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SPEECH BY DR. AUGUSTINE H.H. TAN (陳惠興)
M.P. FOR WHAMPOA AT "OPERATION BROOMSTICK" AT
ST. MICHAEL'S MARKET CONCOURSE ON SUNDAY,
3RD OCTOBER, 1971 AT 9 A.M.

POLLUTION AND LOW-INCOME PEOPLE

This morning our Whampoa Constituency joins the rest of Singapore in the Anti-Pollution Campaign. With the limited land area that we have the people in the low-income groups - the majority - would be the first to suffer from the effects of pollution.

Low-income people have to live in more densely-populated areas. In the high-rise flats that we see in housing estates, noise is more noticeable and dirt more readily evident. Low-income people are also more dependent on hawkers' food. People who are more well-to-do can live in houses with big compounds with air-conditioning to shut out the noise and to filter the polluted air; they can have servants to clean up, and can eat in the better restaurants.

It is clearly in the immediate interests of low-income people to help us free Singapore from pollution. Noise, dirt and disease arising from unclean social habits and lack of personal hygiene claim their first victims in the congested areas where poorer people live.

This morning Whampoa's community leaders, members of the Citizens' Consultative Committee, Community Centre Management Committee and the PAP's Whampoa Branch, are joining me to clean up our Constituency. We want to show the people that cleanliness is of first importance and that no job is too humble. We must show our appreciation to the cleaners and sweepers who keep our flats, roads and drains clean. Let us make their work easier by not littering, spitting or polluting our drains.

In an urban community like ours we need to have the social discipline if we are to improve the lives of the majority of people in Singapore. If not many can afford to live graciously we can at least collectively ensure all of us a cleaner, quieter and healthier environment.