salute the Chinese Benevolent Association for deciding that the Chinese Public School on North Street should now throw its doors open to non-Chinese children. This is a good and logical thing to do; and I think we ought to give credit to the Chinese Benevolent Association for doing the sensible thing. Incidentally I think it would be a very pleasant and refreshing change if the gentlemen who so love to march and demonstrate, will stage one when they really approve of something. But perhaps nothing ever happens in Jamaica that they approve of.

One of the things I do not approve of, and I don't think anybody except the man profiting does, is this business of putting up the prices of food and drink at special events. Jamaica is getting a very bad name for this sort of thing and I think we ought to think seriously about it.

If you go to the Trade and Industrial Fair you are likely to get a mild shock at the prices charged for local drinks. A small soft drink that would cost you 5d or 6d outside costs you 9d inside the Fair ground; the larger soft drink which would cost you 6d or 7d outside, costs you a shilling; and a beer which would cost you 1/1d

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if you drink it on the spot and 1/2d if you took it away, costs you 1/9d at the Trade Fair.

This is a bad business. You get shockingly bad services from somebody with very bad manners who serves you across a wet and dirty counter and you are expected to pay luxury hotel prices for what you get. I think this clip-joint mentality is going to hurt Jamaica very badly in the long run unless we get over it very fast.

Finally, let me say a brief word about the much discussed and much abused idea of setting up a new Ministry of Welfare and Culture. Like all the other critics, I too do not like the idea of there being a Minister of Culture one little bit, and no amount of explaining can make me like it any better. The beliefs and values of a people, their concepts, their habits, their skills, their arts, their institutions, their instruments, all these make up the culture of a given people in a given period in time. And the moment you define culture in this form - which is its true form - you see at once how unfortunate the idea of a Ministry of Culture really is. The component is now trying to dominate the whole. Parliament and our political institutions are only a part of our culture and they should never appear to try to be anything more. Call it the Ministry of Welfare and the Arts if you like, though even that is unfortunate. My own strong suggestion is that the government ~~xixx~~ simply call the new ministry the Ministry of Welfare and that the law setting it up indicate that the Minister will be especially interested in the arts and cultural matters.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday April 13 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It was just about a month ago - on March the 15th - that I discussed with you the possibilities of there being life on the other planets in our solar system. You may remember I gave you some details of the three other planets which orbit around the Sun with our own earth: these three planets, you will remember, are Venus, Mars and Mercury. I told you all about their sizes, the amount of water on them and their distances from the Sun. And I showed that there were many similarities between these ~~continents~~ Planets and between our earth.

And then, you will remember, I asked you what you would do if, in about five years' time, your daughter suddenly came to you and said: Mummy or daddy, I am going to marry a man from Mars: or she might announce that she was going to marry a man from Venus or Mercury. And I asked you what you would do if this man's skin was green and he had a tail and a single eye in the middle of his forehead. I told you then that I thought this possibility made all our present race and colour prejudice look like a stupid piece of ignorance.

But many people thought I was making up a fairy story at the time. Some people said so to me: some people wrote to me in those terms. They were amused, some thought it was a nice little story; but they did not think it would ever happen, and so they did not take it seriously. They said: Even if there are people or living creatures as intelligent or more intelligent than we are, how could these creatures get here, or how could we get to them?

And please remember that this was only a month ago - in fact

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

it was a day or two less than a month ago - when I told you that man on the earth is nearing the point where he can make the journey out into space.

Now, man has done it. Man has made his first journey into space and returned safely to the earth. On Friday of last week the great thing came to pass. A man was shot from the earth and travelled about 200 miles up into space and then returned safely to earth. The name of this man, the first man to go into space, is Yuri Gagarin. He is a 27-year-old officer in the Russian Air Force. So the Russians have the proud claim of being the first to put a man into space and bring him back. And Yuri Gagarin will go down in history as the pioneer of man's journey into space. This is a great and proud achievement by the Russians. I think it is the greatest scientific achievement of our century. And all the world has honoured the Russians for this great achievement.

When the news of this great Russian success first broke the Cold War was pushed into the background for a time and everybody recognised this as a very great step forward, not only for the Russians, but for all mankind. And I hope that that is the way the world will keep it. The Russians have said that they will share their knowledge with the world and that too is wonderful. I hope the West will continue to be big spirited and that no Western spokesman will try to play down this great Russian achievement.

The question is: just what exactly does this Russian achievement mean? Does it mean that a man can now be sent out to the Monn next week? To answer that we must know a little about space, which I will deal with tomorrow: so, till then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday April 14 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you that the Russians were the first to shoot a man some 200 miles insto space and bring him back safely. This, I said, was a great pioneering achievement which will be remembered as long as men live and keep records of man's achievements. And I ended up by asking whether this new achievement meant that a man could now be shot out to the Moon next week and I said that in order to answer that we must know a little more about space.

Well, what is space?

I think the best way of getting a basic idea of space is to realise that space is all around us. Our earth is suspended in space. If we in Jamaica were to shoot a rocket up into the sky and the people in India were to shoot a rocket up into the sky at the same time, both rockets would be going up and yet they would be going in opposite directions. In fact, both rockets would be going out into space because space is all around us. And space has very distinct characteristics although it might seem pretty much the same to us. We call the space around our earth the atmosphere and this reaches out to about six hundred miles. But it is not 600 miles of the same thing: it is 600 miles of different layers of space or atmosphere. Near the earth's surface, and going up for about 6 miles is what is known as the Troposphere. This is the densest part of our atmosphere. The air is very thick because it is pressed down by the weight of the atmosphere above it. And so each one of us carries a weight of about 15lbs of atmosphere on every square inch of our bodies. This is what keep us together and on the earth; this is what keeps the sea in its place. If this

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

pressure were removed we and the sea and ship and everything else would just float out into space. In fact the earth itself would just fall apart. So it is the weight of the atmosphere pressing down on us as a result of the spinning of the earth which keeps us and the world and the sea in the places where we are. As I said, for about 6 miles up this is known as the Troposphere. And it is in this area of space that we get most of our weather - this is the area of winds and rains and storms.

Above six miles, and reaching up to 20 miles is the Stratosphere. Here the weather is very much calmer; the clouds are thinner; you never have storms and there are thin air currents. This is the ~~space~~ area ~~area~~ in space in which the jet planes travel fastest and smoothest because there is no thick atmosphere to hold them back. But because the air is so thin man cannot live at this height without oxygen.

Above 20 miles and going up to 50 miles is the Chemosphere. In in this region of space the Sun's energy is checked and filtered so that it can reach the earth without burning up everything. Above this, and going up from 50 to 250 miles is the Ionosphere. This is is the area in space about which man does not know everything yet. It is the area now being explored by rockets and high-frequency radio. This is the area into which the Russian spaceman, Yuri Gagarin was shot last Friday and brought back. Beyond the Ionosphere, above 250 miles and going up to 600 miles is the Mesosphere and the world of cosmic rays about which we know next to nothing. And above 600 miles is the edge of outer space and infinity. Such is the nature of space: tomorrow I'll discuss the problems, so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday April 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: To round up our discussion of man's conquest of space let us look at some of the problems that man will face in his journey to the stars. You will remember I told you on Thursday of the first man, a Russian, who was shot 200 miles into space and brought back safely. This, I think we are all agreed, is a pioneering achievement which is going to revolutionise the history of man. ~~Cxx Frixxy~~ Last night I discussed the nature of space and told you of the different layers of the atmosphere going up to 600 miles above the earth and to the very fringe of outer space. From this you will have seen that there is nothing uniform about the atmosphere, that it goes up in changing layers, each different from the other.

Now, what are the problems that man faces in his journey to the stars? Which of these problems has he conquered? Which are still to be conquered?

Let us deal with the problems ~~first~~ that man has conquered. The first and most important of all the problems, was that of breaking free from the iron grip the earth held on man. The old saying that everything that goes up must come down - that had to be broken first. In short, man had to build a machine which he could send out into space; a machine strong enough to withstand the strains and pressures of the atmosphere, and a machine that was powerful enough to break away from the gravitational pull of the earth. That was the first and biggest of the problems. We all know how this one was solved. First the Russians sent their sputniks to circle the earth and then the Americans joined them, and putting satellites into orbit round the earth became an almost commonplace thing. Then the

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

Russians achieved the next great breakthrough. They shot a rocket to the moon and hit it bang on target on September 13th, 1959. Then both the Americans and the Russians sent rockets racing to the sun. The first great problem was licked. Man had built something strong enough and powerful enough to travel through space and break away from the pull of the earth. The second great problem was the question of whether man or beast could survive on such a journey. First the Russians and then the Americans sent monkeys into space and brought them back. And now, last Friday, the Russians have sent a man 200 miles up and brought him back. But this one is not completely solved yet. What I told you of the nature of space last night will make it clear that there is one great problem still to be solved: will man be able to survive the world of cosmic rays in the Mesosphere above 250 miles. That, I think, is the next great problem that has still to be solved; and it will take time. But having gone so far, I am sure man will solve it. But the price may be very high. If he does solve the problems of the world of cosmic rays then he will be on the edge of outer space. Then the problems will be different: they will be problems of building a colony of space stations in outer space and setting a supply base for the next stage which will be the Moon and then the three other planets nearest us. So you see, there is just one more really big hurdle before man takes off to the stars. And my question about your daughter and the little green man is not so fantastic after all, is it? It could happen within the next five years. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday April 17 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good Evening: Jamaica is having quite a rash of new political parties these days. On Wednesday of last week there was the official opening of the offices of Mrs. Rose Leon's Progressive Labour Movement. And Sunday yesterday - Africa Freedom Day throughout the non-European world - Marcus Garvey's People's Political Party was revived some 30 odd years after Garvey first formed it. These parties, as you know, are only two of the many political parties which have been born and which have died in recent years. Over the past few years one party after another has popped up, made a noise for a few days, and then it has disappeared as suddenly as it appeared. And it had looked to those of us on the sidelines as if only the two major parties, the People's National Party and the Jamaica Labour Party, could survive. None of the other parties that came into being seemed to have any chance against the two political giants. These new parties always made quite a noise but they always had a bad time of it when election day came around.

In the 1944 General Election - the first under the constitution which gave Jamaica universal adult suffrage - there was a whole crop of new parties as well as the two main ones. Of these the Jamaica Democratic Party was the most important. When the election results came out the Jamaica Democratic Party was as good as dead. It received only 14,123 votes from 389,109 people who voted. At that election the J.L.P. won 22 seats and the P.N.P. won 5. Incidentally, that was also the only election in which independent candidates polled more votes than one of the two main parties. Independent candidates got 30% of the vote and the P.N.P. got only 23.5%. All

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

other oppisition parties, including the Jamaica Democratic Party, got a mere 5% of the total votes cast.

In the second General Election which took place in 1949 there were four parties as well as a number of independent candidates. In addition to the two main parties there was the Agricultural Industrial Party and the United Party of Jamaica. When the results came out the J.L.P. was still the most powerful party in the House although it lost some seats to the P.N.P. Instead of 22 the J.L.P. now held 17 seats in the House and the P.N.P. held 13 seats - 8 more than they got in the 1944 election. In that election the P.N.P. also got the largest number of votes cast. The Agricultural Industrial Party and the United Party of Jamaica together got less than 6,000 votes. The Independents who had won 5 seats in 1944 won only 2 in 1949 and the number of votes cast for them fell by nearly half.

In the General Election of 1955 there were 4 other parties as well as the two main ones. There was the National Labour Party, the Farmers' Party, the People's Freedom Movement and the Right Party as well as a handful of independents. None of the 4 new parties won a single seat and all the independents were wiped out. The P.N.P. won 18 seats and formed the new government and the J.L.P. won 14 seats. The P.N.P. got more than half of all the votes cast. The J,L.P. got 39% and all the others together got less than 8%.

In the 1959 General Election there were 4 different new parties but they were completely wiped out and together got less than 1% of the votes cast. Only the P.N.P. and J.L.P. won seats. This is the bacground against which we must examine the chances of today's new parties. Tomorrow I will attempt this examination; so till then, good-night.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday April 18 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I sketched for you the pattern of election results over the past 17 years which covers the period during which Jamaica has enjoyed universal adult suffrage. In the General Election of 1944 the two main parties together got ~~x~~ just under 65% of all the votes cast. Independents and all the other parties together just over 35% of the votes cast. In the 1949 General Election the two main parties together got 85% of the votes and all the opposition parties together got about 15%. In the 1955 General Elections the two main parties together got 89½% and all the other parties combined got 10½% of all the votes cast. And in the 1959 election the two main parties combined got slightly more than 99% of all the votes cast and the new parties got less than 1%. It is interesting to note that in the 1959 General Election Independent candidates had completely disappeared from the picture. In the 1959 election the new parties were: the Convention Independent Party, the Jamaica Independent Movement, the Independent Labour Party and something or someone called Independent Labour, which got more votes than the 3 other new ones put together.

I think the lesson from these election figures is very clear. Over the years the trend has been increasingly to concentrate political power in the hands of the two major parties. By their votes the electors have shown clearly that they saw only the P.N.P. and the J.L.P. as the two alternative governments of the country. In fact these figures indicate that the voters see the two main parties as the only permanent ones in Jamaica's political life so far. All the other parties have come up like mushrooms at election time and died

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

soon after the election. And so a natural suspicion has grown up about the new parties. The are regarded as fly-by-night parties: here today and gone tomorrow. Between the General Elections of 1944 and 1959 there have been no less than 10 political parties which have put up candidates in one or another of the General Elections: and none of them are alive today - or, if they are, you hear remarkably little about them. All this makes the average voter reluctant to waste his vote on a party which may not be around tomorrow. That is why 99% of all the voters gave their votes to one of the two main parties at the last General Election. In 1944 35% of the voters were willing to give some of the other parties some sort of a try. In 1959 less than 1% of the voters were willing to do this.

And of course there is something else too, and this is a point on which Manley touched at the public meeting last week when he declared war on race hatred. Manley's words were to the effect that he had his party would not stand by while others tried to get the fruits for which they had not laboured. Implicit in that statement was a sense of the history of Jamaica's political development to the point where she is today. The Jamaica Labour Party and the People's National Party are the only two parties which have been in the field since the beginning. They made and were made by the beginnings of the nationalist struggle in the 1930s. Between them they share the responsibility for bringing Jamaica to its present stage of development. This is the second handicap which faces any new party: this fact that it has not been a part of the past struggles of the Jamaican people. With all this in mind, what are the chances of the two new parties - the Progressive Labour Movement and the People's Political Party - what will be their chances when election day next comes around? I'll discuss that tomorrow evening: so till then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

43 Wednesday ~~Thursday~~ April 26th, concluding the series of three on the New Political Parties.

Good evening: What is happening in Cuba right now is so important that I have decided to interrupt my discussion of the new political parties this evening and talk about the Cuban situation instead. I will conclude my discussion of the new political parties tomorrow evening. This evening I want us to take a close look at what has been going on in Cuba over the past three days and to try and see what is behind it.

Now you all know the news of the invasion so I will not bother to go over it again here. I think we are all agreed that what is happening in Cuba can be very serious for us. Cuba is only 90 miles away from Jamaica and if a general war between Russia and the United States were to break out because of Cuba, we in Jamaica would be right in the middle of it. This I think would also be the case even if it were just a limited war in the Caribbean. And this danger definitely exists at the moment. So I think that if we in Jamaica are likely to be involved in a situation that is not of our making we are entitled to express our views on it.

I am frankly alarmed by the part of the United States in this present Cuban business. The United States government has made no secret of the fact that it does not like the Cuban government of Dr. Castro and that it hopes that the invaders would win. Mr. Kennedy, the President of the United States has said this in so many words. On the other hand, he and other American spokesman have denied the Cuban and Russian charges that the invaders were trained on American soil, that they are using American arms and that they are financed by American money. Against this we must set the fact that for weeks Time Magazine has carried stories about the military training of anti-Castro forces on U.S. territory. And the highly respected New York Times has said bluntly that the invaders have had the active support of the United States Government. For myself, I do not believe that the United States government has genuinely observed either

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

the spirit or the letter of its declared policy of not interfering in the internal affairs of Cuba. I think that all the indications must lead one to the conclusion that it has given comfort and aid to all the enemies of the present Cuban government.

To understand the bitter criticism levelled against the United States from all over the world for its stand on Cuba today, all we have to do is look back at the United States record in the days when Castro was fighting against the dictatorship of Batista. The Batista dictatorship was a detestable and evil thing. The vast majority of the Cuban people lived in fear and misery under it. They were unemployed, hungry and homeless. And yet the United States Government never denounced the Batista dictatorship. And when Castro started the 26th of July Movement he received no support of any kind from the United States government. Not a single official spokesman for the United States said anything against the Batista dictatorship; not a single spokesman expressed the hope that the Castro movement might succeed. Because of this vast numbers of people in Latin America are convinced that the United States only gives support to the dictators and the exploiters of the masses of the people. Whether this is in fact so or not, this is the way it looks to the peoples of the under-developed countries who are striving for dignity and freedom and a better living.

Indeed, I think it is possible that if the United States had given more comfort and support to Castro in the early days of his struggle, he might not have turned to Russia for support. The fact that he has turned to Russia is a very strong criticism of United States policy. And whatever we think about Castro's Cuba today, there is one fact we must face. The mass of the Cuban people today are better off than they have ever been: they have land, they have work, they have homes - and these are basic things which Castro has brought to them. It seems to me a great tragedy that United States policy should once more look as though it is supporting the reactionaries and so making Russia look like the champion of the forward-looking masses of the people of the under-developped countries. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thurs ~~Wednesday~~ April 29 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Let us start by looking at the Progressive Labour Movement, the party founded by Mrs. Rose Leon. What are its points of strength? First and foremost, it has Mrs. Leon hereself and that is a great advantage because Mrs. Leon is identified with the past struggles of the Jamaican people and with the nationalist movement which has carried the country to very where it is today. For many years she has been a leading personality in the Jamaica Labour Party and I think that next to Busta himself she was the one with the largest personal following while she was inside the J.L.P. Another of Mrs. Leon's strong points is the fact that she knows and is known in the Jamaican countryside and she knows that the Corporate of Kingston and St. Andrew is not all Jamaica. Another advantage of the Progressive Labour Movement is the fact that it already has a spokesman in the House of Represantatives in the form of Mr. Arthur Leon. This means that the new party has a ready-made opportunity to project itself on the consciousness of the country.

Among the personalities the party has attracted Mr. Evon Blake is possibly the most outstanding next to Mr. and Mrs. Leon. Mr. Blake is known as a publicist of no mean ability. He founded and edited Spotlight newsmagazine for some twenty years and then went on to found New Day newsmagazine. I assume that Mr. Blake will be the new party's public relations man and much will depend on how he handles the job. Mr. Blake also has a much better record of fighting for the dignity of the Negro than nearly all the new boys who behave as if they are the only champions the black man ever had. But Mr. Blake

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

is new to the game of party politics and this may prove quite a serious handicap.

I think Mrs. Leon's party is likely to suffer from all the disadvantages suggested by the figures of election results I gave you on Monday and last night. The voting public's general impulse seems to be to turn away from Third Parties. And what might make this worse is the fact at present the Progressive Labour Movement still looks like a splinter of the J.L.P. rather than a party in its own right with its own platform and programme. I think getting over this is going to be a tough and long struggle.

I think much the same sort of problems are faced by the People's Political Party. But in addition this new party will, I think, have one or two peculiar problems of its own. The greatest appeal of this party is the fact that it calls on Garvey's name and uses the name of Garvey's party and yet indications are that Mr. Millard Johnson, the promoter, does not subscribe to all that Garvey stood for. Garvey was in favour of what he called a confederation of the West Indian islands long before West Indian politicians thought of it. Mr. Johnson, on the other hand, is opposed to Jamaica being in the Federation. It will be interesting to watch and see how this new party adapts other features of Garveyism to its own purposes. But I think the most important problem facing this new People's Political Party is that of persuading the voters that it is here to stay and this it can do only by deeds not words. To survive it must make a basic and worthwhile contribution to Jamaica, and that may require years of solid hard work, not just the lust for quick power. This seems to be the view of the Jamaican voters as shown by the record of past elections

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday April 21 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The other day a listener stopped me in the street and asked me to comment on the fact that a hundred workers in the K.S.A.C. Public Cleansing Department had been laid off. He said he thought that the Mayor, Councillor Frank Spaulding had been very hard on the worlers, and then he went on to say something about Negroes being very hard on other Negroes when they get a little power and position. I did not agree one little bit with that listener and I told him so. If people are not doing a job of work properly they have no right to expect to be treated in a special way for any reason whatsoever. And I for one was glad to see that at long last Kingston had a Mayor who had the courage to do what needed to be done.

Let us face it. Kingston's street cleaning had become a sort of pension for some people who felt that having cast their vote they had now done all the work that needed to be done, and from here on the city owed them an easy living. And I am afraid that for a long time some of our Councillors have aided and abetted them in this view. Street cleaners have demanded and have been given higher pay, and the streets have gone from bad to worse. And so there was naturally some shock and anger and bitterness when the K.S.A.C. acted firmly for once and laid off 100 men. Now I am not saying that all the workers had the attitude that the world owed them an easy living; but large numbers did and they had an effect on those who were prepared to give us an honest day's work. I hope that from hereon forward we can look forward to a better deal for the poor long suffering tax-payer. I think the Mayor can depend on the support of all of us if he acts firmly and justly in the interest of the public. There is, however, one very important point that our street cleaning authorities should watch and that is this: our street cleaners still tend to discriminate between the poorer people and the better off people.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

The areas in which poorer people live very often do not get the same service and attention that our street cleaners give to the better off districts. This of course has to do with the business of giving tips. People with money are more able to tip street cleaners than people with very little. But all householders, even the poorest, pay taxes either directly or indirectly and so rich and poor alike are entitled to the same service. This is an important point which I should like the Mayor to make absolutely plain to every worker in the street cleaning department.

And now for a word on the price of eggs. Some of you housewives have been able to get eggs for 4/- a dozen and in some cases for as little as 3/10d a dozen over the past week or so. And at some of the supermarkets you have even been able to get them for as little as 3/3d. There is quite a story behind this, and it is a story of interest to housewives. Some of you may remember I talked about the price of eggs on the 3rd of March and told you about the forming of the Egg and Broiler Producers Association. This body you will remember, was formed to stabilise prices among egg sellers - which of course meant raising the prices from the levels to which they had dropped towards the end of February. You will remember that my view at the time was that if these producers were going to set a minimum price level then a maximum price ceiling should also be set to protect the poor exploited public in times of egg shortage. Well, the reason why you got your eggs cheaper last week was because some of the members of the Egg and Broiler Producers Association broke the agreement not to sell their eggs below a certain price. And so it would seem that the price war between egg producers has broken out once more. This of course means that eggs are now in plentiful supply once more. I think we who are consumers can all be thankful that there are rebels in the organisation and also for the fact that eggs are a perishable commodity and cannot be stored until an artificial shortage is created. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday April 22 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Tuesday of this week the Minister of Finance, Mr. Arnett, put before the House of Representatives of the new salary scales for government sub-staff and other civil servants: these include the government medical officers who went on two days 'sick leave' and the post office workers as well as the sub-ordinate hospital employees whose strike nearly paralysed the island's health and postal services towards the end of last month. I am sure we still remember all too clearly the causes of those strikes for me to have to go into them now. Our young medical officers wanted pay increases. The post office workers wanted pay increases. The hospital sub-ordinate workers wanted pay increases. The Government's Expenditure Estimates did not give details of increases for these categories of workers and so they struck inspite of the fact that a block vote of £425,000 had been ear-marked for salary revision.

Any way the figures have now been made available. Instead of £425,000, the government proposes to spend £631,100 on salary revisions. The government subordinate workers will get the lion's share of this total. They will get a total of £326,400 which is a little more than half of the whole total. I think this is wise. I think it is at the very lowest level of income that the change is needed most. And I particularly welcome the fact that women workers in the lowest category will now get a minimum wage of £3 a week.

The next biggest amount out of the total will go to certain categories of civil servants whose share will be £134,260. These will mainly be the medical officers, public health inspectors and the staff of our prisons. The next big sum is earmarked for the Post Office workers. They will get a total of £103,435.

The lowest increase for any government subordinate worker on weekly pay will be 5/- a week in theory but in practice it looks as though it is more likely to be in the region of 10/- a week. In addition there will now be a

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

seniority allowance for people who have been earning the maximum pay possible under their grade for three years.

Among the daily paid workers the rate for unskilled labourers is up. Men who used to get 11/- and 11/6 and 12/6 a day, will now get between 12/6 and 14/- a day. Women workers who used to get 8/4 and 8/10 and 9/4 a day will now get 10/- and 10/6 a day.

From this you will see that the increase is all round, touching the lives of every section of the government's sub-ordinate workers.

But I think we will be greatly mistaken if we think that everybody is going to be happy about these increases. Many people will continue to be dissatisfied because I think the root of the problem has not been tackled.

If we think in terms of all-round salary increases for every branch of the government the figure will come to somewhere near a million pounds. Between 1958 and 1960 salary increases among our government workers also cost us near a million pounds. And the same was true in 1955. We have no reason to think the same may not be true when next year's budget comes up. We have a picture of wages going up at a fantastic rate. But people do not just demand wage increases for the fun of it. They demand wage increases because their standard of living has gone up - and that is not a bad thing - and also because they money they get cannot buy all the things they need. This is so because prices have gone up even faster than wages. And that, I think, is the key problem. On April 5th I told you how much less the same amount of money buys today compared with five or ten years ago. This simply means that prices have soared. I think the only way we can hope to stop this fantastic rise in wages is by stabilising the prices of the things we need to live. If this is not done we can expect another round of wage demands from civil servants and everybody else when next year's budget comes around. The problem of controlling prices is becoming urgent. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

No.97

1) A Jamaican Detergent ?
2) Back-O-Wall.

NEWS COMMENTARY
for Transmission on
Monday April 24th. at 6.15p.m.
Peter Abrahams speaking:

Good evening, I am back on the subject of detergents; and again it is by way of complaint. But first let us get the record straight

Some of you, especially those of you who are housewives, will remember that I first talked to you about the shortage of detergents on February the 10th. At that time it was hard for a housewife to get a packet of detergent anywhere because our imports had been restricted to protect our local soap market. I discussed both sides of the case at the time so I will not repeat it now. But you will remember that my own conclusion was that it was wrong to restrict the importing of detergents until we had our own local detergent industry which could satisfy the needs of our housewives.

As a result of that broadcast and as a result of a talk I had with someone in the government department concerned I was able, on March the 1st. to tell you that the government had decided to allow a 25% increase in the amount of detergents that could be brought into Jamaica. I also told you that it was expected that we would have our own detergent factory in operation within the next 12 to 18 months. So the shortage was eased a little and we could look forward to the day when we could buy our own locally produced detergents. That was what

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

I told you on the first of March.

Then, towards the end of last week, my wife returned from her shopping with a new detergent that I had not seen before. The brand name of this one was new to me and it was described as a Caribbean Product.

Now all housewives know that the price of the standard size imported detergent is 3/- a packet. This new one is very slightly smaller than the 3/- imported packet: I should say that it gives about half a cup-full less in the packet than the ~~most~~ popular imported brands. And yet it sells for 3/3 a packet. So you get less detergent in this new brand and you pay 3d more for your packet of it.

I should like to know a lot more about this new detergent? and if it is locally packaged why does it cost more than an imported packet?

It seems to me that somewhere along the line the poor housewife is being made a victim again. Government policy has created an artificial shortage and this is being cashed-in on with an attitude of you must either like it or lump it. I think the government owes the housewife a much better break that this on detergents.

And now on another important subject. There has been a lot of talk about the squalor and poverty among the people living in the Back-O-Wall district of Kingston Pen. So far it has been planning. Now the plans are being put into practice at the most important level of all. The citizens are taking action. The Christian Churches in Jamaica have got together and formed a committee and sent workers to Back-O-Wall, to do something practical. And the Governor has set a fine example of good citizenship by doing instead of talking. He has started an appeal towards building a day nursery for the little children in Back-O-Wall. He has given £25 out of his own pocket and I am glad to see that the JBC has followed the Governor's lead with £25 of their own. They will also back his appeal with ~~and~~ all the influence of this station, ~~and~~ I hope that every citizen will do the same. To me this is far more important than all the talking

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and the moaning and the warnings that we have been hearing recently. It is about time that we had deeds instead of all this flood of words. So let us act and show that we are all our brothers' keepers.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday April 25 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I think we can all agree that Mr. Manley's trip to the United States last week was a great personal triumph. I do not know of any other political leader in Jamaica - or in the West Indies for that matter - who would have commanded the respect and attention he received wherever he went. All the agencies of the United States government have received him with the respect and attention usually reserved for only very important heads-of-state. And I believe that he is the first West Indian leader to meet a President of the United States while he is in office.

And of course, this personal triumph of Mr. Manley's is likely to bring very concrete benefits to Jamaica in the months that are ahead of us. For instance, it looks very much as though the United States will buy more of our sugar. It looks too as though Jamaica and the West Indies will receive very much more serious and very much more favourable consideration when aid allocations are being made to Latin American and this part of the world. Manley has stressed Jamaica's basic needs for low-cost housing and an island-wide water-supply system and from what he has said it would seem that his points were very well taken and that Jamaica is likely to get aid for these two very important matters. And then of course, he has raised the question of migration, a point on which the Federal Prime Minister, Sire Grantley Adams, also had quite a bit to say towards the end of last week. Sir Grantley, you may remember, warned a gathering in Barbados that migration to Britain might come to an end this year. The next day Mr. Ian Macleod denied flatly that Britain had any plans to stop migration. But on Saturday Mr. Manley told

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a press conference in New York that there had been a demand in Britain to fix a quota for Jamaican immigrants. He pointed out that nobody had demanded a quota for Irishmen going to Britain, even though they are not British subjects. He said this demand for a quota was a colour thing and Jamaica was opposed to it. Just what was said about Jamaican migration to the United States is still shrouded in secrecy but I should be very surprised indeed if the Americans do not take another look at the question of letting more Jamaicans into the United States.

