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Editorial

25 YEARS OF ADULT EDUCATION

THE Institute of Adult Education of the University of Ghana held its 25th Annual New Year School from the 28th December last year to 4th January this year. The Institute, like the University of which it is a part, is a quarter of a century old and is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year; and to both institutions the **Legon Observer** expresses warm congratulations.

In assessing the importance of this particular Institute of the University, we may usefully begin with the New Year School tradition itself. The school provides an opportunity for Ghanaians from all kinds of backgrounds and with varying educational accomplishments to come together at the University to hear lectures and participate in discussions on a theme of national interest and importance. The New Year School is thus the most picturesque instance of a very vital function of the Institute, namely, that of serving as a kind of Public Relations Agency for the University of Ghana or, more accurately, that of bringing some of the resources of the University within the grasp of more Ghanaians than those who are regular students of the University. In this connection, it is an inevitable shortcoming of the New Year School that it should take place at a time when the students of the University are away on vacation: the participants of the School are thus denied the opportunity to meet and observe the students whose education they pay for and to be firsthand judges of their intellectual attainment and conduct; and the students for their part are denied the opportunity of playing host to older compatriots visiting them briefly to seek knowledge at their homes. But the New Year School does have obvious commendable features. It is a real and symbolic breaking down of the walls of the "Ivory Tower" which throws the University open to the whole country. Also, the topics which have been chosen as theme for the many New Year schools have been usually worthwhile. Among them have been such topics as "Ghana and Its Neighbours" (Jan. 1958), "Nation-Building in Africa" (1967), "The Issues Before the Constituent Assembly" (1969) and "Self-Reliance: A Strategy in National Development" (1973). At any rate, the continuing popularity of the New Year School would suggest that participants have found it at least enjoyable and perhaps instructive too. Indeed, the school has become something of a national institution to which many Ghanaians look forward at the start of every year,

Not all of the Institute's work has been quite so picturesque—and properly so too. The Department of Extra-Mural Studies, now the Institute of Adult Education, was established in 1948 primarily to enable adults who could not be in school to extend their education; and in this, its more regular role, the success of the Institute has been again considerable. Starting, in those early years, with a rather light programme of courses in politics, economics, history and other liberal studies which were attended by chiefs, clerks, school teachers and local government personnel, etc., the Institute now boasts of a G.C.E. programme and part-time degree courses leading to University of Ghana degrees both of which are immensely popular; it has mounted a Correspondence Education course at the G.C.E. levels, and has even begun to experiment in rural development in the Volta and Northern Regions.

There is however one serious shortcoming in this respectable array of achievement. The part-time degree programme is restricted to Accra and this means that people in the regions who desire that level of educational self-advancement cannot avail themselves of the facility. What is worse, it means that someone who has been resident in Accra and has been taking the part-time degree course has to discontinue it in the event of his being transferred to another part of the country. It is hoped that the Correspondence Education programme can be immediately expanded to cope with this particular shortcoming.

Finally, a word on the Institute and government. Owing to its rather "popular" and extra-mural character, the Institute is a section of the University in which government takes very vital interest and which government sees as most amenable to manipulation. It is argued that some manipulation of this sort happened between 1962 and 1966 and is further argued that the Institute suffered as a result, even if this was also the period when its programmes were expanded to include the now popular G.C.E. courses. It is obvious from the support which the University of Ghana, for its part, gives to the Institute that it too takes great interest in the affairs of that section of its autonomous self. The *Observer* would therefore like to end by calling on government and University to look on each other as partners in their relations with the Institute. It is hoped therefore that any proposals and suggestions which government may have for the Institute will be passed through the appropriate channels and that the bitterness and frustration of the past will not be repeated.

Politics

GHANA AND THE FUTURE

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By

Agyare Koillarbi

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We have commenced a new year, and after the various festivities which were celebrated all over the country to commemorate the transition into this year, it is necessary that as a nation we settle down soberly to redefine our goals and ambitions in the coming year. For we cannot escape the painful fact that the history of our past is more a history of failure than that of success. Any attempt on our part to reverse this sorrowful trend in 1974 and the ensuing years will demand that we restructure our economy which is the foundation on which everything else will have to be built, and our values and other supporting institutions like the Press, Universities, Military and Civil Service, the Bench and Bar, which have an important role to play in the process of nation building.

Economically Ghana has not undergone any radical changes since the early 1960's. In 1957 when we became independent, there was the expectation and the belief that Ghana was bound to be a great and prosperous nation in Africa. We took it for granted that we were great and would continue to be great. What we did not realise, and for which I would largely blame the C.P.P. leaders, was that national greatness could only be achieved and sustained through the dedication and hard work of the people. We seemed to have been content with sending the colonial power away, but sending a foreign power away from one's country is one thing and building a strong and developed society another thing. The latter is a much more difficult task which demands that values and systems must be based purely on honesty and ruthless dedication to efficiency instead of political expediency. Once political considerations become the sole and determining factor in the process of decision making then a nation is heading for disaster. Perhaps the calamity of the first Republic was that there was no distinction between politics and any other thing. Thus, a factory manager who was good at his work but did not actively support the ruling party was considered to be more dangerous to the society than the lazy ignoramus who made the right ideological noises. The dictum in those days was "Seek ye first the political kingdom

and all things shall be added unto it". Thus instead of economics becoming the basis of power, politics became Ghana's greatest glory. While our leaders were occupied with grandiose political plans and dreams, development plans were left to die in files.

The failure of our agriculture is the cause of most of our present difficulties and this is where the bulk of our attention will have to go in the coming year. Food prices are increasing all over the world; even rice which used to be one of the cheapest food commodities is now selling at about \$600 per ton on the world market, that is if one is lucky enough to get any at all! So that if we do not produce enough here for ourselves the possible alternative may be starvation. To avert this calamity we would need a much more intensive investment in Agriculture. The problem with the 'Operation Feed Yourself' campaign is that it lacks a statistical basis. The planners do not seem to know how much food is produced in the country every year, so they feed us with inflated statistics which eventually lead to bad planning because it does not adequately reflect realities despite the fact that it may be useful material for the propaganda machine of the government. Practical efforts will also have to be made to expand food storage facilities all over the country so that food is not left to rot in the farms.

