

(67)

Speech by the Minister for Finance, Mr. Lim Kim San,  
at the Opening Ceremony of United Industrial Corporation  
Ltd., on 29th October, 1965 at 5.00 p.m.

A few days ago I had the pleasure of presenting pioneer certificates to 32 firms. There are now 145 firms in Singapore which have been awarded pioneer certificates. Today another of these firms goes into production. This brings the total number of pioneer industries in production to 85.

As more and more of our industries commence production there should be an accompanying change in the purchasing habit of Singaporeans. Whenever possible we should increase our purchases of locally-manufactured products. This we must do as a matter of duty for it is in defence of our living standard and ultimately, our survival. These things must not be taken for granted. In any developing country locally-manufactured products have to start off by competing with foreign brands which have established themselves. This is even more true in Singapore where owing to our entrepot tradition and our high purchasing power, we have become used to products from a wide variety of imported brands. Therefore a special effort is required on the part of Singaporeans to support local industries, to overcome the long cultivated habit of purchasing foreign brands.

In this common task I believe trade unions have a special role to play. Workers in Singapore by virtue of their numbers and their ability to obtain reasonable wages, are important consumers. Also, for every dollar spent on a locally-manufactured product a greater part of it comes back to our workers than would be possible if the same dollar were spent on a foreign product. Trade unions therefore have a good reason and are in a good position to spearhead the drive to support made-in-Singapore products.

(73)

This factory produces the pioneer products of solid and liquid detergents. In addition, it also produces plastic bags and plastic bottles. At full production it gives employment to 120 of our citizens. This is therefore a valuable addition to the growing number of industries in Singapore.

I have great pleasure now to declare this factory open and to wish United Industrial Corporation every success for the future.

OCTOBER 29, 1965.