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WE MUST ADMIT THAT IT (the Students' Union) IS A VERY RARE ORGAN LEFT IN SINGAPORE WHICH CAN STILL EXPRESS INDEPENDENT, CRITICAL IDEAS AND CAN STILL ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE PUBLIC SENTIMENTS WHICH EXPRESS THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MAJORITY WHO HAVE NO CHANNEL TO REGISTER THEIR RESENTMENT. OTHER EFFECTIVE ORGANISATIONS ARE EITHER BANNED AND NON-EXISTENT OR EFFECTIVELY CRIPPLED WITH THEIR LEADERS THROWN INTO PRISON. KNOWING THE SOCIAL VALUE OF OUR STUDENTS' UNION, WE MUST WORK HARDER TO ORGANIZE THE UNION TO SERVE THE PEOPLE WHENEVER POSSIBLE ...

...WE ARE ALL IN THE UNIVERSITY AT THE EXPENSE OF MANY OTHERS. REMEMBER OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY, OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND FREEDOM."

— TAN WAH PIOW

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THE FACE OF RETRENCHMENT

Retrenchment until then was still a pretty much fresh word to our ears. But with the present crises in progress, retrenchment has hit our vocabulary like a stinging slap in the face. It awoke us from nonchalance to a new dimension in our insight of society, the plight of our workers being ruthlessly undermined. The issue of retrenchment is still in its primary stage, but already it has instigated a certain degree of solidarity amongst us.

The hideous face of retrenchment was reared high as early as February this year. It began with electronic plants but has now also come to affect even the plastics, plywood, textiles and the ship building. The case of retrenchment in the exquisite Mandarin Hotel should also not go unmentioned. Consequently, the number of affected workers have come to number more than 12,000, our unemployment rate is rising to a disturbing level.

Besides the unemployment implication, there is the dilemma of the single retrenched worker to be considered. Little need to be emphasised on the perplexity and anxiety of his state of mind, it can be conceived easily and well. What we turn our vehemence to is the exploitative way they were treated with, the infringement of humane accords and considerations. Workers were retrenched coldly on the spot, were denied retrenchment benefits and were paid meagre compensations at low rates. Add to this arbitrary lay-offs for a period without pay and you can obtain a clear picture of the sombre condition in our industries.

Who are the people responsible?

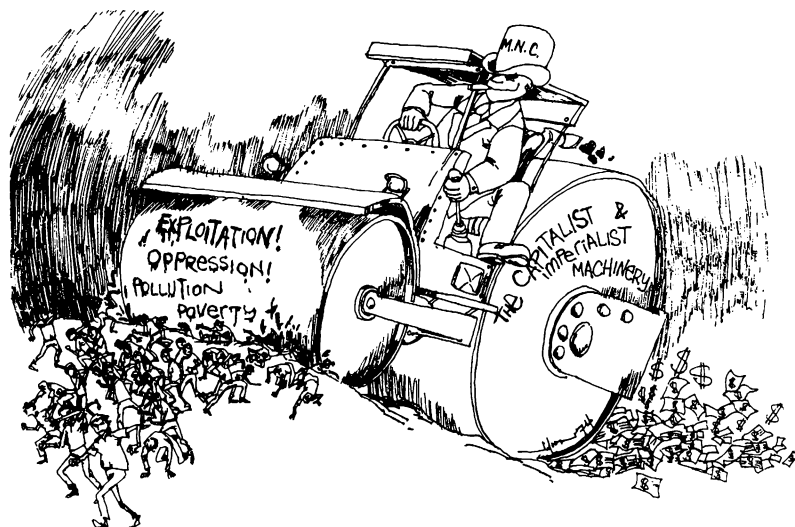
The multinational corporations. They are the people who stalk all over the globe, looking for vicious ways to churn out profits for their already bulging pockets. They are the people who preach of care and a list of benefits but in secret are only able to see people in terms of profits and losses. Cases in point; a shoe-making MNC base in Singapore pays its workers only 12% of what it pays its counterpart in Australia, at the expiration of their Pioneer tax holiday, MNCs are cutting down production and workers here to expand elsewhere, retrenched workers are reemployed at lower rates. The list runs long and ugly.

And what has our leaders done?

They, our Ministers, trade unions leaders and the rest of the bunch, evince a tinge of characteristics. They pick on the well worn fact; that ours is a natural resources deserted economy and export orientated to the extent of total dependency on the foreign capital, and wind their rhetorics on it. Mr. Ong Pang Boon spoke of 'monitoring the retrenchment pattern' and of having 'initiated the first of a survey on retrenched workers'. Will all those papers have any concrete impact? Will it do any action? We wonder.

They speak of a dark future, of writings on the wall (whatever that means). They speak of the past victories and of the biggest one ahead and so will we all kindly tighten in our belts and put more strive into our work. No doubt the truth rings clear in their words. So we oblige, tighten in our belts and shuffle to the factories and assembly plants. But not for now, the retrenched and the MNCs must be taken cared of first.

This is a national crisis and all, the students, the workers and the government must come in unity to confront it. We students feel that the irresponsible MNCs should be curbed before they claw up our fragile economy to anarchistic sheds. Hence the setting up of the Retrenchment Research Centre by our Union. This is a major project and mammoth manpower is in need. We therefore urge all students to stand up in solidarity and support for this Center. This is a chance for us to play a constructive role in nation building, something that has been much talked about but blatantly denied in the past.



the american marine ordeal— A PROFILE OF TRADE UNIONISM TODAY

Trade unions are one of the potent vanguards of society. They stand in representation of a major segment of our population, the workers, and as such are institutions that cannot be taken lightly. Power trembles from within unionism. The PAP regime did not neglect that fact, trade unions resultedly came under heavy assault. The aftermath was a mess to watch. The unions were thoroughly drained of vibrant leadership, slowly and surely pushed into decadence and stagnation. But for an industrial state to be devoid of trade unions was inviting acid criticism and implying outrageous dictatorship. To avoid such irony of democracy, a fabricated and coldly artificial National Trade Union Congress was formed and happily registered. It also proved to be a convenient arm for the government to pull workers' solidarity to their side and channel it to their every whimsical fancy.

The authentic nature of NTUC did not take long to surface. It began to work hand in hand with the Cabinet. Employment Acts, Industrial Relations Ordinances, intricately designed to suppress workers' rights and unity met with full support and were even spoken on behalf of.

Our workers were left in a pitiful plight. No one stood on their side any longer to soften their sufferings, no one spoke up for their troubles and no one was there to shield them against exploitation and cheats.

The ordeal of the American Marine workers was a case in point to consider about the trade union scene in Singapore.

The drama unfolded with the gathering of 100 workers or so at their union office with the purpose of asking their leader of negotiations for lay-offs compensation. The arrival of their leader took on a disheartening note. He had not only kept his fellow workers waiting for an agonising period of time but his flock of bodyguards and plainclothesmen revealed nil trust for his fellow members. It was an ugly and gruesome display of leadership.

That was not the only blow struck against the grace of leadership. That Mr. Phey Yew Kok had to be so

abusive in his address, so arrogant in his treatment of his colleagues were points that left indelible marks. He labelled a fellow man a bastard, he refused to allow non union members speak and he insisted on his henchmen taking photographs of workers who were raising up disturbing questions. The authoritative tone of his voice could only invite detest and sourness. Such are the people running our trade unions, championing our workers.

Just to display how much of a fraternity there exists between trade union leaders and the management is the following incident. The American Marine workers had been issued with coupons in place of cash for their salary and when they referred to the Singapore labour laws as to the legality of it, they merely replied that it was PIEU's intention to co-operate with the management in overcoming the problem of cash shortage on pay day. It was certainly clear that they were in collaboration with the management all the while, ready even to play out the workers to just be in the good shoes of the management.

The respect of Union leaders with regards to their fellow men culminated in decay when they, wearied of the questions hurled at him, simply turned rudely round and retired into his office.

A week later the workers were back. This time in anticipation of the fruits of the promise made to them on the 23rd of October to resolve the whole mess. A notice greeted them, all disputes will take another week to be settled. The workers grew in dissent and were adamant in meeting their leaders. But then they were heavily disappointed, their leaders choose to shamefully shrink away from their responsibility and duties. As events slowly unfolded, the filth and the corrupted side of leadership entailed in disgust.

The so labelled riot began first with the Union officials shutting all windows and doors. This was immediately followed by a hail of commotion, easily picked up to be the sound of breaking glasses and the turning over of furniture. All the workers outside were taken aback. What were their leaders doing? What were they trying to stir up?



TRADE UNIONISM TURNING its back on members.

The workers stood clear away from the commotion. When the chaos ended it did not take long for the police to arrive. The officials of the Union lodged a report. This report was however denied to the workers' eyes, this left them in great doubt and suspense as to what monkey business their leaders were effecting. A few days later, Ng Wah Ling, an outspoken worker present at that time was arrested and charged for rioting. A week later another worker, Yap Kim Fong faced the same charge. This is trade unionism in Singapore. Leaders undermining and framing up their counterparts. Perhaps this could be traced to the empirical fact trade unions no longer stood by the side of the workers but firm on the management's side, totally brought over. Hence the refusal to seek negotiations of compensation; the incapacity and insincerity was clearly, very clearly radiated.

From the American Marine ordeal, a line of conclusions and assertions could be listed. Hypocrisy, rhetoric talks, sterilisation and hollow are the adjectives to be stuck before NTUC, before so called unionism, before so called combat against exploitation. Retrenchment has wormed its way into our workers' rights to work. 12 thousands were being laid off outrageously devoid of any true compensation. But has the trade union congress spoke out for these workers? Spoke out for better benefits?

No. All Deven Nair could afford was only wise cracks at the situation. He talked of reading the writings on the wall somewhere, tightening up belts and all the characteristic abstracts. There were no sincere and serious investigations into the situation, no funds set up to look after the welfare of the workers during their period of unemployment, no sympathy in the plight of the workers at all. Only stale words.

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DETAINED BUT STILL TALKING

Mr. Tan Wah Piow was remanded for a week. No information was released on him then. There were difficulties in ascertaining his location after his arrest, the police had chosen to be quiet on the issue. We had no idea of what was happening inside. It was therefore a great relief for us when he issued the below statement. He was still as vociferous as before, the spirit still unscarred, the voice still talking.

His Statement:—

To my fellow students,

I was arrested at 9.30 p.m. on 1.11.74 at Taman Jurong by four plainclothes policemen. After my arrest I was taken to Central Police Station though at the time of the arrest I was given the impression I will be taken to Bukit Panjang Police Station.

After my arrest I was denied my right to get in contact with my lawyer until the morning of Saturday, 2.11.74 when my lawyer happened to visit the Court on some other matter.

I was interrogated for four hours on 2.11.74 morning from 2 a.m. to 6.35 a.m. the last two hours of the interrogation being at the C.I.D. in a very cold airconditioned room ("cold room" — as it was referred to by my interrogators).

I was charged for being a member of an unlawful assembly. "You 1. Tan Wah Piow 2. Ng Wah Ling are accused that you on or about 30.10.74 at about 11 a.m. at the office of Singapore P.I.E.U. at Block 20, No. 1, Corporation Drive, Singapore were a member of an unlawful assembly, and in prosecution of the common object of such assembly, viz in committing criminal trespass committed the offence of rioting and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 147 of the Penal Code, Chapter 103.

Sd. G.F. Cross Insp.
Bt. Panjang Police Station,
Singapore, 23."

I was accused to have taken part in a riot and breaking the glass in P.I.E.U. premises. My interrogators wanted me to admit that I was present at the scene of the alleged riot. I was told also to name the person who was carrying a small stick supposedly to have been used for breaking the glass. On the morning of 2.11.74, before I was taken to Court, there was a mock identification parade at the Central Police Station. I was supposed to be "identified" by employees of the P.I.E.U. to be one of those present at the alleged riot.

The whole case and the charge against me is fabricated. I was not at the site where the so-called incident took place. And the riot itself as described by Lawrence Kwek to the police is fictitious and unfounded.

This whole frame-up is brought against me but it is not without reason. On 23.10.74, workers of American Marine confronted the P.I.E.U. officials to resolve their problem which is being laid off for two weeks by the company without pay. They waited for Phey Yew Kok, the General Secretary, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. He turned up at 6.30 p.m. but he was unable to give the workers satisfactory replies to their request. At this stage Phey Yew Kok made certain suggestions. All these suggestions were rejected as being impractical. I participated verbally in exposing certain statements made by Phey Yew Kok. I also criticised Phey Yew Kok for not being able to resolve the problem of his union members. At that juncture Phey Yew Kok made the statement to the effect that he would check up whether I am a trade union member or not.

He also threatened that he will put me in the right place.

Other than this our intention to set up the Retrenchment Research Centre is well known. Such a centre will not be welcomed by the P.I.E.U. headed by Phey Yew Kok. That we have to set up this Centre is based on the fact that the trade union is not doing its proper role of protecting and championing the rights of workers. My present arrest should also be viewed in the background of the activities of the Students' Union during the last few months. Our protest against bus fare hike, statement against arbitrary detention of political detainees, protest against \$100/- increase in University fees, involvement in Tasek Utara squatters' issue, our intention to start a campaign to set up an independent press and lastly the setting up of the Retrenchment Research Centre — all these were not viewed favourably by the authorities.

