

EMBARGOED TILL 9 P.M.  
ON FRIDAY, 18.6.71

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SPEECH BY PROF. WONG LIN KEE, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS,  
AT INAUGURATION OF YOUTH SECTION OF PAP BUKIT MERAH  
BRANCH AT PRINCE ROOM RESTAURANT, SELEGIE ROAD, ON  
FRIDAY, 18TH JUNE, 1971 AT 9 P.M.

It is my pleasure to be here to-night.

Another new Youth Section has been added to the PAP. This means more new blood in the party, and another stimulus to vitality.

It is important that the PAP should build up a new generation of dedicated party members. For we are moving into an exciting decade. As a party we are likely to be challenged in the next general elections. In fact, historians are likely to consider that the opposition parties made a grave error

in not challenging the PAP in the last general elections. The complete return of the PAP to Parliament has enabled us to consolidate our political position beyond the capacity of any registered political party to challenge us effectively. Every political party likes to be dominant. This is inevitable. But our dominant position has benefited Singapore more than the PAP.

After more than a decade of political instability, we finally have the political climate for investment and economic development. Our Ministers have had the time to sit down to run the country. In the past, they spent a great deal of their time in politicking. There was less time for planning and implementation of plans. There was political excitement, but little economic development.

I have said we are likely to have a contested elections next time. We will win this election with no difficulty. We will nail the lie on the heads of foreign journalists and some Western educated liberals that we tolerate no opposition. The problem is there may not be a party sufficiently strong enough to give us a reasonably good fight.

Of late, a couple of new parties has been formed. It is rumoured that one or two more parties are in the talking stage. It seems a new style of politics has developed. This is the formation of parties by proxies. I think the Singapore public will like to know why people who want to run the country operate through proxies. It is said that it is prudent to look at a gift horse in the mouth. I think the electorate should likewise take a hard look at the men behind the proxies when they decide to push aside their front men and come forward.