

S.P. JAIN'S RACKET IN WASTEPAPER



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BENNETT COLEMAN CASE TO BE CLOSED!

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HOW MANY SKELETONS OF CORRUPTION THE HOME MINISTRY IS HIDING IN ITS CUPBOARD? ITS PLETHORA OF "STRONG WARNINGS" HAS NOT EVEN PRODUCED A MOUSE OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN OF TYCOONS. WHEN THE PRESS AT TIMES JERKS OUT SKELETONS FROM HOME MINISTRY'S CUPBOARD, IT ONLY LOOKS ON SHEEPISHLY.

IT seems that the Home Minister, perhaps jittery after Birla's "heads will roll" threat, has already started some reverse gear movements. Arrested hoarders and black-marketiers in a number of places have been let off a series of criminal cases withdrawn.

No more can be heard his pious declaration of making the tycoons abide by the law of the land. Obviously, there are second thoughts all round in the Congress leadership and Nanda, the Home Minister, is not suffering from any pang of conscience for failing to implement his noble declarations.

The latest in the series of such slide-down seems to be the case of the same old Jains again! The Home Ministry, it is reported, is NOT INTERESTED in proceeding further with the criminal case instituted against the management of Bennett Coleman Company.

Not only that. The Home Ministry is reported to be negotiating a settlement with the Jains to hush-up the affair.

NEW AGE on October 4, 1964 had disclosed the details of the shady transactions the Jains had in regard to the affairs of Bennett Coleman Company. Some facts are worth recalling.

In April 1963 government instituted an inquiry into the affairs of the Bennett Coleman Company in the light of the prima facie facts established by the Vivian Bose Commission. The Bennett Coleman Company, of which the Jains and Dalmias are the directors, owns TIMES OF INDIA, NAVBHARAT TIMES and a number of other publications.

The interim report of investigation was submitted to the government in April 1964. By January 1964, the Company Law Administration had already registered a case against the management of Bennett Coleman with the Special Police Establishment.

After the passage of the Companies Amendment Act 1964, the Company Law Tribunal was petitioned by

the government for the removal of Shanti Prasad Jain and his relatives from the management of the company. On learning about this petition, the smart Shanti Prasad purported to resign with effect from a prior date to forestall any action against him.

After that the government instituted both civil and criminal proceedings against the Jains. The principal charges against them are:

- Misappropriation of Rs. 17,13,625 between July 1957 and mid-1960 due to the company by sale of newsprint waste.
- Payment of Rs. 220,000 to Crosswords Ltd. in settlement of certain personal transactions between Shanti Prasad Jain and his father-in-law, Ramakrishna Dalmia—transactions which had nothing to do with the Bennett Coleman Company.
- Manipulation of accounts of income from advertising in order to get permission from Controller of Capital Issues for issue of new share capital at par in 1961. (The new issue was approved on the understanding that the amount of Rs. 61 lakhs was required for capital expenditure. Actually to date only Rs. 3.06 lakhs has been called up and, contrary to the assurances given to the Controller, the capital expenditure has been financed out of cash credits from banks, interest on which is depleting the cash resources of the company and is also reducing the surplus available for bonus to the employees.)
- Payment of Rs. 5,69,000 and Rs. 10,000 to Kantilal Purnapshi and Harjivandas Nemidas, share-brokers in 1959 and 1960 respectively to settle the speculative transactions of Shanti Prasad Jain and/or his companies.
- Sales of old machinery and vehicles worth approximately Rs. 3,56,000 at the current market value at a difference of Rs. 2,58,000 deflated price of Rs. 98,000—being misappropriated by Shanti Prasad Jain.
- Sale of office sweepings and waste at Rs. 7,000

per month to Bombay Vyapar, a company believed to be owned by Shriyans Prasad Jain and/or his nominees, from November 1955 to December 1964 whereas it could have realised more than Rs. 16,000 by sale against tender.

● Payment in 1959 of Rs. 57,600 to S. N. Verma, former general manager of Allenberry Company, for giving evidence in favour of Shanti Prasad Jain before the Vivian Bose Commission.

Besides the above, the Special Police Establishment also discovered a payment by the company of Rs. 1,500 per month for three years to Bal Mukund, an ex-employee of Shanti Prasad, who issued a circular to Members of Parliament charging Shanti Prasad with defalcations and against whom a case of defamation was filed by Shanti Prasad.