My arrest and continued detention without bail is for the following reasons:

- (i) to put me out of circulation so that I cannot be involved further with the R.R.C.
- (ii) I cannot give whatever aid to the American Marine workers who are supposed to return to factory on 6.11.74.
- (iii) to create fear among the workers of Jurong that any association with the student body will ultimately result in arrest as in the case of Mr. Ng Wah Ling, an American Marine worker who was arrested with me at the same time.
- (iv) to discredit the R.R.C.
- (v) to create fear amongst the students and to discredit me as a bad hat taking part in so-called "riots".

That they have to arrest me and frame me up is a manifestation of their fear of their inherent weakness. That they have arrested me is a good thing. It is an indication that the Students' Union is effective in championing the cause of the people of Singapore. It is also an indication that all the Students Union had done is for truth and democracy, the two things they fear most. We should carry on our work as in the past and the R.R.C. should not fail.

If the authorities were to continue my detention after Saturday 9.11.74 I shall go on hunger strike.

Note

At the hearing of the case at the First Magistrate's Court on Saturday, bail of \$5000 was offered to Tan. The next hearing was fixed for the 11th of December. So Wah Piow walks out a free man, for the time being.

WE ARE NOT ALONE!

Student solidarity in the world proudly manifested itself when the Students' Unions from Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and North America sparked off and protested simultaneously over the unjustifiable arrest of Tan Wah Piow and Ng Wah Ling. Floods of telegrams were received from overseas voicing support for the struggle of Singapore students to safeguard justice for the two arrested.

Universiti Sains Malaysia staged a two hour long demonstration outside the Singapore High Commission in Kuala Lumpur on the 9th of November, 1974. The 100 students who demonstrated carried placards denouncing the Lee regime for facism and authoritarianism.

The World Student Christian Federation vehemently condemned the arrests as a 'cowardly' and 'repressive' act. They have also protested to the Singapore government at the highest level that their acts are used to 'notoriously flout



Kuala Lumpur — 9th of November '74.



STUDENTS UNIONISM TODAY TOMORROW?

The turbulent days of student activism back in the anti-colonial years seemed to be resurrected in the recent months with the advent of a somewhat novel force. Students today, as if in keen earnestness of waking up from their long period of political hibernation and to cast away their well-earned reputation for docility and submissiveness found themselves crossing swords with the authorities. The events that had taken place within the past few months were clear testimony of this manifestation of greater political awareness. There is simultaneously an inexplicable desire for social and political reform within the once quiescent student mass, a phenomenon which may still be impalpably alien to many.

Nevertheless, a new frontier was born; a new and promising era of student activities unfolded. From whence this thrust originated, none really knew but it is for certain one with direction, not wayless.

The anti-bus fare hike campaign launched last February was perhaps the inception of this new student force. Decrying the gross injustice of the 10 cts. increment in bus-fares, this campaign was unprecedented. It was the first time ever students took upon a public welfare issue, articulating the aspirations of the people and their stiff indignation over the fare hike.

The recent arbitrary arrest of over 30 persons, alleged to be Communist elements came under heavy fire from students. Standing on the principal of freedom of beliefs and democracy, students deplored the arrest as another part of the government's strategy to cripple the opposition.

The week-long Bangladesh flood relief campaign was perhaps the most successful endeavour by students, culminating greater social awareness. It was another project when students worked hand in hand with their counterparts in society, carving out a more

definite identity for themselves in society. The campaign should constitute a proud landmark in the annals of student unionism.

The plight of the 300-over Johore Bahru squatters, brutally evicted from their land did not fail to capture the attention and sympathy of students, and transcending all national differences, students in Singapore went full blast to their rescue.

Strangely, the inception of this new student force into greater social awareness had also in simultaneity activated the government machinery. It is beyond doubt that the higher authorities were far from happy over such student activities. Somehow, they have sensed that those long years of cultivating an elite group, submissive and alienated from the masses; a new breed deflowered of feeling for their neighbours and imbibed with values that they deemed only right, did not

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THAI STUDENT MOVEMENT – AN ACCOUNT

Extracted from "Participation: a constitutional history of student movement", a publication of the Students' Union of Chulalongkorn University, written by Piansiri Ekniyom and G. R. Peterson.)

Only recently have Thai students begun to become aware of and take interest in their social and political responsibilities. The social framework, and the educational system in Thailand have encouraged students to listen but not question. The goal has always been to get through with the best possible grade and not to think or participate. To obtain a degree, or better yet study abroad to insure a financially and socially secure future has been the accepted goal of all education. To take interest in social, political or economic affairs of the country was considered interfering in "adult affairs."

This was a dangerous trap into which generations of students fell. Most students spent four or five years in a university contributing nothing to society. Their interests outside the classroom were limited to such traditional activities as football matches with parades and cheering or freshmen initiation ceremonies which were gladly accepted and followed not only by university students but by students in the lower levels of education as well. Even then, the students realized that the public looked upon them for leadership. Yet, it seemed that they were not certain how or where to lead.

The Thai people have a deep respect for education which carries the notion that the students have a responsibility to society. It was not an easy search trying to find their role. Thai students started to become aware of their social responsibilities long before their political responsibilities. Considering the cultural background and the political situation of the country one can easily understand why interest in politics could not emerge first. Politics had always been relegated to an influential few. Moreover, it is considered ill-mannered in Thai society to question or interfere with the business of elders. Furthermore, because of the political system's tendency toward autocracy rather than democracy, expression was strongly limited.

Students organized a voluntary group to work for social welfare for the first time in 1968. They left their ivory towers for the first time and began to get involved with people outside the campuses. They began to realize the problems of people in various parts of the country. They went to teach deprived children in slums. They went to the country to build schools and dig wells. These experiences gave them the awareness that it was their own responsibility to deal with the problems of the people. In their efforts to solve some of the problems, they found out that many social ills were related to politics. Like it or not, they had to accept the fact that politics was not only adult business but everybody citizen's duty and obligation.

In 1969, there was a general election in which students volunteered to witness the events at the polling booths in Bangkok. Falsifications and corruption in the voting procedures increased their political involvement. They also came to realize the importance of cooperation. Instead of working in

their own separate groups, they decided to form an inter-university organization of students. The National Student Centre of Thailand (NSCT) originated from that realization.

In the first three years of this cooperational organization, there were not many notable events. The first secretary generals of the NSCT were usually students from Thammasat University. The activities were mostly social welfare work. In 1969, there was a flood in the South. The NSCT organized a program on television to raise funds for the suffering people. Another fund raising campaign was launched in 1970. The activities of the NSCT almost came to a standstill in 1971. Students in general did not actively take interest in the work of the Centre. Most of them still preferred working within their own universities.

The policy of the Government to merge all the universities in Thailand into the Ministry of Education in 1972 served as a catalytic factor in the activities of the university students. They realized that this merging would deprive the universities of their independence in policy making and administration. University administrators also joined in this protest. Finally, the Government agreed to cancel the merging policy. As a result of the success of their cooperation, the student leaders from various universities decided they should enervate the NSCT. They revised the structure of the NSCT and drafted a new constitution of the Centre to give more authority and freedom in decision making to the Secretary General. This was followed by an election for a new Secretary General. Theerayuth Boonmee, an engineering student from Chulalongkorn University, was elected. Since then the NSCT has become more active both socially and politically.

In October, 1972, an investigation committee was appointed at Kasetsart University to consider a case of criticism against the Prime Minister by a group of students. At Ramkhamhaeng University, a group of students were ordered on probation for their criticism of the university institution in Thailand. The NSCT submitted a letter of protest to both universities, asking for freedom of expression on campus.

In November of the same year, it became apparent that Thailand was suffering from a serious deficit in her trade with Japan. The NSCT, consequently, launched a campaign to boycott products from Japan and to promote locally made products. Posters and placards were displayed at shopping centers in Bangkok. A large number of students wore shirts made of locally produced denim. The campaign itself was not very successful. However, it created a strong impact on the people. The public was made aware of the economic problems of the country. Furthermore, the campaign helped give strength to the NSCT. More students participated in the activities of the Centre.

In the last month of 1972, the National Executive Committee, which took over the control of the country after



The October Revolution — a regime must fall

the coup d'état in November, 1971, announced Decree 299, which deprived the judiciary of its jurisdictional power. The NSCT submitted a protest to the Government but it paid no attention. The NSCT, therefore, decided to stage a demonstration against the decree. The protesting students gathered at Chulalongkorn University before they started the march across the city to stage a sit-in in front of the Supreme Court Building. Finally, the National Executive Committee gave in to the students' demand. This victory added more strength to the student movement. Students started to keep close watch of the moves of the Government as well as encourage the public to be aware of the problems, both economic and political, that the country was facing.

In June 1973, a group of students in Ramkhamhaeng University were dismissed from the university because they had published an article criticizing the government policy of term renewal for high ranking government officials who reached retirement. The criticism also implied an attack against the Government for protecting military officers who had used army vehicles and helicopters for a hunting spree in a national forest reservation. The NSCT submitted a letter of protest to the university. The Rector of Ramkhamhaeng University preferred to follow the Government's policy which discouraged anti-government criticism on campus. As a gesture of protest the NSCT rallied the students on all campuses to boycott their classes and stage a peaceful demonstration against the punishment clearly showed the negative attitude of the Government toward freedom of expression on campus. At first, the Government paid no heed to the students' protest. During their protesting demonstration the NSCT also pressed a demand for the promulgation of the new constitution within 6 months. After 24 hours of peaceful demonstration, the university, following the instruction of the Government, finally agreed to revise the sentence of punishment. The Rector of Ramkhamhaeng University had to resign.

In July of 1973, the structure of the NSCT was revised again before the election of a new executive committee to replace the old one, whose term came to an end. The Secretary General, according to the new structure, is assisted by three deputies for political affairs, economic affairs and social and educational affairs. The new elected Secretary General was Sombat Thamrongthanyawong from Kasetsart University. This was quite a slap in the face for the Government, which had adopted a policy to renew the office term for government officials and military men who reached their retirement age. Theerayuth Boonmee, despite his popularity among students as well as the public, did not continue his term.

The awareness of the political situation in the country was also encouraged among the general public as well as students in secondary and vocational schools. This awareness only led them to realize how the Government at the time was abusing its authority. The fate of the whole nation was in the hands of a trio of military men; namely, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, the father; Field Marshal Prapass



SUICIDE SQUAD Not many students in this suicide squad, that sent a jet of high octane gasoline into the Metropolitan Police Headquarters survived.

Charusathiara, the father-in-law; and Colonel Narong Kittikachorn, the son and son-in-law. The country's politics and economy became their family affairs. The trio even staged a coup d'état against themselves in order to dissolve the House of Representatives and abolish the constitution of the country. The Bureau of Inspection and Following-up of Government Operations was set up with tremendous power to examine and control the work in all government agencies. This Bureau was directed by a retired army officer, but was in fact operated by Colonel Narong Kittikachorn. Corruption in the government was encouraged by double corruption practiced by members of the Kittikachorn and Charusathiara families.

In October 1973, Theerayuth Boonmee, then a graduate, organized The Constitution Movement Group to press the Government for the earliest promulgation of a permanent constitution and to educate people to the ideas of democracy and the structure of a government in a free country. It was apparent that the group, which included students, lecturers, journalists and former Members of Parliament, doubted the promise of the Government to return the country to democratic rule as soon as internal security was established. Communist insurgency activities were always the answer of the Government to any questions raised by its critics. The Constitution Movement Group, therefore, decided to launch a campaign to put pressure on the Government to update the promulgation of the constitution to an earlier deadline.

The arrests of twelve Constitution activities on October 6, 1973 by the Special Branch of the Police Department opened the curtain for an uprising which forced the trio of tyrants into exile. The activists were charged with instigating public unrest and trying to overthrow the Government. The NSCT reacted to this injustice immediately. The Government paid no heed to its protest. The discovery of textbooks on communism only made the Government happy enough to add the charge of communist conspiracy to the charges against the arrested activists. This was the first time the Government labeled students communists.

Students at Thammasat University, one of whose lecturers was among the arrested Constitution activists, indefinitely boycotted their classes and examinations to stage a rally on campus. Students from other campuses as well as secondary and vocational schools soon came to join in. The protesting students demanded the unconditional release of the arrested activists. Schools and universities were finally closed indefinitely. The NSCT took over the control and organization of the demonstration at Thammasat University on October 11.

The NSCT submitted a demand to the Government to unconditionally release the activists and to promulgate the new constitution before December. When the Government failed to meet the students' deadline at noon on October 13, 1973, the biggest protest march Thailand had ever witnessed, started from Thammasat University towards Democracy Monument. The confrontation between the Government and

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THE BROKEN RICEBOWL

The BEGGARED windows, the orphans, the peasants are CRYING
The starving, the desperate, the hungry are PLEADING.
The RELEVANT AUTHORITIES give SHALLOW ASSURANCES, whilst
secretly gloating.
That their ABILITY to REDUCE, OPPRESS, and ROB the MEAGRE
EARNINGS of the ignorant.
And the HELPLESS are coming ON FINE, with unheard and unheeded
prattling submissions.
Or perhaps in mute rebellion and impatient tolerance.