Rural Development

But the fundamental revolution that we seek in agriculture is likely to elude us in the coming years unless it is accompanied by a rapid development of the rural areas. The bare fact of the situation is that people are fast migrating from the rural areas to the cities at an alarming rate. Even when the opportunity for better paid employment exists in the rural areas people still prefer to go to the urban areas to do jobs in offices where they may even be paid lower. This lends support to the argument of the leaders of the Progress Party who continually argued that unless the rural areas were provided with the basic infrastructure and social amenities like water, good houses and electricity, Ghana was doomed. One of the sad things about the stand of the new government was its renunciation of the idea of rural development in favour of urban redevelopment. A Commissioner is even on record as saying that people in the rural areas did not need electricity forgetting that there are equally undeveloped areas in Accra and Kumasi which have electricity. Unless the government changes its policy and plays a more dynamic role in the development of the rural areas, all its

agricultural policies will come to nought. There simply will not be enough people to go to the farms to do the work. What is worse the illiterate peasant farmers who will be left on the farms cannot increase their production because they will find it difficult to absorb the modern expertise necessary to enable them produce enough food for the whole nation.

Another point we have to reckon with in the coming year is whether we are really interested in diversifying our economy. Talk of ending Ghana's dependence on cocoa began more than a decade ago but there are no signs that we are anywhere near the achievement of this objective. The Government must take a more decisive stand on this issue before it is too late. The nationalised business concerns should demand greater attention in the coming year. The benefit of participation is not so much having majority shares as seeing to it that the business runs at a profit. We have to take great pains to prevent these newly nationalised industries from becoming like many of the State Corporations which have been and continue to be a drain on the national economy.

Industrial Stagnation

In the industrial field there seems to be deterioration and stagnation. We hardly read about new industries being set up. Worse of all, the few we have do not appear to be making progress owing to several factors. But the situation is being worsened by the inefficient operation of the government's import control and licensing systems. It is quite understandable that we should have strict import controls as opposed to the Open General Licence system because of the very precarious foreign exchange position of the country, but there is no excuse whatsoever for the unsatisfactory manner in which it is being operated. A number of industries do not seem to be getting the import licence to import enough of the raw materials which their factories need. Some also get their licence so late in the year that production is always behind schedule leading to shortages and even in some cases loss of markets. What ought to be made clear to the government is that there is no credit and economic sense in boasting of accumulated foreign reserves when our industries either do not get enough money to import new materials or produce below capacity due to inadequate inputs. It would be much better to have an expanding economy with little foreign reserves (or sometimes even a deficit) than a contracting economy with massive foreign reserves. The unemployment situation is already

serious and the government should aim at rapid expansion rather than accumulating reserves in the approaching years.

Economic ambition like every other ambition must be stubbornly pursued and all obstacles carefully removed. One cannot build a strong economy while inefficient personnel are hardly reprimanded when they commit grave blunders due either to gross irresponsibility or criminal dishonesty. Year in and out the Auditor General's report reveals (in our public enterprises) a host of anomalies such as stealing, inefficiency and lack of foresight, yet we hardly hear of any punishment being meted out to those who commit these crimes. No wonder that economists like Arthur Lewis see the public corporation in many developing countries such as Ghana as social utility organisations rather than profit oriented enterprises. Unless we learn to take very harsh measures against those who abuse the trust reposed in them, nothing good will come from our public business. To make our managers more efficient, advancement and financial incentives must be given only after profits have been made at the end of every year. On the other hand, those who fail to make profits without any justifiable excuse must not only be denied advancement but also have their salaries cut down. We must immediately put an end to the present system where even unviable corporations grant bonuses to their employees. In future bonuses must be given only to those who make profits and not to those who make losses.

The Problem of Corruption

Another problem which should be tackled with greater vigour is the problem of corruption. Of course it must be admitted that Ghana is not the only country plagued by corruption. But because we are a poor and developing country, the effect of corruption, no matter how minimal, is likely to have a greater adverse effect on us than graver cases of corruption may have on a developed country. The corrosive influence of corruption has permeated Ghana for several reasons. The problem is not so much that we are by nature corrupt as some people choose to claim, but that there simply are not enough checks in the society to discourage people from giving and taking bribes. The police institutions are often too weak to make the necessary investigations and arrests. Secondly, because of our loose and fluid political system, political leaders often manage to manipulate the institutions of the State in order to place themselves above the law. Thus, politicians may use

their parliamentary majority to protect a corrupt minister while the military administrator will not hesitate to use the threat of military might to protect any of their colleagues who may prove to be corrupt. And unless a better example of honesty is set by those in authority there will be no hope for any meaningful reform in the country.

Ghana, like every state, possesses particular institutions which play a very important role in society and therefore regularly merit examination since their well being affects the well being of the Country as a whole.

Ghana's Press

The first that we have to reappraise is the Press. The Press is sometimes known as the fourth estate—which means it is the most important institution after the Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary. Ghana has throughout her history not had an era of free and truly independent press, though it must be admitted that the situation of the private press since 1966 has shown an improvement. As for the Government controlled press, they have not shown an iota of independence in any of the Republics. In the preceding year our press became more and more sycophantic, publishing only official handouts given by the government. To sum up, Ghana's press has been a bane to the nation. The daily newspapers would go to any length to talk about corruption and Watergate in America while closing their eyes to the likely "Watergates" in Ghana. One of them even went to the extent of asking for the resignation of President Nixon while hypocritically pretending to be unaware of the fact that over here in this country it dare not question the wisdom of government policies, let alone have the nerve to ask for the resignation of the Head of State.

To save the Press from further disgrace in the coming years, editors and others in the field must band together and fight for the freedom to print whatever they decide to be in the national interest. Opportunism and unnecessary exuberance which of late has led one of the editors to call for the banning of a certain newspaper must give way to a collective spirit in which journalists see themselves as fighting a common national cause. Politicians will not give them the freedom they want unless they fight for it. Besides a politician needs the press more than the press needs a politician, and the press could use this fact as a weapon.