Mr. Manley made one very interesting and important statement which I think we should think about. He said Jamaica and the West Indies are an integral part of Latin America in term of geography and that the Caribbean should be included in the U.S. Government's long term aid programme. He went on to say that he saw no reason why an independent West Indies Federation should not be both inside the Commonwealth and inside the Organisation of American States. I find this statement most interesting. Up to now we have only thought of our external links in terms of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. There has been a tendency to turn our backs on Latin America. And yet it is right here with us while Europe and the Commonwealth countries are thousands of miles away. Just last week we saw how profoundly what happens in a Latin American country can affect us. So it is a good thing for us to adjust our outlook to the world in which we are. I hope Mr. Manley's statement starts us off on this important piece of adjustment. We are physically in the Latin American world, so let us face it. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday April 26 at 6.15 p.m.
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Algeria has been very much in the news over the past four or five days. Over the weekend we heard that French Army Generals had led a revolt against the Government of President de Gaulle. There was talk of French Algerian Paratroopers invaded France itself. The two key towns in Algeria, Algiers and Oran, were occupied by the rebels and at one stage earlier this week, it looked very much as though France would be in the grip of a full-scale Civil War. But the occupation of the two Algerian towns was very misleading because it made it seem as though the Generals in revolt had very much greater support than was the case. They certainly had the support of the majority of the white settlers, and Algiers and Oran have the largest number of white settlers. Indeed, there are actually more white settlers in Oran than there are Arabs. This gave the Generals in revolt the deceptive appearance of being all-powerful. And then, suddenly, last night, we heard that the revolt had collapsed like a deflated balloon.

What is behind all this? Why ~~are~~ were Frenchmen in North Africa planning to overthrow the government of France? Some of you may remember that the same sort of thing happened in January 1960 when the white settlers staged a revolt against the government of President de Gaulle. At that time Frenchmen killed Frenchmen in bloody street battles in the town of Algiers before the revolt was finally put down. ~~Now those in revolt seem to have won the day.~~

The story behind this revolt is the story of colonialism gone mad. As you know the war between the Algerian nationalists and the French government is now in its seventh year. The Algerians are fighting to free themselves from French rule. Last year de Gaulle tried to bring this war to an end because he saw that the days of colonialism were over and France could not crush the Algerian

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nationalists. So he offered to talk peace, no doubt with the idea of salvaging whatever he could. But de Gaulle reckoned without the white settlers of Algeria. They wrecked his peace plan last year; and now, this year, just as it seemed that the Arab nationalist leaders and the French government would get together over the conference table, they have done it again. The white settlers of Algeria would rather see blood flowing in both France and Algeria, they would rather see France in flames, than give up the rare privileges and powers they enjoy as white settlers in Africa. In this there is no difference between them and the white South Africans: they and the white South Africans and the white settlers of the Rhodesias are tainted and corrupted by the same racialist disease.

Algeria has a population of ten millions: nine millions are Arabs and one million are French settlers. Like the white settlers further down the continent, many of the Algerian whites have been there for generations. They have, like their opposite numbers in South Africa, grown up with colour discrimination and racial arrogance against all who are not white. The vast majority of them would not fit into an independent Algeria, and to go back to France would mean a fantastic drop in their standard of living and a loss of all the privileges that white settlers get in colour bar countries. And so they would destroy France itself rather than accept independence for Algeria. This, I think, proves once again just how colonialism can and does destroy decency amd morality even among those who enjoy its benefits. Even its beneficiaries can end up as enemies of progress and agents of chaos, which is what is happening in France and Algeria today. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday April 27 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: At midnight last night Africa and the Commonwealth and the world welcomed the emergence of yet another indpendent African nation: Sierra Leone has now joined the fast-growing number of independent African states. At the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference - where South Africa left the Commonwealth - Sierra Leone's application for membership was aceepted and so her Commonwealth membership is already assured. And of course there is no question about her membership of the United Nations. It is most likely that Britain will sponsor her membership there and then we will hear yet another new African voice in the councils of the world.

Sierra Leone's journey to this point has spanned a period of 150 years as a British Colony and a British Protectorate. But before taking a quick look at its history, let us see what the place looks like. My last visit to Sierra Leone was at the end of 1954, just before I came to Jamaica.

By sea /you approach the country by way of Freetown, the capital, which has one of the finest natural harbours in the world. And as you approach the harbour is dotted by large numbers of tiny little boats which go shooting through the water at fantastic speeds, one or two oarsmen in each little boat. Little boys will invite you to throw money into the water and will show you their beautiful teeth in wide African smiles that make it seem as if all the world's sunshine has been caught in their laughing eyes. And if you throw a coin into the water they will dive and streak after it like fish. For my money, they are just about the best swimmers I have ever seen. And beyond the harbour you will see the hills rolling away. They do not rise to

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the same heights as Jamaica's mountains, but they are lush and green and beautiful. And Freetown will remind you of Spanish Town: they both have the same air about them. The only difference is that Freetown gets more rain than Spanish Town: when it rains there it really rains and there is an average rainfall of about 150 inches a year.

Until quite recently Sierra Leone was divided into a Colony and a Protectorate. The colony was the coast strip where in 1787 400 freed African slaves who had been rescued from slave ships by the British navy were settled. They began what became known as the Creole society of Freetown. The Protectorate occupied more than four-fifths of the 27,925 square miles that make up the country and more than 90% of the people were in the Protectorate. For a time the Creoles in the colony despised the people of the Protectorate as 'bush natives' and had no time for them. But then, in the 1930s a nationalist movement with a strong trade union base was started by Wallace Johnson. In fact Wallace Johnson was one of the earliest crusaders for West African independence. His work began the process of bringing the colony and the protectorate together. And today the Prime Minister of independent Sierra Leone, Sir Milton Margai, is a man who came originally from the protectorate, from the so-called 'bush natives'.

Sierra Leone has a population of close on 3,000,000 people. It is bordered by Liberia to the south and Guinea to the north. It is fairly rich in minerals and produces large quantities of diamonds. Basically it is a very mature and responsible society. Its people are hardworking and I think the future looks good for this newest of the independent African states. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday April 28 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you about the emergence of Sierra Leone as an independent African state. This has been a peaceful and orderly process. After 150 years of colonial rule the representativ of Sierra Leone and those of Britain met peacefully and worked out a new constitution and a new form of association. There was no need for violence and bloodshed and so there was none. But it is an odd thing that even with independence a few days away there were people trying to make trouble in the country. And Sierra Leone's Prime Minister, Sir Milton Margai had to have them locked up. There are always people who do not believe that independence is real unless there is some violence and bloodshed. These people seem to have a sort of religious belief in the processes of violence even where they are not needed. They do not seem to believe that you can have a revolution without violence and bloodshed. And no amount of history seems to teach them anything. And yet Sierra Leone's revolution is a bloodless one; and so was Nigeria's and so was Ghana's. In the early days Nkrumah had similar trouble to that faced by Sierra Leone and he too had to lock up some of the people who plotted violence and unrest. The most responsible African leaders are not drunk with an irresponsible lust for violence, especially where they can achieve all they want without the use of violence. This is something we in Jamaica should understand.

But there are situations and countries where peaceful change does not seem possible, where the colonialist or the tyrant is unwilling to give up his stranglehold without a fight. South Africa is such a country; Algeria (about which I talk on Wednesday) is another, and

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Angola on the south-west coast of Africa is another. Angola has suddenly come into the news with horrifying reports of whites killing Africans and Africans killing whites. Here the revolution is definitely not peaceful. So the question come up: why a peaceful change in one place and bloodshed and violence in another: peace in Sierra Leone, violence in Angola?

Where you have a great tyranny you are bound to have violence when the day of reckoning comes, and the Angolan tyranny is in some ways worse than that of South Africa. The Portuguese have been in Angola since 1482 - which ten years earlier than Columbus's journey which brought him to Jamaica. Under slavery Angola's biggest industry was the export of slaves. Angola is known as the 'mother of Brazil' because she exported so many slave to that country. In time she exported more slaves than West Africa. And when slavery ended she carried on with forced labour which is just another form of slavery: and this has been going on to this very day. The government rounds up and farms out Africans as though they are cattle. About half a million Africans are used as slave labour every year. No politics are allowed. Any protest is put down violently. The result is that this vast country with its great natural resources is desperately under-developed. Its people are miserably poor and its population has been greatly reduced by Portuguese contempt for human life. And so, in the changing Africa of today, the people of Angola see the only way out of their misery by way of violence. Unlike the British, the Portuguese have made a peaceful change impossible. They are completely responsible for the violence and bloodshed in Angola today. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday April 29 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I think we now have more ammunition with which to carry on the debate about the 'Have' and the 'Have-nots'. But it looks to me very much as though Mr. Eddie Seaga's attack is going to suffer the same fate as th people who tried to invade Cuba last week. The government paper which Mr. Manley laid on the table of the House of Representatives on Tuesday of this week gives a very detailed and a very careful answer to Mr. Seaga's charges that the 'Haves' are getting richer and the'Have-nots' are getting poorer. I think that anybody who reads that document with any care, anybody who studies and checks these figures, will come to the conclusion that Mr. Seaga has been proved wrong and that he has been given a real statistical licking on his own grounds. But please do not take my word for this: get hold of this paper and read it for yourselves. Indeed, I hope that the government's Public Relations Office will print vast numbers of this paper and make it available to the public free of charge. Or, better still, I hope someone in that Department will write a popular and more easily undertsood version of that paper for the general public. I think we ought to take this debate out of the hands of the experts and pass it on to the people so that they can judge for themselves just who was right and who was wrong and just what the true facts are. This, I am sure, would be a very good thing for the whole society.

But till you get around to reading it, let me give you a brief summary of this whole debate. You will remember that it was on Friday April 7th that Mr. Seaga took part in the State-of-the-Nation

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debate in Legco, and dropped his bombshell (or so it seemed at the time) about the 'Haves' and the 'Have-nots'. He described people earning over £300 a year as the 'Haves' and people earning less than £300 a year as the 'Have-nots'. He said that in the financial year 1958/1959 the 'Haves' had earned £8½ million more than the year before; the 'Have-nots' on the other hand, had earned £3½ million less than than the year before. If his figures were true this meant that the rich were getting richer and the poor were getting poorer and the gap between rich and poor was getting wider. I commented on Mr. Seaga's figures on Monday April 10th and Tuesday April 11th. I called on Mr. Seaga to publish for us just how he arrived at his figures. I also called on the government to either deny or confirm these figures. As was to be expected, many people tried to make political capital out of these figures. And now the government has published its reply.

It proves flatly that even when using Mr. Seaga's own methods, his figures are wrong. These figures show that between 1958 and 1959 the 'Have-nots' earned over £5 million more than the year before. In the same period the 'Haves' earned less than £2,750,000 more. This is a fantastically different picture from Mr. Seaga's. And here we are shown the way in which the figures are arrived at - something Mr. Seaga did not do. As I read this document I remembered that one leading member of Mr. Seaga's party had privately expressed the fear that these figures of his might boomerang and hurt the J.L.P. I am inclined to agree now, because this document does very much more than just answer Mr. Seaga's case. It makes a case of its own to prove that the gap between the 'Haves' and the 'Have-nots' is in fact closing, and that more have-nots are becoming haves than ever before. But please read this document for yourself. It is very important. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday May 1st at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Today is May Day and throughout the world ~~xxx~~ this day is celebrated with meetings and demonstrations of organised workers. Indeed, all that most people know about May Day is that it is the day on which the workers of the world show their strength and solidarity: this is particularly so in the eastern European countries. But of course May Day is very much more than just labour day. In Literature May is the month of flowers. In India this day was celebrated with festivals of flowers since the dawn of history. In ancient Rome May was the third month of the Roman year and there too the first day of May was a gala day of flowers and dancing. In Britain too the pattern was the same. May day has, since the beginning of man's history, been a time of flowers and celebration and dancing and loving. So, in the ancient as well as in the modern spirit, I wish you a happy May Day of fun and laughter, of flowers and song.

Now for a less cheerful reality. There has been much fanfare about the fact that the Americans will try to put a man into space tomorrow. This has led me to think that in some ways the Americans are their own worse enemies at times. When the Russians put their man into space we only heard about it afterwards. There was no advance publicity; there was no fanfare, no beating of drums. Indeed, some experts believe that Major Gagarin was not the first man to be shot into space. They believe that someone else was shot into space before Gagarin and that that attempt either failed or the first man was killed or so badly smashed up that the Russians do not want the rest of the world to know about it. We may never know whether this is just a

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rumour or whether there is some truth in it. The point is: the Russians did not make a song and dance about shooting a man into space until after Gagarin was back on the earth. If the Gagarin attempt had failed there might have been rumours. But no-one except the Russians would have known for sure. Tomorrow's attempt by the Americans, on the other hand, is something all the world knows about. If it fails, it will be a public failure about which everybody will know: and so it will become another public defeat for the United States in its scientific contest with Russia. And if it succeeds the impact on world opinion will not be half as great as that of the Russians because there has been too much advance publicity. Many people will say that all this publicity is because the American press is free while that of Russia is controlled. But I do not think that is all the reason. I think there can be a total news blackout on something really important if the need for it is seen. This was proved during the last world war. In their own interests, I think the Americans <u>needed</u> a news blackout until after tomorrow's space attempt.

Finally, Jamaica's own National Bank opened for business this morning. This is not something dramatic, but it is more important than many much more dramatic events. No country is really free until it has complete control of its own money, until it can make its own money rules. This Jamaica can now do with the coming of the national bank. The Bank of Jamaica will make the rules and set the pattern for all the island's banking business, and this, in the long run, is going to be of vital importance for the growth and economic health of this country. I think this bank is the most fitting memorial to the great work done for Jamaica by the late Noel Nethersole. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday May 2 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The Federal Constitution Conference which opened in Port-of-Spain this morning is by far the most important of all the Federal Conferences we have had so far. The future of the entire British Caribbean area may be decided for generations to come at this conference. I think we in Jamaica sometimes tend to forget that what we decide on Federation is not only going to affect Jamaica but is bound to affect all the other islands of the West Indies. I think we sometimes forget that Jamaica is at least half of the West Indies Federation. I think we often tend to say that our position inside or outside the Federation is our business and our business alone. When we discuss federation and whether Jamaica should stay in or get out we do it in the light of Jamaican interests only. I am not saying that we should not do this. Every country, every people, has a right to think of its own interests first. What I am saying is that in the process of thinking of our own interests we should also try to understand and know how our own interests can affect others.

For instances, in all the discussion on federation that I have listened to I have been struck by the fact that hardly anybody in Jamaica has given so much as a passing thought to what would happen to the other islands if Jamaica either stayed in or left the federation. We have argued about what would happen to Jamaica if she stayed in; and we have argued about what would happen to Jamaica if she left the Federation. Of course, what would happen to the other islands need not necessarily make us change our minds one way or the other. But at least I think we should try to know all the implications of our actions, and I think we should try to get an idea of the kind

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of responsibility history and the future will put on our shoulders for the results of what we decide. This is something we cannot escape. We may think we can escape it. We may try to escape it by shutting our eyes to it. But history is a harsh and brutal judge and the future will hold us responsible for all our deeds. I think this is something many of us have deliberately ignored here in Jamaica.

Eric Williams, Trinidad's Premier, has said flatly that there can be no federation without Jamaica. To him federation without Jamaica is an impossibility. This view of Eric Williams' has gained a lot of support in the other islands in recent months. And this, I think, is likely to be reflected in the conference which opened this morning. There are a lot of people in Jamaica who do not share this view. They say that Trinidad and the other islands of the Eastern Caribbean can very well federate and make a success of it without Jamaica. Some of them hold this view sincerely, others just put it forward as a trick political argument. But whether they are sincere or not, they all use this argument. I think that against this argument we must pose another: I think we should all ask ourselves one frank question. If Eric Williams is right (and I think he is right), if there can be no federation without Jamaica, are we prepared to leave the federation and accept fully the responsibility for destroying it? If we are prepared to take that responsibility then the matter is settled. But this is a matter we must face frankly and honestly and make up our minds about while this crucial conference is going on. A responsible people must take responsibility for the results of their action and whatever we decide will affect 1½ million other West Indians as well as the people of Jamaica. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday May 3 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you that I thought the conferemm on the federal constitution which opened in Port-of-Spain yesterday morning is the most important of all federal conferences which have taken place so far. I also told you that we in Jamaica should face the fact that whatever we decide about federation in Jamaica will not only affect Jamaica. If we stay in the federation it will affect all the other nine islands of the Eastern Caribbean. If we decide to get out of the Federation it will also affect all the other nine islands. So, although it is our personal national decision, what we decide will in fact have as great a bearing on the future of the people of the nine other islands as on the people of Jamaica.

Let us just take a look at how this could work. As I told you last night, Eric Williams is convinced that Federation would be impossible without Jamaica. At his weekly press conference last Saturday he made it clear that Trinidad would consider the whole federal structure destroyed if Jamaica left. So, if Jamaica left it is very likely that Trinidad would see the position as being hopeless and there would be no federation. Of all the islands, only Jamaica and Trinidad - and possibly Barbados - are able to achieve independence on their own. For all the seven other smaller islands independence and nationhood would become an impossibility. None of them have either the material resources or the populations to achieve indpendence on their own. And so they will be condemned to a state of permanent dependence as little colonial islands. And whether we like it or not our decision will have contributed to this state of affairs. We will have played a major part in putting them where they

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are. And history will hold us responsible for doing so, whether we try to deny the responsibility or not.

But please do not misunderstand me. I am not using this as an argument ~~xxxfxxx~~ to persuade you in favour of federation. I am simply trying to show you how what we decide and how we act can profoundly affect the future of the people of the other islands. I am simply saying that we must take the responsibility for what we do. We may decide that we do not give a fig for the independence and nationhood of the people of the other nine islands. That is our right. But at least let us make such a decision consciously, knowing just what it means/ for others as well as for us.

Now for the second reason why this conference is so crucial. It is the last one before the West Indies becomes an independent nation. If agreement is worked out in Port-of-Spain during the next ten to fourteen days, the islands will draft a new constitution based on the changes Jamaica has asked for. Here the main problems are the old ones of whether there should be a strong federal centre or a weak one. All the indications are that Trinidad will urge all the other islands to meet Jamaica more than halfway on this as well as on the question of taxation and customs union. If agreement is reached on these matters then a final meeting will be held in London towards the end of this month to work out a West Indies Indpendence bill with the British government. Then we will be on the threshold of full independence. And Jamaica will have her special appointment with history when she decides her future and that of all the others with the Referendum. My guess is that that special date with history will be sometime in September or October of this year. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday May 4 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The new Shops Regulations will come into being on the 15th of this month. These regulations are made under the Shops and Offices Law of 1957 and the main point of these new regulations is to formalise and set out clearly the work hours of people working as shop assistants throughout Jamaica.

The regulations confirm the principle of a 44-hour week for all shop assistants and lays down the basic hours of work for all shop assistants other than those working in airport shops and pharmacies. In all shops in the island, except Balaclava, , all shops will normally open at eight o'clock in the morning and close at four o'clock in the afternoon. In Balaclava the hours will be from seven in the morning until five in the afternoon. I should like to know why the poor shop assistants in Balaclava must work a longer day than those in the rest of the island. But eight to four is the basic pattern of the working day. There is, however, a difference for Saturday and for the one half-day a week to which all shop assistants are entitled.

For the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, for Morant Bay, St. Ann's Bay, Brown's Town, Porus, Linstead, Old Harbour - for all these areas Saturday opening is from eight o'clock in the morning till nine o'clock at night. In Port Maria Saturday opening will be from eight in the morning till seven in the evening. In Annotto Bay, Oracabessa, Richmond, Highgate and Spanish Town Saturday opening will be from eight in the morning to eight at night.

In Port Antonia, Falmouth, Montego Bay, Lucea, Green Island, Mandeville, Christiana, Chapelton and Spaldings Saturday opening is from 8 - 6

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In Savlamar and Black River Saturday opening will be from eight in the morning to five in the evening; and in Frankfield and May Pen it will be from eight in the morning to six in the evening. And again in this lot I find Balaclava standing out. Bàaclava's shops will be open from seven in the morning till nine at night on Saturdays. They seem to believe in a really long working day in Balaclava.

The half day when shops open at eight and close at twelve is either Wednesday or Thursday everywhere on the island.

I think everybody will agree that this is a very much more reasonable set-up for the shop assitants. And I personally have come across no employers who have complained about it. But I understand that there are point about the new shop Regulations that the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce is not too happy about. They do not quarrel with the 44-hour week but they do feel it is a mistake for the government to be so rigid about about the opening and closing hours. Some members of the Chamber feel, for instance, that it would be better to have Friday night as the night when shops stay open till nine o'clock instead of Saturday. They say Saturday night is considered as the night for going out and for entertainment and not the night for shopping, whereas Friday night is a good shopping night. They also feel that what should be regulated is the number of hours a shop assistant works rather than the time the shop is permitted to stay open. This they feel would give the shopping public a better service. Some complain that the pharmacies are getting a better deal but I am not sure I buy this. Anyway, there it is: from the 15th of this month shop assistants will have a much better deal than before. But why the special hours in the case of Balaclava. I really am curious.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday May 5 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Two Jamaican bodies held their annual meetings yesterday and at both the question of population came up. In a speech read for him at the Farquharson Institute (formerly the Jamaica Imperial Institute) Sir Robert Kirkwood dealt with "The Outlook for Jamaica" and the problems presented by overpopulation in Jamaica. And in his Presidential Speech to the annual meeting of the Jamaica Manufacturers Association meeting which also took place yesterday, Mr. Aaron Matalon also touched on the same subject. Dealing with the problem of unemployment and under-employment Mr. Matalon suggested two approaches which might help solve the problem: First, a more progressive, modern and dynamic approach to the development of the agricultural potential of the country and second, a government-backed and well organised programme to educate the people in the need for planned parenthood to try and keep down the population growth.

This is of course the sort of talk that Mrs. Beth Jacobs and Miss May Farquharson have been carrying on for years. Indded these two ladies as well as some others, have more than just talked. They have set up centres where people can be advised on what is known as planned parenthood. But the enemies of planned parenthood call it birth control and they have somehow succeeded in making this sound like a swear expression. The catholics oppose birth-control on religious grounds. And there are people in Jamaica who say that it is a conspirac to kill the Negro.

Now what are the facts about this birth control argument? How do we begin to make sense out of all these conflicting views on the subject. First let us see how real what the scientists call this

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"population explosion" is.

At the time when Jesus Christ walked the earth, it was estimated that there were about 200 million people on our earth. For the following 1,800 years the figure remained the same: for all that time - nearly 2,000 years the average population of the world remained roughly the same 200 million people. Plagues, epidemics and wars and natural death kept it at that level. In those days more babies died at birth than they do today and people did not live as long as they do today. Then, round about the 1850s, with the coming of better health services, with the industrial revolution, with the advance of science, with the improvements in methods of producing food - but above all with the improvement in medical care, the world's population suddenly shot up. From 200 millions it went up to 1,000 millions in something like under fifty years. And then, in 1930 it shot past the 2,000 million mark. And now, by the end of this year, the world's population will be more than 3,000 million people. At this rate the world's population is doubling itself every thirty years. And they say unless something is done about it we might soon reach a point where there is not enough food to feed all the people on earth And they warn that if we keep on at this rate there may be standing room only in less than a thousand years from now.

This is the population problem. It is not just a Jamaican problem It is a world problem. And the places where the populations are growing fastest, oddly enough, are among the underdeveloped countries: Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean. I think it is against this background, against a world background, that we should look at what is known as the population explosion. If we don't we are likely to fall into the foolish trap of seeing it as a political problem. It is not. It is one of the most urgent problems facing all mankind. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday May 6 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: As a rule I ignore letters from listeners if the writer does not sign his or her name, because it seems to me that people should show the courage of their convictions by signing their names. They can always ask me not to broadcast the name and I will certainly respect such a request. But every now and then something very important comes up and this rule of mine has to be broken. One of the letters I received from listeners this week has made me break this rule. Let me read part of the letter for you: this is it:

"In 1959 certain local air traffic controllers had to resign and seek more rewarding employment. The number of resignations were at the most four, and government entered into a contract with International Aeradio for the sum of over £16,000 per annum whereby six English Controllers were recruited to replace and bolster local staff.

"The contract was for two years during which time fourteen local people were recruited and trained in England and Canada. Today at least seven are rated approach and aerodrome Controllers, the others have yet to be rated.

"Now, on the expiration of the contract government has provided no less than £28,000 for another batch of International Aeradio controllers for another two-year period. I am not the person who makes decisions on staffing. I am junior but any staff member knowing the number of local controllers, and the shift basis we use, knows we could manage now without these contract officers, let alone more.

"The salary for local controllers is comparatively very low. The scale is £550 x 25 - £575; efficiency bar, then £610 x 30 -£710; efficiency bar then £800 x 40 - £920 x 40 - £1,040. Then there is

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the supervisory post with a starting salary of £1,100 going up to £1,300. The most junior of the contract officers receive £1,500 per annum with allowances. These are not more experienced in the main, not higher rated and have identical responsibilities as local officers. I personally, with the same aerodrome and approach ratings, and about two years experience, am getting approximately one-third of what is being paid to my counterpart for the same job of work.

"Government has not reacted favourably to representations on our behalf, yet this year, 1961-62, £28,000 is provided for this redundanee of contract officers. Can we help being suspicious seeing that the head of our department is another Englishman on contract? Can the Minister of Communications and Works be that useless? I mean no disrespect. Half the money could have regraded the salaries of local officers. One hardly needs mentioning the high cost of living in Jamaica, but can you imagine a controller with a family in Kingston having to run another house in Montego Bay of all places on £550 per ann

"If normal representations fail what channels are there left open to us? Must we also step down to strike action or shall we resign and make way for more contracts?.... Is our devaluation due to our race or nationality? It certainly is not our work."

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the bulk of the letter which made me break my rule about unsigned letters. The writer calls himself 'LOcally Frustrated'. I think what he has put forward is very serious and very important. This sort of think makes for more bitterness than all the so-called trouble-makers. I hope the Ministry of Communications will take a really close look at this thing and do something about it if these charges are true. To ignore this sort of thing is to invite trouble. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday May 8 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last Friday morning was a very big for the United States and for 37-year-old U.S. Navy Commander Alan Shepard: on that day the U.S. finally shot a man into space and Alan Shepard was that man. You have all heard the details of that flight over this station so there is not much point in my going over them again. Instead, let us try and see what this flight into space means, and what differences there were between Shepard's flight of last Friday morning and Gagarin's flight of April 12th.

Let me confess frankly that my first and strongest reaction was one huge sigh of relief when Alan Shepard stepped safely out of his space capsule on board an American aircraft carrier. Up to that point I was almost numb with tension. The whole operation had been carried out in the full glare of publicity, with hundreds of pressmen, radio men and television cameras focussed on the event from start to finish. If anything had gone wrong it would have been under the bright searchlight of world publicity. You may remember that I talked about this fanfare of publicity on Monday of last week. The space shot was supposed to take place on Tuesday but it had to be postponed twice because of the weather. All this received a wave of publicity. The enemies of the United States were poised to rip it to pieces if the attempt failed. And so my first reaction was one of monumental relief that the United States effort did not fail.

The first difference then, between the American shot and the Russian shot is this fact: we all know about ~~it.~~ the American flight. We heard the flight from the moment of launching till the moment the capsule dropped into the sea. We do not have to take anybody's word for it. There is no

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question but that it was Shepard who made America's first attempt. There can be no rumours about someone else having been shot up first who failed or was killed ~~xxxxx~~ or seriously injured in the attempt. And remember the rumour that another Russian had gone up before Gagarin and had been seriously injured, had not been put out by enemies of Russia. ~~This~~ story had been put out by the London Daily Worker, the paper of the British communist party whose correspondent in Moscow sent the story to the paper. So it cannot be dismissed as propaganda by Russia's enemies. So that is one thing: the first American attempt is clearcut and decisive, there can be no doubt or argument about it because it was a public affair, witnessed by millions on television and over the radio. It was also witnessed by international space representatives from other countries. The Russian shot, on the other hand, was carried out in secrecy and we only know what the Russians want us to know about it. On this point I think the Americans score heavily over the Russians.

The Russians score heavily over the Americans by the fact that their space shot lasted longer and also circled the earth whereas that of the Americans was a straight up-and-down shot lasting only some fifteen minutes. But this again is mitigated by the fact that we only have the word of the Russians for the nature of their achievement, though I myself am convinced that they did circle the earth.

Finally, where the Americans scored really heavily was in the fact that at a certain point in his flight Shepard took over the controls of his ship out there on the edge of outer space. This is the big new achievement. The Russian just sat, controlled from the earth. The American took command and steered his ship. This, I think, is a very real and important new advance in the conquest of space.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday May 9 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I drew up a sort of rough balance sheet comparing the Russian and American space shots. The key points that emerged were: first, the secrecy in which the Russian shot was made and the publicity in which the American shot was made, with the result that some people have doubts and questions about the Russian claims. But I think it would be foolish and a sign of rabid prejudice for anybody to try and make out that the Russians did not put a man in orbit round the earth. I think it is pretty conclusive that they did. Whether Gagarin was in fact the first man or only the first man to be put up successfully, that is a different question and one on which we may never know all the facts. Certainly, the London Daily Worker shows an almost doglike devotion to Russian interests and it has said that another Russian was shot up and was gravely injured. So, as I said, we will never really know: or, perhaps we will in time.

