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TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, MR.  
LIM KIM SAN, AT THE OPENING OF THE LIGHT INDUSTRIES  
SERVICES' FOOD INDUSTRIES EXHIBITION AT THE POLY-  
TECHNIC ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, AT 5.45 P.M.

It gives me great pleasure this evening to be here to perform the opening ceremony of the Food Industries Exhibition organised by the Light Industries Services of the Economic Development Board. This is the second of the series of industrial exhibitions that are to be organised - the first one, as you will recall, was the Woodworking Industries Exhibition held in November, 1964, and the third of the series to follow this exhibition, is the Machine Tools and Metal Working Industries Exhibition which is scheduled for December, 1965.

It is seldom that we realise the importance of an industry in the economy of a country until we see the facts and figures of the industry. It is of interest to note that there are approximately 500 establishments in Singapore, small and large, which are engaged in food processing and manufacturing. This industry employs directly some 6,000 workers and many more indirectly. The annual production of the industry is estimated to be around \$100 million. These figures indicate the significant contribution made by this industry to the national income of our economy.

Though Singapore is now separated from Malaysia, our prospects for developing the food industries is in no way limited. Already, we have made a good start in exporting our processed foods to a number of countries. However, in order to further expand these overseas markets, it is necessary for local industry to modernise its production and produce foods of the highest quality. The exhibition which is to be opened today has the important purpose of showing to our food industries here what is the latest trends and technology the world over. It is hoped that this exhibition will stimulate among you entrepreneurs a desire to improve and modernise and to adopt the latest in techniques and processes.

The Government of Singapore is assisting the food industries in yet another way. With the assistance of the ILO/United Nations special Fund, there will be set up in Singapore, by January 1966, a well-equipped Food Industries Demonstration and Extension Station. This station will assist industry in improving the quality of the products through on-the-spot trouble shooting and in testing of products at the laboratory. The facilities of this laboratory will be used to assist industry with its day-to-day problems and in attaining a higher standard of quality. It would also undertake research with local materials for the development of new lines of food manufacture.

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The Food Industries Exhibition is one of the major activities during the Food Industry Month which commenced on October 16, 1965. I understand that a series of lectures has already been delivered on various aspects of food science and technology. Other lectures would be delivered during the coming week on nutrition and diet. The Food Industry Month is also highlighted by the Food Competitions organised in schools and sponsored by the Ministry of Education. Finally, as a last activity of the Food Industry Month, there will be held a seminar to discuss the various problems of the food industries in Singapore.

I have pleasure in declaring this exhibition open and wish that it will mark a new phase of growth within the food industry.

NOVEMBER 7, 1965.

(Time issued: 1600 hours)

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