But When will you MY COUNTRYMEN know that RETALIATION,
Supported by seeking the common good of all with UNITY
Would put to an END to the SUPPRESSION of the MAJORITY!
The cat will mew and the dog will have his day.
Whatever you AUTHORITIES do to-day, REMEMBER one day you
will have to pay.
With the SAME COLD BLOOD, that you use to enslave your fellow men,
And YOUR BONDAGE will be far greater than that issued by your hands.

My, EDUCATED, INTELLECTUAL fellow Collegians
The OPPRESSED uneducated, or our lesser halves are voicing out
their FRUSTRATIONS.
If you still wish to stick on with your APATHETIC IDEALS.
Then UNWORTHY citizens of this COUNTRY are You!
Unworthy to LIVE ----
You only EXIST.
And even the grass that grows on the fields — lives greater
lives than YOU.

Whether you are politically involved directly or indirectly
The POLICIES formulated and implemented will catch up with
you EVENTUALLY
And then don't MOAN, GROAN and LAMENT your tragedy,
For none will associate you with the oppressed majority.

Think of your fathers and forefathers who have gone.
It seems that their FAITH in you surpasses your GRATITUDE in
their HAUNTS.
But their haunt is your home, your state, your country!
Or are you still engrossed in your greed for MONEY?
If a man is not allowed FREEDOM, what GOOD is DEMOCRACY?
Your forefathers fought for that,
Any many died with the HOPE that you will not turn your backs.

Do you my COUNTRYMEN believe in CHARITY?
Do you care for the welfare of the POOR?
What does the cry of the victims with the BROKEN RICEBOWLS
mean to you?
Are you going to turn your backs and forget their CRIES AND MEWS?
Do you FEAR that this CAUSE is too RISKY TO ENDURE?
What if you were in their SHOES?
People of YOUR KIND ARE NOT NEW --- so cold, so selfish
You belong to the group called "PASSIVE"!

Tom & Thumb

the retrenchment research centre

With the hope that the present economic malady plagueing our Society can be effectively appeased, SPSU has set up a Retrenchment Research Centre. This R.R.C. will have the following four-pronged function:—

- 1) to research and study on re-trenchment
- 2) to hold a survey on those affected by retrenchment.
- 3) to help other organisations working on the same problem.
- 4) to organise immediate relief for those affected workers.

This project to be headed by Mr. Woon Kok Meng requires intensive manpower.

The R.R.C. shall be tentatively composed of three sub-committees — research, survey and publicity. If the situation demands and if more ideas have developed during the long working process, extra committees can be added in. SPSU will also be working very closely with the R.R.C.s set up by the other Unions, USSU, NATSU and NUSU and it has been proposed that we should endeavour to work hand with the Labour Ministry which is at present holding a survey on those retrenched workers too.

Students are urged to partake in this very constructive and meaningful project and unless students offer their ardent support the project can never be accomplished successfully.

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The state of our trade unions is in a hopeless entanglement. It is now only up to us, the Students' Union, to step down from our pedestral and render all the help we can afford to our fellow workers. They are an unprotected and vulnerable group and it would be deplorable on our part to neglect them. Our help and support may be feeble, considering the limits of freedom thrust at us, but it should at least be able to prop them up, encourage them and provide enlightenment. Togetherness is the best tool for the grim challenge ahead.

A SCANDAL ?

The arrest of USSU's president stirred a major controversy on the campuses. It was sad that the press should adopt a hush-hush attitude over the affair as a result of which much of the students and public were left in the blank over the background of the arrest. Viewed in this light we have managed to secure a number of circulars released from USSU which we have reproduce below. We are hopeful that students after reading it will be more aware of the circumstances and the important role they can play in it.

THE NIGHT ARREST

On 1/11/74 at 9.35 pm. Tan Wah Piow was arrested at a flat in Jurong. He is the President of the University of Singapore Students' Union.

At about 9.20 p.m., four plain-clothed policemen visited a flat in Jurong. They informed the owner, a friend of Tan Wah Piow, of their intentions to search the premises. She requested to see the search warrant. The visitors then produced a card which showed their respective names and serial numbers. They then requested to see Mr. Tan. The owner of the flat informed the party that there is no resident by the name of 'Mr. Tan', and turned down the request. She then made several phone calls to contact a lawyer. While doing so, the visiting party threatened to break in if admission is not granted. Wah Piow, alerted by what was going on, wrote a note to 'University of Singapore Students' Union, USSU which read, 'To members of USSU, I was in a flat of a friend in Jurong when the police came at 9.35 p.m. They are here to arrest me for the RETRENCHMENT RESEARCH case.'

The visiting party was finally permitted to enter the flat. They informed Wah Piow of his arrest. At the meantime Wah Piow's friend managed to contact USSU Councillors to whom Wah Piow was allowed to speak for a few minutes. Wah Piow then informed the Councillor about what has happened. After putting down the phone Wah Piow asked for the search warrant of arrest. When they failed to produce them Wah Piow refused to follow them. As a result he was forcibly handcuffed. Before leaving in a volkswagen the 4 men told Wah Piow's friend that he would be taken to Bukit Panjang Police Station for questioning.

That night after being informed of the arrest by the Student Councillor who received the phone call from Wah Piow, many councillors met at the Union house. They tried to find out where Wah Piow was detained. Even with the help of the Union's legal advisor, friends, students and Wah Piow's family, they failed to know where Wah Piow was.

DETAILS OF CHARGES

On the morning of 2/11/74, the University of Singapore Students' Union, USSU legal advisor, Mr. G. Raman, appeared in court for Mr. Tan Wah Piow, USSU President and Ng Wah Leng, a worker. The charges on both of them were that they were members of an unlawful assembly on 30th Oct. 1974 at 11.00 a.m. outside P.I.E.U. Office Blk. 20, Jurong. The common objective of the unlawful assembly was to commit trespassing and thereby rioting.

At the First Magistrate Court, on the same morning, Assistant Superintendent (Asp) Nidu, applied for both the accused persons to be remanded (ie., no bailing allowed). The USSU legal advisor, Raman objected to it and said that Tan Wah Piow was not in any way interfering with the police investigation and that he would not be a hindrance. The reason given by Mr. Asp. Nidu was that certain investigations will have to be carried out, and that the case was a very complicated one. The police need both persons for investigations. G. Raman gave his personal assurance to the magistrate that both the accused persons will be produced if the police require them. Finally he also remarked that the accused were not involved in any secret society activities and that they had no criminal records. Therefore they should be released on bail. His appeal was refused by the magistrate.

The situation is that both of them are still in remand. G. Raman is trying to see them later.

A visit was made by the Union's legal advisor and another lawyer to the Bukit Panjang Police Station where Wah Piow, according to one of the plain clothed policemen was taken to. But they were informed Wah Piow was not there. Subsequently, numerous phone calls were made by the Union's legal advisor to the C.I.D. & I.S.D. However, the police denied any knowledge of the arrest.

the sports' council's stir

Several nagging omens of disunity and disharmony between the Sports Council and the Students' Council have been shown in the past few weeks. The status of the Sports Council, as outlined constitutionally, is to be an 'autonomous unit with the Students' Council with full jurisdiction over its activities. This jurisdiction was however rendered vague and seemingly incomplete by another clause in the Constitution, which says that the monies of the Sports Council is to be under direct charge of the Financial Secretary of the Union.

The Sports Council is therefore largely dependent on the Students' Councillors for lacking a financial status of its own, it has to bend to the direction of each capricious demand and fancy of each Councillor. It is customary for the Sports Council budget for each ensuing year to be first screened

through and revised by the Students' Council. Not too unoften, this had led to many a strained relation between the two of them.

The controversial issue of the games tour which had bedevilled many a Council has again, this year, perpetuated much grouses between these two parties. The 15th Students' Council had decisively scrapped off the \$3000 proposed to be allotted for the tour from the budget, the reasons being that the objectives behind the tour are too weak to justify the lavish expenditures to be incurred. The Students' Council also sees the need to channel the money to better the sporting facilities which will in turn enhance the pool of

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don't let us down, sheares !

Knowing full well that appeals against the detention of Tan Wah Piow and Ng Wah Ling would seek no justice at the hands of any Ministers or whatever MPs, students of the below petition had to turn to the last figure whom they sincerely believe to stand for "Unbiased Justice": the president Dr. B. H. Sheares.

Below is a copy of the petition, reprinted to assist you in gaining fuller insight into the whole situation.



At the Istana — Police, reporters, students, but President?

Dr. B. H. Sheares,
President,
Republic of Singapore.

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, APPEAL to you, Mr. President because as Head of State you are the neutral party in this issue and have the authority to resolve injustices in our society. As Chancellor of the University of Singapore you must feel concern over the security of our students.

WE BELIEVE

that the industrial workers in Singapore are being outrageously exploited. The census of Industrial Production and other figures from the Department of Statistics show that for the manufacturing sector;

- (1) Remuneration per employee (wages plus other benefits) rose by about 8% in 1973 but because prices rose 23% real remuneration per employee fell about 12 – 13%
- (2) Productivity of workers in money terms rose about 17% in 1973 but remuneration in money terms rose only 8%.

We agree with the government's warning that sacrifices will have to be made for the hard times ahead. However we believe that hard times have long been experienced by our workers and that the sacrifices that have to be made are predominantly the sacrifices of retrenched workers.

STRONGLY PROTEST

the manner in which workers in Singapore are being retrenched. From February 1974 till now over 10,000 workers have been retrenched. Investigations by U.S.S.U. (University of Singapore Students' Union) show

many inhuman practices in the methods of retrenchment and dissatisfaction among workers with their Trade Union officials who are not representing their interests. Workers in AIRCO Electronics were given only a few minutes notice, towards the end of their 4 a.m. working shift before they were retrenched. Workers in Jurong Plywood have complained that the two weeks pay retrenchment compensation is actually money paid in lieu of being given the contractual two weeks notice. These two practices, which are two among numerous exploitative methods, are unfair and degrading.

STRONGLY CONDEMN

the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary General of P.I.E.U. (Pioneer Industries Employee' Union) who, instead of meeting P.I.E.U. members as equal and sincerely and conscientiously trying to help them in their difficulties, tried to humiliate them as if they were lesser beings.

On 23rd October, 1974 the workers from the American Marine factory had been laid off two weeks without pay and were trying to contact Mr. Phey Yew Kok, the Secretary General of P.I.E.U. to help them negotiate for compensation and benefits. The workers were kept waiting from 10.00 a.m. till 6.30 p.m. when Mr. Phey arrived, escorted by some plain clothes and uniformed policemen.

Mr. Phey ordered the workers to sit on the ground while he stood on a flower bed to address the workers. In a menacing manner he shouted in Mandarin, "Where is the man by the name of Chan who phoned me up? If he is not a bastard, come out here.

The workers requested Mr. Phey to

stop in P.I.E.U. photographer from snapping pictures of the workers crowd. The photographs might be used to the detriment of their personal security. Mr. Phey further ordered that the workers speak out individually.

Mr. Phey, as a responsible Union leader, should have treated his members with respect. Instead he insulted them by telling them to sit on the ground, by using obscene language and trying to split workers solidarity.

Throughout, Mr. Phey adopted an uncooperative and hostile attitude to the inquiries of the workers regarding their 2-week-non-paid layoff; their holding 2 C.P.F. accounts; the setting up of a P.I.E.U. special relief fund; and that they pay were in coupons rather than in cash; and their compensation rate in the event of retrenchment.

Mr. Phey, who is also the President of N.T.U.C. (National Trade Union Congress) gave a promise that the Union would try to negotiate with the factory management within a week; but refused to guarantee the workers any results. Soon after, he abruptly turned his back on the workers and went into the office.

On 30th October 1974 about 200 workers from American Marine gathered in front of the PIEU office to meet Mr. Phey to find out the results of negotiations with the factory management would only start on 6th November 1974, after the 2 weeks lay off. The notice was signed by Mr. Lawrence Kwek, the Deputy General Secretary of PIEU. The workers were dissatisfied and requested to talk to Mr. Kwek. However PIEU officials came out of the office with a reply that Mr. Kwek would meet only in representative form from the workers. The

workers rejected this and insisted on meeting Mr. Kwek in person. The workers remained on the lawn outside the PIEU office. Soon after at 11.15 a.m., the windows and door of the office building were shut and there was the noise of shattering glass and overturning of furniture. Those present outside included the workers, students and reporters from the Straits Times and UPI. Two workers inside the building witnessed Mr. Kwek smashing the glass with his own hand and ordering his officials to overturn furniture and smashing windows.

At about 11.20 a.m., two police car came and policemen entered the building to investigate. No arrests were made, nor were the people gathered outside told to disperse.

Based on eyewitness accounts, Mr. Kwek and his officials destroyed the property of PIEU. Their motives are not difficult to guess. Their aim was to put the blame on the workers and thus to discredit them.