Second, and this I told you I thought was very important, America's Alan Shepard actually took control of his ship, guided it and turned it on the edges of outer space. The Russians themselves said that their ship was guided and controlled from the earth at all time. In this particular respect the Americans have demonstrated a clear superiority. But let us not over-rate this small edge of superiority. I am sure the next time the Russians make a shot their pilot will also be able to guide and control his ship.

Having said all that, let us admit that the Russians are still ahead of the Americans in space flight. The successful American shot has been a great boost for morale but it certainly does not mean that the Americans have caught up with the Russians yet. I do expect,

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however, that they will now make an all-out effort to do so.

One point about the American space shot which has struck me forcibly was the Russian attitude to it. You will remember that on the day that the Russians announced their space shot the entired world showered lavish praise on them. Within an hour of the Russian announcement of the great achievement President Kennedy sent a warm message of lavish praise and congratulations to Mr. Khrushchev. The Russian Premier,on the other hand, waited until the day after the flight before sending his message of congratulations to Kennedy. And then, at a public meeting later, he tried to minimise the American achievement. This, I think, was unfortunate. It suggests a pettiness and mean-mindedness which is unworthy of the leader of so great a country. I think Khrushchev would have looked bigger and won more respect if he had at least shown the same bigness of spirit that Kennedy did when the Russians put their man into space. And as the leaders in space flight the Russians could afford to show a generosity of spirit. I personally was very disappointed by Mr. Khrushchev's reaction.

Finally, it would seem that some people in the United States felt just as I did about all the publicity before the space shot. Mr. Kennedy dealt with this subject at his press conference after the flight. He said it was the press people who set up all the publicity who were the critics. He said this sort of thing goes on all the time in a free society. It is part of a free society and to destroy it we would have to destroy the freedom of the society, and this the Americans did not want. I still feel that you can have both freedom and restraint. Indeed, freedom without restraint soon degenerates into decadence. There could have been a great deal of restraint before the Shepard flight without interfering with the freedom of the press.

Goodnight

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday May 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I think it is time we briefly review what has happened at the Federal Constitution Conference in Port-of-Spain so far. As you know the conference is now in its second week and so far it has been going very much as I suggested it might when I spoke to you on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Eric Williams has come out firmly in support of the Jamaican stand in spite of the fact that this meant Trinidad had to give way on some important issues.

Jamaica has won the conference's approval for her stand that representation in the Federal Parliament should be on the basis of population and so Jamaica will have 31 out of the 64 seats in the new Federal Parliament. And on Friday of last week, after a tense debate, the conference accepted Jamaica's proposal that matters concerning income tax and industrial development should be in the control of the Unit Governments. In this debate Trinidad threw all her weight behind Jamaica. The result was that all the Unit Territories followed suit and the vote was 10 to 1 in favour of the Jamaican stand. Only the Federal Government opposed the proposal. I think this was one of the biggest defeats ever suffered by Sir Grantley Adams in his whole political career. Even Barbados, Sir Grantley's own island, voted against him. This, I am sure, must have hurt very badly. And the bitterness with which Sir Grantley attacked Jamaica and his threat to reveal private letters he had received from Mr. Manley, must be put down to the fact that he was very badly hurt by that defeat. Indeed, I am not sure that we are not witnessing the beginning of the end of Sir Grantley Adams as a giant on the West

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Indian political scene. It is the first time, since he became the Federal Prime Minister, that the representatives of every single Unit of the Federation has voted against the views of Sir Grantley Adams. And this, whether we like it or not, is a clear vote of no confidence by the representatives of all 10 of the islands making up the Federation. This is a very sad moment for a man who had the courage to come forward when all the other leaders held back. And I have a great respect for the loyalty to Sir Grantley shown by Mr. Robert Bradshaw, the Federal Minister of Finance. Many a smaller man would have seen the signs and deserted his chief. But sad as it may be on a personal and human level, as a political fact the West Indies representatives in Trinidad have decided that the Federation needs a new direction and a new leadership for independence. Just what will happen to Sir Grantley is still in the lap of the gods, but there has been a lot of talk of making him the first native Governor-General. I don't think we can do less for him.

Now for a word about the J.L.P's call for a referendum before the London Conference at the end of this month. This has been labelled as a political trick. I don't think there is anything wrong with political tricks to push your own views. The J.L.P. knows that it would suit it to have a vote now. It is likely to suit the P.N.P. to have the referendum after the independence constitution has been worked out. The P.N.P. will then have something solid to offer the country. So the J.L.P. prefers the vote now. This is reasonable political manoeuvre. But I think the J.L.P. has left it too late. They should have made this move months ago. Now it is constitutionally impossible and so there is no way in which they can force the government's hand. This again shows up the lack of planning on the part of the opposition. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday ~~Friday~~ May 12 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am sure that we are all relieved that the strike on our waterfront ended today. As you know, the strike was in its second week and if a settlement had not been achieved today the country might have been faced with some hard and difficult days. Flour was running desperately short and there was a danger of all our bakeries closing down. The merchants were complaining bitterly of their good being held up on the wharves, and when there was talk of a shortage of medical supplies the dockers immediately undertook to unload all medical supplies freely. Anyway, the strike is over and the crisis has been averted for the time being.

Now what are we to make of this strike?

It started on the 30th of April when 32 dockers refused to carry on unloading the Japanese ship,Nippoh Maru, when mechanical forks were brought in to lift cargo from the holds of the ship. The 32 men refused to work until the machines were removed. The ship's agent then suspended the men on the spot and reported the matter to the Shipping Association who endorsed the suspension of the men until they had appeared before the Disciplinary Committee of the Association. This was the thing that set off the whole strike. Other dockers stopped work in support of their 32 fellow workers.

On May the 8th the Government set up a Tribunal at the request of the workers' representatives to look into the dispute and to determine and settle it. It was expected that once the Tribunal had been set up the dockers would go back to work. But on May the 9th Dr. Ivan Lloyd, the senior Minister of government ~~published a statement~~ in the absence of Mr. Manley and other minister, published

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a statement setting out the government's position as the dockers had not returned to work after the announcement of the Tribunal. This failure of the workers to return, Dr. Lloyd said,had created a new situation and he warned that the government may have to act if the union leaders could not persuade the workers to return to work immediately. So serious did the situation look that Mr. Glasspole left the Federal Conference in Port-of-Spain yesterday and came home to be on hand. And then, this morning, the workers heeded Dr. Lloyd's advice and returned to work.

The Tribunal will investigate the case of the 32 suspended men and the dockers insist that they will only work on ships where no mechanical loading tools are used. So we come back to the fact that right at bottom this is a strike against the use of machines. It is a strike against a form of mechanisation. I think we should not overlook the significance of this fact.

There is no question but that mechanisation would result in a faster turn about of ships: they would be unloaded much more quickly, costs would be lowered - all of which would be very good for business. But naturally, the workers are concerned with their interests and to them mechanisation is a very real threat: at best it could mean a drop in their earnings; at worse it could mean the laying off of a number of men and so a swelling in our already bad unemployment situation. It seems to me that the great warning of this strike is that we cannot shut our eyes to the challenge of mechanisation. I think it is time government, the workers and the employers set about working out a national policy on the urgent question of the use of machines. Goodnight

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
~~Thursday~~ Friday May 12 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: When I spoke on the new shopping regulations on Thursday of last week I made a certain assumption. I assumed that these regulations had been worked out with some care by the Ministry of Labour before being given the force and authority of law. I assumed that the Ministry had gone through the usual routine of first finding out the views of all the interested parties and that it had then worked out what seemed to it the fairest compromise, reflecting the wishes of both the workers and the employers, and with the Ministry keeping a look out for the interests of the shopping public. I assumed that there would be some complaints on both sides, since you are never able to satisfy the detailed demands of two opposing sides if you are in the middle. But I thought there would also be a general acceptance of the basic proposals. What has happened suggests that I have been wrong in making this assumption. Both the workers and the employers are bitterly opposed to the new shop regulations which are due to come into operation on the 15th of this month. And the one point on which both workers and employers are most bitter in opposing the Ministry is on the question of the late opening of shops on Saturday nights. Here there seems to be a united front of workers and employers against the Ministry. The reasons why the employers oppose late Saturday night opening are different from those of the workers. The employers think Saturday night is a bad shopping night. They are concerned with business. The workers, on the other hand, do not want to spend their Saturday nights serving behind counters until 9p.m. They are concerned with having a decent break from work and with

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having something of a decent weekend.

It would therefore seem that if the Ministry of Labour had consulted both the workers and the employers' representatives this they would have found out just how unpopular this question of late Saturday opening was to both sides; and all this fuss and bother would then not have needed to come up at all. The Chamber of Commerce would not have had to issue a statement protesting against the regulations and yesterday's meetings and demonstrations and protests on the part of the workers need not have taken place.

It seems to me that our Ministry of Labour has messed up this particular matter very badly. It seems to me that there has been some high-handed action by some person or persons in that Ministry who thought they knew all the answers and did not need to consult anybody. And yet the machinery for consultation is there. The Ministry could have called in representatives of both the workers and the employers, told them that new shopping regulations were going to be put forward, and asked their views on the proposals. Then, in the light of the views of both sides, the proposed regulations could have been amended and adjusted so that what both sides opposed could have been got rid of (and this would have included late Saturday opening), and a compromise proposal could have been worked out based on the views and desires of both sides. That is what should have been done in the first place without any pushing. This, I think, will now be done, but only after protests and pushing which should not have been needed in the first place if the Ministry had not been so high-handed. I hope the Ministry of Labour and the officials concerned have learned their lesson. People are entitled to be consulted on what affects their working lives. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday May 13 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It was on April 24th that I told of Sir Kenneth Blackburne's gift of £25 to set off a fund to start a day nursery for the little children of Kingston Pen. You will remember that when I told you of this I said that this was an example of good citizenship and that it meant more than all the hot words that are now being tossed about. Many people are content to talk about the miserable conditions in which vast numbers of their fellow citizens live: few act - and the more they talk the less they do. I told you that for the churches had decided to follow Sir Kenneth's lead and do something. They set up a committee composed of representatives of all the various christian Churches in Jamaica to do social relief work in Kingston's West End. On Wednesday of this week that loose committee about which I talked to you on April 24th got down to the business of setting up a proper organisation with a clearly expressed aim: the committee describes itself and its activities as 'Operation Friendship'. It announced that the appeal started by Sir Kenneth Blackburne has now raised a sum of £760 and that this money will be used to establish a day nursery for the children of Kingston Pen immediately.

So the first target set by Sir Kenneth has been achieved and the churches are having a mighty hand in the business. I am very glad of this. I think this will bring the churches nearer to the people and it will bring the people nearer to the churches, and this is something that has been needed for a long time.

I think we should turn 'Operation Friendship' into a national

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movement spreading to every corner of Jamaica. It should be a movement of practical help. It should set up nurseries wherever they are needed. It should help with food and clothing, especially for the young. People in trouble should feel that there are friends to whom they can turn. And above all, it should be a movement bringing the people of this country closer together so that they should all have the sense of sharing a common citizenship and a common loyalty to Jamaica. One of our greatest problems in Jamaica is the fact that there are large numbers of people who feel that nobody cares about them. If 'Operation Friendship can get over this feeling, if this committee can spread the feeling through the land that we are all our brothers' keepers, I think they will make a major contribution to the future of this land and its people. Let the many bored middle-class ladies leave their morning bridge and coffee parties and go out among the poor and give a helping hand. Let our successful businessmen and merchants contribute a share of their profits to making sure that no child goes hungry or neglected. But please let me give one very serious warning. Operation Friendship cannot and will not solve all our social and economic problems. And certainly it would be better for anybody who gives help in a superior spirit of tossing away charity to stay away and keep his money. What is needed is genuine christian offering out of a sense of duty to our fellow men. This must not be charity but a great co-operative exercise in the Christian spirit of brotherhood. If Operation Friendship can help create this spirit then we will have the right climate to solve all our problems. That is the challenge of Operation Friendship. Can we rise to it?

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday May 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: A very important conference is now under way in Geneva, the capital of Switzerland in the heart of Europe. This is the 14-nation conference which will try to bring to an end the civil war which has been raging on and off in Laos since 1954. Some of you mat remember that I gave you a bit of a background picture of Laos and its history on March the 27th and 28th. I told you then that Loas is roughly the size of Great Britain but that it has a population which is only a little over two millions. I also told you that the civil war there has been going on for something like seven years during which time surprisingly little blood was actually shed. I also told you that that civil war had only recently become serious Russia and the Unted States had stepped more actively into the picture, so making Laos the key storm centre of the Cold War.

With Chinese and Russian aid the Pathet Lao forces captured more than half the country. The Americans, under President Eisenhower, decided that they would turn Laos into a 'bulwark against communism'. But the Royal Laotian army suffered defeat after defeat at the hands of the communist-led Pathet Lao and seemed to lose all stomach for fighting.

Whe Mr. Kennedy became President of the United States he inherited a situation that had grown so bad that the best the United States could hope for was to try and neutralise Laos. The Kennedy administration realised that it was hopeless to try and use Laos as a battlefield against communism because the communists would win. So the Kennedy administration said that it would be satisfied with a neutral Laos which would support neither the East nor the West. It

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called for a cease-fire and a peace conference on that basis. After some delays on the part of the Russians (and the Pathet Lao used these delays to strengthen their hold on the country), after these delays a cease-fire was ordered and the conference which has just got under way in Geneva, was arranged. At first the Americans refused to have the Pathet Lao take part in the conference as a full delegation But the Pathet Lao simply said they would not take part if they did not have full delegation status: since they control most of the country there was little the United States could do but give way, if there was to be a conference.

The 14 nations at this conference are: Russia, China, the United States, Britain, India, France, Canada, Poland, Burma, Cambodia, Thailand, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and Laos itself. The important thing to note is that Laos is bordered by China on the north, by Vietnam on the East, by Cambodia on the south, by Thailand on the West and by Burma on the north-west. It can therefore be described as the heartland of South East Asia and this makes it a very vital point in the power political of that part of the world. Whoever controls Laos is within easy reach of Thailand, Cambodia and Burma. And Burma, as you know, is on the road to India. All these lands could be at the mercy of an aggressive communism operating out of a communist Laos.

So you will see, very much hangs on this conference at Geneva. My guess is that the communists are going to come out of this conference as the victors. The situation has reached a point where the United States can no longer turn the tide. But it may take a little time before we see the true shape of things to come in South East Asia, but Laos, I think, is lost to the West. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday May 16 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: When Mr. Edwin Allen lost his seat at the last General Election I was very disappointed, and I said so. I thought the House of Representatives was the poorer for his not being there. Mr. Edwin Allen had proved himself one of our most active and one of our best parliamentarians. As a member sitting on the front benches of the Opposition in the House, he had been a thorn in the flesh of the government. He was always asking questions, always raising points, always looking for some weakness in government action or government argument. Indeed, I remember times when it seemed as though Mr. Edwin Allen was the only person who spoke up for the opposition: there were times when he seemed the only member of the opposition in the House who took the business of the House seriously. And I know there were times when Minister and P.N.P. members of the House got fed-up with Teacher Allen and his harassing of them; and there were many who were very happy when he lost his seat. For my part, I was very sorry to see Mr. Allen disappear from the parliamentary scene. I did not think the country could afford to lose his services. I felt that we needed active watchdogs like teacher Allen if parliamentary democracy was to grow and flourish. But the electors exercised their right to think otherwise and so Mr. Allen was defeated at the polls. This is part of the democratic process.

But now Mr. Allen is back in our parliamentary life, though in the Upper House this time and we must now call him the Honourable Edwin Allen. And already the Honourable Edwin Allen has made his presence felt. On Friday of last week Mr. Allen introduced a motion

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in Legco attacking the government's education policy and calling for changes in it. Using a method he has used often when he was a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Allen's motion is a sort of omnibus type of thing listing 12 points on which he wants our educational policies reformed. He wants secondary education given in certain primary and senior schools; he wants all senior schools converted into secondary schools; he wants more technical, agricultural commercial and vocational training and a guidance service for these; he wants the Jamaica Local Exam replaced by one with a much higher standard and he wants compulsory education introduced gradually, starting at the age of 5; he wants age-grouping to be abolished in primary schools and he wants more teacher training. He wants the scholarship and free-place policy revised so as to give more opportunity to pupils from primary schools.

Mr. Allen said the Common Entrance Exam favoured the children from better homes because the questions asked in the papers came more within their normal knowledge. As a result children from elementary schools were getting less than half the free places awarded annually. I think Mr. Allen has made a very important point here. Where you have decent home conditions, where there is light and running water and books and intelligent discussion in the home, the child obviously has a better start than the child in whose home these conditions do not exist. But how do we get over this? It seems to me a social and economic problem which needs moe than just a change in education policy. Mr. Allen is down to complete his speech next Friday and I hope he will go into this particular problem a little more fully so that we may see the lines along which he is thinking. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday May 17 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: How would you like to live for 250 years without growing any older? How would you feel if someone told you that you could stay alive for 300 years and in that time your hair will remain just as it is now, that your skin will be just as it is now, that you will have all the teeth you have now. Lady, how would you like to be one thousand years old and still look like you did when you were 21? How would you feel at having a baby when you are 1,500 years old and still have the strength and vigour of a young woman in the prime of life. And you, gentleman, how would you feel if after living for 2,000 years you could still play a tough game of football or cricket, still go up to Blue Mountain Peak, and still have the vigour to father a dozen children? In short, what would you do, how would you feel, if you could choose to be immortal?

Now I know this sounds like a piece of clever nonsense from the comic strips. It sounds a little bit like Garth's Lady Astra. But I should like you to take this seriously because I am dead serious. Within the next five to ten years it will be possible for people to choose to live as long as they want to. You will be able to choose to live for 500 or 1,000 or 2,000 years without showing any signs of growing old. Just as man is now on the verge of conquering space, so he is on the verge of conquering old age. But let me give you the details of the story.

For years now, an English friend of mine, Dr. Alex Comfort, has been trying to interest me in his study of old age. Dr. Comfort is one of England's finest younger poets and our friendship is based on the fact that we are both writers. But Dr. Comfort has also done

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brilliant research in medicine. And it was who first told me over six years ago that old age was a sickness like any other sickness and that scientists were working on a cure for it. But I did not take him seriously until last week when I saw a report from London saying exactly what Comfort had told me and going on to say that a cure for old age is now being perfected.

The report tells of the four years of research carried out by Dr. Carroll Williams, one of America's leading physiologists. Dr. Williams started off by taking oil out of the stomach of a full-grown moth and injected it into a baby moth. The baby moth immediately stopped growing. Dr. Williams then found that practically every insect and animal carried the same kind of oil somewhere on its body. The cow carried it in its brain. Dr. Williams call this substance 'the juvenile hormone' because it stops all growth in any creature which is injected with it. After much research Dr. Williams is now convinced that in man the 'juvenile hormone' is found in the placenta on which unborn babies feed while they are still in the womb. So now it is only a question of extracting it and ppocessing it. Dr. Williams says the day is not far distant when we shall be able to treat old age as efficiently as we now treat certain forms pf pneumonia.

So there it is, ladies and gentlemen. The questions with which I started are not so far-fetched after all. You will soon be able to choose the age at which you want to stop growing and then remain at that age for as long as you like. How long would you like it to be? 500 years? A thousand years? Forever? And what about overpopulation? I think we had better conquer space fast and deport all the 1000-year-olds to the stars. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday May 18 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The conference on the revision of the Federal Constitutions ended on Tuesday of this week. As I predicted at the start and then again halfway through the conference, it was very successful. General agreement was reached on all major points except one; and on that one point a satisfactory compromise was worked out. That one point was of course the question of Freedom of Movement. The small island delegates wanted unrestricted freedom of movement, and logically they are right. There is no sense in setting up a nation if the citizens of that nation are not free to move to any part of the national territory. On the other hand unrestricted freedom of movement could create very severe problems for Trinidad, because let us face it, it is to Trinidad, not Jamaica, that the vast majority of ~~small~~ people from the small islands islanders would go if they had the chance. Trinidad is nearer to the small islands. So that competition for jobs there would be a lot more serious ~~in~~ Trinidad than for Jamaica. And there is a long tradition of the small islanders going to Trinidad rather than coming to Jamaica. So really this freedom of movement thing does not hold as many threats and problems for us at present as it does for Trinidad.

Let us assume that there were uncontrolled freedom of movement tomorrow. The likeliest result would be a great rush of small islanders going to Trinidad: the figure may run into tens of thousands. And let us face it, if ten thousand people were suddenly to flock into Trinidad that island would be faced with a grave housing problem and a very grave unemployment situation.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am not arguing against freedom of movement. I am all for it. I do not think the West Indies will

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achieve either the true fact or the true spirit of nationhood until there is freedom of movement throughout the West Indies Federation. There is no question about the principle. But there are practical problems and I think we should understand them. The way the conference got over these problems problem was by tying the freedom of movement of people to the freedom of movement of goods. You will remember that Jamaica demanded that the free movement of goods - in other words, Customs Union - should be introduced in stages over a ten-year period so as not to disrupt the Jamaican economy. Well, the conference decided that the freedom of movement of people should be introduced in the same way - in stages over a ten-year period. I have heard a lot of criticism of Trinidad's stand on this question. But I think that if we are to be fair to Trinidad we should admit that she is doing no more and no less than Jamaica has done in protecting her own interests: and surely, what is sauce for the goose must be sauce for the gander too. But as I say, agreement has been worked out on this matter too. In fact, all the outsanding questions were settled and the way is now clear for the independence conference which begins in London at the end of this month and out of which we hope will come the new West Indies nation.

This conference has been particularly successful for Jamaica. The conference has given her all the major points on which she insisted and has done so in a spirit of bigness which was refreshing. There was no pettiness and no ganging-up; and for this I think Dr. Eric Williams was largely responsible. He and Mr. Manley set a very high standard of creative leadership, and the leaders of the smaller territories showed a maturity and statesmanship which is very encouraging for the future and for the problems that lie ahead of us.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

of the Inter-Government Conference
and Federal affairs

NEWS COMMENTARY
Fpr transmission on
Friday May 19 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you that I thought the inter-governmental Conference which ended in Port-of-Spain on Tuesday was very successful: and so it was. But success, as you know, often brings or creates its own problems. And one of the problems this successful conference has created has to do with leadership.

On a small scale this problem of leadership was illustrated by the position of Mr. Eric Gairy of Grenada: on a larger scale it was illustrated by the position of Sir Grantley Adams, the Federal Prime Minister.

Mr. Eric Gairy, some of you may remember, was convicted and deprived of his right to vote or stand for election at the general election before the last one. At the last general election in Grenada, which took place shortly before the inter-governmental conference, Mr. Gairy's party won a majority of the seats. But the period of Mr. Gairy's disenfranchisement was not yet up and so it was that although his party was in power Mr. Gairy himself could not form the new government and could not lead the Grenada delegation to the conference. Mr. Gairy solved that problem by going to the conference as the adviser of the Grenada delegation. In the meantime he used all his influence to try and get his disenfranchisement cancelled. And when Mr. Jimmy Lloyd, the Administrator of Grenada, made it clear that the matter was in the hands of the Colonial Office, and when it seemed unlikely that Mr. Gairy could get his voting rights restored before the indpendence conference in London, Mr. Gairy came out with his big threat. He said that if he could not personally lead the Grenada delegation to the London conference, Grenada may not send a

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delegation at all. I personally think this is mainly threat and bluff. Grenada cannot afford to stay outside the federation. But that this kind of threat, based purely on a man's personal desire for power and office, can be made today is a most unfortunate reflection on a certain type of West Indian leader.

The case of Sir Grantley is rather different. I mentioned the case of Sir Grantley to you on May the 10th. I told you then of his defeat over the questionof Jamaica's stand on income tax and industrial development when all the territories, including Barbados, voted against him. That, I said, was probably the biggest personal defeat he had ever suffered. And I said we might be witnessing the beginning of the end of Sir Grantley as one of the giants of the West Indies scene. All that has happened since tends to confirm this. It looks definitely as though he is on the way out. But I think he deserves well of the West Indies and I should like to see him as the first Governor-General after independence.

Finally, the J.L.P. seems still to be pressing its campaign for a referendum before the London conference. As I told you two weeks ago this campaign is pointless because the J.L.P. has missed the boat by leaving it too late. By law this government, or any other government, is required to give six weeks clear notice before a referendum ~~any election~~ can be held. And since six weeks from now would take us to the end of June it is physically impossible to hold the referendum before May the 31st, unless of course the J.L.P. wants us to abandon government by the rule of law. But I'm sure they don't. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday May 20 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On April the 29th one small but important piece of news came my way. It was published in the press and I believe the radio also made reference it. When I got this piece of news I thought that now at last we were going to have a really worthwhile discussion on one of Jamaica's most serious problems: and I thought that out of the discussion might come even more worthwhile action. And so I waited and watched and listened. Days went by; weeks went by: nothing happened. The leader writers and the commentators were silent. The people who are always finding, the people who never find anything to praise in Jamaica, the moaners and the groaners and the gripers were all silent. Our press and our airways were full of the usual gloomy news. Every thing was still wrong. Everything was still bad. People still went on selling Jamaica short. People still went on accusing all Jamaicans of being mean and selfish and materialistic and always out for number one.

So what is this piece of news? And why is it so important?

On April the 29th the Joint Association of Headmasters and Headmistresses held a meeting at Wolmer's Girl's School. At that meeting they passed a resolution which reads as follows:

"In view of the great need of our country at this time, this association desires to state that although by every right of equity and a consideration of the 12½% increase in the cost of living which has taken place in the last four years, the salary scales of principals of secondary schools should now be increased, yet no demand for this will be made at present.

"We desire to see our country prosper as a whole. We hope this statement will encourage other professional bodies to consider how to

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

reverse the trend of spiralling salary scales and the lamentable increase of distance between the rich and the poor."

That was the resolution adopted by the headmasters and headmistresses of secondary schools at their meeting on April 29th. Very simple, isn't it? They are entitled to an increase in wages because they have not had one over the past four years and the cost of living has gone up by 12½%. But they are not going to ask for such an increase because of the great need of the country at the present time. Instead they invite other professional people to follow their example and so help bring down the cost of living and close the wide gap between those who have and those who do not have.

As far as I am concerned this is the most genuinely patriotic and the most constructive gesture made this year by any group of people in Jamaica. And the teachers, remember, are just about among the most poorly paid of the professionally qualified people. This fact makes their decision more than just a gesture, this fact makes it an act of real sacrifice.

And just think what the effect might have been if the radio and the press and all other organs of public opinion had given this news the treatment it deserved and still deserves. Just think how good it would have been and would still be for the country if the action of the teachers were translated into national action, and there was a general nationwide movement to put the interests of the country before the interests of self. There is an awful lot of pocket-patriotism at present. The teachers have shown us how to rise above pocket-patriotism and serve Jamaica. I salute them.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday May 22 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The racial rioting and violence that exploded in Montgomery, Alabama, in the United States over the weekend is a very serious setback for Unted States foreign policy. This is a simple fact which the American government has not yet taught the people of the United States. Large sections of the American people still seem not to understand that in our day and age race relations has become an important part of foreign relations. Race relations are no longer a purely domestic affair for any country. And this is especially true for the United States of America.

All over the world today there will be reports and comments on the race riots in Alabama: these comments and reports will be particularly pronounced in Latin American, African and Asian countries. And many, if not all of them, will not be favourable to the United States. They will be a repeat of world reaction when the business at Little Rock broke out. And as during the Little Rock business, so today, the enemies of the United States will not be slow to give her a propaganda licking. But it will not only be the enemies of the United States who will denounce the Alabama race riots; this will happen even in places where the governments and people are normally friendly to the United States. African leaders like Nyerere of Tanganyika, Mboya of Kenya, Balewa of Nigeria and Tubman of Liberia - all of whom have very friendly feelings for the United States - are likely to be quite as critical as people who do not have any friendly feelings for the United States. And this is likely to be the pattern in Asia and Latin America as well. The fact is that no country which tries to win the support of the majority of the peoples of the world

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

for its way of life can today afford to have racial riots and racial discrimination. Any country that does not face this fact is bound to lose out in the struggle for men's hearts and minds. This, I think, is the challenge which faces the Unted States today.

And I personally do not think it is a challenge which can be overcome by economic aid only. There is no question but that the United States has been very generous in its economic aid to under-developed countries. Less than ten days ago President Kennedy's new aid plan for Latin American was formally set in motion. This programme, known as the 'Alliance for Progress' starts off with £600 million for the social and economic betterment of the Latin American masses. Now this is big stuff, and it is absolutely essential. The people of the less developed countries need this kind of programme desperately. But next to their economic needs stands another need and one of growing importance: the people of the under developed countries need to know that the United States and Western Europe and all the developed world recognise and respect their humanity and their dignity as human beings. Without this all the aid in the world cannot win friends and influence people. It is at this point that the question of colour becomes so important. Racial and colour discrimination are a denial of human digity.

