

26TH JUNE 1957

TANJONG PAGAR BY-ELECTION RALLY

In a small but significant way the two by-elections this month illustrate how the democratic system works. Under a system of periodic free and secret elections in which every citizen has only one vote, the right to rule is finally with the citizens. No party or group of men, however powerful, can be more powerful than the people from whom a party derives its right to rule. For on polling day the citizens together decide, by casting their vote in secret in a polling booth, who is to represent them in the Legislature, the seat of government.

Democracy means peaceful competition of differing political ideas and policy.

At election time each political party expounds its aims and policy to the voters by public meetings, through the press, the radio, pamphlets, personal canvassing and all media of communication. Then on polling day, the voters cast their vote for the candidate of the party whose aims and policies they support.

All candidates of political parties will be judged by the record of the work of their respective parties. We the P.A.P. were ready to place our clear 2-year record before you when Mr. David Marshall challenged us to do so. Unlike him we have

been honest, consistent and firm in looking after the interest and welfare of the people. He realised this after he issued his challenge, so he has chosen to retire from politics and quit the electoral battle he sought in a moment of bravado. But after all his false charges and mud slinging my party decided that I should resign and give you the right to decide whether I should continue to represent you for the rest of the term of this Legislative Assembly, although under the constitution your vote in 1955 was a mandate for 4 years till 1959. We are proud of our clean and honest record. We want to establish an independent, united Malaya in which we shall establish within the framework of the democratic non-Communist system a fair and just society, a socialist society in which no man can exploit his fellowman.

To establish a fair and just society where man does not exploit his fellowman, we must first end the colonial society, the result of the exploitation of the wealth of Malaya and our people by British capitalist interests. That is why the P.A.P. is vehemently anti-colonialist. Colonialism means not only the exploitation of local man by local man, but also the exploitation of all local men by the white man. It is only when we have ousted the British from political control that we have a chance to create a new different society with equal and fair opportunities for all to live and learn and work without exploiting their fellow men either by their greater wealth or greater talents.

On the 31st August the Federation will achieve their political independence but British economic interests will dominate their economy and their lives. Singapore must join the Federation to become an independent nation. We must therefore strive to make merger easier, first by increasing amity and unity between the different races in Malaya. The Malays are in the majority in the Federation. The Chinese in Singapore. Therefore it is imperative to make the Malays in the Federation understand that other races, the Indian and particularly the Chinese are their brothers who want to work and live together for our common happiness and welfare. When we have achieved merger and independence, we can fight through the democratic system of Government of one man one vote in free and secret elections, to establish a socialist society. One man one vote means in the end that the poor people of Malaya who are in the majority have the constitutional power to elect the majority of the representatives in our Malayan Parliament and therefore the right to govern and change the order of society.

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Our opponents the Liberal Socialist Party must be judged on the record of the Progressive and Democratic parties. These two parties represented the wealthy merchants in Singapore. They realised after their disastrous defeat in 1955 elections that one citizen one vote meant that they could not win unless they could get the poor people to vote for them. They decided to change their names to Liberal Socialists. They are neither socialists nor liberals. They are the people who have profited as the

compradores of the British colonial system. We do not deny them the right to organise themselves into a political party to try and protect their interests by peacefully persuading others to vote for them. But we despise them for not having the courage to do this in a positive way like the British Conservative Party or the Australian Liberal Party which openly declare that socialism is bad and individual enterprise is good. When a group that is hostile to socialism calls itself socialist because it found after the last elections that the majority of the voters were in favour of socialism, then we must condemn them as political confidence tricksters.

As for "independent" candidates, they are the bane of Singapore politics.

They appear at election time trying to be all things to all men. They usually do not believe in anything other than their personal success and they have no party probably because they have not succeeded in persuading others to work for their glorification.

In the end they count for nothing. We can safely dismiss them.

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We are placing the P.A.P.'s two-year record and our stand on the constitutional talks before the electorate of Tanjong Pagar. If you agree with our policy and stand, then vote for the P.A.P., on the 29th June in Tanjong Pagar.

LEE KUAN YEW

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