STRONGLY CONDEMN

the arrests of Tan Wah Piow, President of the University of Singapore Students' Union and Mr. Ng Wah Ling, a worker at American Marine on 1st November 1974 on the charge being member of the unlawful assembly,

committing criminal trespassing and rioting on 30th October 1974 at the P.I.E.U. office.

WE ARE CONVINCED

that Mr. Tan Wah Piow and Mr. Ng Wah Ling are completely innocent of the charge levelled against them; and that their arrests constitute attempts to suppress the efforts made by workers and the Retrenchment Research Centre (RRC) to inform about and to alleviate the sufferings of the retrenched workers.

We have alibis and eyewitness and accounts to prove that neither Mr. Tan nor Mr. Ng were involved in any unlawful assembly nor did they commit criminal trespassing and rioting on 30th October, 1974.

Since arrested, both Mr. Tan Mr. Ng have not been allowed to consult a lawyer, nor have they been allowed to see their families and friends.

WE STRONGLY DEMAND

the dropping of charges against Mr. Tan Wah Piow and Mr. Ng Wah Ling and their unconditional release. We also demand information regarding the identity of all other workers who have been arrested since 1st November 1974 and their unconditional release

if they are under the same charge levelled against Mr. Tan and Mr. Ng.

President Sheares was re-elected to a second 4-year term in office by parliament on the 6th of Nov. 19th. He was re-elected by a unanimous vote, these are what the cabinet had to say of him.

Mr. Lee Kuan Yew:

"He has carried his office with unassuming dignity, application and self discipline. He has won the respect of all who came to know him. He takes his official and social duties seriously."

Encik Rahmat Bin Kenap:
(Geylang Serai)

He described Sheares as a symbol of unity among the multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural community in Singapore.

Mr. P. Govindasamy:
(Anson)

He said President Sheares had always carried out his duties efficiently.

Mr. Ch'ng Jit Koon:

He acknowledged that Sheares externally and internally symbolised the prestige of the country.

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sportsmen in the campus. The Sports Council could not concede to this view, deeming the games tour highly necessary for upgrading the level of sportsmanship and skill of our sportsmen. The futile attempts in defiance of the games tour bitterly frustrated them and it had probably led them to view the Students' Council as despotic and inconsiderate, greedily robbing them of their 'jurisdiction' and 'autonomy'.

The dilemma over the status of the Sports Council found its way into the Students' Liasson Meeting, a meeting convened monthly, to serve as a linkage between the Admin and the Students' Union. This was itself a glaring sign of distrust existing between the Sports Council and the Students' Council as the issue is largely a students' affair and should, in first place, be discussed during a Council meeting rather in the Admin-students meeting.

Although the atmosphere throughout the meeting remained calm, oratory on either side were rather bluntly delivered so that the mood on both side shifted noticeably. The Administration in this imbroglio was supposed to assume the role of a mediator.

The Sports Council voiced out their many grievances over the sorrowful situation, the tight monetary control cruelly imposed upon them and the deprivation of their jurisdiction over their activities. The Students' Council came up with a flood of excuses in defiance of their position, proved that there were never any infringement on the jurisdiction of the Sports Council, that the decisions made regarding the budget issue was based solely on the policies formulated by the Sports Councillors themselves. The Union officials went on to claim that they are constitutionally empowered to have full say in the Sports budget. for the

budget was a portion of students' subscription fees. The Sports Council came up with the incisive retort that a control of the finance is a direct control of their running of activities. There were even accusations that certain parties had deliberately manipulated the students during the recent Annual General Meeting when both the sports budget and the Union budget has to be officially passed by the student body. And the debate and all the belligerent talks went on ceaselessly; there was sad to say not tangible or conclusive end.

The rationale behind the whole hiatus is disturbing. The fact still remains that the conflicts will end nowhere but only to further estrangement. The Constitution has perhaps, merely vaguely defined the status of the Sports Council and its relations to the Students' Union. A re-draft or a revision has to be formally endorsed by the student body and approved by the Registrar of Societies, the whole tedious process amounting to a few years' time. But the whole affair could have been simplified and avoided if both sides had not been so uncompromising and had seen that the sole purpose of the other side is also to serve the students. In this connection, the Sports Council should not have held the misconstrued view that the Students' Council is deliberately stepping on its toes or to be injurious to them. The Students' Council has of course to impress upon the other side its sincerity in its decisions and moves. The Sports Council is indisputably set up as an arm of the Union, to cater for and organise all sporting activities for the Union members. They are not to stray from the Union, being part and parcel of it. There is therefore, an urgent need for immediate reconciliation between these two parties, to restore the fragmented unity.

From Our Technocrats

The recent retrenchment spree and the much deplored arrests of USSU president, Tan Wah Piow and worker Ng Wah Ling activated an unprecedented kind of unrest within the student body, spontaneous and vigorous. Gauging from the feedback reciprocated, views aired through mass rallies and suggestions sheets, etc., there can be of little doubt that the Students' Union in her endeavour to alleviate this problem of retrenchment will receive massive support from the general student populace. The discontentment of the students over this retrenchment affair was much reflected from some of the views scribed on the suggestions broadsheets pinned up. We deemed them worthy of some space in the 'Technocrat' and below are some of those typical remarks. (they may not necessarily reflect that views of the Editorial Board).

'Newspapers today are blinding the public. Banners should be put up at the Union House to tell the public the truth, especially on what happened on the 30th Oct. at P.I.E.U. office.'

'The Union should have seen by now that unity among the students is most important, yet nothing is done to unite the students. More attention to be paid in working with the students.'

'Support SPSU — those who does not wish to be suppress further.'

'Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains.'

— Karl Marx.'

'Just a word of reminder — students should go hand in hand with the workers not to lead or organise them because they have leadership and organisational abilities'

'I hope a practical solution comes up and I hope mine is a practical one — stop retrenchment, but cut down the working days. Instead of some workers getting the whole day's pay and some not receiving due to retrenchment, who not introduce 4 or 5 working days per week? Those daily-rated workers will then not be affected.'

'Retrench the idea of retrenchment before you get retrenched.'

RETRENCHMENT IS A FORM OF EXPLOITATION AND SUPPRESSION!

Under the pro-Western policy, foreign capitalists are entertained with 'tax holiday', with which they can squeeze more profit at the expense of the benefit of the workers.

TACTICS EMPLOYED BY CAPITALIST IN EXPLOITATION

When the workers are initially employed, their salaries are usually very low. After working for about 5 years (i.e. near to the end of 'tax holiday') their salaries and wages are usually increased (though the increase is very little, the capitalists considered this as a reduction in their profits). The capitalists are fully aware of the fact that, they can squeeze more money if new workers are employed since the starting salaries are much lower. Thus they display their dirty tricks — RETRENCHMENT!

Some people may say that we are 'one sided'. Yes! We are and we should 'side' the workers and not the capitalists. We should 'side' the people especially the working class, since they are the majority of the society. Let's see how far we are 'one-sided' in this issue. Let us look into the facts.

It is reported in the newspapers that foreign investment such as National Semiconductors and Aircro declared that owing to decline in world market, the production have to be reduced, and the workers have to be retrenched. But, at the same time, it was reported that over the causeway these factories are fast expanding. (note that these factories in Malacca and Penang are still enjoying 'tax holiday'). Obviously, these foreign investors are not facing the problems of decline of world market. This is all only a form of economic exploitation!

WHO IS TO BE BLAMED???

Some of our fellow students may consider the workers to be at fault. Why do they not organise themselves? Why do they not elect leaders who will work for their own welfare? Are the workers so ignorant? Are the workers not brave enough to organise trade unions or are they not capable of organising trade unions? NO! THEY ARE NOT!!!

Let us look into the period between 1940 to 1960. Within that time, the workers' unions of this country were all well organised under the leadership of the workers themselves. The unions served the most important role of protecting the welfare and the general interests of the workers. The workers would take actions against the capitalists if there were to be unjustifiable treatments such as retrenchment and inadequate increment in salaries, etc. Through a series of actions the workers were convinced that victory would ultimately be theirs if they unite as a whole and are led by themselves. In 1947, the most remarkable strikes in large scale took place all over the Malaya Peninsula and Singapore, and in the history of Malaya, it was known as the strike year. The capitalists and the reactionaries were all shaken, they were shivering throughout the history of industrialisation of all commercialised societies of the world. Exploitation and political suppression were then two common phenomena and the two always go hand in hand. Our society was of no exception. At that time, we were under the control of the British Colonialists and in order to continue her economic exploitation of this country, the British use their military and police to suppress the innocent people. Union leaders, progressive and democratic activists were arrested, some even exiled! Many active trade unions were suspended. However trade unionism did not stop here. In the later decade, the trade unions were re-organised and plunged into a vigorous struggle against exploitation and suppression. Meanwhile the political consciousness of the people had raised and the

demand for an independent country was increasing day by day. Under the resistance of the people of this country, the British Colonialists had to change their form of ruling. Under new forms of Colonialism, this country was allowed to be 'independent' in which the economic political and military of this country is to be controlled in an indirect way.

Learning from the past experiences, the British Colonialists, thro' their running dogs in this country, began to arrest the Unionists brutally, until the middle of 1960s, the progressive trade unions which serve the workers were all suspended! Active Unionists were considered as subversive elements, progressive trade unions were considered as illegal and anti-government organisations.

WHY AT PRESENT, TRADE UNIONS STILL EXIST?

In order to decorate the democracy of the 'democratic' society, the Government has to set up the NTUC and the various branches. It seems to be ridiculous for such a thing to happen, but it must be remembered that NTUC was organised by the Government. Under the leadership of Mr. Devan Nair (Hon. Gen. Secretary of NTUC, formerly a good assistant of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew the working class are effectively suppressed.

Now that the workers are retrenched, what have the NTUC and her branches done for the workers? Yes, we have seen how they had threatened workers, collaborating with the I.S.D. to arrest the workers and their outspoken representatives.

CONCLUSION:— We students realising these facts should give not only moral support to the workers but should act out for them. We should unite together and work as a whole to overcome all difficulties. The Retrenchment Research Committee set up by the Students' Union is a meaningful project and all students should give their full support in this issue!

**STUDENTS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
DOWN WITH ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION!
DOWN WITH POLITICAL SUPPRESSION!**

Dear Editor,

The unjust arrest of Tan Wah Piow, President of USSU is far the most drastic action taken by the authorities to suppress students' activities in our state.

The authorities' vain hope to cripple students' unity is far from achieved. But it has instead unite the four students' Unions towards a common cause — to see justice done.

The authorities has come to realise that no matter how bureaucratic and materialistic it tried to make our society, there still lies a spark of humanity in each and every individual. The Bangladesh flood relief campaign which could never be successful if not for the kind generosity of the people, proved this beyond doubt. We students must act as a 'catalyst' to bring this little spark of humanity out.

The 'catalyst' — a substance which speeds a chemical reactions without itself being permanently changed. What does the authorities hope to achieve by removing the 'catalyst'? It would only delay but not stop the reaction from taking place.

Whether Tan Wah Piow's arrest would serve us an example to students of consequences facing them when taking up social issues — in attempting to do our fundamental duty as human beings, or would it act as a catalyst to arouse more Students' awareness towards social in justices is left up to all of us to answer.

To keep silent would be a betrayal to humanity. To overact would also be a mistake to give the government a chance to suppress us further.

So it is up to us to think and act rationally.

PATRIOTIC STUDENT

Dear Editor,

The General Secretary of N.T.U.C. in a Press statement to the public urged all workers to join a trade union so that they would be 'represented' and minimise the possibility of 'un-organised' labour in Singapore.

But what kind of representation did the workers get? As in the case of the incident at the P.I.E.U. office in Jurong, all the so-called Union leaders could do was to come out with uniformed men and intimidate the workers, charging them with criminal trespass for when they congregate outside the Union premises! If they have no right to be there, WHO HAS? The workers cannot live on air alone; even with their pay, they can barely get by and for some, they even have their family to support. What about the PUB bills and HDB rents, also not forgetting their subscription to the Union? To add to their dilemma, the government could only come up with excuses and a lot of talking about foreign elements taking advantage of the present situation to exploit the workers. They hence ask the workers to be on the 'alert'. If the government themselves have been on the alert when our Singapore was developing and had not allowed the M.N.C.s to get a foot-hold in Singapore our economic strategy would not have been so vulnerable.

Multi-national corporations are only interested in making profits, maximum profits. There is not concern whatsoever for human welfare, let alone the welfare of the state. To them, workers are no more than 'prostitutes', once they are paid and have served their purpose, they are dumped away as easily as they are bought.

And now we are getting a taste of this kind of dirty tactics M.N.C.s always employ — retrenching the workers here to exploit greener pastures and cheaper labour elsewhere.

Worse still, instead of coming up with solid solutions to the present crisis, our ministers come forth with their explanations on why retrenchment is necessary, urging us to 'tighten our belts', as they have told us ten years ago. The workers cannot fill their empty stomachs with excuses and explanations!