The U.S. leaders know all this and their policies today are firmly against discrimination. But they are not judged by their declared policies but by the startling headlines of Little Rock and riots in Alabama. I think it is time the U.S. government told its people just how high a price they may have to pay in the long run for their present practices of racial discrimination and racial violence.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday May 23 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Today Jamaica celebrates its first National Labour Day as an annual holiday and as a day set aside especially for celebration by the country's organised workers. The political parties and the trades unions have had their marches and there have been fairs, some of which are probably still going on right now: at least I hope so. As I say, from today onwards this will be an annual event. Every 23rd of May of every year will be a public holiday and will be celebrated as National Labour Day. And since this is so, I think it might be a good idea to treat this day as the annual day of stocking-taking to see what gains Jamaica's organised workers have achieved and what set-backs they have suffered and what problems are likely to face them in the 12 months between today and May 23rd 1962. In fact, I think it would be a very good idea if all our union leaders were to make annual Labour Day reports to their members. This could become a very great educational factor in our trade union movement, provided of course that these are genuine reports of the past year's activities rather than just bits of propaganda. They might even get into the habit of making annual Labour Day broadcasts so that all the people of the country could get a better picture fo what is going on in the organised labour movement, what its problems are, what it has achieved and what it still hopes to achieve and its major plans of action for the year ahead. This would, I think, be an important piece of educational work. Indeed, I think one of the real weaknesses of our labour movement in Jamaica is this lack of educational work among trade unionists. At the moment we have a situation in which the top leadership of the unions is of a first-class quality. This is true of all three unions. The leaders

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know the score: they know how to deal with employers; theyknow bargaining procedure; they know their labour laws. All these are very familiar at union headquarters. But the picture is very different with the workers on the job. Very few workers on the job know what to do, when to do it and how to do it. And the result of this is that a whole heap of unnecessary irritations are often experienced by workers and employers alike. But even more important than the irritations that result from this ignorance of trade union practice and procedure is the fact that the workers take very little part in the day-to-day life of their union. And this means that trade union democracy is at a very low level. There are no regular branch meetings where the latest labour laws are discussed because the branch structure of the union is really very poor and because the workers do not know what the latest labour laws are. The result of all this is that except when there is a strike on the workers are just passengers of the union. The leaders have to do all the thinking, planning and studying. That is why your union leaders are so overworked, that is why they have to personally conduct every dispute. And this is not good for either the labour movement or the country.

I think one of the greatest needs of trade unionism in Jamaica todayis for a more active participation by the workers in the life of their union. And the only way this can be brought about is by setting up a programme of workers education in all fields of unionism. The unions should organise weekend courses where the workers can learn to take a more active part in the life of their unions. If this is done now there will be striking progress to report when our next National Labour Day comes around. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday May 24 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Among my most recent batch of letters from listeners was one from Mr. Charles D. Hanna. The subject on which he wrote is of special interest to all of us, so I will read Mr. Hanna's letter to you. He writes:

"Dear Mr. Abrahams: I have you will find it possible to bring up this point in your interesting and valuable evening commentary.

"We so often have to drive behind diesel trucks and buses tha exhaust pipes of which are so badly regulated as to cause noxious and asphyxiating fumes wherever these wretched vehicles are in motion. To add insult to injury, they practically all but monopolize the roads so that it is very difficult to pass them unless they are willing to let you do so. There is a strong possibility that these fumes can be a potent cause of cancer and medical authorities all over the world have expressed their apprehension over the danger that cannot be ignored in breathing these fumes repeatedly.

"In many countries of the world such vehicles are prohibited from the roads or the owners compelled to keep their exhausts in proper order so that public health is protected. Is there no kind of legislation that could be enacted by our government to achieve similar results? Yours faithfully, Charles D. Hanna."

That is Mr. Hanna's letter and I am sure that he has expressed the feelings of large numbers of people, who are very concerned by this business of having to breathe in thick clouds of heavy black smoke either when they are driving behind diesel trucks or buses or when these trucks and buses pass them walking on the roads or pass their houses and their windows are open. I am sure you have all experienced

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this dreadful business at one time or another. My own worst experience was in the hills of Manchester when I was driving behind a country bus which firmly refused to give way for me to pass. My whole family was in the car with me. The black smoke the thing gave off was bad enough while the road was relatively level but when it began to climb it got so bad that I had to pull to the side of the road and wait for the bus to get away from us. My children's eyes were red and sore and we all had a fit of coughing. I am sure many listeners have gone through the same sort of thing. But what to do about it?

Mr. Hanna suggests legislation. He may be right. That may be the only way. But I rather think this smoke menace can be curbed under traffic regulations that are already in existence. If I am wrong about this, I hope someone will let me know. As I see it, the problem is one of enforcement. I believe the authorities at our traffic depots have the power to declare a truck or bus unfit for the road, if when they inspect it, they find it gives off too much fumes. If I am right then the fault ~~xxkxx~~ lies with the people who inspect these trucks and busses and pass them as fit for the road. And that is a problem of enforcemet. Passing a law means very little unless that law is going to be enforced. Very often traffic police patrolmen sit calmly on their motor cycles and watch diesel trucks or buses shooting letting off foul black smoke.

I think this is one of those evils that can be stopped most easily the moment our traffic cops and the people at our examination depots decide to clamp down on it. It is a serious health hazard and I hope Mr. Hanna's letter will make the island's traffic authorities treat it seriously and give firm instructions for such vehicles not to be allowed on the roads until/~~xkxx~~ their exhausts are properly adjusted.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday May 25 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Tonight I want to talk about what the experts call 'mass communication'. Mass communication is the business of getting either ideas or information or entertainment - or indeed all three of them - to as large a number of people as possible at the same time. And the three most powerful means of mass communication are films, television and radio. These three means of communication xxxxx each reaches a very much larger number of people than the most widely circulated and read newspaper in the world does. And of the three the film is in a most unique position.

You do not have to be literate in order to see and understand a film. Even language ceases to be a barrier. You may not be able to understand or read Japanese or French or German or Spanish and yet you may see a film made in one of these languages and follow it completely and understand its story. And then there is another thing: going to the films is a social activity. You go out and join a group of other people and xxxxxxxxx share in a common emotional experience with them - and man, as you know, is a creature who loves sharing. In the cinema the loneliest person stops being lonely for an xxxxx hour and a half or two hours and there are people around him or her and they are all sharing the same experience by looking at the same film. There is a great sense of comfort in this and it is something that only the film gives us. But the film gives us much more than this: it can take us to any corner of the world and show us how other men in other lands live and laugh and work and play. And it helps to shape our values: it helps, more than we often realise, to shape the way we look at the world. Very many films have glorified violence and lawlessness. And very many young people - and some not so young - have taken their cue

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from these films and have gone in for lawlessness and violence. Many have learnt the habit of slapping women about and bullying the weak from the films. And it is unfortunately true that for every good film that is made there are probably ten or more bad ones being made. This is so because film-makers are on the whole more interested in making money than in making good films. But there are people interested in making good films, and there are very many good films about though we do not always have a chance to see them. The reason why we do not see them is that these good films are generally made by small ~~xxxxxx~~ independent producers who have no cinema halls of their own and so they have to depend on the big film concerns to have their pictures shown. To get over this problem people all over the world who want to see these good films have formed film societies. These societies hire good films from all over the world and show them to their members, so giving them a chance to see the best that the film industry has produced.

We have just got such a society here in Jamaica. Mr. Dudley Macmillan has just started the Jamaica Film Society and David Coore and I are associated with him in the launching of the venture because we think it is a very good and a very important thing for Jamaicans to have a chance to see the best films in the world. The Society's first showing will be on Monday evening at 9.30 when the Japanese film 'Ugetsu' can be seen at the State. Those of you who want to become members and want to see Monday's film can join up on the spot if you arrive at the cinema fifteen minutes before the show starts. This, as you know, is the second time such a society has been started. I hope this time it will not fail for lack of support. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday May 26 at 6.15p.m

Good evening: I am very sorry indeed that I missed Father Charles Judah's Labour Day sermon at Tuesday's special Mass at the Holy Trinity Cthedral. I am particularly sorry as I had a most cordial invatation to attend from Father Roy Campbell. Unfortunately the invitation reach ed me late and I was in the country on Labour Day. But ~~xxxxxxxx~~ the report in Thursday's Gleaner on Father ~~Campbell's~~ Judah's sermon has aroused my interest in his comments on politics and morality in Jamaica today.

I know that there are many people who feel that the churches should not meddle in politics. I am not one of those. I think that the churches should interest themselves in every facet of the lives of their congregations. Indeed, I have often felt that the churches have too frequently ignored the social problems that faced the people to whom they minister, and so I for one welcome church participation and church interest in the social and political and economic problems which face the country.

But at what level should the churches participate? Should the churches support certain parties and certain candidates? Should the churches seek to ~~xxxxxx~~ further the interests of either workers or employers? Should the churches be pressure groups for any section or sections of the community? In fact, in what way and to what extent should the churches, as churches, take part in the political life of the country?

In the last Puerto Rican elections the church, the Catholic Church, did in fact try to use its influence to prevent the re-election of Governor Munoz Marin mainly because of his position on family Planning. Under the leadership of Governor Munoz Purto Rico, which is a Catholic country, practises family planning on a very large scale.

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And since the Catholic Church is opposed to family planning it is understandable that they should be opposed to this aspect of Governor Munoz's policy. But under the leadership of the same Governor Munoz Puerto Rico has undergone a miracle of social and economic rehabilitation But more than just that: there is a kind spiritual revolution in progress too. Governor Munoz has called this operation serenity and it is concerned with the bringing out of the spiritual and cultural values of life for the Puerto Rican people. And yet the faithful were told not to vote for this man. The faithful disobeyed this injunction and voted for Munoz and I think that in the process the influence of the church in Puerto Rico was diminshed a little. So we come back to the question of how far the churches should go in direct political participation, and I have used the example of Governor Munoz and family planning because Father Judah talked about family planning in his sermon. Were the Puerto Rican bishops right in opposing this obviously good and great leader?

And one could ask the same sort of question about Father Judah's comments on the Government's income tax policies which he says amounts to stealing. Why does it become stealing if, after you have earned over a certain amount of money, you are taxed very heavily on the rest? Is it Machiavellian to say that this is one of the few ways the State can get the money to help the hungry and the homeless and the dispossessed and that they are as entitled to our compassionate concern as are the people who are in the super-tax bracket? And are all capitalists so enlightened today that only the workers and their representatives are the villains of the piece? These are just some of the questions stimulated in my mind by Father Judah's sermon on Labour Day. And that which stimulates, whether we agree with it or not, is good.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday May27 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I wonder how many of you heard Vic Reidss first report from Africa over this station last Sunday morning. As you know, Vic Reid is one of the two advisers who has gone with the Mission to Africa. And last Sunday morning lucky listeners, and I was one of thmm, heard him build up a really fascinating word picture of what life in Ethiopia is like for one pioneering West Indian couple who have settled there. And in the process of telling about this couple he also made us see and feel and almost smell the vast Ethiopian landscape. At leat that is how it was for me. Tmmorrow morning Vic Reid's second report from Africa will be heard over this station and I advise you strongly to listen.

The Mission is now on the last leg of its journey and will soon be back in Jamaica. It has visited Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and the last report was that it was in Liberia. The reports say that everywhere it went it has been received with the greatest warmth and friendliness. The Emperor of Ethiopia, the Prime Minister and Governor-General of Nigeria, the President of Ghana, the Prime Minister of Sierra Leone, the President of Liberia - all these important and busy men have found time or made time to meet the mmmbers of the Mission. And let us not fool ourselves as to why they have done this. The Mission has received this welcome because it comes from Jamaica and the leaders of those countries have a great regard for Jamaica and Jamaicans. But what has actually been accomplished, what has actually been achieved will not be known until the Mission returns and makes its report.

I think that all we can say about the Mission right now is that

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it seems to have prepared the ground very well. It has built up a large measure of goodwill and it has brought out the important fact that these five African countries seem willing to receive people from Jamaica who want to make their homes in Africa. But I think we will find that a great deal of work will have to be done and quite a lot of time will have to pass before the first large batch of Jamaicans can make the journey to Africa to settle. So I think people are going to need to be very patient before the great journey back in time and space can be made. But at least things look hopeful now.

Now for a word about the fateful conference which will open in London next week. This conference will mark the great date with destiny for the West Indies. As so many Asian and African countries have done since the end of the second world war, the West Indian representatives will sit down with the representatives of Great in the historic Lancaster House and draft a new constitution. This will be the last conference of its kind between the leaders of the West Indies and of Britain. Any conferences that may take place afterwards will be different in kind and in quality. For this conference will bring to an end one kind of relationship, which has in some cases lasted for 300 years, and it will bring into being a completely new and a completely different kind of relationship. After this conference the West Indies will no longer be, however freely, a colony of Britain. She will be a nation in her own right among the nations of the world: and she will have to carry the full burden of nationhood and enjoy the full pride and glory of independence. This is the sort of thing that can happen only once in the history of a people. And this is the once in the history of the West Indian people. Pray God we are worthy of this great challenge and this great achievement. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday May 29 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Over the weekend, the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru sharply criticised the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Home for his visit to Portugal at this time and for the very friendly remarks he made to the Portuguese and their dictator Salazar. Mr. Nehru did not mince his words. He said the Asians and Africans took a very dim view of this British friendliness to the Portuguese who are at present spreading death and terror among the Africans of Angola. I frankly agree with India's Nehru.

The Portuguese are, today, the last European power which is grimly trying to hold on to its colonies in Africa. All the other colonial powers have bowed or are bowing before the wind of change. Only the Portuguese are still holding on and they are now the last of the old style colonial powers in Africa. On the East Coast of Africa, lying between Tanganyika to the north, the Central African Federation to the west and ~~xhex~~ South Africa to the south, is the Portuguese colony of Mozambique. This is a vast land of 297,731 square miles with a population of some six million people of whom less than 100,000 are white. And on the West Coast of Africa, lying between the Congo, the Rhodesias and South Africa is the other large Portuguese colony - Angola - Angola is nearly twice the size of Mozambique with 481,351 square miles. But it has a population of only some 4½ million people; and again they overwhelmingly black African with only a handful of whites. And still on the west coast of Africa, but further to the north and lying between Sekou Toure's Guinea and the Gambia, is a tiny coastal strip of land of 13,948 square miles with 600,000 people. This is Portuguese Guinea, the only colony which still exists in that part of West Africa.

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This means that the Portuguese have control of a land area of 793,030 square miles in Africa. But just to give you that figure does not mean very much, so let us see if we can give it a little more meaning. The whole of Portugal itself has a land area of 35,413 square miles. This means that the Portugues colonies in Africa are more than 20 times as big as Portugal itself. Or, to put it in another way, if you took all of Great Britain and all of France and both East and West Germany, and all of Italy and all of Spain and all of Portugal - if you took all these seven countries and put them together, their combined size would still be smaller than the Portuguese colonies in Africa. So you will see that Portugal controls a really vast mass of land in Africa. In fact, Portugal's African empire is nearly as large as all of Western Europe put together. And in today's Africa the Portuguese empire is the last of the old-style colonial empires. Some of you may remember that I talked about Angola on April the 28th and I told you then that Portugal was also the earliest colonial power in Africa, that the Portuguese have been in Angola sibce 1482: in other words, the Portuguese have been in Angola since ten years before Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica and the New World. The Portuguese have therefore been in Angola for 479 years. They were the first to colonise Africa and it looks very much as though they will be the last colonial power to be driven out of Africa. But Mr. Nehru's attack on Lord Home was not simply because of the age of the Portuguese empire. Rather, it was because of its nature and/I will tell you about the nature of the Portuguese empire tomorrow in Africa. So till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday May 30 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you of Mr. Nehru's attack on the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Home, for his visit to Portugal and his show of friendliness to the Portuguese. Mr. Nehru felt that the British Foreign Secretary and the British Government should have been sensitive enough to realise that the Africans and Asiansare feeling very bitter about Portugal's treatment of the Africans in Angola. And Britain's friendliness could be interpreted as British sympathy for Portuguese policy in Africa. I told you then that I agreed with Mr. Nehru's view and I gave you some background information about the Portuguese colonies in Africa. To understand why Mr. Nehru spoke so strongly against the British Foreign Secretary's visit, we must understand what has been happening in Angola almost since the beginning of this year. And in order to do that we must get a picture of Portuguese policy in its colonies.

The Portuguese call their two main colonies, Mozambique and Angola, overseas provinces and talk about them as if they are integrated parts of Portgual. This means the Portuguese policy is based on the assumption that the colonies can never become independent of Portugal. The Portugues say that there is no barrier to any African to become a civilised citizen of Portgual and to have the same rights as any white Portguese. All he has to do is become literate, show that he has enough money and that he has given up the African tribal ways. In theory all this sounds reasonable if the Africans wanted to be just black imitations of the white Portuguese. If they wanted anything different, if they did not want to become Roman Catholics, if they wanted to build up a national spirit of their own, if they thought of their country as independent

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away from Portugal, they were in very serious trouble. No political organisations were alllowed, any nationalist movement was ruthlessly suppressed, and anybody who protested against Portuguese rule disappeared very quickly and very quietly. And in spite of all the fine talk about integration the Portuguese made sure that there was hardly any of it by denying free education to the children of the blacks. And a black man could not possibly pay for the schooling of his children because he only earned an average income of between 9d and one shilling a day. And there is very little you can do on one shilling a day even in Africa. And so integration and the so-called lack of colour bars was a very nice little piece of white-wash. Instead you had a pattern of forced labour which was nothing short of slavery. Angolan Africans were picked off the streets and forced to work either for the government or for private concerns for six months of the year. Anyone who protested against this was beaten up and thrown into prison. That is why today, after 479 years of Portuguese rule, less than 1% of the people can read and there is more poverty than in any other part of Africa. These are hard facts. And it was these hard facts that made a group of about 50 African Angolans stage a riot ten weeks ago near the Congo border. The Portuguese reply to this riot was a savage reign of terror that is still going on to this day. The army and air force were called out. Africans were slaughtered like cattle. Gun happy white Portuguese went about shooting up blacks. And this is still going on today. This is the reason for Mr. Nehru's bitter words against the British Foreign Secretary's visit to Portugal. The United Nations has condemned Portugal But Britain abstained in that vote. Only South Africa and Spain, two other tyrannies, supported Portugal. The rest were against her. Like Mr. Nehru, I do not like Britain's show of friendliness toward this manifest Portuguese tyranny. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday May 31 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Two very crcuial events are taking place today. One is a sad and sorry and terrible business; the other is a thing of hope and promise and a pointer to the future. And yet, in an odd sort of way these two events have a kind of inter-relationship, just as there is a kind of relationship between the Angel Gabriel and the fallen Angel Lucifer. The West Indies begins the last conference in London today which we all hope will end with the birth of a new independent nation within the Commonwealth. The Union of South Africa formally leaves the Commonwealth today and becomes an independent republic.

The West Indies and South Africa have a number of things in common, but there is one great and over-riding difference which separates and divides them and which makes it morally and historically right for South Africa to leave the Commonwealth just as the West Indies prepares to enter it.

In essence both countries are creations of the British. The difference is that Britain has had a longer period of influence in the West Indies than in South Africa. Another difference is that all the present West Indians are, historically speaking, immigrants from other continents. The Negroes who are the majority, come from Africa, the Chinese and the Indians come from Asia, the whites come from Europe. And in the process of settling in and working out a common citizenship and a common set of standards and values they have, to a larger extent than anywhere else on earth, become an integrated society. There may be and there are irritations between one group and another from time to time, there are shade prejudices still to be found in many places,

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and here and there you will find open expressions of racial and colour prejudices and even of colour discrimination. But the entire West Indian society has set its face against these things. These things do not have the sanctions or the support of the law of the land. And so I think it is fair to say that these things can and will be swept away without in any way upsetting the basic stability of the West Indian society. The majority of the people of the West Indies have the power in their hands to peacefully regulate and shape the society nearer to their hearts' desire because this is a democratic society in which each citizen irrespective of race, colour, class, creed or place of national origin, has the all-important power of the free and secret ballot. And they are using this power not to take the rights and the freedoms away from any section of the society but rather to make sure that every citizen in every section of the West Indian community shall enjoy all these rights freely, without discrimination and without fear. These are the principles on which the people and the leaders of the West Indian nation plan to build.

These principles are the complete opposite of those on which the South African Republic which comes into being today, is based. The South African Republic is riddled with racial hatreds, racial fears and the most monumental racial discrimination in the world today. It is non-democratic and even as it came into being thousands of its black citizens were rounded up and herded into jails in Nazi fashion. And so it is that even while it is being born, we can prophesy the death of the South African Republic because it represents the past not the future. The future and the hope for the future is represented by the non-racial West Indian nation which is now in the making and which is a great symbol for tomorrow's world. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday June 1 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: From quite early yesterday morning rumours started trickling around the world's international press that the dictator of the Dominican Republic had been killed. The great news wire services - those services which flashes the news from all over the world into the news rooms of every newspaper and radio station which subscribes to them - these were the first to carry the rumoured news. So it was that the people concerned with bringing the news to Jamaicans knew quite early that something unusual was happening in the Dominican Republic. But they were naturally reluctant to give you the news until it was confirmed. Yesterday afternoon the American news agencies were satisfied that the news was true and that General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina had been killed. And so they gave it out to the world. And a little before six o'clock last night Trujillo's own Radio Caribe confirmed the news of the death of the dictator. The 69-year-old man had been violently shot down by his enemies. He had died as violently as he had lived. He had come to power 31 years ago by violence and revolution, he had used violence to deal with his enemies and anyone who had stood in his way had died violently. Just a few months ago his paid assasins had tried to murder the President of Venezuela on his orders. And now he himself had been destroyed by the violence he had unleashed.

With the death of Trujillo the number of long-standing, old-style, right-wing dictators, is cut down by one-third. Before his death, Trujillo, Salazar of Portugal and Franco of Spain were the last of the old-style dictators: and of the three Trujillo had reigned for the longest time. He took power by force in 1930. Salazar of Portugal

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got his power without any violence. He succeeded another dictator, General Antonio Carmona, who had done all the violent dirty work for him. Salazar has been dictator of Portugal since 1932. So he was Trujillo's junior by two years as a dictator. The last of the three, Franco of Spain, assumed power as a dictator in 1939 after the end of the bloodiest and most tragic civil war of this century, if not of all time. He rode to power on a sea of the blood of his countrymen and he had the military support of Nazi Germany under Hitler and Fascist Italy under Mussolini. In the years since the last war all the other dictators have fallen or been destroyed. Only these three have remained. Now the most senior of the three has been destroyed. I do not think the other two will last very much longer. The world is fast outgrowing the old style dictators of the Right. The new dictators, if they are to come, will come in other guises: they will come as democrats, as liberators of the masses, as champions of the people. And I think they will have to operate under the collective leadership of a party. The day of the strongman, the lone dictator, seems to be out.

But what is likely to happen in the Dominican Republic after Trujillo? I rather suspect that the Americans fear that a Castro-type regime might come out of the present confusion. This is possible. If the people decide that that is the type of government they want then there is very little anybody can do about it short of occupying the place and imposing something against the people's will. But this the Americans are not likely to do. I think much is going to depend on how the Kennedy Administration handle the new situation. And this new situation could also intimately affect the black Republic of Haiti which is right next door. I'll try to make some sense out of all this tomorrow evening: so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday June 2 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I discussed the killing of Trujillo and and the disappearing of the old-style dictators. And I ended up by suggesting that the new situation in the Dominican Republic might easily affect the black Republic of Haiti. In order to understand this possibility it is important for us to realise that both Haiti and the Dominican Republic are located on one island which is a single geographic unit. This island is known as Hispaniola though the aboriginal Indians called the whole island Haiti. It has a land area of 28,000 square miles which means that the whole island is just a little more than half the size of Cuba which has a total land area of 44,218 square miles. Yet Cuba is one country and Hispaniola is divided into two. Cuba has a population of just about 6 million people of whom a quarter are Negroes and most of the rest are of Spanish descent. Haiti has a population of about 3½ millions and 90% of them are Negroes. The Dominican Republic has a population of about two and three-quarter millions of whom 30% are white, 15% are Negroes and the rest are a mixture of Negro, Indian and white. So the Dominican Republic and Haiti together have a total population of about 6¼ million people.

As I said, Hispaniola is really one geographic unit and would logically have been one country. But the vagaries of colonialism have forced the emergence of two countries speaking two serparate languages in what is after all a relatively small island. Because Haiti was a French colony the present-day Haitians speak French. And because the Dominican Republic was a colony of the Spaniards, its present-day citizens speak Spanish. Haiti became independent in 1804, and the

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Dominican Republic became independent in 1821. But from 1821 to 1844 Haiti ruled and controlled the Dominican Republic. And then, because Haiti was not strong enough to continue its control, the Dominican Republic broke away and became independent on its own. The Dominican Republic now holds two-thirds of the island and Haiti holds only one-third.

From all this you will see that in the past there has been some form of association and union between the two countries. Both have fallen under Strongmen and become dictatorships. Now one dictator has been killed. What is likely to happen to the Haitian dictator?

If a democratic government comes into power in the Dominican Republic, and if such a government is successful in tackling the social and economic problems of the Republic (and remember that more than half the adults ~~in~~ can neither read nor write), if a democratic government can overcome these problems, then the example is bound to stir up the Haitian peasants whose living conditions are, if anything, worse than those in the Dominican Republic.

If, on the other hand, a democratic government cannot solve the problems of the Dominican Republic then it is ~~more~~ very likely that a Cuban style government will take over. And if that happens it will be the policy of such a government to encourage and help the Haitian peasants to revolt against the miserable conditions under which they now live. And I think such a government would also want to see the two countries united under one central government. So there it is, whatever happens in the Dominican Republic will, I think, have a very important influence on the future of the black Republic of Haiti. The death of dictator Trujillo is bound to bring vast changes less than 200 miles away from us. Goodnight.

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2) Price control on salt fish

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday June 3 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Reports from London indicate that the West Indies Independence Conference is now getting down to the real hard business of hammering out the final shape of the constitution. And it looks as though there are three very tough problems which could easily wreck the whole business.

First there is the question of taxation which has come sharply to the forefront again when both Sir Grantley Adams, the Federal Prime Minister and Mr. Ian Macleod, the Colonial Secretary, dealth with the subject in their speeches at the opening of the conference. This, as you know, is a subject on which majority agreement had been reached at the Trinidad conference before the delegates went to London and so all of us thought that this big hurdle had been crossed. But you will remember that Sir Grantley then threatened to raise this matter again at the London conference. Well, his opening speech suggests that he will. If he can persuade the smaller islands to change their minds and vote against Jamaica and Trinidad then a wholly new situation will have been created. As he has already hinted, Sir Grantley thinks that Jamaica is so worried about Cuba that she will stay in the Federation even if all her demands are not met. We will see if he can sell this line to the small islands.

Second, under the leadership of Sir Grantley and Barbados, all the small islands which supported the Trinidad stand on Freedom of Movement now seem ready to reverse themselves and demand freedom of movement immmediately. If this does in fact happen and if Eric Williams stands firm then the conference will face a very real crisis.

Thirdly, it looks very much as though very many of the issues

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which face the conference and on which there is disagreement or strong feeling, may be approached by Sir Grantley in the spirit of a struggle for power between himself and Mr. Manley. Grantley's leadership suffered a serious set-back at the Port-of-Spain meetings where even Barbados voted against him on some important issues. He knows that if he does not win back his position, if he does not win back the support of the small islands, then his future as Prime Minister of the West Indies is dead as a doornail. As it is, after his defeat in Trinidad, he has very little lose and a great deal to gain if he can score a really striking victory over Manley. And so it will be a very strong temptation for him to turn the big issues into a power struggle for leadership. If this happens then the influence of one of the two leaders is likely to be completely destroyed at this conference. And in any case such a power struggle will make the conference all the more tricky and dangerous. But these are early days yet so let us wait and see just what happens.

Finally, a word on something nearer home. I am very glad to see that the government has put back controls on the price of codfish. I know many merchants are very angry about this but that is to be expected because it will affect their profits. It is now up to you housewives to see that you get the right fish at the right price. And I hope that the government will continue to honour its repsonsibilities to the consumers by making sure that they are not exploited. The cost of living is too high. Controls will help bring it down. And there is one control I know all housewives would welcome and that is the control of the price of our daily bread. So I hopeMr. Wills Isaacs will let us once more have our daily bread at one shilling for a one pound loaf.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday June 5 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The first week of the London Independence Conference is now behind us. The opening speeches have been made; delegate after delegate has stepped to the centre of the stage and, depending on the kind of person he is, he has either used the spotlight of publicity to show off or else to deal very seriously with the problems of the West Indies. In the main the first week's going-on at the Conference has been for public consumption. It was only towards the end of the week, after the speeches and after trips to the races, and after the usual round of socialising, that the delegates settled down to the hard business of trying to sort out the constitutional difficulties. And the first of these hard issues was the question of freedom of movement. Freedom of movement was the key subject which was discussed all Friday afternoon. And it is the subject with which today's sessions - the session opening the second week of the conference - began.

Reports from London over the weekend suggested that Barbados and at least one other island had decided to fight it out to the bitter end on this question of having freedom of movement immediately. And there have even been suggestions that this matter might lead to a breakdown of the conference. I myself do not think that the conference will breakdown over this matter. But we should have a fuller report later this evening. In any case, it is this week that the really important issues are going to be tackled.

So what are we to make of last week's events? How did the conference shape and what was reaction to it? How did the first week go?

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Let me confess quite frankly that I was bitterly disappointed ~~in~~ with the results of the first week's goings-on. I think Sir Grantley Adams, Dr. Eric Williams and Mr. Manley all behaved in their usual statesmanlike manner when they are addressing international audiences. They know that what they say and how they behave at such gatherings can shape public opinion about the entire West Indies. They know that all the people of the West Indies are going to be judged by what they say and how they behave, and this is a big responsibility which they take very seriously. And neither Manley nor Grantley Adams nor Eric Williams have ever behaved in such a way abroad that anybody could point a finger of scorn at the West Indies and its people. They have too much pride, too much self-respect and too much respect for their own people.

I wish I could say the same about some of the other leaders, but if I did I would not be telling the truth. Some of the delegates behaved in such a manner last week that sections of the English press became scornful and contemptuous of us. You will remember that the opening speeches of many of the delegates sounded like men who were only interested in begging for money. This led some English newspapers to describe the conference as a 'Beggars Opera'. I felt that that was a direct insult to all the people of the West Indies and I felt that it showed gross bad manners on the part of a section of the English press and it made me very angry. But let us face it, the behaviour of some of our delegates was to blame for this insult to all of us. West Indians are poor but they are not beggars and Britain owes them a great deal.