The legal institutions in the country also need examination. The role of the lawyers and judges in ensuring the practice of the rule of law and

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justice in a society like Ghana cannot be over-emphasised. As a developing and extremely unstable and volatile society we lack the necessary social and political institutions which see the liberal concepts of freedom and justice as part of the governmental process. (Thus most of politicians and rulers that we have had so far very often treat with contempt any system which seeks to place them within the ambit of the law). If the politicians are not interested in the rule of law and justice, then the only group of people who can at least try to force the rulers to abide by the law are the members of the legal profession. By their training they are supposed to acquire a commitment to freedom and the rule of law. Thus where the rulers begin to manifest autocratic tendencies they can act as a pressure group to force them back to the path of righteousness.

Civilian Rule

But it is in the realm of politics that 1974 in particular will be a very critical year for Ghana. It will be crucial because our government has made it clear over and over again that it will not hand over power despite the fact that there are signs of preparation to hand over power to civilians in other West African republics ruled by soldiers. In Nigeria it has been officially announced that the ban on politics will be lifted in October. In Upper Volta, President Lamizana has indicated that there will be civilian rule by the end of 1974. In Mali there is going to be a referendum in a few months time to decide on a constitution for the country. Ghana being another garrison republic, cannot of course be isolated from these developments.

In Africa and West Africa in particular it is said that political development is contagious. The Government will do Ghana a lot of good if it begins to think seriously of civilian rule for Ghana. The fact is that it is more natural for a nation to be ruled by popularly elected representatives than by any other group. It was General Ocran, himself a soldier, who wrote in his book **A Myth is Broken** that soldiers, who wish to become politicians should resign their commission in the army and compete with their fellow citizens. It is true that our politicians in the past may have disappointed most people in Ghana but the answer does not lie in permanent military rule which only removes the people's ability to learn from their mistakes. The worst aspect of military rule is the element of violence which it introduces into politics, that is to say, a man rules not when people want him but when he can

shoot the gun. If we allow this idea to be entrenched then, like Macbeth, we would have to bid goodbye to peace and tranquillity.

What the government ought to do in order to enshrine its name in history is to open a debate on the kind of political system that Ghana will need in future. There are many questions that we have to consider before there is any genuine attempt to hand over to a civilian regime. For instance, we have to decide on the basic question of whether we need party politics again, and how we ensure the quick removal of corrupt politicians. What should we do to prevent a future recurrence of tribalism in our politics? What kind of constitution do we need? These are more important than a prolonged military administration because if we find the right answers we can ensure a better and ordered growth.

Observer Notebook

THE ROLE OF THE PRESS

The Press occupies such an important place in the society that occasional reminders of its value are not out of place. In a country such as ours some of the most important functions of the press are to inform and educate the public, draw the attention of the government to what is not going as well as it should, and to provide a forum through which the citizens can air their views on important matters of the moment. In the absence of a national forum where suggestions can be made to the government and its weaknesses exposed, the press should assume much greater responsibility than in normal times.

It is in the light of all these objectives that the **Observer** heartily welcomes the call recently made by Colonel Frank Bernasko, Commissioner for Agriculture, to the heads of mass communication media in the country to have the courage to point out to the government where it is going wrong. The Commissioner is further reported to have said, "Post-mortems have their own usefulness, but in building a nation we cannot indulge in ex post facto rationalization." It is better, he said, to point out weaknesses and wrongs while they are going on rather than wait when it is too late to do anything about them; the Commissioner lamented the fact that Ghanaians were often unwilling to speak out on what is going wrong.

The **Observer** fully endorses the sentiments expressed by Colonel Bernasko, and would like to take these as an assurance that the government is willing to take criticisms in the best spirit without suspecting that every unpopular or unpalatable view expressed in newspapers about the government is motivated by malice or subversive intent. The unwillingness on the part of Ghanaians to speak out on what is going wrong is born of the fact that hardly any government of this country has established a reputation for tolerance and when people know that those who have had the temerity to express unpopular views have suffered varying degrees of victimization or molestation, prudence and discretion counsel them to hold their peace, even if it means that the whole country might suffer from this silence. When they also get to know that an editor who expresses a view about the presence of certain important personalities at the Dawhenya canal site is picked up for interrogation, on the orders of an officer who at that time has no connection at all with the press, and is detained overnight, this certainly is not the best form of encouragement that can be given to citizens to freely express their views on national affairs.

We would like to believe that the views expressed by Colonel Bernasko are shared by his fellow commissioners and other members of the government, and we would specially like to commend them to the consideration of the new Commissioner for Information. As the new Commissioner for Information assumes office, we think it appropriate to remind him that he should see himself as a champion of press freedom. Resignations by members of a government on points of principle are rare events in this country, but it is significant to recall in this context that one of such rare events occurred under the first military government when the then Commissioner for Information (a civilian) resigned when he felt that press freedom had been diminished through the dismissal of certain editors following the famous Abbott debate. We trust that Colonel Tachie-Menson would feel happier running a ministry with courageous, outspoken and adventurous pressmen than one with timid, sycophantic and lily-livered journalists, and that he will create the proper atmosphere for the achievement of this goal, as his immediate predecessors were seriously trying to do, under the present government.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE
IN LEGON OBSERVER

INSTANT FINES

In the absence of any topic more interesting, the most important subject of debate within the past week is the proposal to impose on-the-spot fines on offending drivers and riders. The main concern of the critics of the proposal is the additional avenue that will be created for policemen to face temptations of corruption into which they have a tendency to fall. The authorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are making every effort to allay the fears of the public, and it is reported that they are discussing ways of eliminating bribery and corruption from that exercise.

So far, those who have commented on the proposal have been so concerned with the dangers of corruption, having regard to the reputation of our policemen, that they have not given much thought to the possible advantages to be derived from the proposal. The proposal, if implemented will leave the courts more time to devote to more serious cases. Secondly, the proposal is also meant to reduce, if not to eliminate, the incidence of bribery in motor offences. The authorities appear to have realised that offending motorists usually bribe policemen as a way of avoiding the law's delays and sometimes unreasonably heavy fines. A driver who does not want to face the irritating prospect of appearing in court a number of times only to hear that for one reason or the other the case cannot be heard takes the easy way out by making a monetary offer to the arresting officer for a consideration. The proposed measure, then, is meant to ensure that cases can be expeditiously disposed of without too much inconvenience to the driver concerned.