It was students like Tan Wah Piow who could see the plight of the workers and was willing to act accordingly to his convictions. But what did the authorities did to him?

We should not forget that we are being taught the necessary skills to provide the cheap labour necessary to keep the foreign industries in motion at the expense of many others and as such we should not neglect our responsibilities to society.

Concerned Observer

contd. on next page

WITH YAK

ITC – TRASH COURSE ?

A single word sums up the entire attitude of our fellow students doing the two-year Industrial Technician Certificate course. Frustration.

Frustration firstly because of the prestige and reputation attributed to them. Oh yes! Our fellow brothers and sisters in the Diploma courses may speak enviously of the so-called advantage we have over them, the better prospects ahead for us, but all would promptly shun the course if offered to them, even on a silver platter. Why does such mentality exists?

We cannot blame our fellow colleagues for harbouring such attitudes. It is only a natural instinct, considering that in our first year at Poly it had already been successfully drilled into our little minds that the good will be permitted the Diploma course, the lower calibre, the ITC course.

Right from the beginning it could be seen that the Admin did not give a damn for this course. It was first known as the Industrial Technician Certificate course and then altered to the General Certificate and then to the General Certificate of Industrial Technology and after all that, the former name was finally adopted in exhaustion. It made us doubt. Could it be that all the Admin was interested was to keep the optimum number of students to a maximum? The diploma courses could only offer a meagre 500 vacancies, why not devise another course whereby another 500 more tuition fees could be collected? Perhaps that was why the ITC course was born in such a irresponsible and insincere attitude.

To further substantiate the amount of diligence the Admin puts into the ITC course is the kind of lecturers fed to us. It should be first made clear that not all the lecturers, but the majority are being commented. The lecturers allotted to ITC are mainly meagrely qualified personnels with so feeble a command of language that they never fail to drive you up the wall. There are lecturers who so chronically insist on simple matters like seating arrangements and the likes rather than concentrate on the lecture to be delivered. Consequently lectures turn out to be poorly presented, boring and totally unattractive. Then there are those who digress, spin wild tales and talk gloriously of that project they championed, their technical brilliance and all that. Then there are those lecturers who strut round in their splendid ties, acting like they were on the top of the world and we ITC an incompetent bunch of students. Also there are those...heck! Why bother to mention? It's such a long list and the Admin probably already knows of such things and in any case will not care to lift a single finger. Around these parts, who is an ITC fella? Who will listen to him talk? Only his fellow mates.

One more disgruntling point is the academics forced into our mouths to be studied. We are fed with theories and theories and more theories. Irrelevant and pointless it is to just memorise these nonsense and then rattle them off in the examination and to be forgotten after that. There is little in our curriculum to train us to analyse things in perspective, we are only just train to hell! God knows what they are training in us. We put our indictment to the Admin. Basing on facts and history, we see distinctly that the irresponsible and careless attitude manner of the Admin is manifested in the myriad of times they have changed the duration of the course, the subjects being taught, the depth of subjects and other paraphernalia. Yes. Frustration is the word to sum up the whole course.

There are other questions on the list. They say our ITC Cert is the equal of a HSC. The feeble structure of our course, the recognition we receive under and over seas makes doubt creeps in. The different status they treat us with in National Service confirms the doubt.

The very fact that our Certificate has equal ground as that from the STI stirs us up. We do not mind if our certificate and theirs stands equal, ticklish thing is why must we pay so high a fee for ours than they for theirs? What kind of a justice is that?

It is not only the ITC students that are being undermined. If we were to compare the recognition of Poly's diploma with Ngee Ann's, the irrationality repeats. We are claimed to be the superior of our counterparts at Ngee Ann, and yet we start at a lower step in the international arena as far as educational level is concerned. This is so being that Ngee Ann has been recognised as far as the London Technical College, Council of Engineering Institutions and what-nots while we here have to be a satisfied only with recognition from the local industries.

This tempts us to wonder. What are our Board of Governors and our principal doing in their offices? Why are they not fighting for better recognition of our certificates and diplomas, similar as that of Ngee Ann or maybe even better.

It is in hearty conclusion and with the surest sure that our policy-makers formulate policies for us in line only with our nation's economical needs. A certain MNC sets up a factory, Poly immediately provides the technicians. In others words – expression, we are no longer train anymore for education's sake. We are put in school, then just sit back and wait for some new factory to come up, then they will let us graduate off. At school they don't bother about what you learn. Hence the trash thrown into ITC, the irresponsibility and uncared put into it. And year by year the course gets into a sorrier state.

Who will listen to an ITC guy speak?

FROM OUR TECHNOCRATS

SHENTON'S MAN

Once, there's one who marathon,
and it's always in Shenton.
He did not know his wrong,
and always criticise others' wrongs.

Once he was on the throne,
and he believes he is strong.
But to us, we are steel, he is bronze,
so how can we get along.

He acts as though he is on the throne,
and always use the facilities in Shenton home.
To the society he is all gone,
so how can we get along.

In the Technocrat, he wrote in thorns,
and to a leader he is a pawn.
One said that he should be thrown out from Shenton,
but to us he should be taught the pros and cons.

– Patrick Goh –

SUPPRESSION

Does freedom really exist in our Society?

Every single one of us has the absolute right of independent frankness, unrestrictedness and freedom. In any depression, a leader will be reincarnated to resurrect the people from the slime and the mud. Such a man has not materialised yet. Even if he is present among us, he will not be revealed because the bondage of the shackle and the sewing needle seals the truth. No man loveth his fetters be they made of gold.

Here in the polytechnic we have a device for counteracting the Students Union — this machine is none other than the Admin. What are notice boards for? Notice pertaining to the speakers corner has been commandeered umpteen times. What is the Admin. up to? Stamp collecting is a more beneficial past-time. The deterring of a person by threats or otherwise tantamounting to swindling transactions should be totally discouraged. Why should truth be given curtains, when truth itself asked for none?

Nobody in this world has the right to force another decent human being into another philosophy, alien to his own principles. The love of liberty is the love of others, the love of power is the love of ourselves. Freedom has a thousand charms to show, that slaves have never known. The democracy of people, by the people and for the people is seldom seen, but often heard. The modern concept of democracy assumes the political equality of all individuals—the form of government in which the supreme power rests with the people.

A Society without freedom lacks the welfare of the people. The greatest glory of freedom is to transmit that freedom to their children.....

FREEDOM WHERE ARE THOU?

WHY DO PEOPLE REVOLT, REBEL AND MUTINY?

WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE GIVE UP THEIR LIVES
AND SO WILLINGLY....

FRIENDS.....BECAUSE OF FREEDOM!

YOU CANNOT STEP ON THE PEOPLE,
YOU CANNOT USE THE PEOPLE,
FOR THE PEOPLE IS THE TRUTH,
AND YOU ARE THE PEOPLE.
THE PEOPLE ELECT A LEADER,
TO SAFEGUARD THE PEOPLE,
BUT WHEN THE LEADER SAFEGUARDS HIMSELF,
THEN THE LEADER IS NO MORE
YOU CANNOT BETRAY THE PEOPLE,
BECAUSE YOU ARE THE PEOPLE!

By Tom & Thumb

From page 7

the students became more critical. In spite of the efforts of His Majesty the King to mediate a peaceful settlement for both sides, violence was inevitable when communication among the student leaders was disrupted and the Government decided to take aggressive measures against the demonstrators. The massacre of protesting students and people came to an end when the trio were forced to leave the country.

After the sorrowful events, the NSCT worked hard in cooperation with the new civilian Government, headed by Professor Sanya Thammasakdi, to bring the situation in the country back to normalcy. During the first days after the uprising, policemen disappeared into obscurity. Police stations had to be manned by students. Traffic was directed by boy-scouts. When the tension subsided, the NSCT resigned from the political scene.

Besides the NSCT, there are other voluntary groups of students from various institutions all over the country working towards the same goal as the NSCT. Thus, as a result of the success of the NSCT, Thai students have developed a feeling of unity and purpose as well as a consciousness of their responsibility to improve the social and political conditions of the country.

Coming:

MASS SURVEY

The first mass survey on retrenchment (a joint USSU — SPSU project) was conducted on 23rd and 24th November. Workers from Jurong, Clementi, Kallang Basin and Red Hill were interviewed. The survey uncovered many interesting facts on workers' problems, working conditions in factories, etc, which will be published in a handbook. Students who participated learnt a great deal and felt that we should have more of such contacts and dialogues with workers. Another survey will be conducted during the second term vacation. Those who are able to help out and at the same time like to learn more about workers' life should register at the PEC Secretariat (if you have not done so).

WELFARE CAMP

This year, the Annual Welfare Camp will be held from 26th to 29th December at Lim Chu Kang. Lim Chu Kang is a rural area and the population subsist mainly on farming. By holding the camp there and exposing participants to the hard facts of a farmer's life, it is hope that everyone would appreciate how valuable the role played by farmers in our Society. They are often taken for granted because we are so used to 'money can buy everything' attitude. Nobody actually bothers to think of how our vegetable is grown and pigs reared. On the contrary, we rush to see how MNCs like NS Electronics produce their electronic components which never really benefitted us!! — It's time for us to face reality — those who are keen on the camp should register immediately at the PEC Secretariat. (vacancies limited).

EXHIBITION

An exhibition on students' movements in Asia will be held during the first week of the final term. It is hope that through this exhibition students will learn more about the activities of our counterparts in other countries in this region. In our rapidly changing world (particularly the third world) people are awakening; rising to the challenge of building a more just and equal society and in the course fighting all forms of political suppression and economic exploitation by imperialist powers. Do students have a role to play in this context? What can we do to bring about a better Society? Is it by studying textbooks only? The exhibition is an opportunity for us to review our role as students and take positive actions to serve society, being a social unit ourselves.



THE FISHY FISHY BUSINESS

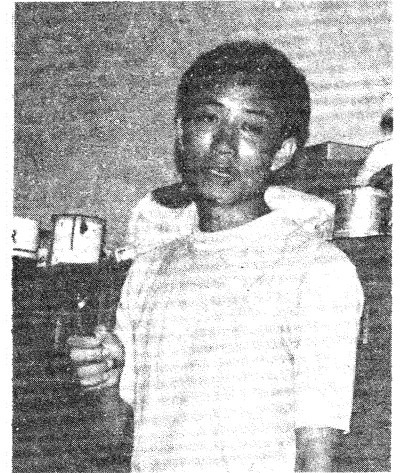
The months of December '74 and January '75 promise to be the most interesting and sensational period in the history of student movements here. Student leaders will be facing charges for a variety of criminal offenses which were not committed by them but were fabricated and forced upon them. There will be at least six court cases which students should be interested in. The cases as manifested by those in power threatened to plunge the whole student population into a massive state of crisis resulting in confusion. Many will be living in a state of fear of suppression; others outright oppressed, and yet there are some who are 'expected' to be put behind bars.

There will be a case of two students (one already graduated) being charged for obstructing a police inspector in his official duties. Another case, in Johore Bahru, will bring two students across the causeway to answer charges for illegally squatting on state land. The most sensational and yet possibly calamitous case is when the President of USSU is to be charged, together with two other workers, for "rioting". To add dash of colour and fragrance to the 'trial month of students' are two most unusual and unprecedented cases. One is synonymous to a big fish swimming with the current trying to swallow a small fish. The other is the reverse and is much more colourful. It is the big fish of a small pond swimming against the current, and amidst powerful undercurrents in the ocean pitting its little skills against a real giant fish to bring out the whole 'fishy-fishy business.'

To those who already know this whole 'fishy-fishy business', this article may sound stale. Others not so acquainted will find it disturbing if not stunned. Our overseas friends will probably view that these cases are normal in any 'abnormal' society and will likely send down messages affirming student solidarity, which our so-called national leaders by chance may say, "a phenomenon of students being splashed with tomato ketchup on their faces." Tomato ketchup, chilly or max factor foundation cream, the atmosphere surely smells of a gigantic rotten apple.

Chan Kum Shee, an architecture student and Chung Meng Ker (just graduated as an architect), both from the University of Singapore will face similar charges of allegedly 'using criminal force to obstruct a police officer from carrying out his duties'. Their case will come up for hearing on 3rd, 4th, and 5th December. The two accused were in their flat in Queens-town when the flat was raided by some plainclothes men. As it is said, this is a case of harassment and the pretext was to search for drugs. Some wild imaginative guys have thought that it could be possible that architects design better structures under influence of drugs. This fantastic imagination can not be true of course, otherwise we will be living in 'stoned' houses. One thing for sure is that the authorities were desperately trying to 'fix' someone up and Kum Shee and Meng Ker may have been the target or that they were sheer unfortunate. Three months before the alleged offence, the same flat was raided. The episode than (refer "Technocrat" vol. 3 No. 3.) was to search for illegal immigrants. At that time, there were seven students inside, helping Meng Ker with his project. Five of them (Malaysians) had their passports seized. But they played their game well enough to frustrate the presumably "immigration officers". They called their lawyer and one official from the Malaysian High Commission in Singapore to stand by as referees while they played the passport game at the immigration depot. Apparently the immigration officers were born losers as they had no choice but to return the five passports even though a "handicap-2" was given to them, in that only three students were present to fight for the five passports.