Goodnight.

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2) Jamaica & Power of veto on Federation Cons.

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday June 6 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am very glad that all the major leaders of the West Indies have spoken out clearly and sharply against the present British agitation to stop West Indian migrants from entering Britain. Both Mr. Manley and Dr. Williams spoke strongly on this matter at airport interviews when they arrived in London last week. And Sir Grantley also dealt with it in his first major speech at the conference. All of them said clearly that this was a colour thing and that they were bitterly opposed to it. To restrict West Indians from entering Britain would in effect be to impose a colour bar on migration.

Many of the backwoodsmen in Britain's ~~xx~~ ruling Conservative Party are quite frank about it. They want West Indians restricted because they ~~they~~ are coloured and no bones about it. These gentlemen have said in the British House of Commons and in the House of Lords. They have said nothing about the annual flood of Irish immigrants, even though the Irish are not ~~even~~ citizens of the Commonwealth, ~~because the Irish are white~~. And there are more Irish migrants in Britain today than there are West Indians. But the Irish are no problem because they are white. There are more Poles than West Indians, and they are foreigners who start off by not even being able to speak English, but again they are no problem because they are white. And the other Commonwealth immigrants, the Australians, the Canadians, the New Zealanders, and even the white South Africans who ran from the coming of the Boer Republic, all these are no problem because they are white. It seems you only become a problem as a migrant if your skin is dark. I am afraid that as long as this sort of thing goes on coloured people are bound to feel that there is an awful lot of colour prejudice in

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Britain today. And I, for one, am a little sick and tired of being a problem just because my skin is dark. There are about 100,000 coloured West Indians in Britain today and it is a problem. There are at least twice that number of Irish migrants and God knows how many Poles and other European migrants but they are no problem because their skins are not dark.

And on Thursday of last week Mr. R.A. Butler, the British Home Secretary, made a most revealing comment in the British parliament on this question of migration. A British Labour M.P., Miss Alice Bacon, asked him if it was not true that all the questions asked by Tories in parliament about immigration were more concerned with the colour of the immgrants rather than with the numbers entering Britain.

Mr. Butler's answer was that if anything were to be done about Commonwealth immigration it would have to be 'regardless of colour'.

To me this sounds very much as though the British Government is thinking of doing something about immigration. And surely that something could only mean either making it very difficult for immigrants to enter Britain or else restricting immigration so severly as to bring it to a stop. And Britain would like the world to think that if it does take such action it would be 'regardless of colour'. It would especially like the coloured people of the world to think so.

But how can the coloured people think this when they know that the whole reason for such action would be simply and solely to keep out West Indian coloured migrants. No amount of talk about 'regardless of colour' can hide this simple fact. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday June 7 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It is possible that some of you may feel that so much has already been written and said on the independence conference now going on in London that you would like to change the subject. I cannot agree with anybody who feels like this. It seems to me that this conference marks the most important turning point in the history of the people of the West Indies since the abolition of slavery. I think that what is going on in London now is the opening of a completely new book for all the people of this region, and not least for the people of Jamaica. What is written on the first blank page of that new book will decide what happens to Jamaica and her people, where they go, and the way by which they go, for longer than we can now imagine. What is now being decided in London will shape not only the future of your child or your grandchild or even your great grandchild. It will shape the future of unborn generations for hundreds of years to come. For Jamaica, as for the West Indies, this is a great turning point of history. So it seems to me of the greatest importance that we should take a very close interest in all that is happening in London. We owe it to those unborn gernerations of our descendants to plan and build as clearly and well as we are able to.

Now, one of the really big new problems that will have to be settled by this conference has been raised by Jamaica. This is the question of how to change the constitution and it is a point that Jamaica first brought up at the Trinidad meeting. Jamaica wants a clause or article written into the new independence constitution which would make it impossible for any future federal government to be able to change the constitution without first getting the consent of the

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people of Jamaica through their elected government. In other words, if Jamaica's stand is accepted on this matter Jamaica will have the power of veto over any later change in the constitution. If, ten or twenty or thirty years from now the federal government wants to impose direct taxation on the Jamaican people, it will not be able to do so without first changing the constitution; and in order to change the costitution, it will first have to get the permission of the Jamaica government. This power of veto is the ultimate in safeguards. It is not possible to have any greater safeguard than this.

But all the other delegates are bitterly opposed to this demand of Jamaica's. It is very likely that the real crisis of the conference will come over this subject, and I think it is on this subject that we might see the real fight between Sir Grantley and Mr. Manley.

Mr. Manley's stand is likely to be that the Jamaican people will not agree to continue in the federation unless this point is accepted. Trinidad is likely to condemn the Jamaica stand but in the end Dr. Williams is likely to go along with it because he feels there can be no federation without Jamaica. Sir Grantley Adams, on the other hand, is likely to dig in his heels and fight. He has already said that Jamaica will give way and accept less than she demands because she is afraid of Cuba and a Cuban style revolution in Jamaica. In other words, Grantley is going to try and frighten Jamaica with the communist bogey. I think Grantley is making a very serious mistake in this. Manley cannot return with any less and win the referendum. If Grantley does not see this then the conference may fall apart on this issue and the whole future will then look different. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday June 8 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: While we have been concentrating all our attention on the West Indies Independence conference in London, much has been going on elsewhere in the world over the past ten days or so. I think it is about time we took a quick look at what has been going on.

One of the most important happenings has of course been the meeting between Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Kennedy; because what these two gentlemen say and do and decide can affect the lives of all of us. As I understand it, this meeting between the two most powerful leaders in the world had no special reason behind it. They just wanted to get to know each other and to measure each other up so that each should know just what manner of man he is dealing with. It is very much like two boxers studying each other carefully before going into the ring and putting on the gloves to fight it out. As Mr. Kennedy has said, they do not want to plunge the whole world into a war through any mistake or accident or miscalculation on anybody's part. And to make sure that the possibility of such a mistake is reduced to the minimum it is a good idea to get to know your opponent. My guess is that both Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Khrushchev have at least hinted to each other the points on which they are prepared to stand firm and go to war if need be. And this, I think, is very useful. Each has drawn his line and said: "Do not step over this point". To that extent the air has been cleared. Mr. Kennedy's final comment on the meeting with Mr. Khrushchev was that neither side gained any advantage nor gave any advantage. Just how accurate this comment is will be shown in the weeks and months that lie ahead of us.

Another dramatic event was the eruption of violence in Zanzibar

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on June the first. In itself, this is a relatively small matter. But if it is handled wrongly it could build up really bitter feeling and racial hatred between the Negroes and the Arabs in East Africa. But let me give you the background to this Zanzibar business.

Zanzibar, of which most of us know only through the Bing Crosby-Bob Hope film, is a tiny little island of 640 square miles just off the East coast of Africa and facing Tanganyika, where Julius Nyerere is now busy building up and independent and non-racial society. The little island has been a British Protectorate since 1890, and it has a population of 165,000 of whom 16% are Arabs, 6% are Indians and the rest, some 78% are Negroes. The ruler is the Arab Sultan who is advised by a British Resident. All the economic and political power has traditionally been in the hands of the Arab minority who used to hold the Africans as slaves.

In 1960 the British agreed to give Zanzibar a more advanced constitution with an elected majority and a ministerial system. The first election under the new constitution was held in January of this year. The main parties were the mainly Negro Afro-Shirazi Party and the mainly Arab Zanzibar Nationalist Party. At that election the African party won ten seats, the Arabs won nine, and three seats went to a group that had broken away from the African party. The result was that no party could form a government and so the British called new elections for June the 1st. It was at these elections that violence burst out which resulted in the death of ~~near on forty~~ some fifty people with over 200 wounded. And after the blood and violence the results showed that the Arabs and their friends had won 13 seats and the Africans ten. And so I think we will hear a lot more from the spice island of Zanzibar.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday June 9 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I think that possibly the most important set-back suffered by the Russians in a very long time took place over last week. Suddenly, and most unexpectedly it would seem, the Egyptian Government, the Egyptian press and the Egyptian radio, let loose a full-scale attack on the Russians. The attack was savage and bitter. The Egyptians accused the Russians of trying to interfere in the internal affairs of their country. They said the Russians were trying to dictate policy to them and were trying to force them to take a stand on the side of the Russians in the Cold War. Then, in really sharp language, they denounced and rejected the Russian position and warned the Russians off in no uncertain terms.

The great Nasser himself spelled out just what he meant by positive neutralism. He said the western powers, the United States, Britain and France had misunderstood Egyptian policy in the past. They had mistaken Egypt's independent foreign policy and seen it as pro-Russian. They had done this because Egyptian policy had not served their interests but rather had been geared to serve the interests of Egypt and the Afro-Asian countries. And now, Nasser said, the Russians had made the same mistake. They had misread Egyptian policy as being pro-Russian because it was not pro-Western and so they had presumed to interfere. What Egypt did with local Egyptian communists was Egypt's business and she was no going to allow either East or West to tell her how to run her affairs either at home or abroad. That was the essence of the Egyptian denunciation of Russia, but the language used was very much stronger than the language I am using now.

But why, you might ask, is this denunciation of Russia by Egypt

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so important? Other countries have attacked and denounced Russia and it has not made very much difference, so why should it make any difference now?

I think this attack will make a lot of difference for two basic reasons. First, this one is not an attack on Russia by a national leader who can in any way be described as either a stooges of Western imperialism or even as a mild supporter of the West. All such attacks have usually come from pro-Western leaders. Nasser have proved that he is as anti-imperialist and as independent of the West as any leader in the world today. He has welcomed the Russians in the past and he has done business with them, so the charge that he is a tool of Yankee imperialism just will not hold water. And so people who will dismiss attacks on Russia by others will take this attack my Nasser very seriously.

The second reason has to do with Nasser's influence in the world today. He is the undoubted leader of the Arab world. And, with Ghana's Nkrumah and Guinea's Sekou Toure, he shares the greatest influence on the African continent at present. Together these three are the greatest apostles of an independent African line in world affairs and of united African action. He is also highly respected and admired in both Asia and Latin America as one of the truly great leaders who has emerged from the so-called under-developed countries. Russia has set herself up as the champion of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. She wants to spread her influence in these regions and it is at this point that the Nasser attack is so damaging. After the Nasser attack many of these Africans, Asians and Latins will have second thoughts about Russian intentions. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday June 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It looks very much as though Dr. Fidel Castro's 'tractors-for-prisoners' deal will now go through. Castro has sent a cable to Mrs. Roosevelt's committee asking that a delegation go to Cuba to finalise the deal. If the deal does in fact go through then Cuba will give to the United States two of the prisoners captured during the recent invasion attempt, for every one tractor. The Cuban government forces captured 1,000 of the invaders, so if all are to be exchanged then Mrs. Roosevelt's committee will have to deliver 500 tractors. The arithmetic is very simple and very clear: two men equal one machine.

How do you feel about this deal by which two men can be bought for the price of one tractor? I personally have been feeling very depressed and a little sick in the stomach ever since Dr. Castro announced his offer in the second week of May. But please do not misunderstand me, I do not want to join those people who are looking for any excuse to attack and denounce the Castro government. It seems to me that there is very little to choose between the passionate attackers of Castro and the passionate defenders of Castro. Both sides, it seems to me, are driven on by prejudice and passion rather than by reason and clear thought; and I, for one, am unwilling to join either side because I see no virtue at all in blind prejudice either from the right or from the left. And this, of course, generally calls down the wrath of both sides on your head. But that is a chance those of us who try to be reasonable must take.

As I have said before now, I think that Castro has brought a great deal of good for the masses of the Cuban people. I think if

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past American administrations had behaved differently and shown a genuine interest in the needs of the Cuban people, the Cuban revolution might have taken a more libertarian turn. As it is, I think the United States must carry a big share of responsibility for the way things have turned out. All this is by way of background to what I want to say about this tractor-for-prisoners deal.

Of course, if this invasion had not been attempted, this deal would not have come up and here too, the Americans must assume the blame because it is now admitted that they engineered the invasion attempt. But having said all that, we are still faced with the central fact that Fidel Castro put forward the idea of the exhange. Napoleon, he said, exchanged prisoners for pigs. "We," he said, "are a little more refined. We will trade them for bulldozers." Two men, one bulldozer. We now have a definite material value placed on a human being: one man equals half a bulldozer. I cannot find it anything but cynically cruel to evaluate human beings in this manner in our day and age. Man becomes a thing to be valued and traded like any other thing. This was how it was in the days of slavery when human beings were bought and sold like things: this was how it was under the nazis when Adolf Eichmann offered to trade a million Jews for 10,000 trucks. And this, let us face it, is what forced labour means in Angola today, and what it means and has meant in South Africa for a long time. It is the taking away of dignity from a man and reducing him to the level of a thing to be sold or bartered in the market place. And wherever this is done, and for whatever reason, to me it will always be morally wrong and morally indefensible.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday June 12 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It would seem that the West Indies Independence Conference faced its greatest crisis on Friday of last week. As the second week of the conference drew to a close the discussion as to who was to control Income Tax and Industrial Development also drew to a close. And just before the week's conference ended it looked very much as though the conference itself might end abruptly and disastrously.

All the reports from London are agreed that this was the most critical session of the whole conference. There was talk of tension, of jitteriness, of raw nerves, of fear and of anxiety. All the delegates it would seem, realised that they were on the edge of disaster.

Mr. Manley had spelled out the Jamaica position. Jamaica was not prepared to allow Income Tax and Industrial development to come under federal control unless the Jamaican people wanted it to be so. The only other delegation which supported the Jamaica stand was that of Antigua. All the others were opposed. And the opposition to the Jamaica stand was led by Barbados and not, as I had expected, by the Federal Government and Sir Grantley Adams. So it was Mr. Ronald Mapp, the Barbados Minister of Communication, who opened the attack. He was followed by leader after leader of the smaller islands. And they all seemed very firm and very insistent that Jamaica must give way and allow the Federal Government, at some point, somewhere along the line, to have the power to legislate on Income Tax and industrial development. Dr. Eric Williams came up with a proposal which would postpone the matter for now but which would make it possible for the federal government to bring it up when the questions of Customs Union and

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Freedom of Movement comes up in about nine years' time. But Jamaica would have none of this. Mr. Manley explained firmly and patiently that Jamaica would accept nothing less than an absolute guarantee of full control of these two matters. Only the Jamaican people, he said, should have the right to decide on these two matters. And he indicated again that he could have no hope of winning the referendum unless he returned home with this guarantee. Indeed, he had himself made it clear to the people of Jamaica that he would lead that country out of the federation unless these two points were agreed on. And so, finally, the delegations gave way one after the other late on Friday afternoon. And in the end only Trinidad still held out and registered her objection. The formula which was proposed by Mr. Macleod, and which finally broke the crisis was that not only Jamaica but everyone of the units should have the power of veto on Income Tax and Industrial development. But since Jamaica was the only one that wanted such a veto, the Macleod formula was more to save face than anything else. And so the biggest hurdle of all has been overcome and it now looks very much as though the Independence conference will close successfully by the end of this week. But I think we would all be making a mistake if we took the successful end of the conference to mean that everybody is happy and that the whole business is likely to be an unqualified success. I think there will be many bitternesses, many resentments, many disappointments left over after this conference. And some of these are likely to show themselves when it comes to coping with the problems that still lie ahead. I'll talk about some of these problems tomorrow. So till then,

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For tranmission on
Tuesday June 13 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: As I told you last night, the biggest problem facing the London Independence conference has been overcome and it now looks as though the conference will come to a successful close at the end of this week. Of course, something could come up to still wreck the whole business, but that is a most unlikely possibiltity at this stage of the game. I also told you that the resentments, the disappointments and the bitternesses of some of the delegates may create difficulties in the days that lie ahead.

I think we ought to be frank and honest about one thing. Jamaica has imposed her wishes on all the other islands of the federation. And they have had to go along because there could be no effective federation without Jamaica. But that does not mean that they have to like bowing before the wishes of Jamaica. And many of them frankly did not like it and will continue to resent it for a long time. This is one of the problems that lie ahead of us. And this problem is intimately tied up with the problem of the leadership of the federation. And the problem of the leadership of the federation is, in turn, tied up with the Jamaica referedum. So there you have three problems which we will have to face in the immediate future: and all three of them bring us back to one man: and that man is Norman Manley, the Jamaican Premier.

If any man has scored a personal triumph in London that man is Manley. The British people and their leaders have almost instictively turned to him as the real leader of the West Indies. This fact has come out again and again over the radio and in the press. And this is of course something which applies to the people of the West Indies as well. Manley is seen as the logical leader of an independent West

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Indies. And if anybody is able to overcome the bitterness and resentments leftover by the independence conference and bring the leaders of the different islands together, that man again is Manley. I do not see any other Jamaican who could do it. And the only other West Indian who might be able to do it is Sir Grantley Adams. But he has been very unpopular with Trinidad's Eric Williams for a very long time now. And few of the other leaders have much confidence left in his leadership. Also, Sir Grantley has suffered a series of defeats in his encounters with Mr. Manley at both the Trinidad conference and again at the London Conference. I rather think it was because he expected defeat that he did not lead the attack on Jamaica last Friday over the question of Income Tax and industrial development. Some of you may remember that I rather expected a show-down between the two of them. But I think Sir Grantley weighed the whole situation up very carefully and came to the conclusion that he could not beat Manley if it came to a show-down. And Sir Grantley is shrewd enough to know that one more clearcut defeat at the hands of Mr. Manley might put him completely out of the picture. And so Mr. Mapp led the unsuccessful attack. So we come back to the conclusion that Manley is the only man today who can overcome the bitterness created by this conference and offer a leadership everybody would accept. But before he can do that he must win the referendum in Jamaica and doing this is going to be as great a challenge as he has ever faced. All this adds up to one fact: right now whatever happens to Norman Manley can be crucial for both Jamaica and the West Indies. He is today's man of destiny. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday June 14 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The political problems of the West Indies Independenc Conference has tended to push one very important economic problem into the background until the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker, raised it as a Commonwealth problem. Mr. Diefenbaker, you will remember, made the news headlines with his suggestion that the United Kingdom government should not join the European Economic Community (which is more popularly known as the European Common Market) without first having a meeting of Commonwealth leaders. What did not make the headlines (though the Gleaner carried a very good report of it) was the paper the Trinidad delegation circulated to the London Independence Conference onthe same subject. Trinidad expressed great concern about what might happen to the economy of the West Indies if Britain joined the European Common Market.

People who are familiar with Dr. Eric Williams' style of writing could see at a glance how much he had to do with the preparing of this paper. Indeed, this is one of the ways in which Dr. Williams has made a very great contribution to the thinking and the building up of a body of information on federation. I think we tend to forget sometimes that most of the really basic thinking on federation has so far been done almost exclusively by Dr. Eric Williams among the politicians. And he has always brought great scholarship to these studies of his: and so it was with the paper he presented to the London conference.

Now what does the European Econmic Community or the European Common Market have to do with us?

After the Second World War the economies of nearly every country

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in Europe was in a mess. To help these countries out the United States set up the Marshall Plan and poured thousands of millions of dollars into Europe. But neither the Americans nor the Europeans wanted this aid to go on forever and so the Europeans set about helping themselves by working out co-operative methods of solving their problems. They set up an international monetary fund, trade and tariff agreements and a series of economic and customs unions. In 1958 six countries, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxumbourg and the Netherlands, set up the European Economic Community. They agreed that in time they would set up common customs and tariffs among themselves and that their own goods would come and go freely among members. Britain did not join because of her Commonwealth commitments. But these countries have now become a dominant force in the economic life of Europe and they are putting great pressure on Britain to join. But if Britain does join she would have to admit into the United Kingdom on very favoured terms good from all these countries and in the case of France, from her associated states in Africa. This would mean that all the things Britain imports from us now, sugar, citrus, bananas and the like would enter Britain freely from the so-called associated states of France while our goods would become subject to an agreed duty. In short, the favourable market we now enjoy for our goods in Britain would come to an end and we would be in the most awful economic mess. Our markets would either dry up or we would face unfair competition. This is why there is this great cry against Britain joining the European Common Market unless she can get safeguards for goods from the Commonwealth. What Britain does is important to the whole Commonwealth but it is particularly important to us because it is all of our economic life.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday June 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: A number of listeners have asked me why I have not said anything so far about the big argument which is now going on in the citrus industry in general and inside the Citrus Growers Association in particular. As you know there has been a great deal of talk in recent weeks about a report on the citrus industry which was prepared by an investigating committee of the Association. This report, which has so far not yet been freely circulated, is the cause of all the trouble. There has been a spate of rumour and speculation centred ~~around~~ on this report. Accusations have been made in the report, we are told, against certain leading personalities inside the industry. And it has also been said that if the report is published some of the things in it could be used in a court of law against those who publish it. In other words, it is said that those who have written the report have committed possible libel and defamation of character. I understand that when the secretary of the Association handed copies of the report to members earlier this month he also gave these members a letter from the C.G.A. lawyers warning the members to keep the copies to themselves and out of general circulation because there was this possibility of legal action on grounds of defamation of character.

From all this, I think we can draw three conclusions. First, that the report itself is a very controversial document, either about the personalities in the industry, or about the industry itself or about both. Second that there is obviously very strong differences in the industry. And third, that something ought to be done to make it possible for this report to reach the general public so that we should know just what the real score is.

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It seems to me that the situation as it now stands can do nobody any good: it is not good for the industry and it is not good for the personalities involved that this shadow of doubt and questioning and uncertainty and suspicion should continue to hang over the industry. On the other hand, if any man feels that his good name may be damaged if a certain report is published he has every right under the law to warn those in charge of the report that he will take them to law to clear his good name. This could lead to one of two courses of action. Those who are in charge of the report can go ahead and publish it and be prepared to back up their charges in a court of law. In this way the issue will be settled once and for all by legal action. Or they can suppress the report for fear of legal action. This would leave us exactly where we are now with all our questions and all our doubts unanswered. But I think there is a third course of action open and that is to hand the report to a really first-class lawyer with instructions to rewrite the report in such a way as to keep in all the facts but so that there is no ground on which anybody could take the authors of the report to court. This may be a difficult task but I think it is certainly one that can be carried out. Just what action the C.G.A. will decide on is of course up to its members. One thing is certain though, and that is that from the point of view of the rest of the community the situation as it now is, is most unsatifactory. We should all like to know just what is in fact going on inside the C.G.A and I hope they will find some way of letting us know when they have their special meeting on June the 20th. Secrecy and suppression always lead to doubt and suspicion. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday June 16 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I think that Mr. Wills Isaacs' Ministry has lately made a very real effort to keep a check on the cost-of-living and it seems to me that we who are the consumers, and the people who have been complaining most about the high cost of everything, should give the government our support when it makes such an effort. You will remember that I talked about the bringing back of controls on the price of salt fish last week; and I also said that I hoped that Mr. Isaacs will once more let us have our ~~xxxxx~~ daily bread at one shilling for a one pound loaf. Incidentally, on the question of bread, one listener who sounds very much as though he is in the bakery trade, wrote me a very interesting letter blaming the unions for the rise in the price of bread. I am sorry he did not sign his letter because if he had I would have discussed it fully without necessarily mentioning his name. But as he did not sign his letter I will not read or discuss it. Ours is a free society and people should have the courage to put their names to their views.And of course, if listeners ask me not to reveal their names I will respect their wishes. But all this is by the way.

What I want to discuss this evening is not just the cost of living as it applies to the housewife but the cost of living in relation to the prosperity of the whole nation. Many of us may complain bitterly about the price of bread or the price of butter or the price of milk. But having made our complaint, we still go ahead and buy the stuff. But what about the many people who just do not have the money to buy a loaf of bread or a pound of butter or a pint of milk? And don't let us fool ourselves, there are many people in

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this position because they are out of work and next to nothing is coming into the house. These people, the poor and the unemployed, are as entitled to be considered by the society as anybody else. And the way in which a good society considers the problems of such a section of its citizens is by trying to create job opportunities. And the best way of creating job opportunities is by doing everything in our power to foster and encourage those of our local industries which are relatively large employers of labour. In Jamaica, as indeed almost anywhere else, the garment industry is a relatively large employer of labour. And that is why I welcomed Mr. Wills Isaacs' statement last week that restrictions are going to be put on the importing of certain types of garments into Jamaica.

Mr. Isaacs said our garment industry is a heavy employer of labour but at present it is not working to its full capacity and so it is not giving work to as many people as it could because so much of our clothing is imported stuff. And so we will restrict imports in order to make jobs for more of our people. This seems to me very reasonable and very fair as well as being good for the economic health of the country. I know that many people buy imported goods because they feel that nothing made in Jamaica can be as good as anything made abroad. Sometimes this is true but more often it is sheer snobbery. I hope that our local manufacturers will go all out to give us qaulity that will compare with the best from anywhere. And I hope our people will see the very great importance to Jamaica's progress and stability of buying Jamainan goods. 'Made in Jamaica' should be a sign of pride and progress and we can make it that. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday June 17 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: One of the most disturbing problems of modern living has just been brought home to me very sharply, and I hope I can made you feel it as sharply. We all tend to be rather proud of the great progress Jamaica has made in recent years. Our politicians will tell you about the great constitutional advances, and they will give you chapter and verse to prove it. Our economists will tell you just how much the national income and the gross domestic product has grown over the past so many years, and they too will give you facts and figures to prove their point. Our eductaionists will tell you just what great strides we have made in schooling and trot out their facts and figures. We will tell the visitor about the books our writers have written, about the plays we have staged, about the great hotels we have built, about our new housing estates and our plans for more. And when we have listed all our achievements and some of our problems we will tend to be a little smug and feel that we have come a long way in a short time. And so we have.

And yet, have we come so far? How do you measure progress? What would you say is the most outstanding single quality to be found in a really civilised people?

St. Paul, you will remember, summed it up perfectly in that famous passage of his beginning: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...." You will remember he listed all the wonderful qualities: the gift of prophecy, the ability to move mountains: if you had everything, he said, but you had no charity, then all these qualities amounted to nothing. The greatest of all the qualities, he said, is charity. And the word charity, as St. Paul used it, means love and

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compassionate: love and compassionate, the greatest of the Christian virtues. And so we would say that a really civilised people are a people to whom love and compassion are the greatest of all the virtues. But how do we express this in practical living?

I think the only way, or rather the most important way, in which a society expresses these virtues in practical living is by the way in which it cares for the weak and the helpless, for the maim and the halt. The good society, the civilised society is clearly recognised by the way it takes care of it very young and its very old, especially the sick among these. If we use this yardstick then, I am afraid that Jamaica falls down very badly indeed.

Do you know that there is nowhere for a mentally defective child to go in Jamaica, except the poor house? In Britain there are numerous homes where such children can live out their tragic lives under the care and protection of trained people who give them love and comfort. What happens to a family in Jamaica when one of the children is mentally sick. No parent would want to send his or her child to a poor house. And yet there is no institution for such children; and such children need the attention of experts. Many a mentally sick child has been cured or partly cured by expert attention under good conditions. And the state has assumed some responsibility for such children in Britain. But nobody seems to care about them here. To me this is no less than a crime. I think we should make it our business to urge the government to set up a home for mentally sick children. This must be the concern of everyone of us. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday June 19 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: As you listen to my voice this evening, I will be bodily out of Jamaica. In fact, as you listen to me now I myself am roughly 1,500 miles away from Jamaica up in New York. I left Jamaica this morning and if all has gone well I have now been in New York for half an hour. Of course, I have never been able to work out for sure just how the change in time takes place or is worked out but it takes roughly two hours longer to go to New York than it takes to return from there. All I know is that somewhere along the way there I lose two hours and somewhere along the way back I gain two hours. But I think I had better stop here before I get myself and you completely confused by this monkeying with time. Anyway, there is so much that is so amazing about the things human beings can do that it sometimes looks as though man is just about the greatest miracle of all creation. And yet we seem to take all this for granted. We treat all these man-made miracles as though they are common things. And we very rarely think about them or are amazed by them. And yet we should be, you know. I think if we occasionally made time to stop and think on these things it might be very good for our sense of values. It will help us to be proud of the really worthwhile achievements of mankind instead bowing down before a whole heap of false and basically worthless things. For instance, there is the simple miracle of reading which opens all the world's treasure houses of knowledge to anyone who has learnt to read. Once you can read the best that man has created, his finest thoughts, all his knowledge, the great dreams of the poets and storytellers, his scientific explorations of the earth and the heavens, all this will be yours by the simple act of opening a book

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and reading. And yet we take this miracle for granted and because we do that we place a false value on those whose business it is to bring this magical key of knowledge to our children. And so the man who makes money and the film star and boxer and the singer and the politician all command more respect than the teacher. But if we stopped to think we will realise that the job of the teacher is more important and more valuable to the community than the jobs of all these other people. But because we worship false values we do not see this. And the reason for it is this taking for granted of the miracles around us. Once we see the miracle of reading in its proper perspective then the humblest teacher will become socially more important in the community than the richest merchant prince; and pride in serving the community will take the place of pride in making a whole heap of money as quickly as possible, even if it is done crookedly. It is all a question of values and we can set the standards by which we judge each other. But first we must make up our minds about what is really important and what is really worthwhile. And for this we need to stop and think and see the miracles around us.

I have just experienced the miracle of man travelling through the air at hundreds of miles an hour and it is this that has set me thinking along these lines. There is so much that is wonderful and miraculous around us, and so much of it has been created by man himself. I think it is only by rediscovering these miracles that we will go back to first things and give honour to that which is really worthwhile. Tomorrow I will tell you the reason for my journey; so till then, Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday June 20 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: This evening as you listen to me I am in Washington, the capital of the United States - that is if everything went as planned. And by now I will have started on the real purpose of my journey. So let me tell you the reason for my journey.