But the fears expressed about the proposal are not without foundation. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has published a list of offences with the corresponding fines ranging from ₵2.00 to ₵10.00. One's immediate observation is that some of these fines are so heavy in relation to the alleged offences, and the determination of some of the offences so discretionary — eg. "use of un-maintained vehicles: ₵10.00" — that there can be a certain amount of arbitrariness in imposing the fine. When exactly is a vehicle in a perfect state of maintenance? And at what point can it be definitely established that a silencer is defective, for which a fine of ₵2.00 can be imposed? One would have thought that if the Roadworthiness tests were being properly carried out, they should take care of some of the specific offences listed.

The range of fines as proposed now still leaves a lot of room for corruption. A motorist who admits guilt to an offence punishable by a fine ₵10.00 may still find it more worldly wise to offer, say, ₵3.00 to a policeman for the appropriate consideration, thereby saving himself ₵7.00 and making the policeman better off by the difference. Nobody likes paying fines, and the temptation to bribe one's way out rises in direct proportion to the size of the fine. The most sensible solution is to scale down the fines considerably or even standardize them altogether. After all, since the primary purpose of any such fines is to punish offenders as a corrective measure instead of earning extra revenue, it should not really matter how exactly heavy the fine is. The size of the fine, of course, should act as a deterrent, but the plain fact is that if the fines are heavy, less will go into government coffers officially and more into private police pockets unofficially.

One further step that is to be taken if the system is to be implemented is to curb the enthusiasm of some of our policemen. In arresting offenders or potential offenders our policemen appear to be less interested in halting the commission of an offence than in satisfying some sadistic instincts in themselves. Anyone who has seen a policeman dash from behind a lamp-post to stop an allegedly over-speeding motorist is left with the impression that the peace officer is less concerned with the safety of the other road users — or his own — than with the prospect of putting the driver in some discomfiture. With the long list of offences published, one can easily imagine zealous peace officers stopping motorists about half a dozen times on a five-mile stretch to inspect speedometers, shock-absorbers, driving mirrors, driving licences, brake lights, etc. in the hope that these might be defective or not in order. It is to be hoped that such irritation will be reduced to an absolute minimum, even with the new dispensation.

But surely, whether one is eventually fined on the spot or in a court, the aim of all these road traffic regulations is to ensure safety on the roads. The concern of the appropriate authorities is deeply appreciated, but it is erroneous to assume that with the mere observance of the regulations accidents can be appreciably reduced on our roads without corresponding efforts on the part of those responsible for the maintenance of the roads. Some of the main causes of accidents on our roads, both in the towns and on the highways are the existence of pot-holes, poor road surfaces, poor sign-posting and the absence of clear markings at road intersections. Numerous complaints have been made, but all these appear

to have fallen on deaf ears. Unless this important aspect of the problems is seriously tackled, and road patrols are seriously undertaken to ensure that broken down vehicles are towed away or clearly marked, no punitive measures, instant or otherwise, against minor offending motorists can make our roads safer to ply on.

SELF-RELIANCE: SOME UNEXPLAINED DEPARTURES

IN this journal, we have on several occasions pointed out to successive Governments the costly and unnecessary dangers of depending on foreign so-called experts in administrative, research and advisory positions in government organisations, particularly in the Ministries. We need not repeat all the arguments here. We only wish to express our difficulty in understanding why the present government which has made Self-Reliance its central philosophy, should be repeating the same mistake of over-dependence on foreign experts. The use Ghana makes of these, or pretends to make of them in certain areas, seems not to have diminished whatsoever. The Harvard Advisory Group went; but new groups have come in their stead. And some foreign governments' agencies are busy participating in the Administration.

Consider the Ministry of Agriculture, which is dealing with a sector on which the nation critically depends, and which should be run by Ghanaians and Ghanaians only. Heaven only knows how many foreign experts this Ministry has, and just what they are really supposed to be doing. In the Economics and Marketing Division, there is a foreign expert, or rather there are experts in Accra and at the rice headquarters at Tamale; in the Planning and Co-ordination, there are foreign experts; in the Ministry of Planning, there is an FAO team of agricultural experts led by a British agricultural economist. The simple question is: just what are these people doing which our scholars and experts cannot do for this Government?

Is it a matter of shortage of Ghanaian experts? Or is it the case that our rulers tend to think that Ghanaian professionals cannot serve them and the nation well enough?

As the NRC enters its third year of rule, let it ponder whether the philosophy of Self-Reliance is to be taken at all seriously.

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Letters

Students And Self-Interest

SIR — Surely, Mr. Koillarbi in his article, "Student Contribution to National Affairs in 1973" (L.O. VIII/26) could not have sounded a truer note in his exhortation to the student body not to limit their agitation "to the preservation of their own interests alone but fight for the interests of the whole country." Often have students through their mouthpiece, the NUGS, given the impression that they are impartial in the human game of the pursuit of self interest. However, quite often, this position they have sought to maintain has been given the lie by their own performance.

Thus, although much venom was poured on the government for the 'restoration' to civil servants of the car maintenance allowance and other benefits taken away by the government of the second republic, these self-same students consistently and steadfastly fought for the restoration of their fee-free university education scheme. The abolition of the Students' Loans Scheme was surely a restoration of rights, wasn't it?

But that is not the end of the matter. The NUGS should properly represent all categories of students. And yet not a finger has been raised against the withdrawal of the government subsidy to middle school leaving certificate examinees. Neither has a voice been heard against the piteous subsidy per student in our secondary schools or the high fees exacted in elementary and secondary schools for the supply of 'free' textbooks which always come in inadequate supply, when they do come at all.

