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SPEECH BY MR EUGENE YAP, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (LABOUR) AT THE
BALLOTING OF FLATS AT CAR PARK IN FRONT OF BLOCK 60, DAKOTA
CRESCENT ON THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1982 AT 2.30 PM

On the 2nd of this month, the Straits Times carried a headline which reads "Thailand woos Hong Kong investors". According to this report, Thailand is streamlining its investment policies and cutting red tape in a determined bid to cash in on money flowing out of Hong Kong. This is a result of a loss of confidence on the part of some investors on the uncertainty of Hong Kong's economic and political future, as China and Britain carry on their discussions on the future of this country.

This has a very important message for Singaporeans; that we must do all we can to preserve the political stability and the industrial peace that we all, as Singaporeans, enjoy. Investors are very sensitive indeed, the moment they smell trouble, they run.

Every year, the Government has to look for about 28,000 to 29,000 jobs between now and 1990 to cater for the various students leaving the schools, the polytechnics and the university. It will make the task of finding these jobs harder if we are not able to maintain the political stability and the industrial peace in Singapore. Even with political stability and industrial peace, this task is hard enough as, each year, the Government has to attract the more skilled, the higher level technology industries into Singapore, so that the products made can withstand the pressures of international competition and protectionism. The more skills that are required to make a product, less people can make it and, therefore, the better the chance of selling these products overseas. This explains why the Government is also concerned with ensuring that our workers must have correct work attitudes and are given better education to cope with rising technology.

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To be able to achieve this happy state of affairs, we must avoid getting into trouble. We certainly must not allow ourselves to be in a situation like what Vietnam and Afghanistan are in or allow our good living to corrupt us, and hence cause us to lose our good attitude towards work. Some advanced countries have such good life-styles that their people suffer from a 'holiday' syndrome which causes factories to be less productive and hence lose out to the Japanese. We must be more productivity conscious, meaning, let us remember to work hard and do better today than yesterday and let us do even better tomorrow than today. If we can succeed, then Singapore will be able to carry on attracting better industries. We should then be able to provide jobs for every citizen. With each one having a job to do and a steady income, there will also be a steady CPF account which can be used to help to buy homes; which the Government is helping everyone to own by both providing the means such as your jobs which give you your CPF and, at the same time, looking into more efficient ways of building homes to keep these within the reach of our workers. Should there be any trouble in **this country**, meaning, no political stability and no industrial peace, then jobs will be hard to come by. Investors will run. Many Singaporeans will be unemployed. There will be no CPF. The fact that we are all here waiting for our flats to be balloted speaks well of our political stability and our industrial peace.

Today's balloting is a very special one indeed because it marks the entry into Mountbatten of the first batch of five-room maisonnettes. I believe this is the first batch of high rise five-room maisonnettes in Singapore that is to be balloted.

Looking at the family data of the four-room and the five-room applicants for Block 60, it is encouraging to note that there are a number of families that are either two-tier, meaning married children living with their parents or three-tier - married children living with their grandparents. The extended family system must be preserved at all costs. Besides helping us to bring up better children and therefore a more stable society, it is also gratitude to our parents and grandparents. They toiled, they slogged to provide us the means to a better education and, consequently, a better life. Without their sacrifices, most of us would not be here today. It is therefore our duty to do them this good

turn by sharing our more comfortable homes with them. Let us care for them because they cared for us before.

After you have moved into the luxury of your own homes, I hope that you will not forget society. A successful society is a society where the more fortunate makes it a point to spare time and effort to help the less fortunate. We must not only think of ourselves. We must think of others as well. I would therefore encourage as many of you to spend time with me helping to make the whole of the constituency a good place to live in. The area around your new homes will naturally be nice and attractive. We must reach out to the older areas of Mountbatten and help provide all our residents with an equally pleasant environment to live in. This is the little bit that we all can do for them.

We will be keeping in touch with all of you in the very near future. We want you to help us form a new Residents' Committee among all of you, which we will call Zone 7. Until then, we look forward to working with you.

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