One of the most respected and one of the most widely read American magazines is called 'Holiday'. It is a big glossy magazine which is read by vast numbers of people all over the world, and these people together number more than all the people we have in Jamaica. And the people who read 'Holiday' are just about the most influential people in the world. So you will see that this is a very important magazine.

When 'Holiday' was first started it was a rather highbrow travel magazine which was not concerned with social or political or economic matters. It mainly told its readers about the different countries in the world and it engaged some of the best writers in the world to describe those countries and tell the readers what there was to see and do if they went to these countries.

But gradually 'Holiday' began to change. It still published stories and pictures about faraway place with strange sounding names. But now these stories began to tell about the lives and the living conditions of the people of these countries. Now the writers examined the social and political institutions of these countries and commented on the kinds of governments of these countries. This went on until 'Holiday' became one of the most important sources of information on the world and its conditions.

It was after this new direction had been firmly established and after 'Holiday's' worldwide circulation had passed the one million

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mark that the editors of 'Holiday' got in touch with me and asked me to write for them. This was in 1958 and they were planning to devote an entire issue of the magazine to Africa. If I tell you that each issue of Holiday runs to between 220 and 250 pages each month you will realise that it is quite a big thing. And so it took us the best part of six months to prepare the issue which was published in April of 1959. And to this day the Holiday magazine issue on Africa is still accepted as the best and the most complete report on Africa ever published in any magazine in the world. In fact, it was that issue of Holiday magazine that started the great American interest in Africa. Of course, I was only one of a small army of writers, photographers and others who worked on that issue.

The next year they asked me to do a story on Harlem and the position of the American Negroes. And last year they published my report on Puerto Rico. And now I am in Washington on another Holiday assignment. This time I will do a report on the new African embassies in Washington and I will concentrate my report on the Ghana Embassy. I am sure most of you have heard or read about the discrimination and other difficulties experienced by some of the African diplomats in the United States. Some have found it hard to get homes because of colour; some have been denied service in public places. All this I will report on. And I will also report what impact these African diplomats are having on Washington and the American government. I am in Washington to get all the facts. As soon as that is done I will return home to write the story for Holiday and of course to tell you too. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday June 21 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Keeping up these commentaries while I am away in the United States raises one very important problem, and that is the problem of being up-to-date and commenting on the news as it happens. This will obviously be impossible as these commentaries are being recorded before I leave for Washington. Last night I told you why I was going and I am sure you will agree with me that the job I am going to do is very important. But we are still faced with the problem that I will not be able to comment on the day-to-day news as it happens. So I am afraid, to that extent I am going to be letting you down for the next ten days as I will not be back in Jamaica until the end of the month.

But some of you may remember that we faced this same problem towards the end of last year when Merrick Needham and I had to go down to Trinidad for a conference on radio matters. I then did what I am now doing: I confessed the whole situation to you and recorded my commentaries in advance. But just as I could not then be up-to-date on day-to-day matters, so I cannot be now. But I solved the problem then by dealing with topics which I felt were important but which had been pushed into the background because of the day to day news. I propose to do the same this time.

In the course of a day so many things that are important happen, but in one brief commentary it is only possible to deal with one or two topics each day. The result is that a whole heap of matters that I would like to discuss cannot be dealt with. And there are times when the really important things are not necessarily the things which are in the news. I hope then, during the days of my absence from

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Jamaica to deal with some of the very important subjects which I have neglected in the past because of the pressure of day-to-day news. I hope you will agree with me that the business of taking thought is as important as the business of being up-to-date. But before I can go on to these 'thoughtful' as against up-to-the-minute commentaries, there are a number of immediate matters that will have to be got out of the way.

I think the excitement and the celebration of the return of our delegates to the Indpendence conference will have settled down by now and people will be bracing themselves for the start of what I expect to be a very serious campaign for the referendum.

Sir Alexander Bustamante's two cables to Mr. Ian Macleod on Thursday of last week makes me wonder whether he is going to use the question of migration as an issue in the referendum campaign. Busta, you will remember sent his first cable on Wednesday of last week. In that he asked the Secretary of State for how long he could assure us that there would be no restriction on migration into Britain. And in his Thursday cable he wanted the assurance written into the federal constitution that the British government would not restrict West Indian migration. Now I have no doubt in my own mind that Sir Alexander's motives were the same as the motives of Mr. Manley and all the other West Indian political leaders. None of our leaders want migration to be stopped. And all of us hate the idea of it being on the grounds of race and colour. But to write this into the West Indian constitution seems to me pointless. This is something which should be written into the unwritten British constitution. Busta's approach looks like playing at politics on a very serious matter. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday June 22 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: From what my good friend Vic Reid has said it looks very much as though the report on the Mission to Africa will be issued a day or two before I return to Jamaica, so I hope to deal with the report itself while it is still fresh in the public mind. With as gifted a writer as Mr. Reid doing the basic writing, I am looking forward to a very fine piece of writing as well as a very clear and instructive report. I do not want to anticipate the report, in any case, I cannot because I don't know what is in it. What I do want to do this evening is to discuss a few points which have struck since the Mission has returned.

I think the thing that pleased me most of all was the very sober and very responsible and very impressive speech made by Mr. Mortimer Planner at the reception to welcome the delegates back. Mr. Planner told his listeners of the dignity, self-respect and orderliness of the Africans they met on their journeys. And he told the Brethern here that that was the standard of conduct by which they would be judged. He told the Rastas that they must give up their 'badmanship' if they hoped to go to Africa. From Mr. Planner's speech I got the impression that the members of the Mission had learnt something which is very important and very fundamental and that is the importance of dignity and responsibility in African eyes. If Mr. Planner and his fellow delegates can bring this lesson hometo the Rasta brotherhood in Jamaica I think they would be performing a most important service to the entire Jamaican community, and not least to the Ras Tafarians themselves.

As the Sierra Leone Minister of External Affairs has already shown in a statement he made in Free Town on June the 12th, some

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African leaders are suspicious of the Rasta movement. The Sierra Leone Minister said, and now I am quoting his own words: " The government is aware of the nature of the West Indian Rastafarian movement and will be cautious in considering any application for immigration into Sierra Leone by any groups or individuals." Those were the Minister's own words. And then he went on to say that his government was still considering the whole question of West Indian immigration and had not yet reached a decision. From this you will see that in Sierra Leone at least there are uncertainties and doubts. And from the point of view of the Africans this doubt and uncertainty is understandable. They have been told that the Rastas are trouble-makers. The trouble and violence of June of last year has been blown up the overseas press who received sensational reports from their local correspondents; and so you had headlines in the newspapers of the world about a Rastafarian rebellion in Jamaica. And people who see these sensational reports are naturally unwilling to welcome people who might be trouble-makers. How are these people to know that very few Rastas were really involved in the Red Hills - Sligoville business? So you cannot blame them for being suspicious. Instead you should blame the false and alarmist reports. But the fact remains that we must set these fears at rest and I think the Rastas are the best people to do that. They can conduct themselves in such a way as to make the African governments proud to welcome them. Certainly, I think the Africans have made it clear that they would be happy to welcome back responsible and dignified people who are not afraid of work. The rest is up to us. I sincerely hope my Rasta friends will rise to the challenge. Goodnight.

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Britain for Migrants.

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday June 23 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I discussed the Africa Mission in terms of what it might mean to the Rastafari brethern. But of course it was not a Rasta Mission as such but a Jamaica Mission, representing the interests of all those who wanted to go back to Africa, whether they are Rastas or not. I think this aspect of the question has tended to be overlooked somewhat. But I rather suspect, and hope, that the Mission' report will correct this fault.

There are very many people, both here in Jamaica and elsewhere in the West Indies, who will be keen to go to Africa if they had the chance and if it looked as though they could make a decent living there. And now that there is all this talk of Britain either stopping or reducing West Indian migration to the United Kingdom, this question of going to Africa has become doubly important. So let us ask ourselves the question: Will Africa replace Britain as the place to which the migrants will go in the future? I feel that if we think in terms of the distant future the answer is probably 'yes'. But I am not so sure about the immediate future.

It seems to me that as long as migrants can get into Britain or into the United States the majority of them will choose to go to these countries, and only a minority will go to Africa. The reason for this is obvious. At present the attractions of Britain or the United States are greater than those of Africa. In Britain today you have the welfare state and if you are sick you get medical attention for free or else you pay next nothing for it. There is already a large resident West Indian community and so the newcomer does not feel too isolated and lonely. Then too, the welfare state gives you a few pounds a week if

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you are out of work. And when you have a job the pay is high compared with what you would earn either in the West Indies or in Africa. And finally, you have a whole wide range of ways of entertaining yourself no matter where you live in Britain. You can have your radio and television in even the most remote village in Britain. And no matter where you are, you do not have to travel far to get to a picture house. All this makes going to Britain, or the United States for that matter, very attractive indeed.

Going to Africa, on the other hand, can be a very different kettle of fish altogether. You can of course go to the key cities and towns like Lagos or Accra or Freetown or Monrovia or Addis Ababa and there you will find cinemas and radio and the like, though not to the same extent that you will find them in Britain or the States. But it is most likely that if you go to Africa as a migrant the government of the country to which you go will want to give you a piece of land to develop far from the big cities: that is of course unless you are a carpenter or mason or mechanic or have some other skill that is badly needed. But if you do not have such a skill, if you are just a farmer or an agricultural worker, then I think they would want to give you a piece of land to work and there will be very little entertainment except what you create for yourself. As I see it for the present only those who have the pioneering spirit will want to go to Africa. The rest will prefer the bright lights and the easy life. But what would happen if Britain closes her door? There is a great deal of land in Africa and Africa is the continent of the future. But a man today must stand on his own feet there and he is expected to make his own life and his own prosperity. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday June 24 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: One of the things that I think we in Jamaica should talk a lot more about is the relatiionship between the individual, the society and the state. It seems to me particularly important that we should discuss this subject right now because vast changes are rushing on us and whether we like it or not, we cannot escape these changes. In a very short time we are going to go to the polls to cast our votes in the referendum as to whether Jamaica should stay in the federation or get out of it. And whether we decide to stay in or get out, it will not stop these great changes from coming. We can no more stop these changes than we can stop night from following day. What we can do is to make these changes as painless and as comfortable as possible, so that the shocks and upset are not too severe. But in order to do this we must be prepared for the changes. We must know where we stand in relation to the coming changes. And for this we must understand the nature of our society and the relations between the different groupings that make up our society. And, most important of all, we must have an idea of where we are going and how we hope to get there. It is on this last point that I think we fall down most seriously at present. I often get the feeling that there is great confusion among the mass of our people about where we are going and how we hope to get there. But I do not think the mass of the people can be blamed for this. This pattern has been inherent in the whole history of this society. It is a society which in the past has always been regulated from above.

In the days of slavery all the decisions were made by the slave masters and the duty of the slaves was to obey or suffer. And after

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slavery it was the Colonial Office acting through the Governor who made all the rules. Of course there was a Jamaican Assembley, but it too represented the interests of a small minority, the planters. And so it was that there was no way in which the vast majority of the people could expresse their views and feeling in a legal and constitutional manner. The only way in which they could express their feelings was by going against authority as they did in the slave uprisings and in the protests and demonstrations such as that known in the history books as the Morant Bay Rebellion. And so it was that the tradition grew up that state power was always in the hands of a minority. And even now, when all that is changed the habit of minority power still lingers with us. We know that we now control the ultimate power to make or break a government. But you may know something without quite accepting or believing in it all the way. And many people who know a thing is true, still go on behaving as if it is not true because it has become a habit to behave like that.

I think one of the biggest challenges we will have to face in the coming change is to break the old habits of expecting a minority of politicians and businessmen to run the whole show for us. I think we must break the habit of thinking that all we can do is bawl when there are no jobs, no houses and things are going badly. We all of us owe it to our society to make a much greater and a much better use of the power which is now in our hands. Because we do in fact have the power. So how do we go about it? There are a number of ways and I will discuss some of them next week, so till then: goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday June 26 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am still not back in Jamaica but I shall be back on Friday of this week if all goes as well as I hope: and then I will again be able to pick up the thread of current affairs both at home and abroad. But as I told you last week, I rather welcome this opportunity of not being able to deal with the day to day news because it is giving me a chance to discuss some ideas which seem to me very important. And as I told you last Saturday, we are living in times of very great change and the only way in which we can make sure that the change does not swamp us is by understanding it and by helping to give it direction. But in order to give this coming change the direction we want, each one of us must understand our place in society and each one of us must be prepared to take our share of responsibility for regulating and running the society. We must not leave it only to the politicians: we have not finished with our responsibilities once we have cast our votes. For us to be able to cope with the coming change we must all take a much more direct part in the affairs of the country and put a stop to the idea that the country is still being run by a minority as was the case under slavery and under Colonial Office rule. We, the majority, do in fact have all the power in the country today. And we must assume the responsibility that goes with power. So how do we begin to assume this responsibility?

Let us start with politics where power is used most directly. We have a two-party system and we call ours a democratic government. But what does it mean to you and me? First, it means that we have two main alternative parties who ask for our votes on the basis of their programmes. And by our votes at each election we choose the party

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whose programme we think is best for the welfare and progress of the country. Generally speaking, the parties reflect the political and economic interests of very large and important sections of the community. And as a rule they also reflect a method of approach to the problems of the country. For instance, I think it is fair to say that one of the differences between the People's National Party and the Jamaica Labour Party is that the P.N.P. believes in planning the economy of the country and it believes that the government should try to regulate the economy where it is necessary for the good of the country. The J,LP on the other hand, believes more in free enterprise with the government having as little to do with business as possible. Another point of difference between the two parties is over federation, and that is why we are going to have this referendum.

The fact of thexistence of these two parties - and we have a few smaller parties too, remember - the fact of the existence of these parties means that we the people have political freedom of choice. We can choose what we want and reject what we don't want. But there is something more that we can do. We can join these parties and we can take part in the making of the policies of these parties and in this way we can make sure that the parties themselves do in fact become democratic parties. I think all our political parties can do with a lot more internal democracy. Of course, there will always be leaders and they will always influence policy greatly. But I think that if the citizen joins the party of his choice and insist on expressing his views the parties will become a lot more democratic than they now are and this will be good for the whole society. But what, you might ask, of the citizen who does not want to join a party? I will deal with that tomorrow evening: so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday June 27 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: What of the citizen who does not want to join a political party? That was the question which I ended my comments last night. Well, what of him or her?

In a free society, and let us not fool ourselves, Jamaica is a free society: in such a society, people are free to join political parties or not to join political parties. This is our right here in Jamaica and as long as Jamaica is a free society no-one will have to join a political party unless they want to. Many people, and as a rule it is the better-off people, are not members of either of our main political parties. Often they are passive supporters of one or the other of our parties. And when it comes to election time they vote for the party of their choice, and when this is done they feel that they have done their duty. I feel that such people are passangers who are not pulling their weight. They are generally the people who are most critical of the parties and the country. They find fault wherever they turn. This is not right and that is not right and the country is going to the dogs they declare. But they themselves are not prepared to do anything about it. In a free society we can be free to be bad citizens and this is one of the dangers of the free society. Many a country has lost its freedom because the more comfortable of its citizens had decided not to bother with politics. They are the people who want everything from the society: they want good roads, good schools, clean streets, free garbage disposal, everything; but they are not prepared to even attend a political meeting. To me these are plain bad citizens. But there is an even worse group, the scoffers.

You will recognise the scoffer by the fact that he despises all

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politicians. He will tell you that they are all a bunch of crooks. He will know the case histories of all the more important politicians and he will tell you how hard up and unsuccessful they were until they entered politics: and look at them now, a house here, a house there, a little woman on the side - and so forth. He will boast that he never votes because he has no time for any of these gangsters and he will tell you that all the parties are crooked and fraudulent.

This type is a positive menace to the freedom of any society. He is destructive and he is negative and if his approach gains popular support then democracy itself is in danger. And of course this type never does anything to right all the wrongs he claims to see about him.

Of course some people are in politics only for what they can get out of it. And of course fault can be found with all the parties and their leaders. We and all our institutions are fallible and so fault can always be found. Butthe good citizen will not only see the fault and bawl about it. He will try to do something about it. And the best way of doing something about anything is to go in there and do something to try and correct it.

Now please do not misunderstand me. I am not saying we must all become violent party politicians. God forbid that we should have a whole nation of such animals! What I am saying is that politics is your business and my business as much as it is Manley or Busta's business because our political freedom is the first frontier of all our freedoms. If we lose that then we will lose all our other freedoms.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday June 28 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you that our political freedom is the first frontier of all our freedoms and if we lose that then it will only be a matter of time before we lose all our other freedoms. The second of our freedoms - and in some ways this is even more immediate than our political freedom - is our freedom under the law. Under the rule of law each and every one of us, no matter how high ~~and~~ or how low, no matter how rich or how poor, no matter how important or how humble, under the rule of law we are all equal. You and I are entitled to the same justice and the same protection under the rule of law as is the most important person in the land. If an injustice is committed against us by any person, no matter how important he is, we can take that person to a court of law in the certain knowledge that justice will be done.

The judges in our courts will not be influenced in their judgement by who the person is, by how much money he has, by how important he is or by what the colour of his skin is. To them the law applies equally to every citizen. We are all subject to the rule of law and all wrong-doers are punished equally impartially under the rule of law.

These are the principles which operate under the rule of law, and as I say, in the courts where our judges sit these principles are upheld fairly and faithfully. And this gives the ordinary citizen his greatest protection in our society.

But as with all our social institutions the day-to-day business of upholding the law is in the hands of ordinary human beings. And often these human beings do not have the very great sense of ~~responsibility~~ responsibility of the judges who sit in our courts of law.

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As you know, the day-to-day business of upholding and enforcing the rule of law is in the hands of our police force. The police are there as the guardians of the peace and the protectors of all citizens. They are both citizens of the society and servants of the society. But we know that not every policeman sees himself as the servants of the society. We all know of cases where this or that policeman got drunk with the little power he had and behaved as though he were a master of the society. There are always people who will abuse the little authority they have. You find such people in every society, everywhere in the world. Here in Jamaica we find it particularly where a bad policeman has dealing with poor and humble people. They seem to operate a double standard, these bad policeman. They will rough up and beat up and bully those whom they think are weak and helpless and they will be on their best behaviour with anybody whom they think has a little influence. This is wrong; and this brings the law itself into disrespect. And in part this is something we inherit from the colonial past when the police were in fact the masters rather than the servants of the people. And as you know, old habits die hard. But let us be honest and admit that these bad policemen are in a minority today. The majority are as good and responsible a bunch of men as you could find anywhere. And it is the duty of the citizen, every citizen, to report every instance of bad police behaviour and at the same time to give all his support and assistance to the good policeman who is keeping our society safe and peaceful. Seeing that the law is kept is as much your business and mine as it is of any policeman. The rule of law is the foundation on which our peaceful day-to-day living rests.

Goodnight.

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

Good evening: So far we have dealt with the citizen and his relation to political parties and politics and we have dealt with the citizen and the rule of law. This evening I would like us to discuss the citizen and his relations with the civil servant. Now there is one very interesting thing which you might have noticed in thr subjects we have discussed so far in this series of what I have called commentaries of ideas. The politician when he goes into parliament gets paid out of public money; the judge who sits in our law courts and the policeman who sees to the day-to-day enforcement of our laws, are both paid out of public money. And the civil servant too, is paid out of public money. And public money, as you know, comes from us the taxpayers. Which means that so far we have been discussing the relations between the citizen and someone who is paid by the citizen.

Now, at the level where the citizen comes into day by day contact with the civil servant whose salary he pays, relations are often very bad. And here again we often come up against that double standard to which I have referred when discussing the relations between the police and the citizen. In our post offices and tax offices up and down the island, we often come across public servants who behave like public masters. They will serve you in their own time; they will be off-hand and rude to you and they will behave as though they are doing you a favour when they do attend to you after having made you wait a long time. And of course, if you look like a poor and humble citizen this treatment will be worse. You might even hear a civil servant making rude remarks about how dumb you are. And you might see that self-same civil servant becoming very polite and helpful to somebody

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who is important and has influence and money. And of course the important citizen will feel flattered at getting this special attention. In fact, quite often the important citizen will expect to get special treatment. If there is a long line of people waiting, Mr. Big will march to the front of the line and get special attention while some tired old lady who has walked miles stands waiting with aching feet.

Now this sort of thing happens almost everywhere in the world in one form or another. But I think there is too much of it in Jamaica today. I think there are too many people who feel that they are too good to wait their turn and who push forward. These people couldn't care less about those whom they are pushing out of the way. And these people, who are supposed to know better, do not seem to realise what a bad example they are setting to others. If a person sees that the man who pushed himself forward got first attention, that person will want to do a bit of pushing on his own. And so it will go like a chain reaction with no one being prepared to wait his turn and everybody pushing. This is a sort of jungle situation which we see every where around. We see it with people driving on the roads, we see it when we go into shops. There is a sort of general rush of bad manners and thoughtlessness. And yet this is something that could so easily be corrected if our civil servants who meet the public were a little more thoughtful and polite and if they insisted firmly but with good manners that Mr. Big should wait his turn like the rest of us. This is the way to return to the idea of good service and good manners. And then of course there is Mr. Big himself, but I will deal with him tomorrow evening: so till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday June 30 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am sure you have all met Mr. Big at one time or another. He is a gentleman who is very full of his own importance. And his own importance generally consists of the fact that he is a little better off than we are. Mr. Big could be black or brown or white; but whatever his colour, you know him by the way he behaves. And of course it can be Mrs. Big too, or Miss Big. He or she never allows anybody to pass them on the road. And of course they always find fault. And wherever he goes, Mr. Big expects immediate attention. He is the man who shouts for the waiter while people who had come to the bar or restaurant before him keep on waiting. He must be served first at the post office or tax office or anywhere else that he goes. And of course he is always complaining about the bad manners of other people. He will tell you that the poorer people have lost all their manners. Why, one of them actually tried to push him out of a line one day.

And if it is Mrs. Big she will complain about the great difficulty of keeping maids and she will tell the whole world what worthless thieves Jamaican maids are and how bad their manners are. But I am sure I do not have to go on. You know the whole set up. Mrs. Big is rude and bad-mannered with her maid, she pays the maid very little, feeds her on scraps and expects her to work like a slave. And when the maid gets fed up with it all and tells her that slavery days are gone, Mrs. Big complains bitterly. But then, to Mrs. Big her maid is not entitled to the same thought and consideration that she, Mrs. Big, expects all the time.

And the same applies to Mr. Big he wants to be as rude and bad-mannered and pushing as he likes, and when the little people start to

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push back, Mr. Big throws up his hands in horror and complains about bad manners and lawlessness and the like.

Well, I think it is time Mr. Big faced a few basic facts of life. You cannot expect respect from people if you treat them with disrespect. If you want people to respect you, then you must show that you respect them. If you assume that somebody is going to thieve and you make it clear to them that you expect them to thieve, then surely they will thieve. A man or woman might well decide to take something if he or she knows that they are going to be accused of taking the thing. And let us face it, slavery days are in fact long gone and no maid is going to break her back for fifteen or twenty or twenty-five or thirty shillings a week.

And I am a little tired of all this talk about the bad manners of the lower classes. The amazing thing to my mind is that they are not more bad-mannered than they are. All around them and for every day of their lives they see examples of really aggressive bad manners by the Mr. Bigs of this world, by the bad policman who is drunk with a little authority, by the civil servant who feels that he is a civil master.

I think we all want to stop and think very carefully about this double standard which still operates in so much of Jamaican life. We cannot have two different standards for one people living in one country and hope to ride the challenge of change successfully. There must be one standrd for all the people, one set of values by which all are judged and only then can we approach the ideal of the society we want to create, and which I am convinced we can create. I will try to sum up this whole week's discussion tomorrow: so tillthen, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday July 1 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Let me now try to sum up the challenge of the future as I see it. As always when a people have to face a challenge, the challenge is to all the people of the country. It is never only to the politicians or to this or that section of the community. And so this is the business of every one of us. But we have slipped into the habit, largely due to the history of the past, of expecting a minority to run things for us. Now we must get out of this habit and take a direct part in the affairs of the country at every level. That is the first point.

The second point is the one on the rule of law. In the future when things are difficult and tricky it might be a great temptation to react as Jamaicans reacted in the past when the authority of the rule of law was in the hands of the Colonial Office. Today if we attack established authority we will really be attacking our own authority, because the political power, which is the real power, is in our own hands.

And the third point is that each one of us must think again and think very carefully about our relations with each other and about the kind of society we want to create. Up to now, much of the basic thinking has been done for us. Other people have decided how Jamaica should move and where Jamaica should go. But now we are on the threshold of something new. Full independence and the responsibilities of full independence are less than a year away. And how we enter that independence will not only decide the immediate future of each one of us, it will also decide the future of other Jamaicans who may be born hundreds of years from now. And the first of these great decisions we

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have to make is not more than three months away. That decision will be made in one day, in a few seconds in fact when we make our crosses but the effects of that decision will set the course of Jamaica's future for as far ahead as we can think. So I think it is important for us to get our values quite clear as we approach that moment of decision.

What kind of a Jamaica do we want? What kind of a Jamaica do we want to leave our children in? What kind of a Jamaica do we want to leave for those who will inherit this island five hundred or a thousand years from now? That is the real challenge of the future and each one of us must answer it for himself. For myself, I have worked out my answer.

I know that Jamaica will never be as rich as some of the really rich countries of the world, that is if you are thinking of material riches. But I think it is possible to create a reasonably prosperous Jamaica in which everyone will have to work hard for his daily bread but in which there will be daily bread for everyone. And I should like to think that we will have the good sense to create a peaceful Jamaica in which the rule of law will ensure the freedom of each single person, no matter what his social or economic standing. And above all I should like to think that we will have the sense to create a Jamaica in which every man will have respect for his fellow man and a deep and abiding love for this very beautiful land. I think if we can achieve this then we will really have done something big and wonderful and worthy of the future. It is all in our hands now. Goodnight.

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2) ~~The Washington Scene~~
Manley's Birthday

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday July 3 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: It is very good indeed to be back in Jamaica again. My ten days in the United States - mainly in Washington - were very intersting and I learned a great deal but it was a great sigh of relief that I stepped back on Jamaican soil and that wonderful feeling of being back home swept over me. This sense of belonging; this sense of being at home is just about the most wonderful feeling any person can experience after being on a journey. And as you know, I have travelled much and lived in many countries, but I have never had this strong sense of belonging that I have for Jamaica: that is why it is so good to be back. But let us get on to the news.

The news of the death of Ernest Hemmingway yesterday will be mourned by writers all over the world because Hemmingway was a great writer. Hemmingway was a great story-teller and a big man in every respect, and there are many people who feel that he was the greatest writer of this age. I personally do not agree with them on this particular point. In my opinion he was a great writer, but certainly not the greatest. I would put writers like the German, Thomas Mann, the Englishman, E.M. Forster and the Frenchmen, Andre Malraux and Albert Camus and the Russians Alexei Tolstoy and Boris Pasternak - I would put these writers far ahead of Hemmingway. But then these people whom I have just named are and were more than just great writers. They were giants of literature. Through their writings they helped us to see the world in which we live in a uniquely new way. They taught us to have values - not American values or Russian values or English values or French values - they taught us human values and through their art they glorified man's struggle for that which is good

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and clean and beautiful and dignified here on this earth. They did not glorify one particular kind of man: their art enriched and glorified all mankind. Hemmingway's art did not reach quite this far.

For Hemmingway, until near the end of his life, the world was mainly the background for a certain kind of American adventurer. Under different names and in different circumstances you find Hemmingway's American hero in France in Spain, in Africa, working out his own individual fate. He is generally strong and tough and able to make the women fall for him left right and centre. Sometimes Hemmingway's hero looks like Gregory Peck, sometimes he looks like Robert Taylor, some times like Humphrey Bogart. But how wonderfully Hemmingway wrote about him! His handling of words was a thing of magic and you believed in the Hemmingway hero while you were under the spell of the master. So, while I would not call him the greatest writer of this age, I would go along and agree that he was probably the greatest craftsman of this age. Young writers all over the world have been influenced by the Hemmingway style. We see it in the work of some of our own West Indian writers. The Hemmingway style was something unique in world writing. And so, with all the other writers, I mourn the passing Ernest Hemmingway, a great writer.

Finally, a note of celebration: Norman Washington Manley is 68 years old tomorrow and I am sure I speak for all of us in wishing him a very happy birthday. I am sure I can say this for his political foes as much as for his political friends. Manley is a great man in his own right and we, irrespective of party, should be proud of this great Jamaican and honour him as such on his birthday.

Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday July 4 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Before settling down and dealing with the local scene, I think I had better keep my promise and give you a brief report on my trip to Washington. As I told you when I left, the purpose of my journey was to report on the situation of the African embassies in the United States and on their problems and their achievements.

Perhaps the best way to begin is by telling you a story that will be familiar to many Jamaicans who have at one time or another been to the United States. It so happens that I witnessed the end of this story on my third day in Washington and so you might say I had a ringside seat.

William Fitzjohn is an African Diplomat who is now the Commissioner for the independent government of Sierra Leone in London. He left Washington to take up his new post in London about five days ago. But before he left Fitzjohn was the Charge D'Affaires of his government in the United States. In other words, when he first arrived in the United States Sierra Leone had not yet achieved its full independence but independence was so near that the government of Sierra Leone sent Fitzjohn to Washington to take charge of its affairs and set up its embassy. So Fitzjohn was a fully accredited representative of his country. Fitzjohn is a cheerful and thickset black man whom I knew from his student days in England. Indeed, I discovered that I knew most of the African diplomats in Washington personally. Some I had known as students in England, others I had known as political figures in Africa; so I was not among strangers. And so it was that I had a ringside seat at the end of the Fitzjohn story.