The Johore Bahru squatter issue evolved a new kind of rapport between students and ordinary people, the workers or exploited class. The capitalist underdogs somehow had to smash up this unity and again as it is normal in any "abnormal society", people had to be 'fixed'. Many of the squatters were arrested and put on fabricated charges. So were student leaders from UMSU and USSU. Chia Yong Tai and Choo Foo Yong, both



Tsui Hon Kwong

from USSU were among those who will be facing charges of illegally occupying State Land. Two of them were among the many students from UMSU and USSU who gave tremendous moral support of the squatters while their houses were being torn down by police, otherwise known as "legalised gangsters". Their case will be brought to court hearing on 12th, 13th & 14th January '75 in Johore Bahru.

Undoubtedly, the most talk-about court case in the students circle is the trial of Tan Wah Piow, USSU President, Ng Wah Ling and Yap Kim Khong, both workers of American Marine. Three of the them face similar charges of "being members of an unlawful assembly, the common object being committing criminal trespass and thereby the offence of rioting." This case, as many people can see, is a frame up to put them 'in the right place'. As Wah Piow puts it: "That they have to arrest me and frame me up is a manifestation of their fear of their inherent weakness. That they have arrested me is a good thing. It is an indication that the students' union is effective in championing the cause of the people of Singapore. It is also an indication that all the students' union had done is for truth and democracy, the two thing they fear most." So far, this case is the most spectacular of all. It will see the manifestation of the reactionary ruling clique's machinery in subjugating the exploited working class and the intellectually-starving students.

The "blatant lie" story will see a student leader suing a minister, also an iron hand administrator. Some people see this case as related to the arrest of Tan Wah Piow. Wah Piow sent a notice, through his lawyer, to Dr. Toh Chin Chye, Vice-Chancellor, University of Singapore, Chairman Board of Governors, Singapore Polytechnic, and Minister for Science and Technology, demanding a public apology for a certain statement which Toh made at the Freshmen Convention of University of Singapore in June 1974, denouncing Tan Wah Piow as a "blatant liar." The demand was that Toh was to make the public apology within one week of his receipt of the notice. However, just before the one week 'expired', Tan was arrested for allegedly rioting and put behind bars for a week. There was no public apology, and as the notice stated, legal proceedings will be instituted against Toh.

The case of "big fish eating small fish" probably is rotting so badly that the stench evolved could have prevented the "big fish" from carrying on its eating mission. This case tells us that even free scholarships cannot be entirely free in every sense. Tsui Hon Kwong, past Hon. Gen. Secretary of USSU and present Social and Cultural Secretary of USSU unfortunately has to be mentioned at this juncture although the case is against his father, Tsui Kwong Kam who is in Hong Kong. The University of Singapore, sent a letter to Hon Kwong's father threatening to sue him.

As stated in the letter, 'As Tsui Hon Kwong has without good reason failed to complete the course of study successfully within the period of four years, you as surety to the bond are now required to refund all moneys amounting to \$10,038 (S\$9,600 plus one-way air fare Hong Kong/Singapore \$438) which have been paid to and expended on Tsui Hon Kwong.

If within fourteen days of your receipt of this letter you fail to pay the said sum of \$10,038 to me, legal action will be instituted against you without any further reference to you'.

Signing off the letter with all sincerity was the Deputy Registrar of University of Singapore, Mrs. Lu Sinclair. It is to be doubted if the University was really sincere in offering the Scholarship to Hon Kwong. To withdraw the Scholarship is perhaps understandable, but to force the money back just because Hon Kwong has 'without good reason' failed his

exams is ridiculous and as Hon Kwong puts it 'immoral'

This is a classic example of subjugation of a poor man. Meritocracy and all those similar jargons are nothing but a big bluff. If Hon Kwong were to study and commit himself to nothing else during his four years here and in spite of this fail his exams, one can imagine that such threatening letters would not be sent. But Hon Kwong had been different. He had not only failed to "to" the line of the ruling clique, but had also stepped out of line. He had been very involved in the Students' Union activities which exposed some of the social evils in our Society, and the authorities obviously found him inexcusable. So what better way of telling Hon Kwong to shut up?

How did Hon Kwong react to such a letter? After a moment's shock, he was disgusted and insisted that he did not breach any contract as far as the scholarship is concerned. He calls it 'bully of a poor old man' as his father is 60 plus years old and is just an employee of a small tailor shop. One wonders how Hon Kwong's father is to submit to the demand. The University, one can see is not that stupid as not to understand that Hon Kwong's father cannot pay the \$10,000. Perhaps the motive of sending such a letter was different. This would be an example to all scholarship and even study loan holders that they have to "behave" themselves. The only choice for poor people, it seems is to follow if one likes to make a small fortune, or be poor forever or to end up as subjugated as in the case of Hon Kwong. He had said in reply to the letter, 'why threaten legal action against my father who failed no exams, and not me? I am forced to suspect that it is the cruel feudal practice of political persecution on one's family for what one had done.'

Expectedly, the University authorities, after a few letter of protest submitted by both Hon Kwong and his fellow Councillors realised their mistakes. The 'big fish' knowing that preying on Hon Kwong's father may stir up some digestive problems decided to pounce on the more appetising Hon Kwong instead. He was lately served with the letter his father had just received which puts him in a debt of \$10,000 to be paid within a mere 14 days!

It is not uncommon in our society that persecution and repression exists to maintain and perpetuate a

total submissive population. We pledge in school that ours is a democratic society based on justice and equality. It surely sounds like we have lots of freedom and can be as liberal as we want. But on reality one can never be allowed to expound on our cherished beliefs or even to openly criticise. Examples have shown this to be so. Newspapers editors have been thrown into jail just because their words bothered certain people. Political prisoners have been in jail since more than ten years ago without knowing when they will be released or even a fair-trial. Perhaps when our school boys & girls pledge of "democracy", "justice", "equality", they should also know what is being practiced today and it would only do justice if subjects like political persecution & detention are discussed. It would even be more graceful if the PAP government would openly defined to us those terms 'democracy', 'justice', 'equality' etc, otherwise dismissed as political jargous. Or if that is really too much to ask from them maybe some of the PAPised cadres would do.

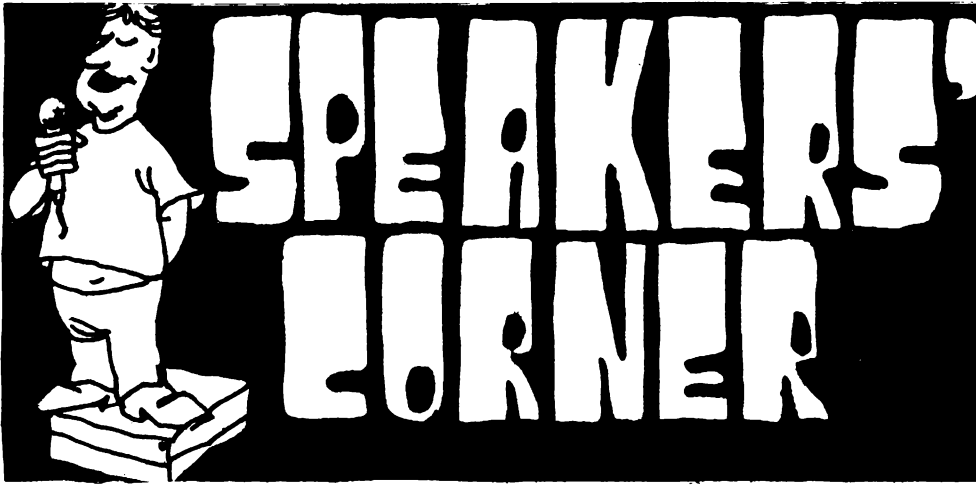
The above cases of students and workers being prosecuted are not merely products of the government's repressive machinery. It carries with them implications. It is to create a tense atmosphere that generates fear within the people, the fear that if one is outspoken, one would risk his future - of material wealth and couple with it the pseudo happiness and peace of mind. Persecuting some-one under the notorious ambit of the criminal laws is just a subtle move. There are of course other forms of generating fear within the people. Harassment by the ISD is common. Moreover, it is not just people involved who are harassed. Even one's family may be harassed as well, depending on circumstances-selective harassment in short.

To conclude the whole fish story, we can only acknowledge the fishy smell stringing our from the whole state ideology of security and upholding of justice. Active fishes that stray out of the school of masses are promptly napped. To survive; small fishes must play dummy and docile and lurk quietly in the realms of the ocean's darkness.

By:
ikan bilis.

Ed's note:

it should not be surprising that the writer of the above article has chosen to remain anonymous for fear of being 'fished' out.



ment experiences both locally as well as abroad. Unless there are some foreign values in the field of sports, the concept of foreign exchange view will never meet with favourable response.

Another member, however voiced his views that a great sum of money was spent on the Games Tour which benefit only an infinitesimal portion of the entire student body. He felt that the budget allotted can be properly utilised to cater for the welfare of the member. He however insisted that due priority of privileges be given to cater for the majority members.

One determined speakers felt that the financial situation of such a proposed Tour is not much important, but rather the values acquired by tour members through such visits. He felt that the members should be visiting other countries to study on their organisational abilities in games.

Another speaker noted that there has been poor management and organisation of games on the part of the committee. There was no storeman to avail himself for the sporting needs of the members in PEC. As a result, students intending to borrow any sports equipment were turned to disappointment. It is therefore interesting to note that as more facilities is made available, more students will participate in a more congenial atmosphere of play and study.

Tuning on

RETRENCHMENT

Sensational headlines on RETRENCHMENT appear with increasing frequency on the pages of our daily press. According to reliable sources, more than ten thousand workers in our locality are retrenched since early this year. In spite of this drastic trend, that has plagued our fellow workers in recent days, the authorities concerned have not undertaken any deterrent measure, worthy of mention.

There is no cause for despair, we have to wake up to the alarm signal and start to implement stringent measures in combating against the ever increasing bulge of such a problem. It is imperative that individuals should act concertedly to stop this drift towards the inherent danger of escalation into virtual unemployment.

Should we install a colour

T.V. set at the union house?

Ever since the introduction of colour TV into our locality, it has met with favourable response from the entire populace. What seems ridiculous is that this fact does not survive in our institution. During the Speakers' Session, members voiced their views against the installation of colour TV and it seems that their statements are well justified through the various considerations.

The Union House are usually frequented by Students during the daytime, such students normally avail themselves at the billiard or football tables. The installation of a proper colour set will not be of use as the afternoon programmes are scarce. The fact that most individual possess a TV set at home serve no purpose of such installation even after lecture hours. One member feels that the only moment that the colour TV is useful is when they telecast direct programmes of highlighting issues. Other than that, he discarded the idea of the Union being spend thrift over such installation. To further substantiate his viewpoint, he informed the members that the image of the Polytechnic has been tarnished as a result of our lavish expenditure over trivial projects. The money to be spent can be well utilised to cater for the welfare benefits of the membership population. Another member feels that the Polytechnic ground is a poor atmosphere for TV viewing. There is a scarcity of chairs, thus depriving members of a congenial viewing ground. Furthermore, the colour TV is not in full swing and it only features special programmes in colour. At this juncture, it seems that there is not much distinctive differences between the colour TV and that of the black-and-white set.

In referring to the issue on lack of chairs, the Union House Secretary however feels that members do not usually comply with the regulation of maintaining the chairs in the finest conditions, altering their proper order. He further substantiate by saying that the Union cannot afford to purchase new chairs every now and then. He personally feels that the suggestion of such installation was brought up only by a confined student group and that the idea was suggested not at the appropriate time and capacity.

From the above statements expressed by the speakers during the Session, it is evident that the colour TV does not win its favour in the Poly. Such views expressed are clear-cut evident of an immaterialistic nature. It certainly proves that members are not realising the proper utilization of facilities available to them at the best of the Union's expense.

Games Tour – is it necessary?

This topic is again explosively controversial and the term 'Games Tour' is itself misleading. In the eyes of the general student populace, such a tour will obviously mean a competitive sport or tournament amongst participating nations.

During the Session, members debated against the idea of such tour as the implanted intention of a view exchange on sporting technique is clearly defeated. Furthermore, if such a tour is to be organised at a regular basis, then the attitude of participating members will be drawn towards the idea for a sightseeing tour. This itself will eradicate the Union's motive to cater for the mental and physical prowess of her members. One member, however disputed the fact that to be proficient in games entail regular practices and the acquisition of tourna-

Perhaps, the main pre-requisites is the establishment of a cohesive force and it is indeed heartening to note the existing embryo of such a coherent body amongst our student bodies. The prime objective of this research centre, which is set up by the Students Union of the four leading tertiary institution, is to work purposefully and seriously in the recent retrenchment tragedy.

What troubles our conscience is the fact that such a tragedy occurs in the present era of unparalleled inflationary period, where our workers do not have surplus incomes. Their immediate vexation following their retrenchment is therefore SURVIVAL. There are instances where such a tragedy has a profound impact on the victims, who may sink into depths of frustrations, despondancy and unbearable mental agony.