The only logical conclusion one comes to, is that since none of these issues is the immediate concern of university students who dominate and for whom the NUGS stands, the National Union remains mute over them. What the NUGS seems to tell the students lower down the scale of the educational ladder is, "If you want your interests protected, be in the University." Meanwhile, we concern ourselves with issuing resolutions supporting the Arabs and take our stand against the formation of a senior civil servant association because, according to us, by forming such an association, this category of citizens will also protect and pursue their self-interest! Talk of double standards!

Akuafu Hall
Legon

Kofi Oti Adinkrah

Who's Telling The Truth?

SIR — Kindly allow me space to express my concern about the confused reporting which has been going on for some time now in our newspapers, namely, the **Daily Graphic** and the **Ghanaian Times**, e.g. (1) the **Graphic** came out with a story captioned "LOGS THEFT — 4 grabbed", while the **Ghanaian Times** claimed that Police hold 3 suspects in connection with the same theft. (See **Graphic** and **Times** 21/6/73.)

(2) The **Ghanaian Times** says "No more Cement shortage. The Government has ordered 1 million bags of cement," while **Graphic** says "2 million bags of

cement ordered": both being from the same press conference. (See **Times** & **Graphic** 23/6/73.)

(3) The **Graphic** reports a \$61 million project for Volta Region while The **Ghanaian Times** talks of a \$67 million project for the Keta area, both being reports from the same Press Conference given by Col. F.G. Bernasko. (See **Graphic** & **Times** 11/8/73)

(4) The **Graphic** publishes that a man of 60 is grabbed who claims to have been sent by Col. I. K. Acheampong, and the **Times** writes that Police arrests a 50 year old man sent by Col. I. K. Acheampong, though in both cases the news came from the G.N.A.

(5) Very recently the **Graphic** came out with the news that Dr. E. Evans-Anfom, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi had **resigned**, while its sister paper said Dr. E. Evans-Anfom had **retired** as Vice-Chancellor of the U.S.T. (see **Graphic** and **Times** of 29/12/73, though the news came from (G.N.A.))

Mr. Editor, who is telling the truth? Certainly in such a situation one is inclined to believe neither paper. I hope however that the two national dailies will try to give correct information to the reading public in the new year. After all, this is what we pay their staff for.

Winneba Road
P.O. Box 2399
Accra

Kweku Amoako-Crentsil

Santrofi, Kontopiaat — And All That

SIR — I should like to welcome your anonymous contributor, Santrofi. But how do you account for his half or step brother, Kwadjo Kontopiaat? Is he on permanent leave or has he been repatriated under an alien's compliance regulation? If he is dead where is the obituary and who gave the funeral oration of such an illustrious contributor to your columns whose unannounced disappearance some of us deeply deplore? I would certainly have gone to great lengths to be present at his funeral to pay my last respects had I been informed by "bush telegraph" that Kontopiaat "had gone to his village".

B366/7 Teiko Akotia Street
Kaneshie, Accra

A. Osah Mills

Editor's Note: Kontopiaat is alive and smiling, and will take up his pen again in the not too distant future, it is hoped.

SIR — What is your new columnist Santrofi trying to do? Recounting our woes and miseries in beautifully couched language? Why can't he be "plain" if he wants to write for the benefit of those Ghanaians who have not lived under the various "consuls"? He should change the theme of his epistles, as the second one was as threadbare as it was barren.

P.O. Box 202
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A. Ackah-Mensah

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The Exchange Control Decree

SIR—I refer to your notebook on the Exchange Control Decree in your issue of 16th November (L.O. VIII/23 p. 555) in which you suggested to the government to practise what most of the East European countries do concerning foreign exchange. They ask tourists to pay a certain amount of money when entering the country. If you think that by doing this Ghana will earn or secure more foreign currency then you are wrong. I think rather that tourists will be driven away by such practices. Let us take just the example of Eastern Germany: since this "entrance fee" of twenty Deutsche mark per day was introduced only half as many visitors than before are travelling to Eastern Germany. Do you think tourists who save hard for a ticket to an African country will like to be forced to pay in advance for things they may not need? Some of those tourists may have friends and relatives to stay with, others may intend to stay in rest houses or hostels rather than in expensive hotels. Those coming in groups may not want to change anything at all.

Ghana is a free country and should not think of such practices which are used by East European countries with the main purpose of cutting the stream of tourists down—because they do not like their people to mix with those Westerners with their democratic ideas.

If Ghana must be saved from black market transactions I should suggest that the control system on foreign currency is improved. All tourists who enter now must declare on a form what sort of money they carry with them. This form is stamped at the airport but is never asked for when one is leaving the country again. This at least is my own experience with Ghanaian border controls. Why? If I knew that I would have to produce each single penny of unspent foreign currency when leaving the country (or show a bank's certificate of exchange) then I wouldn't dare to change my money on the black market. But as it is everybody can do what he likes, no one is charging him with anything if he can't produce what he has declared for.

If a country wants to get rid of the black market the best thing to do is to find out why there is black marketing and to do something about that. As long as Ghanaians find it so very difficult to get foreign

exchange when they want to travel they will do all they can to get this foreign exchange through other sources than the banks. With the small amount a Ghanaian is given he can't live in any European country for more than two days. So I think another way of getting rid of this black market situation would be to permit people to take along a more reasonable sum of money when they have to travel. But this, as I well know, won't be possible as long as Ghana has to fight her economic battle.

A Tourist

G.N.T.C. Selling Portuguese Goods?

SIR—It was rumoured sometime ago that some shops and departmental stores including G.N.T.C. were selling apples and other items imported from South Africa. Since it is difficult to identify trade marks on fruits like apples, this news was brushed aside by most of us as mere rumour.

About three weeks ago, however, on a visit to Accra, I went to the G.N.T.C. (Ghana House) to do some shopping. On reaching home it was quite natural that I examine the items, and upon examination what did I see? I realised that both the gent's pants I bought (two of them) bore the tag "MADE IN PORTUGAL". One can just imagine the rude shock that hit me. I could not believe this—that Ghana one time champion of the African Revolution and the vanguard of the struggle for Liberation from Colonialism and Racism—should now be trading with Portugal, a colonialist country without conscience.