On June the 23rd Mr. Fitzjohn was going to a little twon called

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

Hagerstown in Maryland. Hagerstown is a small southern town with a population of 36,000 people. And the Mayor and people of Hagerstown had invited Fitzjohn, his wife and the entire staff of the Sierra Leone embassy to a civic reception in honour of Mr. Fitzjohn. Now, I don't think I have to tell you the racial attitudes of the majority of white southerners in the United States. We all know that they do not normally associate socially with Negroes. So I was more than a little surprised when I heard of this special reception for an African diplomat who was leaving the United States. And so I became a Sierra Leonean for a day and sneaked myself into the party that went to Hagerstown. And what a party it was! Mr. Fitzjohn's party had a state police escort. There was a gala banquet; Mr. Fitzjohn was given the keys of the city of Hagerstwon; Mrs. Fitzjohn was presented with flowers by the wife of the mayor as well as a plate and everybody was cordial and friendly and I saw more southern whites trying to shake black hands than I had ever seen before. If a man from another world had seen that day's ceremonies he would have sworn that no people who behaved as the citizens of Hagerstown did could ever be accused of practising a colour bar. But I was no man from Mars and so I wanted the facts behind this amazing display of friendliness to blacks in a southern American city. And sure enough, the facts were there and easy to discover. Three months ago Mr. Fitzjohn was passing through Hagerstown and stopped at a restaurant and asked for a meal. But the Howard Johnson restaurant in Hagerstwon told the African diplomat to go away as they did not serve Negroes. And that was the beginning of the story. I will tell you the end and the meaning of it tomorrow. So till then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday July 5 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: When the white manager of the Howard Johnson restaarant in Hagerstown, Maryland, insulted the black African diplomat, William Fitzjohn, by refusing to serve him a meal, he did not know what he was starting. After the snub Fitzjohn went on his way without making any fuss. But when he reached his office in Washington he fired off a report to his own government and a very stiff formal protest to the United States government. You see, when the Howard Johnson restaurant insulted Fitzjohn they did not just insult one black man, they insulted the government and people of Sierra Leone because Fitzjohn was not a private person but the official representative of his country.

And so it was that the incident immediately made world headlines. President Kennedy formally apologised to the government of Sierra Leone and to Mr. Fitzjohn. The United States Sate Department also apologised and these were followed by apologies from the officials of Hagerstown. And three months later, when Mr. Fitzjohn was on the point of leaving the United States, the city of Hagerstown threw the gala reception for him about which I told you last night.

Now this story, I think, illustrates completely the situation of the African diplomats in Washington. Officially they are welcomed as honoured guests of the United States government which is anxious to win their goodwill and the goodwill of their countries. But when they go about the country they always run the risk of being insulted and discriminated against. And every time one of these diplomats experience any racial incident it hurts and damages the position of the United States in the world. And the American government knows this and tries

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

to undo the damage. But it is very hard to undo this kind of damage. I know that although Fitzjohn accepted the gesture of atonement made by the mayor and citizens of Hagerstown, he and all the other African diplomats know that this gala show was put on only because of presure from the White House. The one person whose sincerity on this colour question the Africans trust is the President. They know that with Mr. Kennedy it is not just a diplomatic thing. He has convinced them that he is sincerely opposed to any and every manifestation of racial prejudice and discrimination. They have seen him at work trying to end racial discrimination not only against African diplomats but against every black American as well. And they are in a very good position to see the very powerful groups and forces who are working against him.

But knowing all this does not alter the fact that every one of the African diplomats in Washington has, at some stage, either when he is looking for a house to buy or rent or when he goes into a hotel or when he goes into a barberor when he travels about the country - every one of them has at one stage or another experienced racial insult at the hands of some white American. And they don't like it one little bit. And so most African diplomats regard Washington, the leading capital of the Western world, as a hardship post because it is a hardship to be a black diplomat there.

There is a great deal more to the Washington story: but I think this aspect of it is the central and challenging fact. America's race relations has now become a key issue of foreign relations, and in the Cold War this is crucial. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday July 6th at 6.15 p.m.
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am afraid that those of us who expected Mr. Manley to announce the date for the Referendum have been disappointed. In his report to the House of Representatives this afternoon on the London Independence Conference Mr. Manley did not tell us when the Referendum will be. He did say however, that it would definitely be this year. And he also said that the Law required that six weeks clear notice be given before the Referendum could be held. So although we are still in suspense two things are clear. First, thet the Referendum will be held this year and second that when the date is announced there will be six clear weeks for all the political parties to really go to town both for and against Federation.

Some of you will remember that I have suggested that the Referendum will be held sometime in September. I had therefore hoped that Mr. Manley ~~will~~ would announce the date in his report to the House today because six weeks from now would take us well into August and since a little margin might be needed it would have been possible to set a September date today. However, Mr. Manley has not made the announcement. If the Referendum is still to be held in September, as I forecast then he will have at least another two weeks in this month in which to announce the date. If on the other hand he does not announce the date of the Referendum this month then it is very unlikely that it would take place in September. But my guess is still September and so I still expect an announcement on the date of the Referendum before the end of this month.

The second important point that came out of Mr. Manley's report on the Independence Conference is the fact that there will be no Federal Elections before Independence. The Premier reported that all the delegates agreed on this point because they all felt that it was most important not to delay the coming

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

of West Indian Independence for one day longer than is absolutely necessary. And so it was decided to go ahead with Independence and postpone Federal elections until afterwards. This means that there would be no Federal Elections until ~~the~~ after the 31st of May 1962 and this in turn means that Sir Grantley Adams will be the first Prime Minister of the Indepeddent West Indies Federation: Whether he will in fact continue as Prime Minister of the ~~Independent~~ Federation after Independence is another question all together although reports from the Eastern Caribbean suggests that there is going to be a considerable amount of political power play before the top leadership of the Federation is settled. But all this of course will depend on the result of the Jamaica Referendum. My guess is that if Mr. Manley does win the Referendum then after the Federal elections ~~sometime~~ sometime in 1962 he is the most likely candidate for the Premiership of the West Indies.

The third major point brought out by Mr. Manley in his report to the House today has to do with the position of the Governor General and the Governors of the unit territories. After Independence the Governor General will be appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Governors of all the unit territories will be appointed on the advice of the Premier or Chief Minister in each unit. This is of course a traditional fact of full Independence Whereever a country of the commonwealth is independent it is the Prime Minister or Premier of that country who advises the Queen as to who should be appointed as Governor or Governor General.

These then are the key points of Mr. Manley's report on the London Independence Conference. They set the stage for the great debate to get underway in earnest when the House meets next Tuesday. I think from here on we can all look forward to a sharper and much more fierce political battle on the question of Federation and the Referendum. The lines are drawn. The fight is on. Good night.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday July 7 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: As the question of Federation and the coming together of the people of the West Indies is so much in the air just now, I thought you might be interested in how Trinidadians look at some of Jamaica's problems.

As you know, there has lately been a great deal of talk on the question of race and colour in Jamaica. As some of you may also know, I am the editor of the West Indian Economist, a monthly magazine which deals with the economic, social and political problems of all the West Indies. And each month the West Indian Economist devotes the bulk of an issue to a special subject. Well, in the April issue we concentrated on the question of race and colour in Jamaica today. And because it was such a controversial subject, I invited two people to write about it from ppposite points of view. One of my two writers did not want his name to be printed and so we published his article as by a young Jamaican Nationalist. The other writer was Mr. H.P. Jacobs who did not mind his name being used. I think that these two articles, which, as I said, appeared in our April issue, gave just about as complete a picture of Jamaican thinking on this question of race and colour as you could find anywhere. And so I was not particularly surprised when the April issue of the West Indian Economist caused something of a sensation when it reached the Eastern Caribbean. People read and talked about the articles and some of the newspapers, including the Trinidad Guardian, commented on them. And then, on June 23rd, Lynne Beckles, the most popular columnist of Eric Williams' P.N.M. weekly, The Nation, devoted a whole page to discussing the articles

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

and then she gives her own, and I think the P.N.M. opinion, on the the whole matter.

Now, the position taken up by the Young Jamaican Nationalist in his article was that to be born with a dark skin meant that you were excluded from all that was finest and best in Jamaican life, and that although political power was no in the hands of the dark people they still suffered social and economic discrimination. For this reason many dark-skinned Jamaicans did not bother to qualify themselves for jobs where they knew they would not be wanted. Mr. H.P. Jacobs, on the other hand, while agreeing that there still were some hangOvers of this sort of thing, could look back to the 1930s and the great changes that have taken place since. He felt that the position as stated by the Young Jamaican Nationalist was not a natural reaction to present-day Jamaican conditions but rather it was one of pure decadence. He felt that the black intelligensia had failed to rally the masses of the Jamaican people around it, and had failed to give it any clear lead in art, in politics ~~and~~ or in business.

Lynne Beckles says that she prefers to the view put forward by H.P. Jacobs that there is a vacuum in the field of Jamaican leadership which permits, in this period, overall dissatisfaction and unrest. She says it appears that the spirit that brought Jamaica out of the 'Dreary Thrtthies' seems to have lost its momentum in 1961. And then she goes on to discuss the problems of leadership and puts forward a suggestion on how this matter should be coped with. Tomorrow, I will give you in her own words, Lynne Beckles' answer to this question of colour as they see it in Trinidad. So till, then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday July 8 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember that I told you last night of the great interest aroused in the Eastern Caribbean by the discussion of Jamaica's race and colour situation which appeared in the April issue of the West Indian Economist. I gave you a summary of the views expressed by a Young Jamaican Nationalist and of the reply of H.P. Jacobs. I told you that Lynne Beckles, the leading columnist of the P.N.M. weekly, the Nation, had devoted a whole page to discussing these articles and had come down on the side of H.P. Jacobs when he said the root of the trouble was the failure of the black intelligensia to give the Jamaican masses clear leadership. Miss Beckles then went on, and now I am quoting her: "It is for this reason I can never stress sufficiently the value of the political organisation in a 'new' society like ours that founds itself on a basis of small cells engaged in social activity within the community. From these cells come the group leaders, the representatives to the higher levels of the party structure and of the legislature and local government bodies. Thus from the tiny community, the aspirations and ambitions of the masses permeate the political structure resulting in government policies in harmony with the very fabric of the governed. In the course of time there is complete absorption of the masses with its government and identification of them with their country's soil, customs and habits....

"I would hate to give the impression that with my limited knowledge I am putting forward a cure-all for the ills of the Jamaica Establishment. But I would have thought that, Jamaica being not so different from Trinidad, it would have become clear that colour discrimination, a concomitant of colonialism, posed a problem the

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

tackling of which was to be given priority A at all levels.

"In this, inevitably, the government takes the lead: in its employment practices, its policies regarding admission of expatriates for jobs in commerce and industry, in education so far as extending facilities to all for technical training - in all these any West Indian government has the whip hand. This, carried uncompromisingly over the years must be reflected within the society itself, even up to the last toeholds of discrimination, for example private clubs and associations.

"If much cannot be done with the older heads, at least the young generation would today be in the throes of adopting a new West Indian philosophy towards race and colour, consciously striving for a modus vivendi (a way of life) of peoples under the West Indian sun. Nationalism is a good enough start, but it cannot thrive on words or 'sweet-mout'; it is up to the intelligensia to translate racial solidarity into a way of life.

"On these grounds, therefore, I reject Young Jamaican Nationalist's critique as defeatist - as a hand-wringing rather than a prime-the-pump effort. It may help Young Jamaican Nationalist to learn that Trinidadians are now accepting the philosophy of 'Mass Day Done'."

Those are the words of the P.N.M's Lynne Beckles summing up an important Trinidad view on our approach to the question of race and colour in Jamaica. I think it is a most interesting view. I think we can learn a great deal from seeing ourselves as others see us.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday July 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Every now and then something happens which completely changes the course of history. But very often people cannot see all the effects of a single happening. For instance, the people who were fighting the second world war could not foresee what has turned out to be possibly the most far-reaching effect of that war. Before the second world war Europe was the centre of the world; a sick centre perhaps, but still the centre of the world. Western European thinking, Western European values, still influenced all mankind. The United States and Russia were becoming the economic and political giants but to a major extend the rules were still being made by western Europeans. They drew the lines for the conflict of ideas and they set the pattern of values as to what was right and what was wrong. But shortly after the end of that war the emergence of Africa and Asia hit the world and the whole political balance was upset, Delhi and Accra acquired equal, and in some cases greater, influence with London and Paris in the shaping of world political trends. And this, of course, was something that very few, if any, western Europeans expected to happen in this century.

I think we are now witnessing something which could have an equally important and equally far-reaching effect. Unfortunately, most of us have not paid as much attention as we should to this new development which can so radically change the course of world history. And I do not have to tell you that what happens to the world in general and the British Commonwealth in particular, is going to have a very great effect on the West Indies, whether we like it or not. I am of course thinking and talking about the European Common Market and the great

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

debate throughout the Commonwealth on whether Britain should join the Common Market or not.

Lord Perth, the British Minister of State for ~~Colonial~~ Colonial Affairs, is now in Trinidad and today discussions started between him and the Federal and Unit governments on this question of Britain joining the Common Market. As you know, Mr. Arnett and Mr. Wills Isaacs are down there now, representing Jamaica at this discussions. And similar discussions are now going on in other parts of the Commonwealth. British Cabinet Ministers are having or have had discussions with the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand governments: they are having or have had discussions with the leaders of India, Pakistan and Ceylon: and the same thing has happened in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. In fact, the question of whether Britain should or should not join the European Common Market is the most important point of discussion throughout the Commonwealth today.

Some of you will remember that I gave you a background outline of the European Common Market last month, on June the 14th. I told you the history behind how it had come into being in 1958 when France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxumbourg came together. At that time Britain decided against joining the Common Market because she was economically stronger than the six countries and also because of her special relations with the Commonwealth. But there were also historical reasons of power politics why Britain did not want to join the European Common Market in 1958. I'll discuss these reasons and why they are now changing, tomorrow evening. So till then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY,
For transmission on
Tuesday July 11 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Britain refused to join the European Common Market in 1958 because the British could not come to look on themselves as just Europeans. They were and to an extent still are, Europeans plus. Just being Europeans was not good enough. All their history had proved this point. Between Europe and Britain lay the English Channel, a stretch of 20 miles of water, and that had made all the difference in the world to the British. The British had only been invaded twice in all their history: first by the Romans in the early dawn of history; and then by the Normans in 1066, just under 900 years ago. The Europeans on the continent, on the other hand, marched across each other's lands, conquered and were conquered by each other through the long years of their history. To be sure, Britain took part in these European wars, but she took part as the outsider. Her soldiers, sometimes as mercenaries, went on to the soil of Europe and fought on one side or the other. Sometimes Britain financed one side against the other and became the sort of third party, controlling the balance of power in Europe without becoming more deeply involved in European affairs than suited her. Between the 12th and the 19th centuries when British power was at its greatest she manipulated Europe like a puppet-master and what was known as the Pax Britannica (the peace imposed by Britain) was a very real thing.

The result of all this was that Britain was largely cut off from the influences that were at work in Europe. The Europeans got to know each other in a way they never got to know the British and the British never got to know them. Indeed, it was this aloofness from Europe, this refusal to get too deeply involved in Europe except when it suited

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

her, that gave Britain her very unique position in the world. Without this aloofness from Europe she could not have created the world-wide British Empire which in turn created the world vision of British statesmanship at it best, and which resulted in the creation of the world-wide commonwealth when empire collapsed. So, in terms of her past history, the benefits of not getting too closely involved with Europe were very real. And so the British did not want to join the European Common Market.

But the past was dead and the world had changed more radically than Britain realised. At first she tried to organise to organise the other European powers as a counter force against the six of the European Common Market. But the Common Market countries were too strong to be manipulated. Together they have a population of 250 millions, and since the revival of Germany's economy, they have grown so strong that Britain can no longer ignore them. And now the Six have turned the tables on Britain. They have in effect said to Britain: 'either you join us, or else we are going to squeeze you'. And make no mistake about it, if the European Common Market countries decided to squeeze Britain they could really hurt her economy. And so, whether she likes it or not, Britain will have to join the European Common Market or else risk economic isolation and ultimate economic ruin. But the Common Market is more than just an economic union. It is a political union as well. In political terms, the Common Market countries, especially if Britain is with them, could be apower bloc that is potentially stronger than either Russia or America, both economically and militarily. So this, as you can see, is a very big thing. But where do we, where does the Commonwealth fit into this thing? I will discuss that tomorrow evening. So till then, goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday July 12 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: From what I have told you about the European Common Market so far you will realise that Britain does not really have very much choice: either she joins the European Common Market or else she risks not only economic but also political isolation in Europe. And naturally, in her own interest, Britain does not want these things to happen. But if Britain does join the Common Market what happens to the Commonwealth? It is to discuss possible answers to this question that British Cabinet Ministers have been visiting Commonwealth countries this week. Lord Perth is here in the West Indies. Mr. Edwar Heath, the British Lord Privy Seal is in Cyprus. Mr. Peter Thornycroft, the British Minister of Civil Aviation is in India. Mr. Duncan Sandys, the Commonwealth Relations Minister is in Australia. In New Zealand Mr. Sandys was surprised by the bitter opposition to Britain joining the Common Mrket. But then New Zealand has practically built her entire economy on her exports to Britain. 92% of all her exports of butter, cheese, meat and wool go to Britain under very favourable conditions. If Britain joins the Common Market then New Zealand's dairy produce will have to compete with the dairy produce from the lowlands of Europe: and Holland alone could supply Britain with all the butter and cheese that she now takes from New Zealand. And what is more Holland would be able to supply it more cheaply once customs and tariff bariers are down because the distance between Holland and Britain is only a fraction of the distance between New Zealand and Britain. But then this is the same position faced by farmers in Britain too. If Britain joins the Common Market then fruit and vegetables from the farms of France and Holland and Italy will be able to enter freely and compete with the

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

local farm produce. On the other hand, the farm produce of the British farmer will be able to enter the European markets equally freely. In the West Indies our position could be dangerous with regard to citrus if Britain enters the Common Market. Some of the 'associated' African territories of France produce a great deal of citrus and so does Italy. At best we would face very serious competition if their citrus could enter Britain as freely as ours; at worse we would face disaster if there were customs and tariff walls against our citrus and none against theirs. With regard to sugar things look a lot better. I think we could look forward to enjoying more or less the same markets we now enjoy under the International Sugar Agreement. Indeed we might even find that we have slightly larger market for our sugar. But our bananas may be replaced by other and cheaper fruit from southern Europe and nothern Africa. Dates and grapes, for instance, might easily replace bananas as an English luxury at the table. But perhaps the most serious economic danger we would face if Britain joins the Common Market - and it is one that would hit Jamaica and British Guiana - is a fall off in our bauxite industry. Most of our bauxite ends up as alumina in Canada. About half of Canada's exports of aluminium and aluminium products go to Britain. But Norway has been competing with Canada for the aluminium market in Britain. Once Britain is in the Common Market she might have to take more from Norway and Surinam and so hurt our bauxite industry. All of this, of course, depends very much on the terms on which Britain enters the Common Market. I have no doubt that she will do all in her power to protect the Commonwealth. But there are serious and dangerous challenges ahead of us if Britain joins the European Common Market. And their is the threat of disaster for Britain if she does not. This is the challange of the new Europe. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday July 13 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: A number of new mayors and chairmen of towns and Parish Councils have taken office up and down the island today: and so new administrations begin in a number of our local government authorities today. On the whole we have not heard much of this. Almost everywhere things have gone along quietly, and in some places they have been so quiet that it has looked as though this was none of the business of the general public. Only in Montego Bay has the public shown some active and open interest in the selection of its first citizen. Elsewhere it has looked as though it was mainly the concern of the people who sit in the councils and of their parties.

Most of you know my feelings about the importance of local government. I feel that it is at the local government level that we find the foundations of our democracy. If we have a healthy local government system in which all the citizens are interested, and if that local government system is genuinely democratic, then things are almost bound to be healthy and democratic at the national government level. It is for this reason that I am rather disappointed at the apparent lack of interest shown in today's local government proceedings. I know things would have been different had these been popular local government elections. But all the same, I think we ought to be asking questions. Is the man the majority party has chosen in a particular Parish Council the best man for the job? What is his record? What has he done for his community? And what does he propose to do about the matters that are of interest to the community.

Please do not misunderstand me. I know these things are run on party lines and that is the way it should be. But not all men in the

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

same party are equally gifted or equally sincere or equally dedicated to the interests and welfare of the people. There are some men who are out mainly for themselves and who are only interested in building up power for themselves. This is so in all parties. So, whatever your party, you want to be selective within the party. You want to have your voice heard so that your party should know whom you consider the best man for the job of heading your local government.

This is in fact what happened in Montego Bay yesterday when a large cross-section of the citizens showed their concern over the position of the mayor. At a private meeting the P.N.P. councillors who control the St. James Parish Council had decided that Councillor Ralph Barrett should replace Dr. Herbert Morrison as Mayor of Montego Bay for the coming year. There is no question but that the party was within its rights to make that decision because the Councillors do in fact decide who should be the mayor. Some 10,000 citizens of the Parish, on the other hand, protested against this decision. They wanted Dr. Morrison to continue as mayor. And the reason why they wanted Dr. Morrison to continue was because he had proved himself a good mayor and they, the citizens, had seen the results of his efforts. Dr. Morrison had tried to get things down in the interests of the public and he had cleaned up much of the dishonesty and inefficiency within the local government. Naturally, he had made enemies in doing all this, and some of them within his own party. But he had won the support of the people and the people have expressed their views forcefully, and whatever the outcome, this is something good and healthy both for the Parish of St. James, the political parties, and democracy in Jamaica. The people of St. James have shown that the business of government is everybody's business. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

3) Telephone Company

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday July 14 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: We have lately heard a great deal of criticism of some government institutions. Towards the end of last month the Star carried a front page story under the heading: 'Inmates Lying in Filth at K.S.A.C. Infirmary' and on Monday of this week the Star carried another story, this time on conditions at the T.B. Hospital which is also on the Slipe Pen Road.

Some 150 patients at the T.B. Hospital went on a hunger strike because they were not satisfied with the food and the manner in which the food was prepared, the report said. It also said that the Rasta patients were the leaders of this strike. I understand that the strike has now come to an end and that there has been a slight improvement in conditions.

The story concerning the K.S.A.C. Infirmary was that bedridden patients were lying in filth, that they were attacked by flies and that conditions generally were most unsaisfactory. These reports were made by welfare workers of the Methodist Church as well as by an Area Officer of the Board of Supervision. And from the reports it seemed that conditions had come to this state of affairs because Mr. Bertie Garwood, the Master of the Infirmary, had been seconded to other duties and so someone else was acting for him.

I happen to know Mr. Garwood very well, and I know of his great concern and interest for the old people under his care. Indeed my family pay regular visits to an old man there to whom they take tabacco and the like and so I have a pretty good working knowledge of conditions inside the infirmary. Certainly, when Mr. Garwood was there things were not as bad as the reports made out. But this was mainly

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

due to the presence of one man. And that is our real problem. These old folk are to a large extent at the mercy of the people in charge. If you have a good man or woman in charge, then things can be very pleasant for them. If you have somebody who does not care about them then things can go bad very quickly. It seems to me that two things are needed in these institutions. First, I think staff for these institutions should be selected very much more carefully and from people who are trained welfare workers and who have a real interest in the sick and the old. To treat it as just another civil service job seems to me not good enough. And second, I should like to see officers of the Board of Supervision paying much more regular and frequent visits to these institutions. We owe this much to our sick and our old.

Next, I see that the government has ordered the Banana Board to suspend all mechanical loading of bananas. This is of course to try and prevent the unemployment which would hit us if machines replaced men at these jobs. Here we are faced with a real problem. Mechanical loading is quicker but it will put men out of work, and this the government rightly does not want to happen. And yet with the threat of Britain joining the European Common Market efficiency in our agriculture will become increasingly important if this industry is to survive in a fiercely competitive world. It seems to me that a really careful study of this problem is now called for.

Finally, I think the Telephone Company has really put its foot into it over this business of the mayor's telephone. If I were the company I would admit just how wrong I have been, apologise sincerely and publicly and make sure that I never pull such a silly one again. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday July 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am sure that every one, whether they are for or against Jamaica remaining in the federation, will agree that there is no more important an issue facing us today. And yet, ask yourself how the information on this vitally important matter is given to the people. Take the case of Mr. Manley's report to the House on the London Independence Conference
/~~matter~~/and the debate which is now still going on.

Mr. Manley made his report to the House on Thursday July the 6th. The radio stations carried reports of his speech the same evening. The next morning the Gleaner also carried its report. Both the radio stations and the Gleaner gave us pretty good coverage of the Manley speech, and the Gleaner also gave us some of the verbal exchanges between Mr. Manley and Sir Alexander Bustamante on the floor of the House. All I am saying is that both the press and the radio reported the proceedings as adequately as they could, and they reported it very quickly. I do not think we could expect much more from them under present conditions. They did their jobs and did them well.

And yet, I am not satisfied that we, the people, got all the information that is available on this very important matter. For instance, I wonder how many of you have seen a copy of the Report of The West Indies Constitutional Conference which Mr. Macleod presented to the British House of Commons in June shortly after the end of the conference. If 200 people in Jamaica have seen that report I would be very surprised.

And on Tuesday of this week, on July the 11th, five days after Mr. Manley made his speech in the House, I tried to get hold of a

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

copy of Hansard which carries full reports of everything that happens in the House. I wanted to read the full and complete text of Mr. Manley's speech. Neither the Gleaner nor the radio stations had carried the fully text of his speech and I personally wanted to read that speech in full because the question of federation is so important to all of us. Indeed, I wanted to read a full report of all the agruments for and against exactly as they were expressed by the Members of the House. But the Hansard was not out yet. The latest Hansard available was the one reporting the proceedings between March the 8th and April the 11th. And so, to this day, I still do not have the complete text of Mr. Manley's speech. Now, if that speech had been made in the British House of Commons on Thursday July the 6th, I would have been able to go out and buy a copy of Hansard on July the 7th and I would have had the full text of that speech and of that day's proceedings in parliament; and I would have been much better informed on the great debate. And that Hansard would have cost me not more than the price of a couple of rums. And I would have been so much better informed and I would have had a sense of intimacy with the parliament of my country. There is absolutely no reason why this should not happen in Jamaica. The facilities are there. We run an expensive government printing office which is now working at half-cock. Or, alternatively, on matter of such grave national importance, let us follow the example of Trinidad and carry verbatim reports of the goings-on in the House over the radio. Better still, let us have both Hansard and verbatim radio reports on matters of grave national importance. That is the way to bring our parliament and our people closer to each other and that is one of our greatest needs today. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday July 17 at 6.15 p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: British Guiana today enters on a new phase of its stormy political history. As from today British Guiana will enjoy full Internal Self Government with a Ministerial system and a Cabinet Government along much the same lines as we have here in Jamaica. Last week the old British Guiana Colonial Parliament was prorogued. And tomorrow a writ will be issued calling for General Elections to be held on August 21.

Under the new constitution there will be a two chambers Legislature. The lower house will be called the House of Assembly and it will have 35 members. The upper house will be called the Senate and it will have 13 members, 8 of whom will come from the majority party and 5 from the other groups. All the members of the House of Assembly will of course be elected. And from the majority party will be appointed the ministers of government who will make up the Cabinet.

An interesting feature of the new constitution which comes into force today is the fact that the Guianese police force will now come under the control of an elected representative of the people. In all likelihood the Minister of Home Affairs will be in charge of the police as well as of internal security. This as you know is the situation here in Jamaica. Some of you may remember that during the British Guiana constitutional talks in London this question of control of the police was one of the issues over which the talks nearly broke down. The British government was reluctant to hand over control of the police, mainly because of their fears of Dr. Jagan's extreme left-wing views. Dr. Jagan on the other hand insisted that Internal Self Government would be a farce if the instrument for maintaining law and order were to remain in the hand of the Colonial Office. And so in the end the British Government gave way and the police will be under local control.

The coming of full Internal Self Government to British Guiana means, almost inevitable I think, the setting up of

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three very important commissions: first, there will have to be a Judicial Commission to make sure that all legal and judicial matters are correct and properly dealt with: second, there would have to be a Public Service Commission to ensure that the Civil Service is run on an effective and non-political basis and that there will be as little political pressure on the appointment of Civil Servants and on the business of them carrying out their day to day ditues: and third, I expect that there will be a local Government Commission to streamline and coordinate and extend local government organisation throughout British Guiana. These I think are three essential commissions that must come with self-government.

But self-government, as we in Jamaica know, is no short hand solution to all our problems, and it certainly will not be a solution to all of B.G.'s problems. All that self-government really does is to make us responsible for our provlems as well as for our achievements. It means that we, and not some outside power, can take all the credit for what we achieve; but it also means that we cannot blame anybody else for our failures. The opportunities are greater, but that challenges and the burdens are greater too. And of course, there is no one else to blame when things go wrong. After self-government neither Dr. Jagan nor Mr. Burnham will be able to blame the British if things go wrong. And among some of the major problems B.G. will face with self-government is the problem of developing the country and making much greater use of the vast and rich interior which is so far largely untouched. But before she can begin on this big task, which if it is properly handled could mean great prosperity for her people, B.G. must first select her new government and sort out her main political problems. I will touch on these points tomorrow evening, so, till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For Transmission on Tuesday
July 17 at 6.15 pm.
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: As you know British Guiana is a vast land of some 83,000 square miles with a population of somewhere in the region of 800,000 people of whom the East Indians are the largest single group with roughly 300,000 and the Negroes the second largest group with roughly 200,000. The rest of the population is made up of people of mixed racial origin who are a sizeable minority of about 70,000, 15,000 Amerindians and a handfull of Europeans and others. British Guiana's main political leaders Cheddi Jagan, an East Indian, and Forbes Burnham, a Negro first worked together in the People's Progressive Party from about 1947. It was as a team that Jagan and Burnham built up the People's Progressive Party and agitated for political and economic reform and created the wide national consciousness which focussed world attention on British Guiana in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Jagan was the more leftwing of the two and in 1953 Jagan's left wing approach led to a political crisis with the British sending military forces to the colony. In 1956 Burnham broke away from Jagan and one of the reasons he gave for the split was Jagan's communism.