The government has cited retrenchment as the penultimate source of revival of our Union body but has the implication on our economical situation be fully realised? Such a sensational tragedy would invariably pressure one on the vital question as to whether the retrenched workers are manually exploited by industrialist? There are cases when retrenchment is inevitable, factory authorities choose to impose heavy penalty leading to expulsion of the worker with the meagre excuses afforded.

A speaker, during the session, however felt that it is alright for us to poke our nose into the retrenchment issues but warned us not to proceed too deep, lest it might burned. He advised the Union body concerned to adopt a close analysis into the entire situation through provocative and soul-searching researches before undertaking any issue reflecting public welfare. Another speaker felt that as far as multinational co-operation is concerned, there is no awareness or concern whatsoever over this particular issue.

It is therefore vital that we must maintain a solid justified move, harbouring no diversification ideas and situation. Unless a co-ordinated effort by our students and the general populace is maintained to formulate an ultimate solution, the idea of alleviating the retrenchment tragedy and hence the present economic predicament will be fruitless.

The arrest of USSU Leader

— an act of SUPPRESSION?

There has been an agonising appraisal over the recent arrest of a student leader, Tan Wah Piow. On the 1st November at 9.35 p.m. Tan was arrested at a flat in Jurong. Four plain-clothed policeman, without producing their warrant of arrest in spite of the persistent demand by Tan, forcibly handcuffed him. The immediate question arising here is whether the charges on Tan being member of an unlawful assembly thereby inciting riot do hold water. If not, then is it an altruism to militate against students' conscience in taking up issues relecting public interest. Such an act, a student considered, is brightly deplorable and he fully supports the Union's stand in upholding justice and fighting for students rights.

Mr. Tan is one of the official representation of the existing Research Centre and he was present at the American Marine to view the case of retrenchment.

Here again one would invariably wonder whether Tan is actually a member of an illegal assembly as stated by the charges.

It is again extremely regrettable that Mr. Tan is being arrested just before his attempt to seek legal redress from the UNFAIR SLANDER imposed onto him by Dr. Toh Chin Chye.

One student feels that if Mr. Tan as President of USSU can be suppressed, we will inevitably be suppressed all the same. He is confused as to where we stand and feels that such suppression on us is sheer exploitation.

At this juncture, members are advised to give their whole-hearted support if they considered the Union's move justifiable.

Another student reminded the members that whatever action we take, this will adversely affect any future policy making decision. He urged all students not to believe in press statements. His contention is well-justified by the disproportionate view of potentialities that has been nourished by our daily press.

And while the wheels of the so-called justice, go round remorselessly --- we have yet to witness unfairness and injustices in our locality.

“nuss” statement

on Retrenchment and Arrests

The unjust arrests of USSU's President, Mr. Tan Wah Piow and a shipyard worker, Mr. Ng Wah Ling and the unchecked incessant trend of retrenchment once again brought the Students' Unions of Nanyang, Ngee Ann, Singapore University and Polytechnic to see the situations on a common ground. Considering the short notice given and difficulties in communications, the actual meeting and the subsequent agreement on a joint statement must be commended.

The joint statement released on the 5th Nov. '74 quoting labour statistics from the government's Department of Statistics showed figuratively that workers are 'outrageously exploited' because real remuneration of workers had decreased though productivity had increased. Therefore the 4 Unions fully support the retrenched workers' struggle for a fairer deal. The 4 Unions strongly demanded the unconditional release of Tan and Ng convinced that they are totally innocent of the charges brought against them. The joint statement also called upon all students and workers who were present at the place and time of the alleged criminal trespassing to come out to reveal the truth.

The statement though duly endorsed by the President and the Acting President of the 4 Unions, carries the very same weight as one that may be issued by the National Union of Singapore Students (NUSS) which the Unions had strived for in the past decade to materialise. The uncooperative attitude of the government towards the legalisation of NUSS does not in any way hinder the 4 Unions desire to work together. Contrary, it only served to intensified the solidarity of students.

The mass media perhaps because of tight censure failed to see the importance and seriousness of the joint statement and therefore not a single word about it, was printed in the local press. As matter of fact they had also considered the press release issued by SPSU and USSU not worthy of any space in their paper. Their uncooperation had not and should not damp our efforts to fight for the rights of workers and to seek for truth and justice.

From page 5
 turn out too successfully as planned. What was achieved is a want for re-orientation with the problems of the masses and a desire to strive for a society where justice and equality prevails, and this should be most disturbing to them. Where and when the authorities failed would demand a deeper analysis.

However, immediate 'redress' of students harbouring views contradictory to theirs became the order of the day. Before more extensive dissidence is triggered off, before students 'jeopardise' further the political and economical stability, actions must be taken. Repression become a must. The result was the harassment and intimidation of our out-spoken student leaders. The Internal Security Department together with a whole paraphernalia of suppression was brought down upon the students.

It was the above reasons which had led to the arrest of USSU President, Tan Wah Piow. From the events preceding the arrest and the feebleness of the charges it is abundantly clear that it was just another weapon employed to stifle and intimidate dissident students. What should have been most disturbing is the fact that the arrest is so interlinked with the students' concern over the present spate of retrenchment and their attempts to set up a Retrenchment Research Centre. Nevertheless, judging from the recent past events within the campus and the turbulent unrest generated within the student mass, such tactics employed by the authorities failed to work out for them; it only

provided greater impetus for students to reciprocate and react with more enthusiasm and vigour.

Suppression is necessary for the stability of the present ruling circle. The present economic crisis with rampant inflation and retrenchment and the many cries of a disgruntled populace with the students, omnipresent and omnipotent as a catalyst for social reaction, necessitates a more intensive repression programme. A student leader and even workers had already been arrested, thrown behind bars, the pretext of which was ingeniously fabricated. What could happen next?

Looking in retrospect when the four prominent students' unions had attempted in vain to amalgamate to form the National Union of Singapore Students (N.U.S.S.), student leaders had been arrested; the government had even devastatingly deregistered the two very militant and powerful unions of Nantah and Ngee Ann College. What were today left to these two unions, dissolved and later reinstated, by the government were a far cry from those of the past. SPSU and USSU (University of Singapore Students' Union), had although been effectively strangled by suppression are fortunate enough to escape the ordeal of closure and are still able to retain the freedom to speak and act out. Will the authorities once again employ such drastic measures to counter opposition from students as they had so viciously done so in the past?

It is not to be pessimistic but there is a dangerously great likelihood

that such a death-blow to student movements will be struck in the near future. The authorities, through the unfailing co-operation of our Press had voiced out, time and again the presence of 'anti-social elements trying to disrupt the unity of the workers'. Foreign Minister, Mr. S. Rajaratnam has recently mentioned of a 'new threat' to our so-called 'independent' Singapore constituted by local non-Communist groups. It should not take too long to note that they were all referring to none other than students. The University campus is at present swarmed and crawling alive with policemen and Cisco guards, the reasons for their presence being that there were 'threats of arson to the campus'. With the mass media helplessly pinned under their thumb, the government can create any kind of public opinion with regards to sensitive issues and with that achieve, there is little they will need to do to further justify whatever drastic actions they may take. We have already witnessed how effective they can operate in this way.

We should have already perceived the disdainment of the establishment over our actions in the past. We have also learnt very well that our actions, though genuinely sincere and our persistence in defending truth and democracy have merely been shrugged off by them as 'trouble making'. From the signs shown, we can sense the grave possibility of closure of the Students' Union. And if we students cherish the meagre freedom that is still ours and if we deem it our duty to stand up against oppression and injustice, then we should not fail to stand firmly for the Union at all times of crisis.



RETRENCHMENT & THE SINGAPORE WORKER

Is Singapore heading for an economic crisis? The current retrenchment of workers which hit our labour scene with unprecedented impact is a grim indication of this predicament. The authorities themselves had blurted out that hard and stringent times lie ahead of us. They would of course, rattle on to advise us for the umpteenth time that complacency is dangerous and self-sacrifice, imperative. Such advices, delivered in such good faith are certainly useful. Needless to say, we should not detach ourselves from them and should abide by them as we had always done so in the past. However, the situation today also renders an urgent need to explore and survey the economic landscape more deeply, with more sincerity and clarity.

That Singapore being just another cog in the Western imperialist machinery has placed us in a vulnerable position is irrefutable. Mr. Devan Nair, Secretary General of NTUC had himself pointed out that Singapore is a "victim of global predicament" and that it is "quite beyond the control of anybody in Singapore." This is only too true, and the authorities should again be praised for not disillusioning themselves with any misconstrued picture of our economy. Our economy being so intertwined with that of the Western capitalist system will certainly be the first to deteriorate and collapse if that of the World capitalist system is to face a recession. The prevailing oil crisis, spiralling inflation and skyrocketing food prices bedevilling the capitalist system have painted a grim picture of this recession and also the inevitable decadence of our inseparably linked economy.

The retrenchment problem, hence the instability of our economy is inherent of the heavy dependency of our economy to multi-national corporations and other external forces. A brief study into the manner retrenchment is carried out provokes one to wonder if the multi-nationals are genuinely concerned over the local context as they have so often claimed. The case about National Semi-Conductor was only too apparent that this so-called local concern is all a force.

Claiming that the firm was hard hit by a world slump in electronic gadgets, National Semi-Conductors laid off over 2,500 of its workers. Ironically, in the very same issue of the Straits Times (August 1st. 1974) which carried the report of the retrenchment was an advertisement placed by their sister company in Malacca which boasts of the "fast expansion" of N.S. The disturbing fact which led to such an irony was that the five year pioneer status has expired in October last year. This pioneer status which was among the attractive incentives offered to such foreign enterprises as N.S., exempts them from taxes for the first five years of establishment. It is not surprising therefore to envisage a sharp reduction in production rate of a company after tax exemption has expired, and a simultaneous expansion in the other branches in other countries which still enjoy the exemption. As for National Semiconductor plants have been set up in Penang, Malacca, Indonesia and Bangkok and these are fast expanding, devouring the greener pastures and exploiting the people there. It is always characteristic of multi-nationals to stay when the going is all good and pack up and leave when the weather gets gloomy, detached from all regards for the well-being of the country. Sweet promises were always made when the company first settled in a certain community. Further inspection and time however proves them empty. And though their advertisements are always plentiful of and coloured with high-sounded phrases and eye-catching incentives for workers, which has disillusioned many a job-seeker, we should learn to see them in a more subtle and intelligent light. N.S. advertisements unshamefully declare, "in N.S. we care about people". This manifestation of sheer hypocrisy requires no further verification.

It is only too true, as we had learned in the hard way, that for the multi-nationals, maximum profits constitute the primary objective. The welfare of the workers is a very distant secondary. The case of the workers retrenched from Airco is a clear instance. The workers concerned were

informed of their fate at 4.00 a.m. in the morning! It certainly is inconceivable how those few employers could be so nonchalant over their employees; the emotional stresses caused on those workers can be serious. The retrenchment especially for many who are married would mean a serious economic burden. It is questionable whether those malevolent employers take into consideration the marital status of their workers before retrenching them. Much as the management can foresee grim prospects ahead for the company or much as the company has suffered a setback, it is only inhumane of them to place the full burden on the workers at the workers themselves are hard hit by inflation.

However, we should not overlook the fact that the Government may be able to do much to help out and relieve their mounting burdens. The Government should now for once take the initiative to study on the possibility of exempting those retrenched workers from such unavoidable payments like housing rents, children's educational fees, public utility bills, etc. for the period of unemployment. The grave hiatus of the present situation should render it necessary for the authorities to ponder seriously over the welfare of this unfortunate category of their people and perhaps for once discard their "no-one-owes-you-a-living" or "nothing-is-free" mentality. Besides this, the Government should be vested with greater responsibility to curb rampant retrenchment of the workers and put a check on those unscrupulous managements and their malpractices. There is no need to be emphatic or even to mention that it is largely the duty of the Govt. to ensure security for the people. A legislation can perhaps be implemented to make sure that the basic pay of workers earlier retrenched must be relative to their age and family burdens or a ruling can be imposed that if retrenchment is inevitable, then those affected should be new workers rather than those who had been in longer service.

The trade Unions should be allotted a higher responsibility than

what they are playing in their present role in safe — guarding” the interests and welfare of the workers. Trade Unions have too often in the past been acting as just another mouthpiece of the management. This role which our trade Unions had been assuming so well is certainly very extra-ordinary and is a heresy to the fact that a labour union should be predominantly a voice of the worker. Trade Unionism in the past and even in the crucial present has been too emphatic in collaborating with the management to ensure reaping uninterrupted profits for them. This situation degenerated to the extent of Union “leaders” working against their members whose pleas and grievances were too often viewed as deliberate threats to impede progress and too readily drowned by the whims and fancies of the employers, already so bloated with profits. Higher productivity is no doubt highly desirable. However, whether the profits reaped is distributed evenly and fairly, whether the workers received what they deserved for the hard work invested is highly questionable. Trade Unions should place their workers before all else, and as for today when the workers face the cruel possibility of retrenchment, the Unions should concentrate more in helping them. That among trade Union “leaders” today, there still persists an abnormally high ivory tower and arrogant attitude to workers and an inexplicable reluctance to see things from their members’ perspective is abundantly clear. This existing alienation of “leaders” from members was illustrated only too well by the two incidents which had taken place on the 23rd and 30th of October (see page 3) when workers had even to negotiate for their rights to discuss their problems with their so-called leader! Much as labour movements may be impotently subjugated, much as they are powerless to act against injustice inflicted on the workers, the least those who are purportedly leaders could do is to try to sympathise with the workers. For them to openly work against the workers, trying to undermine them when they were already in such a desperate situation, by framing them of rioting and upsetting the union office as what happened on the 30th October incident, is an outrageous shame. That incident itself is sufficient verification of the disintegrated unity between “leaders” and workers.