It is even more shocking when one considers that it is our own national department store which sells Portuguese goods. What would be the impression if an African national, say from Guinea-Bissau, happens to go to Ghana House to see Portuguese goods being sold there? Are we not betraying the African cause?

I am therefore appealing to the Commissioner for Trade and Tourism to see to it that trade between Ghana and Portugal—whether open or secret—is stopped forthwith.

P.O. Box 310
Sekondi

Ike Nelson Nympha

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Africans on African Affairs

SIR—I wish to commend Dr. Ansah on his article on President Amin. Indeed it is not only the speeches of some of our African leaders that need condemnation but their actions too. It is time some of our African leaders were told that Apartheid and Racism are not the only forms of injustice that need elimination from society. Brutal treatment of political opponents, arbitrary arrests of citizens, seizure of people's property, public execution of people must all be eliminated from society. But what is happening in Africa? In Gadhafi's Libya, opponents are executed with impunity, Amin does not scruple to execute opponents, Bokassa himself leads soldiers to torment prisoners, Siaka Stephens cracks down mercilessly on his opponents, Nigeria

condones public executions of citizens, Mobutu traps his opponents to death by falsely declaring a general amnesty. Indeed there is scarcely a country in Africa where there is not a form of injustice being practised. And these are the same leaders who seek to spearhead the attack on Racism and Apartheid. It is in the light of these that I feel any writer who is bold enough to point out the faults of our leaders to them must be commended. In order to forestall posterity accusing us of practising double standards, let us be bold and point out the faults of our leaders to them.

Box 753
Accra

Fred Amoakohene

Revolution With A Human Face

SIR — Mrs. Faustina Acheampong, wife of the Head of State, has since her retirement been busy giving the Revolution a human face at last. One of her latest efforts in that direction is the reception she was recently reported to have given one thousand (1,000) women at the State House. To all genuine believers in the Revolution of Redemption this must be laudable. But, without doubt, it must also be somewhat costly. It is to be hoped that all these expenses will not come out of her retirement benefits, or her private account generally.

Even in an economic war, such as we are waging, one must live for the Revolution, not die from it.

C.884/4
Kokomlemle
Accra

Victor Foli

Manufacturing And Servicing of Electronic Equipment

SIR — Ghana boasts two electronic manufacturing enterprises which together offer a wide range of similar goods. Of late, these two — the State Electronic Products Division of GIHOC and Sanyo — are becoming more and more unable to repair their own equipment. In the long run consumers and the nation are the losers in spending a great deal of money for very little service. The Standards Board, the Ministry of Industry (if it cares) and the Government are urged to look into this.

Railway and Ports
Authority
Takoradi

David M. Eyiah

A Double-Edged Weapon

SIR — The recent announcement by the Ministry of Internal Affairs that in many cases motor offenders will be fined on the spot has been welcomed — even if with reservations — by many. The measure, it is argued, will save motorists a lot of inconvenience. I remain unconvinced, however, and am haunted by the prospect of the following incident:

A motorist is stopped by policemen on a sunny day. All his papers are in order — Roadworthiness, Insur-

ance, Driving Licence, the lot. The busy motorist is about to drive off again. But no. The policemen now want him to turn on his wiper. He does this, and the thing moves, scraping against his windscreen. He makes to start off again. But no. "And what of that driving mirror. It looks rather defective, doesn't it? It doesn't seem to reflect properly. When did you clean it last? O.K. O.K. We won't dwell on that, but my friend — this is very serious! — have you noticed that your front left reflective strip is off? Well, as you know, ignorance is no excuse. The penalty is X cedis. Ah, and we have just noticed the small matter of your defective shock-absorbers; and — Good Lord! — your rear left tyre is very defective indeed! etc. etc."

This may not be as bad as having to go on five different occasions to the Motor Court and having the hearing of your case postponed each time, but it does place the motorist uncomfortably at the "tender" mercies of our policemen. My suggestion is that vehicles with valid Roadworthiness Certificates should be excluded from penalty on certain "offences" — such as the one on wipers, driving mirrors, reflective strips, etc. and that these items should be very strictly checked at the time of obtaining the roadworthiness certificate. The new measure should not be an opportunity for law enforcers to inflict spiteful or profit-motivated harassment on motorists.

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Matters Arising

Some Misgivings About The Present State of The Accountancy Profession in Ghana —

A Rejoinder

By

P. T. K. Aidam*

THE Legon Observer in volume VIII No. 26 published another of Dr. Ghartey's articles dealing with the problem of the training of professional accountants in Ghana. In his earlier efforts (one of them in collaboration with Mr. Arku), Dr. Ghartey took issue with all the agencies that have a role to play in the training of professional accountants, the School of Administration, the University of Ghana, the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the ad hoc Committee which recently recommended the setting up of another institution in Accra to train accountants.

I was very much interested to see that Dr. Ghartey, one of the latest recruits to the teaching staff of the School of Administration where he obtained a well-earned 2nd Upper B.Sc (Admin) Degree in 1968, was showing a great deal of legitimate concern over a problem which has in the past not seemed to be receiving adequate attention. I felt that it was a welcome thing for a fresh mind to reflect on a problem that does require urgent and dynamic resolution.

Now, with his article on the misgivings about the present state of the accountancy profession in Ghana, I begin to have misgivings about the genuineness of Dr. Ghartey's concern over professional accountancy in Ghana. I have read his latest piece several times over in the vain hope that I would end up discarding the notion I got from the first reading that Dr. Ghartey, who has excellent academic qualifications — B.Sc (Admin), M.B.A., Ph.D., — was pleading a very special personal case, namely, that he should be admitted to the professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants without having to submit to the examination requirements of the Institute.

The flaws in Dr. Ghartey's pleading are so glaring that it would take unusual charity to ignore them or to accept his thesis as representing a mature concern for a serious national problem. As for the immodesty, exhibited by an academic in his first year of university teaching since obtaining his doctorate degree, one would have thought that Ghana has had enough of that sort of thing and buried it all in its recent past.

