TRANSCRIPT OF THE SPEECH IN ENGLISH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NELSON ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SATURDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 1966.

Friends and fellow-citizens,

It is always a special pleasure for me to come back to the Telok Blangah constituency and to the environment of the Singapore Harbour Board (as it used to be).

I have always believed that as long as this harbour works efficiently we secure for ourselves one half of our livelihood and our prosperity. Even before we took office in 1959, I used to tell the Harbour Board workers that this was the life-line of Singapore. And it is, you know. If this harbour had gone down with strikes, riots, and inefficiency, Singapore would today be a poorer and a sadder place.

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I have been to many other harbours in this area. I was in Colombo recently. It has as good a harbour as Singapore. But, since 1957, it has been going down. You know, when ships come in, if you do not turn them around

quickly and if workers go-slow or hold strikes, it leads to demurrage. Ship-owners lose money or cargo. Shippers and suppliers, they all lose money. Next time, they say, "Right, let us pass it by. Unload at the next port and send back the goods by small steamer". International ocean-going vessels by-pass you. Luckily, that never happened so our figures are going up. This year is a record year -- over 100 million tons of shipping. And I think it can go up further.

What is more, our dockyard, once we reorganize, can give five, seven, or even eight times the amount of work that we have today.

Yesterday I went to the Jurong shipyard which is competing with Keppel. It has existed for only two and a half years, and do you know how many men it is employing today? Eight hundred. That is eight hundred jobs as fitters, foremen, and welders. At peak periods, another two hundred come in by contract labour to help. Do you know how many ships we lost to Hong Kong because we did not modernise our harbour, our dockyard? Our dockyard today in Keppel Harbour is too small. Have you read in the newspapers about the new oil ships? They are 300,000 tons -- automatic, electrically-operated. The ships cannot go into King George V Dock. The Keppel docks are too small, too narrow. We are planning now for a complete re-thinking of the programme.

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We are going to get a British, or maybe a Norwegian, or maybe a Japanese dockyard company to go into partnership to modernise and expand it. This is what Singapore wants: rapid expansion, efficiency. Then we can give jobs for everyone. The sea, and our strategic location on the main trade-route of the world from Indian Ocean into the Pacific Ocean, will provide thousands of jobs for us.

Every time you read the newspapers, you see that people like to belittle our harbour and our port. It does not matter. But, we continue to work efficiently with good pay and full work. Not good pay and half-work; that is sure collapse. Good pay must go with good work. If there is good pay and no work -- out. Good work with poor pay is no good. If there is not enough for food, not enough for the children, it is impossible to work hard. What we want is a highly-paid labour force, hard-working, highly-skilled. Then, with a high pay, you buy things for your home and for your family. The shops will be selling, the markets will be selling, and the economy rolls and spins. So, you get good hospitals, schools, roads, clinics, a good life, and a good future for your children.

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And I say that as long as we understand that we have to work for what we get, Singapore will always prosper. Because, this is one of the few places in the world where people are prepared to work for what they want. If we want

something, we prepared to work for it. And when you work for it, the world is on your side.

Finally, I would like to say a word of thanks to the Nelson Road Preparatory Committee who worked in anticipation of the opening ceremony. I believe that the Community Centre will play an additional role in this very tightly-knit society, particularly one which is so closely related to the lifeline of Singapore -- our Harbour.

Thank you.

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