Workers constitute a major component of the social force and it is upon this certain class that the foundations of a dynamic nation can be erected. History has proven that this force is not one to be overlooked. It was this force which torpedoed the

revolutions that had taken place in many a state. As for our society, all progress will come to a standstill and all that we have today would never have had materialised if not for the workers. It is also upon the worker class which determines the future of our nation. To neglect their well-being and to turn a deaf ear to their cries is not only sheer fool-hardy but catastrophic.

press release

The Singapore Polytechnic Students’ Union view with deep concern that Tan Wah Piow, President of the University of Singapore Students’ Union and Ng Wah Ling, a worker of American Marine (and not a student as reported in New Nation of 2nd November ’74) have been charged of being members of an unlawful assembly on 30th October 1974 at 11.00 a.m. outside the Pioneer Industries Employees’ Union (PIEU) office in Jurong, the common object of that said assembly being to commit criminal trespass and rioting. We are contended and uphold that Tan Wah Piow and Ng Wah Ling are innocent of those charges brought against them.

It is ironic that such charges have to be brought against Tan Wah Piow, and Ng Wah Ling. This is in view of the fact that although the Police considered the gathering outside the PIEU office as an “unlawful assembly”, no attempt was made by the Police to disperse the “unlawful assembly”, thereby rendering the action and efficiency of the Police questionable.

We believe that Tan Wah Piow, being a representative of the Retrenchment Research Center of USSU (set up to study retrenchment of workers) and who was collecting information on retrenchment from the workers at the gathering, alleged as “unlawful assembly”, was doing an act in public interest and in good faith.

We are convinced that the charges brought against Tan Wah Piow and Ng Wah Ling are weapons used to intimidate students and workers. The forcible arrest (with handcuffs) of Tan Wah Piow alone was an indication that the Police have exercised their powers unnecessarily on an ordinary citizen. It was even unfair and inhuman that

the Police were unco-operative when Tan Wah Piow’s lawyers tried to locate the whereabouts of Tan Wah Piow’s on the night of the arrest (1st November ’74).

We urge the Government, in the eyes of a just Society, not to intimidate further the two accused and call on the Police to be fair in their dealings.

Convinced that this act of the authorities is a move to suppress our students’ and workers’ legitimate rights to express their views on the retrenchment problems in Singapore, we call on all students and concerned people to follow closely the case against Tan Wah Piow and Ng Wah Ling until truth is revealed and justice is brought about. We also urge all concerned people to register their support for Tan Wah Piow and Ng Wah Ling, at:—

University of Singapore Students’ Union
Bukit Timah Road, Singapore, 10.
Tek: 56166 & 530888

From page 11

An attempt was made to hand in the above 2500 strong petition to the beloved Head of State on the 8th of Nov. It was however dismal that he should not be in to receive us even though we had sent him a note ahead of us. It was also with dismay that we had to be kept outside of the gates for a full 90 minutes. However even with the swamp of plainclothes and uniformed policemen and the fuss and mistrust we encountered in our simple request to make a phone call, we cannot give up.

We believe that Sheares will act in good faith with the above sung praises and prove that they are not just empty words. It is a strong belief that the above petition will be read and just action taken.

STOP THE PRESS!

A Queens Counsel, Mr. John Plates Mill, sent a telegram on 28th November ’74 agreeing to conduct the defence of Tan Wah Piow, Ng Wah Ling and Yap Kim Hong. Mr. Mill who was requested by the USSU Lawyer, Mr. G. Raman, to take on the case, has 46 years practical experience as a Lawyer.

POLYSPORTS

Poly 50 – THE RACE IS RUN



That's it.....Ladies first!

This year's Poly 50 met with overwhelming success; both in terms of competitors and spectators. Organisation proved efficient and every movement ticked smoothly, unlike the complexities and mess met with in last year's event.

As early as 3.00 p.m. buoyant students were pouring into the Quadrangle. For a tense moment rolling clouds threatened the repetition of last year's muddy fate but the clouds managed to hold. This set the best atmosphere for running the race with fun, the sky was cloudy rendering the air soft and cool.

Poly 50, this year, drew in 700 students, a considerable percentage of the campus population. These 700 were divided in teams of 10, each team given the quest of completing 50 rounds of jogging round the Prince Edward Campus.

The stampede of 140 feet pounding the pavement wildly at 4.15 p.m. signalled the beginning of the race. From thence it was a series of huffs and puffs, sweating bodies, gasping breath, dry mouths and straining sinews. Confusion reign most in the officials' area, situated in the Quad. Runners either ran into the wrong lanes, picked the wrong card or slipped helplessly on the moist grass. Also cheerings generously given from supporters, the occasional orders given by Mr. Anthony Yeo given in barks, the colourful area of the officials, served to give much festive effect to the whole race.

The gaiety in the competition did not flagged down until after 6 p.m. when the 70th team had come in. Parcels, neatly packaged were presented to the first five successful teams, the rest had to be satisfied with a pair of keychain and badge.

The evening blanket had fallen by then and the night was slowly rolling in, enveloping the crowd. Wearied but still busily recounting precious moments in the race, the crowd budged grudgingly and then dispersed slowly. The Quad. was left in darkness, it will have to wait again patiently for the next race, next year.



Huffs and Ruff!

Inter-department Soccer. – I.T.C. topped them all

The inter-department 11-a-side soccer tournament was held during the first three weeks of the 2nd term. In all more than 20 teams took part in the above tournament and the 1st round of games took a whole week to complete.

In the 2nd round the first few of the games were delayed due to bad weather causing waterlogged pitches. Nevertheless all the games were completed within the 2nd week. Before the final round were played, a list of players were shortlisted due to the inclusion of three part-time students to play in the friendly games against the visiting team from Freie University of Berlin. The game was played on the 22nd Sept. at A.R.C. ground but sad to say, we lost to a team that was fitter and had better teamwork. Nevertheless we were able to keep the score down at just 3–1.

In the final round of the Inter-Dept. tournament there were only four teams remaining and they were from I.T.C., Marine, Production (2nd year) and Aero (2nd Year). The final game was played on the 25th Sept. and it was contested between I.T.C. and Aero (2nd Year.) The referee was Mr. Jos Holthaus, the Poly soccer coach and the eventual winner was I.T.C. beating Aero by 3–0.

The overall standard of play was high and the students were very enthusiastic over it and this may be due to the recent World Cup Matches which provided much impetus to the players. The tournament served as a base to select players to represent Poly at the forthcoming Inter-Varsity college games to be held from 20th Nov. As usual due to the large number of talented and skilful players, the selectors had a very difficult time in building up the pool of players. Finally an approximate squad of 24 were selected and at the present moment they are training regularly every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at P.M.C. under the coaching of Mr. Holthaus.

– Kan Keong Ng –

VOLLEYBALL – building up the new teams

This year, the volley-ball team pursuing the Inter-Varsity championship is a young and keen team. No past member remains and all the players are new to each other. In the beginning, the team was very un-cooperative in play, but with the keenness and enthusiasm in every played, team spirit and co-operation was easily achieved. Many carefully-planned and sweat-pouring trainings were held to upgrade their skill. At times the players even have to train on Sundays. With the team's determination to win the championship and with all the months of tedious training put in, one can foresee a splendid performance during the week long Inter-Varsity tournaments beginning on 18th of November.

In conjunction with the training aims friendly matches have been arranged with the Chinese High School boys and Mobil Recreational Club.

The Chinese High School team which is reputed for their good volleyball skill gave us a very close tussle. All kinds of tricks and skills were put into play and with a neck score of 2–2, the final deciding set was about to be played when nature intervened and washed away the game with a down-pour. A draw was then conceded. This first friendly match gave our team much encouragement to improve and strengthen whatever weaknesses which have been concealed during the trainings.

With improved skills and team-work gathered from the first match, we won the match with Mobil Recreational Club by the best of 5 sets.

As for the ladies' volleyball team, the team is also a young and skill-seeking one. Due to lack of participation from some of the better skilled girls, the team has to struggle hard to pursue the aims which had led to its proud formation.

Ow Weng Sun

Inter-department volleyball — Lady Luck saved the day

The inter-department was held between 25/10/74 to 31/10/74. After some hard-fought battles, the Common Engineering and Building teams were qualified for the finals. Due to the good standard of play of the two teams, the championship was fought for nearly two hours with much displays of skilful ball-handling and co-operative team-work. All along the score was very close and each set was won by only a small margin. Eventually the Building team managed to pull ahead and took the championship with a one set advantage, i.e., 3-2. But unfortunately, it was later discovered that the Building team was not binding to a regulation and was subsequently disqualified. Thus, with a bit of luck, the first year students were awarded the championship which one can rightly say they deserved very much.

— Liew Kim Fui —

LAWN-TENNIS Open Championship

The Singapore Polytechnic Lawn-tennis open championship was held at the Singapore International School. The men's single was on the 12th of October the ladies' single on the 13th of October and the Men's doubles on the 19th of October, 1974.

The ladies' singles and doubles were conducted on the 'first to reach eight' basis, whilst the Men's single and doubles and the mixed doubles was based on three short sets.

The following were the results:—

Men's singles

Champion: Mr. Brian Bahroocha
Runner-up: Mr. Samuel Ang

Men's doubles

Champion: Mr. Samuel Ang and Mr. B. Bahroocha
Runner-up: Mr. Liew Kim Fui and Mr. Tran Tho Nam

Ladies' singles

Champion: Miss Phua Teck Hwee
Runner-up: Miss Lim Yew Hua

Ladies' doubles

Champion: Miss Suzie Sim and Miss Tan Jet Jon
Runner-up: Miss Lim Yew Hua and Miss Phua Teck Hwee

Mixed doubles

Champion: Miss Adline Jaffar and Mr. Brian Bahroocha
Runner-up: Miss Lim Yew Hua and Mr. Samuel Ang

Although there were some interesting matches, the turn out for the tournament was poor. Sad to say, the overall response from the students was poor for this particular game which has yet to gain popularity among students of the three campuses.

Samuel Ang

Lawn-tennis Friendly match -Polytechnic vs Singapore International School

The above game was played on the 26th of October, 1974 at 2.00 p.m. at International School. The matches were conducted on 3-short-sets (no-tie-breaker) basis.

Representing Polytechnic were Mr. Samuel Ang, Mr. Liew Kim Fui, Mr. Brian Bahroocha, Mr. Tan Kia Yick, Mr. Wong Chong Koon, Miss Phua Teck Hwee, Miss Adline Jaffar and Miss Lim Yew Hua.

Out of the seven matches played, four were lost, the overall results being:—

Men's singles:—

Liew Kim Fui vs Michael S.L. 5-6
1-6 Lost

Samuel Ang vs K.C. 6-4
3-6 Won
6-1

Tan Kia Yick vs Keppei Niovishita 0-6
0-6 Lost

Men's doubles:—

Tan Kia Yick & Wong Chong Koon 1-6
vs Ismail Lost

Joe & Ismail 1-6
B. Bahroocha & K. F. Liew 6-4
vs Michael 3-6 Won
& Michael 2-1

Mixed doubles:—

K. F. Liew & Miss Phua Teck Hwee 2-6
vs Kay Lost

David & Kay 1-6
Samuel Ang & Adline Jaffar 6-5
vs Varia Won
& Varia 6-3

A re-match was tentatively fixed on the 30th of October, 1974.

INTER-DEPARTMENT GAMES (RESULTS)

Basketball (16/9/74 to 28/9/74)

Champion: Civil/Building/Draughting
Runner-up: I.T.C.
Third: Marine Engineering

Hockey Six-a-side (15/9/74)

Champion: Common Engineering
Runner-up: I.T.C.
Semi-finalists: Marine Engineering and Staff

Badminton Open Championship (results)

Men's singles: 1st Yong Koon Seng
2nd Loh Soo Woon
3rd Lim Loo Song

Men's doubles: 1st Loh Koo Woon & Tan Boon Hua
2nd Tai Lee Joon & Lee Chee Mon
3rd Alex Chuan & Peter Coh

Ladies' singles: 1st Lee Kee Khoon
2nd Brenda Low

Ladies' doubles: 1st Lee Kee Khoon & Suzie Sim
2nd Brenda Low & Angeline Lau

Mixed doubles: 1st Tai Lee Joon & Tay Sock Huang
2nd Eng Yong Huat & Angeline Lau

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