

## THE BATTLE OF VESTED INTERESTS AGAINST NATIONAL WELFARE

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Ever since the people, by and large, returned the present Government to power to obtain liberation from bondage, vested interests of this country have banded themselves together to halt the onward march of national development and to maintain the status quo in all spheres of life.

Among the champions of vested interests are the following: officials in the public service, executives in the private sector, disgruntled politicians, reactionaries in education, merchant princes and planter kings. These are all members of the denationalised class.

The denationalised class dominates the professions of law, medicine and engineering, exclusive English schools, the University, nationalised services of the harbour, the C.T.B. armed services, the police, and the National Development schemes like Gal Oya.

The common characteristic of the denationalised class is to live like Europeans, to turn up their noses at Sinhala-speaking “natives”. That is the reason why harbour officials don’t mix with dockers, Gal Oya white-collar workers shun colonists, and CTB executives remain inaccessible to poorly paid workmen. This is surely a continuation of the old colonial tradition under which the white man held other “natives” in bondage. Today the denationalised class has stepped into the shoes of the white man.

The segregation of the denationalised class from the Sinhala-speaking populace is accentuated by the prevalent policy of Ceylon newspapers. It is well-known that newspapers catering to the denationalised class highlight nauseating reports of crime relating to Sinhala-speaking populace, glowing accounts of prize-givings belittling Sinhala-language and emphasising the value of English, double-tongued oratory on character by persons without character, and bitter sarcasm at national culture, such as advocacy of public executions in the name of national culture. On the other hand, newspapers catering to the Sinhala-speaking public are just the reverse.

Thus the stage is set for the complete isolation of the denationalised class from the masses. The hallmark of the former is the old school tie, the annual cricket match, Governor’s Cup Day, the nightclub, the limousine and the palatial mansion. To maintain their false standards of living, they demand princely salaries. Not infrequently, they are not satisfied with princely salaries either, so they resort to bribery and corruption, nepotism and family bandyism. That the bulk of the nation is on starvation level is no concern of theirs. They are utterly selfish and cast national interest to the winds.

Leftist leaders who are themselves members of the denationalised class are no exception. They use working people as pawns in their game. They

brandish slogans like “Go Slow”, “Christmas Bonus” and entice working people to take up the fight against national welfare. This is really a case of Nero fiddling while Rome is burning.

It is now clear that the fight against national welfare is engineered by those who are alien in outlook, alien in speech, alien in manners and alien in their way of life, whether they are political bankrupts, Government officials, foreign agents, business magnates, executives of the private sector or Brahmins of Gal Oya, C.T.B. or Colombo Harbour. These “aliens” are all products of the colonial system of education.

These “aliens” will continue their fight against national advancement as long as they are able to subordinate national interest to personal or party advantage. Their fight will cease only with the cultivation of the concept of national welfare. To achieve this, a necessary pre-requisite is the total abolition of the colonial system of education which has created those “aliens”.