Dr. Ghartey posed some questions, the answers to some of which the reading public should expect him to know and provide, as a member of the staff of the School of Administration. Answers to questions numbered 1 to 8 under the sub-heading "Unresolved Issues" should be fairly easily obtained from Dr. Ghartey's colleagues at the School of Administration and from the Registrar's office at Legon. It would seem that Dr. Ghartey, one of the "highly qualified, and energetic young men in the country" has yet to learn not only better and more effective ways of seek-

ing information which is available at no great distance from him but also the ways of academia as was pointedly suggested to him in an earlier piece by Mr. Daniel, also of Legon.

It does make sense for the Institute of Chartered Accountants to initiate arrangements for its members to obtain academic qualifications that may enable them to be accepted as University Teachers in connection with a programme of Accounting training at the University's School of Administration. However, it does not follow that any average Master's programme in accountancy from whichever institution is superior to the requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

In any case the way to show that any graduate with the master's degree and/or doctorate degree in accounting (or in business administration, majoring in accounting) has undergone superior studies is to submit to the "trivial" examinations of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and pass them with flying colours. Dr. Ghartey obviously has failed to see the point about a qualified professional accountant studying for a master's or a doctorate degree in order to qualify to practise another profession, that of university teaching. That being so, it is not surprising that he should fail to see the need for an eminently qualified university teacher of accounting to qualify in the normal manner to practise also as a public accountant.

I have no doubt in my mind that it is "reasonable to expect someone (like Dr. Ghartey) with a doctorate degree or a master's degree in accountancy already teaching fourth-year students at the School of Administration to take the same examinations with his students before the Institute considers him as qualified for admission to membership". I will be surprised to find any serious academic colleague of Dr. Ghartey's who thinks like he does on an issue like this. But, of course, it may be one of those cases in which the minority is absolutely correct and everybody else is wrong.

But surely Dr. Ghartey cannot have failed to observe in the five years he spent in and about U.S. universities that there are supervisors of Ph.D. candidates who are themselves currently preparing for their own acceptance as doctoral candidates. Has he not met eminent professors who had not studied formally beyond the bachelor's degree? What about those students at Legon — in the School of Administration — who have been taught courses by persons who have yet to obtain a first degree? Should the University of Ghana admit them to its ordinary degrees because they have taught men like Dr. Ghartey who have proceeded to obtain doctorate degrees?

I know that the Institute of Chartered Accountants would not admit members on that basis and it remains to be seen whether men with Dr. Ghartey's abundant energy and confidence will lead the University of Ghana into taking such a course.

I am confident Dr. Ghartey is well qualified to teach some of the courses required by the Institute of Chartered Accountants for their membership qualification, and also some of the courses required for admission to the bachelor's degree of the University of Ghana. Furthermore, I know that the Institute of Chartered Accountants does not boast of a member with a Ph.D.,

*An Accountant, Accra, former lecturer, School of Administration, Legon.

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in anything. Even so, it is still a doubtful claim that Dr. Ghartey is "academically better than all the members of the Institute." His innocence is rather touching and it would be helpful for his development whether as an accounting educator or as a professional accounting practitioner for him to realise that his Ph.D., notwithstanding, there are still a few things he has to learn from an assortment of people in the profession of accounting as in that of university teaching.

Dr. Ghartey has drawn fleeting examples from other professions — medicine, law, engineering, architecture and others — but has shown some ambivalence, accepting only the practices which support his claim for professional recognition and rejecting others that do not suit him; as an example, he claims that the comparison with a law graduate with a Ph.D. who may not be called to the bar is far-fetched and inappropriate. He does not even seem to be aware that there are senior members of the Ghana Medical School who are not and cannot be practising doctors without further examination even though they are highly trained in the fields in which they now teach.

Dr. Ghartey has correctly stated that there are many openings in industry and in government for persons with formal training in accounting, but who do not possess or need to "possess a practising licence, possess a chartered accountancy certificate or be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountancy." Indeed, there are persons holding responsible accountancy jobs, and very competently so, with M.B.A. and lesser degrees and some with no degree or diplomas of any kind. If these perform the tasks expected of them and their work cannot be bettered by holders of Ph.D. degrees or members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, then it is submitted that to that extent the dearth of accountants had already been reduced and the non-admission of these persons into the membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants does not pose any problem for anybody.

On the other hand, the admission of these persons into the membership of the Institute with licence to open an office and offer public accounting services may pose a serious problem if one is not quite satisfied that these persons are well trained to give the services required of an accountant in public practice. This position is not unique with respect to the practice of accountancy. In all professions, there are levels of work — some very responsible and highly rewarding — which are performed by non-professionals. That some of those non-professionals may regret the earlier decision not to qualify for the profession they now have career relations which should not lead the profession into making unjustified changes in its admission practices. It is also relevant that these para-professionals are usually well respected by the professions they are allied with.

If the industrial accountants or the accountants in government service do not need membership of the I.C.A. to do their work, why should anybody make a plea for their admission? To my mind, to claim admission of the I.C.A. one should feel that one is ready to and contemplates going eventually into public practice. Who can be surprised that the Institute is reluctant to admit to membership persons who, while they may have rigorous formal accounting training, may not have the skills required of the practitioner?

We may also agree with Dr. Ghartey that "research to develop accounting principles and practices which keep pace with changes in the economic and political environment should be a major activity of accounting professionals and accounting educators". But does a university teacher with a Ph.D. in accounting require membership of the I.C.A. to pursue his research interests? After all, the I.C.A. is not a secret society and its members practise openly and I have not known of any case of their refusal to discuss accounting matters with other persons in related or other professions. So what is Dr. Ghartey's trouble, in particular?

The proper concern for us all who are interested in the development of accountants and the accountancy profession should be the effective arrangement that the University of Ghana's School of Administration and the Institute of Chartered Accountants can make not only to produce graduates at bachelor's degree level, majoring inter alia in accounting, but to encourage the 200 odd graduates that have been produced between 1965 and 1973 to complete their formal training for eventual admission to professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. With co-operation between the University, the Institute and Central Government, the production of accountants can be accelerated using and expanding the existing facilities at the University.

I do not think that the resolution of the problem of the dearth of professional accountants lies in the setting up of another institution. I believe that accountancy in Ghana should become increasingly a graduate profession like Law, Medicine, Engineering etc., and if there are funds which can be used to set up an entirely new institution, these funds can be better utilised for the expansion of the facilities at Legon to enable more undergraduate and postgraduate admissions.