One result of the split was the people of British Guiana tended to be divided along racial lines: East Indians backing Jagan solidly and the Negroes backing Burnham. And so we saw the start of a communal problem. In fairness to both Jagan and Burnham we should remember that neither of them ever encouraged this racial approach to politics. But it is a fact of British Guiana politics today. I think Jagan is more sensitive to this problem than Burnham is and I think it is for this reason that he has in recent months repeatedly called for a coming together of the parties to form a kind of national front. But Burnham has rejected all these calls for unity.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

Lately too Mr. Peter D'Aguiar has formed a political organisation known as the United Force with the principal aim of rallying all the other groups against Jagan's party. But Burnham has refused to have any truck with this group as sell. There are one or two other minor parties but basically the elections on 21st August will be encounter between Jagan and Burnham. I expect Jagan to win a majority of the seats but I also expect his majority to be smaller than it now is. I expect Burnham to hold his own but no more. And so my guess is that Jagan will be the first Premier or Chief Minister of Self-Governing British Guiana. The great challenge is whether Brunham and Jagan will be able to keep the racial aspect of their split under control. As I said, neither of them want this racial thing, but whether they like it or not, it has come about and the fact of their split has had a great deal to do with it: and so, in a sense, they are both victims of the racial feelings of their followers. This is, to my mind, the most dangerous feature of B.G. politics today. It is a feature that can mean a great deal of trouble and strife in the days that lie ahead. I personally think that it is something which is much more dangerous than all the talk of communism in B.G.

To overcome this danger of communal strife between Indians and Negroes will require leadership of a very high order indeed. Peter D'Aguiar has tried to give this kind of leadership in his United Force but two things are against him. First, he is neither a Negro nor an East Indian and second, he has no popular mass support because he is not identified with the struggle of the masses. I think that only Burnham and Jagan can give the lead against communalism. And to do this they will have to come together, even if it is only on this single issue, and preach a Guianese patriotism which is bigger than racial and communal interests. That is the challenge of the future for B.G. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission Wednesday
July 19 at 6.15 p.m.
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The British Guiana elections about which I spoke last night and Monday night are just part of a pattern in the West Indies this year. Throughout the West Indies this has been election year. Elections have already been held in Grenada where Mr. Eric Gary's party has won handsomely and where we can soon expect to see Mr. Gary back in politics. Elections have also been held in St. Lucia where Mr. George Charles has emerged as Chief Minister. The same thing has happened in Dominica and Montserrat. In Dominca Mr. George LeBlanc is the Cheif Minister and in Montserrat it is Mr. Bramle. The interesting feature of these elections is that in every instance the party which has been returned to power is one which is associated with Mr. Manley's West Indies Federal Labour Party.

Elections are also expected to take place in Barbados and Trinidad this year. Niether Trinidad nor Barbados have yet declared the dates on which their General Elections will take place but in both cases I expect the elections to be held either in September or October or at the very outset in early August. So you will see that this has really been election year throughout the West Indies. And our contribution to election year will of course be the referundum which, as I have indicated before now, I expect to take place in September.

As its contribution to election year the Barbados government has just issued a very ambitious five year plan for the year 1960 to 1965. Under this plan Barbados proposes to spend about eleven million, one hundred and four thousand pounds on development. Under the plan Barbados hopes to create Forty thousand new jobs, double the annual value of her industry and raise her national income by about one third.

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In education the plan proposes to create 6,000 new places in primary schools, 5,000 in secondary schools and 1,000 in drama schools. It also aims at reaching a point where all drama school education will be free. There are plans for four new district hopitals and out-patient clinics in country districts. There also ambitious plans for housing and the improvement of roads and water.

It is a piece of political shrewdness on the part of the Barbados Labour Party which ~~the Government party would have announced this plan so very near the coming general election~~ to announce this plan so near election time. The Barbados opposition very obviously did not like this move and showed it when they launched a bitter attack on the Barbados Government for allegedly revealing the plans in the Labour Party paper before ~~they~~ if it was tabled in the House. But I think that the Barbados Labour Party has pulled off a master stroke and is bound to win the General Election.

The interesting thing about the coming Trinidad Elections ~~with~~ was the announcements last week that Mr. Victor Byyan has formed a new political party. Reports from Trinidad say that Dr. Williams' People's National Movement is having a rough time just now and some of these reports even hint that the new party as well as what is left of the Democratic Labour Party will win some seats from the P.N.M. My own view is that this is wishful thinking. I think that Eric Williams is so firmly in the saddle today that none of the groups now on the political scene in Trinidad can make any dent on the P.N.M. The D.L.P. is torn ~~in~~ with conflict and the new party is not yet properly off the ground. All in all therefore it looks as the parties which support the West Indies Federal Labour Party will sweep the board everywhere. And if Mr. Manley wins the referandum in Jamaica then his Federal Party will be in control everywhere. Good night.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday July 20 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Thursday of last week, exactly one week ago, I told you how I felt about the replacing of Dr. Morrison as mayor of Montego Bay. A very large section of the citizens of St. James and Montego Bay showed by a public demonstration that they wanted Dr. Morrison to continue as Mayor for another year. And I think they also showed their disgust at the methods used by the majority of P.N.P. Councillors to get rid of Dr. Morrison. It was no secret that Mr. Coombs, the Minister of Communications and Works, who is also an M.H.R. for the region, had been trying to get rid of Dr. Morrison for some time; and so everybody knew that some dirty work was afoot. This, plus Dr. Morrison's efforts to clean up the St. James local government administration, was the reason why people felt so strongly and expressed their feelings about the whole messy business. Certainly, I feel strongly that the majority of P.N.P. Councillors in the St. James Parish Council have behaved disgracefully or, at best, have allowed themselves to be led like sheep. And I feel that their behaviour has been a disservice both to democratic local government in Jamaica and to their party. But it does seem to me a whole lot of nonsense for some people to talk and write as though the Councillors in St. James have committed some crime. In terms of the law they have committed no crime at all. By law they were entitled to choose whomever they wanted as Mayor. I think their choice was bad; I think the manner in which they made their choice was worse, and I do not like Mr. Coombs' part in the whole affair one little bit. But legally they were within their rights. Where the law can come in is on the allegations of bribery and corruption and I hope our law officers will

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

investigate these charges quickly and carefully. And if these charges are confirmed then the offenders should be pposecuted, whatever the positions they may hold. And if they are proved to be false then the people who started them should be prosecuted as public mischief makers. That seems to me the sensible way to go about this messy situation. But as I told you last Thursday, the one good thing that has come out of this affair has been the public-spiritedness shown by the citizens of Montego Bay.

Now for one last word on the quarrel between the K.S.A.C. and the Telephone Company. I've already told you that I think the Telephone Company made a sorry mess of its public relations when it cut off the Mayor's telephone. The Mayor of any city is more than just a private citizen and firms with a good sense of public relations always show great sensitivity to people holding public office. But by the same token people holding public office should show an equal sense of responsibility. I think some Councillors showed a great lack of responsibility when they talked as though the damaging of telephone booths must be regarded as a normal thing in this society. Vandalism and hooliganism must always be condemned, and our public officers should be the first to do so. Not so long ago Mr. Manley addressed our Councillors on their share of responsibility in encouraging decent public conduct. I hope they have not forgotten this.

Finally, may I suggest that as many of you as possible go to tonights meeting of the Social Development Conference at the University. The subject is on employers and workers and the time is 8.15. You'll find it very worthwhile. Goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday July 21 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Ever since the great debate ~~xxxxxx~~ on Federation started towards the middle of last year, one question has stood out above all the others. That was the question of the cost of federation. The people who are opposed to Jamaica remaining in the Federation have made a powerful argument on the question of costs. They have said that Federation would mean higher taxes for Jamaicans. They have said that this would hit the small man in the form of higher costs for his food. They have said it might mean a penny more on bread, a penny more on salt fish, a penny more on tobacco, a penny more on rum, a penny more on corn-meal and the like.

This was a very powerful argument, and I thought that the people who/~~xxxxxxx~~ wanted Jamaica to remain in the Federation never quite succeeded in answering this one satisfactorily. But now the Premier has issued a pamphlet which is a clear Government statement on ~~xxx~~ what it will cost Jamaica if she decides to remain in the Federation, and what it will cost her if she decides to leave the Federation and seek independence on her own. This evening I will deal with the first part of the question only: What will it cost Jamaica if she decides to remain inside the Federation?

The pamphlet states that the amount of money that will be spent to run the Federal Government this year is roughly £820,000. Jamaica will contribute 43% of that: this means that Jamaica will pay £352,600 of the total cost of running the Federal Government. But when Indpendence comes on May 31st of next year the cost of running the Federation will go up from £820,000 to £1,038,000; and so Jamaica's share of the cost of the Federation will go up from £352,600 to

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

£477,500.

The reason for the increase in the cost of running the Federation after independence is because we would have to establish and pay for our own defence system and because we will have to maintain Ambassadors, Consuls and the like overseas. The present proposal is that the Federation should have diplomatic representatives at the United Nations, in Britain, in the United States, in Canada, in Geneva to take care of West Indies interests in Europe, in Cuba, in Venezuela and possibly in two key African states.

Let me just make one very important point clear. At present Jamaica is paying about half a million pounds to what are known as 'Regional Services'. These include the University College, the West Indies Shipping Service, the weather services, regional research and so on. Now Jamaica has been paying this share before the Federation; and even if she were to leave the Federation she would still have to pay her share for these services. Indeed, the cost of these services are likely to go up after independence. But if Jamaica wants these services (and she needs them)then she must pay for them even if she goes it alone. So the cost of running these Regional Services really have nothing to do with whether Jamaica stays in the Federation or gets out.

So the question is: What will it cost Jamaica if she decides to remain in the Federation? And the answer given in this pamphlet is: It will cost her £477,500. That is the cost of Federation to us. Tomorrow I will discuss the cost of going it alone. So till then, goodnigh

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday July 22 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you what Federation would cost us in the light of the government pamphlet issued by the Premier. You will remember that I told you that the cost to Jamaica will be about £477,500. That is the estimate for the first year of independence. And the pamphlet says firmly and clearly that the administrative costs of the federation should never get very much larger than they will be in the first year of independence. The greatest increase over the years is expected to be in the cost of the Regional Services. But these, as I told you last night, have really nothing to do with the Federation, and Jamaica would still have to pay for these Regional Services even if she decided to go it alone. So the absolute and total cost of federation to Jamaica is £477,500.

Now, if we decide to get out of the Federation and achieve indppendence on our own, what will the position be? First, what will we save? The pamphlet says we will save the £477,500 which would have been our contribution to the running of the Federation. But it says we will not save all that money because if we are out of the federation there will be no federation and so a Secretariat will have to be set up to run the Regional Services. This could not cost less than £100,000 of which we will have to pay 43%. So let us say we save £400,000 by staying out of the Federation.

But what would it cost us to become independent on our own?

WE would still have to establish Embassies and Consulates overseas. The United Nations, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Cuba and possibly one or two key places in Africa will still be musts in terms of our representation abroad. But instead of paying only 43%

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

we will have to pay the full 100% of the cost of all these. Then we will have to pay the full cost of our own defence services instead of only a part. We might, the pamphlet say, cut down on costs by reducing the size of the West India Regiment and by reducing the number of countries in which we have dimplomatic representatives. But the pamphlet says the estimates given have already been cut to the bone and to cut them any further would be to endanger our safety, and if we had any fewer diplomatic representatives it would reduce the significance of our independence to little or nothing.

So we come back to the figures. By getting out of the Federation we will save about £400,000 which would otherwise be our share of the cost of running an independent West Indies Federation. But if we became independent on our own, the cost of having representatives abroad and the cost of our defence, will mean the pamphlet says, that we will have to spend £1,800,000. The pamphlet says, and now I am quoting: "It comes to this then, by leaving Federation we save £400,000 and we spend about £1 million more." The net loss to Jamaica, the pamphlet says, will be about £600,000 at the start but it will become larger as time goes on.

So there you have the arithmetic of it according to this government pamphlet: the true extra cost to Jamaica of independence within the Federation is £477,500. The actual true cost of independence on our own is over a million pounds. I would suggest that everyone of you get hold of this pamphlet and read it before the day of decision. It is free from the Government Public Relations Office. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday July 24 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The world's two major trouble spots today are Berlin and Tunisia, and this evening I want to try and fill out the Tunisian picture for you. Last week, and with surprising suddenness, fighting broke out between French and Tunisian troops. To most of the world this was unexpected. Tunisia was the last real freind France still had in the Arab world. The President of Tunisia, Habib Bourguiba, was possibly the most moderate of all the Arab leaders. His friendship and support for the West had been so firm that President Nasser of Egypt regarded him as an enemy. Britain and the United States regarded him as a great Arab leader and someone whose support they could depend on. And in the ~~conflict~~ the fighting between France and Algeria Tunisia's Bourguiba had played the part of the peacemaker, the friend of both sides who wanted to see an end to the seven-year-old war between France and Algeria.

And then suddenly, on Wednesday of last week, there was the news that Tunisian troops had surrounded the French military base at Bizerte. There was an uneasy pause, and then on Friday, full scale fighting broke out with the French hurling ~~troops~~ well trained troops at the Tunisians from land, sea and air. The French troops outnumbered the Tunisians, they were better trained and so they quickly broke the ring around their base, using tanks, planes and the most modern weapons of war.

President Bourguiba called on his countrymen to fight to the death; he appealed for volunteers from the other Arab and African states, and he recalled the 3,000 Tunisian troops who were with the United Nations

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

in the Congo. Then his representative in New York brought the matter to the attention of the United Nations, and the Security Council ordered an immeditate cease-fire and so, by Saturday morning, the fighting had stopped. Those are the broad facts. What is the story behind these facts? And why did the fighting start in the first place?

To answer this we must go into a little bit of history. As some of you may know, Tunisia was a Protectorate of France from 1881 until 1956. But after 65 years of a sort of colonial status, and after more than 30 years of nationalist struggle, the Tunisians won their independence. The French, however, insisted that they held on to Bizerte as a military base. The Tunisians did not like this, but after their years of struggle, and because of their eagerness for freedom, they agreed and so the French held on to the base at Bizerte.

In recent years, and particularly because the base at Bizerte was being used in the bitter French war against the Algerians, the Tunisians have demanded that the French get out of Bizerte. The Tunisians are Arabs and they hated the idea of a piece of their country being used as a base from which to attack other Arabs. Habib Bourguiba repeatedly asked the French to sit around the table to negotiate for the return of Bizerte to the Tunisians. To begin with his approach was very reasonable. But the French flatly refused to negotiate. They were there and they were going to stay there. And so last week we had the outbreak of fighting. And in the process the French have damaged the position of the West most seriously. It seems that the French still have to learn that a foreign base is worthless unless you are there with the free consent of the people. Tomorrow I'll discuss Berlin, so till then: goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Tuesday July 25 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Of all the world's trouble-spots the one spot which today seems most likely to set off a terrible atomic world war is Berlin. And right now the Berlin crisis is as acute as it has ever been. There was only one other time, since the end of the Second World War, that we have been as close to the brink of world war as we are today. That was in June of 1948, and that crisis too was caused by the Berlin situation. The great difference between June of 1948 and today is that if the Berlin crisis had led to war then the destruction would have been ghastly and terrible: millions would have died; cities and countries would have been reduced to ashes and dust; and what we call civilisation would have been brought to a halt - but there would have been the possibility of starting again because there would have been the possibility of at least a third or a half of mankind surviving to try and begin all over again. If the Berlin crisis leads to world war today the possibilities of survival are very slight. Since 1948 weapons of destruction have become what the experts call more 'sophisticated', which is a fancy way of saying that mankind has developed its tools of destruction to a point where we are in a position to wipe out all life, both human, animal and vegetable. Our weapons of destruction were pretty terrible in 1948 but they were toys compared with what we have today./In 1948 there were no atomic submarines capable of carrying nuclear death to every corner of this earth: intercontinetal rockery had not yet been perfected. Today all these things are with us. Today an arsenal of nuclear weapons can be shot out into space to orbit round the earth until some warlord throws a switch or pushes a button

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releasing death and destruction.

And I find it very ironic that it is Berlin and Germany which should present the most likely cause for this kind of death and destruction.

As you know, Hitler Germany was brought completely to its knees with the capture of Berlin on May 2nd of 1945. The main allies against Hitler's Germany were Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States. These countries then entered into an agreement to partititon Germany into four zones. Berlin was also divided into four sectors and the four occupying powers agreed to administer the city jointly. This worked for nearly three years. Meanwhile the Soviet Zone became communist East Germany and the Western Zones became the West German Republic and the war-time allies soon became ideological ehemies. In 1948 four-power control of Berlin broke down and the Russians blockaded the city in an attempt to isolated the western sector of Berlin from West Germany and the western world. The western sector of Berlin had prospered to a greater extent than the eastern sector and this picture of a prosperous West Berlin had become what the Russians called 'a bone in the Soviet throat' and they wanted to swallow it. The west replied with what became known as the Berlin Airlift. For a few weeks the world was on the brink of war, then the Russians lifted the blockade and the tension eased. Now the tension is on again. The Russian aim is to bring West Berlin and, ultimately, all of Germany under communism. The aim of the West is to stop this.And Berlin is the battlefield. Communism and democracy seem fated to fight it out/there. If they use arms then this might well be the last war of the world. Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Wednesday July 26 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember that it was as recently as on Monday and Tuesday of last week that I discussed the situation in British Guiana. On Monday of last week British Guiana's new constitution came into operation and she achieved full internal self-government. You will remember that I gave you an outline of the new B.G. constitution, under which the lower house, the Legislative Council, will have 35 members and the upper house, the Senate, will have 13 - 8 coming from the majority party and 5 from the minority parties.

On Tuesday, you will remember, I discussed some of the problems that British Guiana will have to face in this new period of her history. I told you then that the Guianese people were roughly 800,000 in number and that the people of East Indian origin, roughly 300,000 in number, were the largest single group. I told you that the next largest group were the Negroes, the people of African origin, who numbered roughly 200,000. You will remember I also told you about the split between Burnham and Jagan in 1956 and that as a result of this split the people of B.G. tended to be divided on racial lines in their politics, with those of East Indian origin backing Jagan and those of African origin backing Burnham. I told you that I thought this tendency towards communalism was a far greater danger to the future of B.G. than all this talk about communism.

Well, almost as if to bear me out, we had some very disturbing news towards the end of last week. On Thursday of last week Mr. Sydney King, the secretary of Burnham's People's National Congress, and editor of the party's paper, the 'new Nation', denounced his

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

party leader. Mr. King said he would not stand as his party's candidate in the August 21st elections unless Mr. Brunham with-drew completely from a position he had taken on B.G.'s indepdendence.

Now, Forbes Burnham had declared publicly that if Cheddi Jagan won the elections in August, he Burnham would go with Jagan to England to demand immediate independence for B.G. Mr. King also felt that Mr. Burnham was wrong in supporting Jagan's demand for British troops to be withdrawn especially as he felt that Venezuela had designs on Guianese territory. Sydney King then goes on to say that Brunham knows that Jagan plans to settle half a million Indians in B.G. and that this was dangerous to the 'African people'. King then outlines a plan for what he calls honour and peace 'among Africans and Indians'. Under this plan he wants joint and equal Prime Ministership between the two major racial groups. He also wants indepdendent Watch Committees made up of all the racial groups, especially the minorities. And he also wants a system of socialism that has no links with any foreign powers. He says if Jagan does not agree to this then the Negroes should refuse to be ruled by him and call for a partitition of the country into three zones - an African Zone, an Indian Zone and a Free Zone. This is naked communal racialism and Burnham's reaction to it was to expell Sydney King from the People's National Congress. As I told you last Tuesday, I see this communalism as the greatest danger facing B.G. I am sorry that Sydney King who has done great work for Guianese freedom should have been caught in this communal trap. Burnham and Jagan will now have to show great powers of leadership if they are to stop this evil thing from messing up their country and its future.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Thursday July 27 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The current banana strike is a sad and unfortunate business all round. I myself cannot see how anybody is going to benefit from this strike. It is going to hurt the banana growers; it is going to hurt the people who are now on strike - even if they do get the wage increase they demand and over which they are striking; and it is going to hurt the whole banana industry. And that, as you know, is not going to do Jamaica's position in the world market any good - especially now that we are faced with the challenge of Britain joining the European Common Market. The immeditate loss looks bad enough. At present it looks as though we are likely to lose something like a ~~quarter of a million~~ hundred & fifty thousand stems of bananas. This, in terms of hard cash, is something of the order of £1[illegible]0,000. And unless the strike is settled quickly the industry might lose a great deal more than that.

Now what are the rights and the wrongs of this strike?

As I understand it, the immediate cause of the strike is the delay on the part of the Banana Board to give an answer to the workers' demand for a 25% wage increase. That at least is the way the workers see it. Some time ago all three trade unions served this demand on the Banana Board. And as far as the workers are concerned they have received no reply from the Board.

The position of the Banana Board, on the other hand, is slightly different. As I understand it, the Banana Board has in fact made a reply. The Board's reply is that increased wages for the workers must go hand-in-hand with an increase of efficiency inside the industry,

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otherwise the industry will just not be able to support the increase in wages. And one of the ways in which the industry can function with greater efficiency is by the introduction of mechanical loading. So, the position of the Banana Board, as I understand it, is this: the Board will agree to a wage increase if the workers will agree to the use of mechanical loading.

My own feeling is that the union leaders have tended to shy away from explaining these hard facts to their members in clear terms. And so I think there has been a serious failure of communication between the workers and their leaders on the one hand, and between the workers and the Banana Board on the other hand. Nobody has really spelled out the implications of the problem to the workers clearly - and this is a very unfortunate thing. It has led the workers into a certain state of confusion, leaving them with the feeling of being bullied by the Banana Board.

From the point of view of the workers the issue is clear and simple. Their wages are low. A worker who unloads the fruit from the trucks can earn up to £2.10.0 a week. This is hardly the kind of money on which a man can feed and clothe and house a family. And for the ticket carriers who are women the money is even less. They can earn 25/- or a little more a week. These wages are bad and we should face the fact. That is the one side of the penny. The workers' wage demands are just. But there is the other side to the penny; and I will look at that tomorrow evening. So till then, goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Friday July 28 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I do not think any reasonable person will argue against the fact that any family man who earns £2.10.0/a week in Jamaica today must have a really rough time of it. And so we should understand the position of the banana loaders who went on strike for more pay. It was in no light-hearted spirit that they struck and caused the loss/of tens of thousands of stems of bananas. The economic pressure on them is very real. But they are not the only people who are under pressure. The banana industry is under pressure too.

The Banana industry is faced with certain challenges, and these challenges are going to get worse as time goes on. Our bananas have experienced powerful competition from the Leeward and Windward Islands. In recent years these small islands have invaded the British banana market with vigour and determination. And our industry has been faced with the challenge of meeting this competition. This has meant that our quality must be good, our delivery must be on time and our price must be right if our bananas were to hold their share of the market. Otherwise we would lose out in the competition and that would mean the collapse of our whole industry; and that in turn could mean that the loader who now earns so very little could find himself earning nothing.

But this challenge is certain to get even worse when Britain joins the Common Market. When that happens Bananas from Africa will be able to enter Britain as freely as ours. And you know, the French Caribbean islands of Guaduloupe and Martinique produce more bananas than we do, and produce them pretty efficiently. Both these islands as

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

well as the African banana producers use mechanical loading. This means that their turnabout is so much faster than ours. And certainly, if we hope to hold our own against these people then our methods must be streamlined - and one of the things this means is mechanical loading. Of course we can refuse to use mechanical loading and carry on in our old traditional way. We will probably get by for some time. But each year we will sell less and less and then a day will come when we find that we have no banana markets abroad and the whole ~~under~~ industry will fold up. This is not a nice picture, is it? But it is something we have to face. Too often our leaders are afraid to tell the truth because they are afraid their followers would not like to hear it. But I think it is better for us to face these challenges and prepare for them.

For instance, if mechanical loading were introduced in Port Antonia, half of the roughly 800 workers would lose their jobs. This will mean a very much quicker loading of our bananas and a cutting in long term costs. This would be good for the industry. But it would also mean 400 unemployed. This is the challenge. Those who still have their jobs will get much better wages. But what of the 400 who lose their jobs? Can we find other, and better paid work for them? And what about the other people who face the challenge of mechanisation? Those on the Kingston docks, those in the sugar industry? At present it looks as though we must either carry on as we are and lose our markets because of our inefficiency, or else we must use modern technical methods and create great unemployment. Either way we are in serious trouble. But is there no way out of this dilemma? I will look at this question tomorrow. So till then:goodnight.

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NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Saturday July 29 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Those of you who have been with me on Thursday and last night will realise that I do not see the strike of banana loaders as something isolated and all by itself. I think it is a part of a pattern which can be linked with the Kingston dock strike we had earlier as well as with the strikes we had in the sugar industry some time ago. Workers generally strike for good and solid and valid reasons though some employers do not always see it in that light. When workers strike they do so either for better pay conditions or for more and better fringe benefits. Others around them are doing very nicely thank you, so why should they not get all they can since their is so much money floating around. And the contrasts are great. A man earning fifty shillings a week knows that there are quite a few men earning ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five and more pounds a week and so he naturally resents it. And what of the good of the country or of the industry in which he works? What of the future of the banana industry, for instances? Why should he care about it when others are having it so good?

This, I think, is the unexpressed but prevailing attitude today. And until we get over this attitude I think we will not be able to face the challenge of the changes which are now confronting us. It seems to me that there is a desperate need to go back to first principles. Jamaicans must rediscover a faith in themselves as Jamaicans; they must rediscover a faith in their country and its future.And they must forge a national purpose for themselves.

Up to now the driving force has been the struggle for national freedom. That struggle has been won and Jamaicans are the masters of

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

their own political affairs. So that particular driving force has been fulfilled and played out, and so far there has been no other to succeed it, and there is confusion and uncertainty and a whole heap of false prophets ready to cash in on that confusion. And they will cash in unless we create a new national purpose and a new national spirit.

But how does one go about this? The mechanics of some of it is there already. It is there in the greater opportunities the kids have for education today. It is there in the youth camps which are helping to turn under-privileged kids into sturdy, independent and good citizens. But more is needed.

Man does not live by bread alone but he cannot live without it. And I should like to see a pattern of social action such as that organised by the great Franklin Roosevelt in the days of the American Depression, When there were great work projects to halt unemployment. Out of these projects came such great achievements as the Tennessee Valley Authority, some wonderful highways and a great flowering of the arts.

Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration came at a time when the American economy was on its knees, when tens of millions were without work or hope, when the confusion was greater than it now is in Jamaica. First he gave them work; then he gave them hope; then he gave them pride in their country and in themselves. He gave them a national purpose and they became shareholders in the wonderful adventure of building up the material and spiritual wealth of their country. I am sure that Jamaicans can do the same once they are given direction. All this restlessness mean that it is time to start.

Goodnight.

UWI MONA LIBRARIES

NEWS COMMENTARY
For transmission on
Monday July 31 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: This is the day on which Mr. Harold Macmillan, the British Prime Minister, tells the people of Britain, as well as the people of the Commonwealth and the world that Britain has applied for membership of the European Common Market. What will be of particular interest to us will be the conditions under which Britain will be admitted, because these conditions will have a very important bearing on our trading position. There is no secret about the conditions under which Britain would like to enter the Common Market. Britain would like the special preferential relations between herself and the Commonwealth to remain what they now are. She would like goods from the Commonwealth to go on enjoying the special protection they now have in the British market. And for herself, she would like to get the benefits that would come with membership of the Common Market without making all the sacrifices that are demanded by membership. In other words, like all men and institutions, Britain would like to have the best of both world. This is a human and understandable reaction. It is the sort of thing we would all like to have if we could get away with it.

But what Britain would like to have and what she can have are two entirely different things altogether. And in her current talks with the six countries of the European Common Market she is in no position to be tough; in fact, Britain is today bargaining from a position of very great weakness. This fact was brought home to all of us by the new and very severe austerity measures which the British government put into effect last week.

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You will remember that it was on Tuesday of last week that the news of the austerity measures broke. These came as something of a shock to the British people who had been lulled into a sense of security by Mr. Macmillan's now famous phrase that the people of Britain had 'never had it so good'. Suddenly, and seemingly out of the blue, they were told that they had it not so good and that drastic measures had to be taken immeditaely if Britain were not to find herself in the most awful mess. And then the measures were spelled out to them. First, the Bank Rate was to be raised from 5% to 7%; and this came into effect the very nect day. Second, a 10% surcharge was to go on all customs duties and on all Excise and Purchase Taxes. This, it was expected would bring the government additional revenue of £130 million this year and £210 million in a full year. Among other things this means that the Britisher now pays something like 10/- a month more for his telephone than we do. It also means that the price of cigarettes and liquor (already higher than ours) has gone up a lot more. The banks have also been instructed not to lend money for speculative undertakings such as building and the like. Third, the British government announed a wage freeze for government paid employees and has called on private employers to do the same. Fourth, overseas aid will be frozen at the present ceiling of £180 million , and Britain is said to be asking for the biggest loan ever asked of the International Monetary Fund. All this adds up to a crisis situation which means that Britain is in no position to argue about the terms on which she enters the Common Market. The prospects ahead seem to me not at all rosy for Britain. But then, the British genius is always at it best in times of crises.

Goodnight.

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