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**SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS),
AT THE GENERAL ELECTRIC'S CARNIVAL '83 IN AID OF
THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF SINGAPORE AT KALLANG SHORE GARDEN
ON SUNDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 1983 AT 9.00 AM**

After a long gestation period, the Singapore Council of Social Service is now ready to launch the Community Chest of Singapore. The concept of centralised fund-raising and allocation to deserving charities is quite revolutionary in Singapore, although it has been in existence in the USA, Hong Kong and other countries for some time. It is therefore natural that it has aroused much interest and discussion among the voluntary welfare organisations. While discussion of the finer points about how the Chest should be administered will continue for some while, it is necessary that the administrators of the Chest get down to the serious business of planning and implementing schemes that will bring in adequate funds to the Chest to meet the requirements of its agency members.

The General Electric (USA) Asia Company based in Singapore is to be commended for its staunch support of the Community Chest of Singapore. Led personally by its General Manager, Mr Nelson Britt, its 11,000 employees have responded enthusiastically to the Social Help and Assistance Raised by Employees Scheme of the Community Chest, acronymed SHARE. 84.5 per cent of its employees have so far pledged to contribute a monthly sum varying from \$1 to \$100 to the Chest. More will follow, I am sure.

In addition, the GE Group of Companies is organising a donation draw, a carnival and a newspaper supplement the entire proceeds of which, estimated at about \$500,000, will be donated to the Community Chest. If such public spirited acts are emulated by other large industrial and commercial concerns, the plight of the less fortunate among us would be much alleviated.

Foundations and other fund-disbursing organisations such as the Singapore Turf Club should also consider channelling their annual disbursements to charities through the Community Chest. I understand that the net result is similar to their giving direct to the individual charities as they could designate the beneficiaries and the quantum each should receive. However, any donor who does not know which charity is deserving should channel its donation to the Chest. The Budget and Allocation Committee of the Chest will study the fund requirements of agency members of the Chest, and recommend allocations according to their needs. In this way, donors can be assured that their donations reach the charities which need them most.

On this note, I wish to congratulate the General Electric (USA) Asia Company once again for the initiative it has taken in supporting the Community Chest of Singapore. With the support of all firms, foundations and individual workers, the Chest will rest on a much firmer foundation.

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