A settlement was arrived at after a couple of hearings in the Calcutta High

Court. Payments to Bal Mukund were recorded in the books of the company for some months and, thereafter, were made out of unaccounted cash received from the sale of newsprint waste etc.

In October 1964, the Company Law Tribunal issued a consent order based on an interim compromise between government and Shanti Prasad appointing R. C. Cooper as chairman, and Rama Jain, L. M. Singhvi, Mauli Chand Sharma and Narendra Kumar—representatives of Shanti Prasad, as directors.

In November 1964, government appointed two directors, D. P. Mehta and R. K. Hazari under the Company Law.

The interim board of directors could not function smoothly. In February 1965, government petitioned the tribunal to remove the directors appointed on behalf of Shanti Prasad and to make alternate arrangements.

The directors representing Shanti Prasad has been persistently trying to penalise the officers of the company who cooperated with the government and tried their best to paralyse the management of the company by depriving the senior officers of their powers.

The directors representing Shanti Prasad, using their majority on the board passed a resolution suspending the five officers of the company who had given evidence to government but the resolution could not be implemented

since Cooper used his veto powers to keep it in abeyance and referred the matter to tribunal for directions.

The Special Police Establishment (Fraud Squad) had already seized a lot of incriminating documents from the offices of TIMES OF INDIA and submitted its report to government in early 1965.

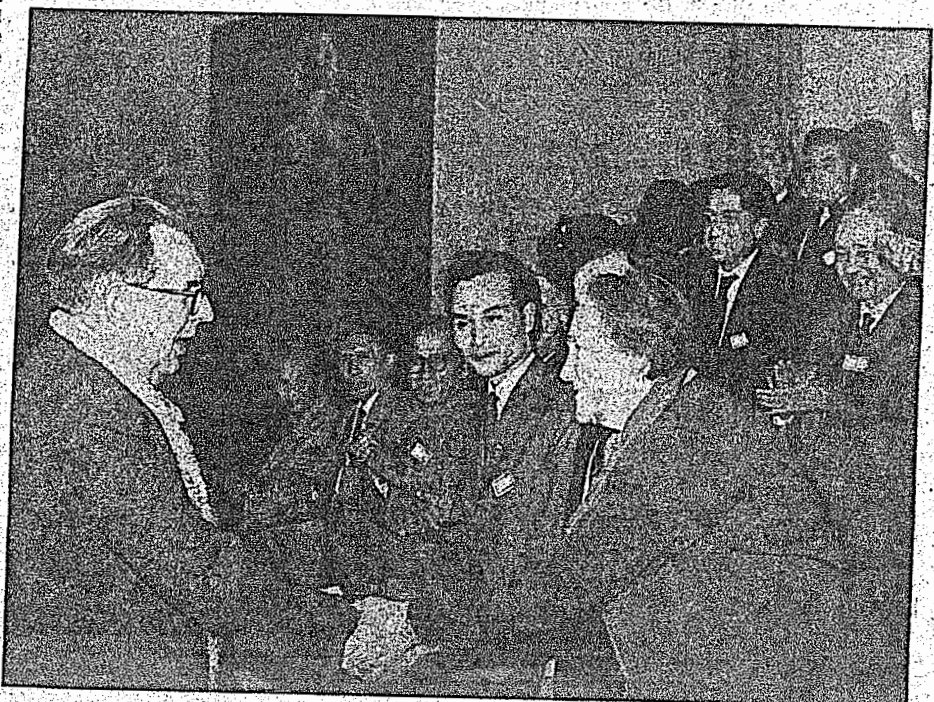
This should have been followed up by the arrest and further prosecution of Shanti Prasad Jain. But the Home Minister has decided not to do so.

The Home Ministry is exploring the possibility of bringing about a settlement with Shanti Prasad Jain by dropping all cases against him both under Company Law and criminal law.

Why is it that the Home Ministry is trying to interfere with and block the normal process of law? Why does it wish to effect a compromise with a person like Shanti Prasad Jain who is prima facie guilty of swindle, misappropriation and breach of trust?

Is this the Congress way of fighting corruption and malpractices?

The Home Ministry can hound out the political workers very efficiently and even keep thousands in detention without any trial and without any charge but when it comes to dealings with big money, it wags its tail in bland submission. The conclusion is obvious. Has Nanda, the sadachari got to say anything to the contrary?



Bidding farewell to J. D. Bernal at the Helsinki Peace Congress. Shaking hands with Bernal is Isabelle Blume, while by her side are some members of the presidium of the Congress; Bernal is wearing a garland presented by the Indian delegation.

HELSINKI: HISTORIC LANDMARK IN MANKIND'S MARCH TO PEACE

Don't be taken in by the imperialist news agencies and the monopoly press who saw in the intense discussions at the Helsinki Peace Congress only the differences and conflicts of opinion, which undoubtedly manifested themselves, but were by no means the sole or even the most outstanding feature of the Congress.

THE wishful pen-pushers of the pro-imperialist and monopolist press tried their damndest to paint Helsinki as a mere battleground for what is described as "the Sino-Soviet rift", for the airing of the ideological controversies in the international communist movement.

No wonder they were tongue-tied and aghast at the end of the Congress when the key document on the US aggression in Vietnam was adopted virtually unanimously (NEW AGE, July 18 and 25 carried reports of the Congress proceedings and resolutions).

The imperialists would like to make out that the Helsinki Congress was some sort of "packed" body of Communists and "fellow-travellers" and thus "explain away" the significance of the overwhelming condemnation of the aggressive policies of imperialism everywhere and particularly in Vietnam.

Who All Came?

Unfortunately, the facts give the lie to the imperialist propaganda in the most telling manner. Who were present at the Helsinki Congress?

First of all, let it be clearly noted, one of the largest delegations—of well over 90 men and women—came from the United States of America. They were NOT Communists. There were twenty women from the organisation known as the **WOMEN STRIKE FOR PEACE**, which is a vast body of ordinary American women, most of them nonpolitical, who are conducting the most effective mass campaigns against the war policies of the Johnson Government. And with them were representatives of nearly everyone of the many peace bodies, religious, social, cultural—working today in the USA.

Of the 98 delegations, 22 were from Asia, 27 from Africa, 20 from Latin America, 25 from Europe, 2 from Australasia, 2 from North America. Eighteen international organisations had sent their representatives.

Who were these delegates? From most of the independent countries of Africa came delegates representing the ruling parties, often led by ministers. From the countries still under colonial or neo-colonial domination came representatives of the main liberation movements.

From the nonaligned and socialist countries generally came representatives of the broadest cross sections of opinion, able to speak authoritatively on behalf of the great majority of their people.

From the West came men and women who represented all the major peace movements, many of them remote from the Communists, some even anti-communist. Bertrand Russel was represented. So also the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Nearly one hundred MPs were among the delegates. There were

15 ministers of governments, 14 ex-ministers, 10 diplomats. From the field of education—professors, teachers, lecturers, came 109 delegates; 46 were doctors, 28 economists, 7 historians, 72 writers,

more effectively than any previous conference of this nature, it worked out concrete plans for popular actions against the US aggression in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic, for support to the fighting peoples of Angola, Mozambique and other Portuguese colonies, for solidarity with the liberation movements of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia; for popular action for disarmament and peaceful coexistence, for the ending of colonialism and neo-colonialism everywhere.

The Chinese delegates first sought to change the entire agenda and the time table, procedure and standing orders of the Congress. They threatened to leave the Congress if this was not done.

When they failed to secure any support for these last minute flibusters, they shifted their battle to the commissions. Here again they attempted to divert the discussion on the important points of the agenda into a discussion of the differences in the

usually by itself, sometimes supported by the Albanians, the Indonesians and a section of the Japanese delegations.

As a matter of fact, even the Indonesians, Japanese and Koreans appeared to be doing their best to show that they do not agree with the Chinese viewpoint on all issues. In particular, they scrupulously refrained in their main speeches from any attacks or insinuations against the Soviet Union.

The Chinese were left with the Albanians alone as their true disciples.

There is no doubt that the Chinese leaders will try to make out that the documents on Vietnam and the general statement which were almost unanimously adopted, represent their "victory". But the truth is entirely different, as is evidenced in the documents of the Congress.

In the first place, even the resolutions for which the Chinese were forced to vote are far from their viewpoints. The Vietnam resolution, drafted finally by the Vietnamese delegates themselves, is one which takes into account all viewpoints, particularly those of the American peace workers.

As for other documents adopted in the commissions, for the most part they are majority documents, with the Chinese dissent clearly stated. The voting in each commission showed that the Chinese, were in a tiny minority on all issues voted, supported only by their closest supporters, the Albanians, and only on some issues by the Indonesians and a section of the Japanese delegates.

Decisive Rebuff

Thus the Helsinki Congress was a decisive rebuff to all attempts to disrupt the world peace movement or take it along adventurist lines.

A concrete proof of the success of the Congress lies in the fact that the new World Council of Peace, elected at a special meeting of representatives of national peace committees, now represents 104 countries compared to 83 countries which were represented till now.

The new countries represented are mainly from Africa and this is testimony to the fact that the World Council of Peace despite the Chinese slanders has now powerful support among the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The work of the Indian delegation was throughout excellent and contributed greatly to the success of the Congress. The delegation presented a united viewpoint on all issues—and this was the main reason for the respect it commanded.

Nearly half the members of the Indian delegation were MPs, MLAs and members of municipalities, the majority belonging to the Congress. Representatives of the mass organisations played a specially important role.

There is no doubt that the work of the Indian delegation helped immensely in brightening the image of our country among the fighters for peace and national independence in all continents.

(July 28)



Jean Paul Sartre moving the resolution on Vietnam

34 artists, actors, composers and painters; 134 workers, 41 clergymen, 10 architects, 33 engineers and technologists, 11 farmers... and so on.

And... one cosmonaut—Valentina Tereshkova!

When the Congress was planned, there were some leaders of the peace movements in a few countries who expressed their fears that the Congress might do more harm than good. For, in their opinion, the differences were so sharp, particularly with the Chinese and their supporters, that the Congress was bound to be disrupted; and this, instead of helping to halt the forces of im-

perialism and war, would encourage them.

peralism and war, would encourage them. No wonder the imperialists and their partners are still trying to smear the Helsinki Congress. Unfortunately, it was not only the imperialists who strove hard to disrupt and discredit the Helsinki Peace Congress. From the very first stages of the preparations, the Chinese press and radio launched an all-out attack on the Congress. They sought to make out that the Congress was being held virtually in the interests of imperialism!

Chinese leaders sought to discredit the Congress in all circles in which they had influence. At first they tried to prevent people from coming to the Congress.

international Communist movement.

This they did, not by putting forward their views positively, but through a scurrilous anti-Soviet harangue, carried out by their own delegates, aided principally by the Albanian delegates.

To the great delight of the imperialist and monopolist press, the Chinese and Albanian delegations indulged in non-stop anti-Soviet abuse and slander.

The accusations against the Soviet Union reached their highest point in the commission on Vietnam, when the Albanian delegate accused the Soviet Union of aiding US imperialism! It was as a protest against this speech that most of the delegates walked out of the commission during the Albanian speech.

But this conduct of the Chinese and Albanian delegations won only the hostility of most of the delegations. In not one commission could the Chinese secure the support of even one African or Latin American delegation.

In nearly every one of the commission reports, the majority viewpoint on all crucial issues (including questions like peaceful coexistence, disarmament and the Moscow Test Ban Treaty, the economic consequences of disarmament, the United Nations, etc.) has been clearly postulated—and the minority viewpoint noted as that of the Chinese delegation,

By **ROMESH CHANDRA**

peralism and war, would encourage them.

The Helsinki Congress has proven conclusively that it is possible, despite differences, to unite on the most urgent issues. The point of view of those who maintained this all through has thus been vindicated in a decisive manner.

The Helsinki Congress was the most representative, the broadest assembly for peace ever held.

It has also to its credit the fact that it was the most constructive peace assembly ever held—far

When they found this was impossible, they came to the Congress, and from its very start began to attack the principles of the peace movement as well as the entire World Council of Peace.

They openly trotted out from the Congress rostrum the old imperialist slander that the World Council of Peace is run in the interests of Soviet foreign policy, to the orders of the Soviet "baton". They accused the Congress Preparatory Committee of being undemocratic and dictatorial.