In time, the Institute of Chartered Accountants will have to wind up its separate examinations which it now holds to enable those without university education to work their way up through the preliminary, intermediate and final examinations. I would urge the Institute to accept the fact that it is the only professional group of any stature that still relies largely on non-graduates for its new entrants. The promoters of the new institute to train accountants must also realise that their proposal cannot help but delay the upliftment of the professional training of accountants.

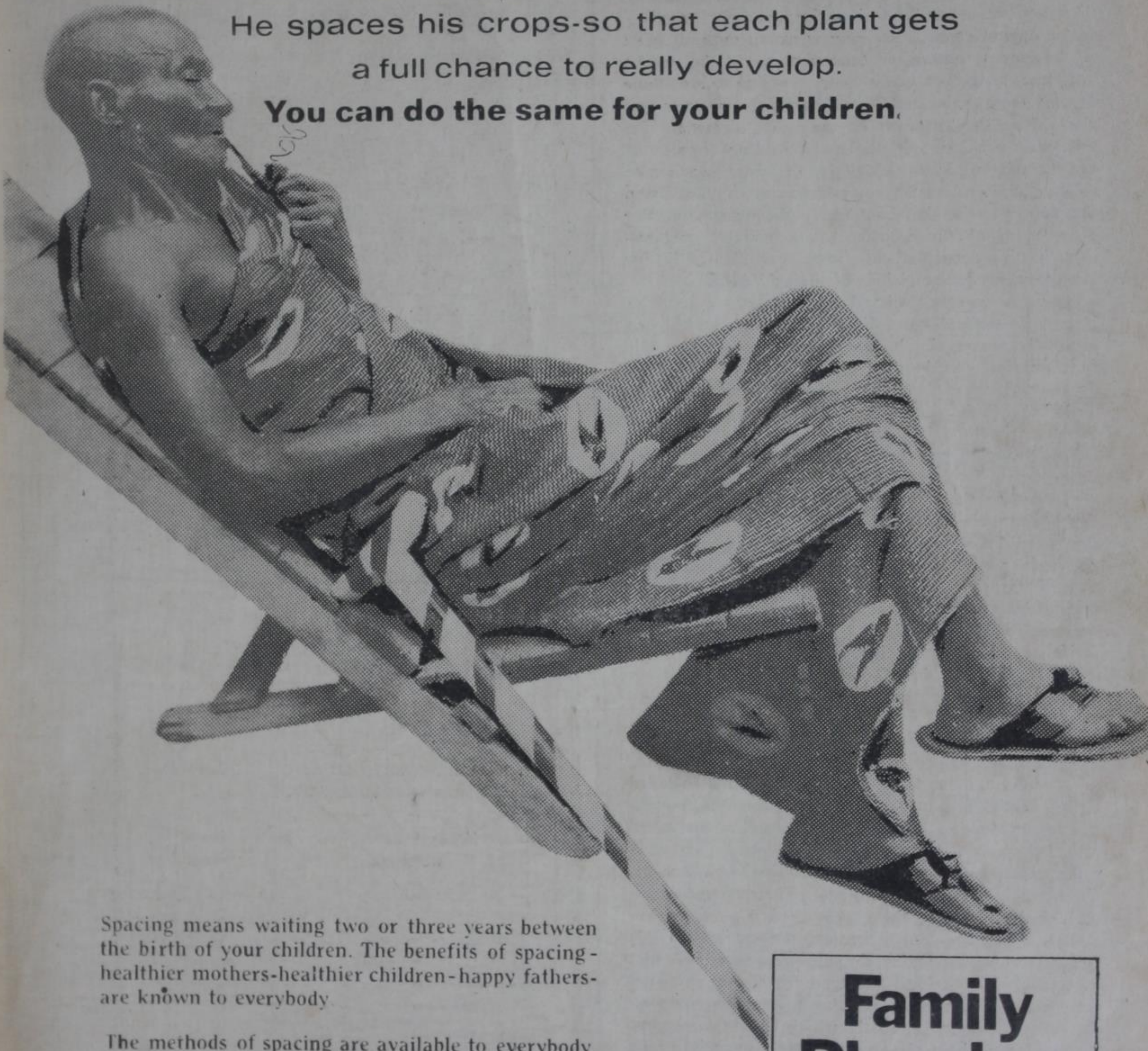
While admitting that there is room for disagreement on what is the best approach to the training of accountants, there can be no denying that the rules for admitting members to the profession cannot be made on an ad hoc basis. The point must also be emphasised that the admission of a half a dozen holders of M.B.A. or Ph.D. degrees into the Institute of Chartered Accountants cannot solve the problem of the shortage of qualified accountants.

It will be a great disservice to the profession and the nation if young men like Dr. Ghartey who ought to bring some dynamism into our effort to solve a national problem state their case so badly and so immodestly as to alienate all the people they necessarily have to work with. I am no believer myself in the status quo but we must not forget so soon the many promising and talented people who over-stated their case in recent years and whose ideas and claims came to NOTHING.

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Miscellaneous

AND IT CAME TO PASS...

Epistle No. 3

By
Santofi

AND it came to pass in those days that the contradictions and paradoxes in the empire went on increasing as the days went by. An edict went out unto all parts of the empire calling on those servants of the empire that had seen too many years to sing their *Nunc dimittis* from active public life half a dozen years less one earlier than used to be the case. In actual fact this edict was not initiated by the ruling consuls: it had been issued by the chieftains of yesteryear to take effect at a later date, but their successors in office found the step so wise that contrary to the normal practice of reversing all the decisions taken by their predecessors, in this particular case, they took the credit for implementing the provisions of the said edict.

It was, of course, believed by all that as a result of improved medical care, life expectation was higher, especially among the bourgeois who served as public functionaries. One hardly therefore expected the retiring age to be lowered, but logic was seen to stand so often on its head in the empire that this curious decision came as a surprise to only a few.

This exercise was undertaken for several reasons: room would be created at the top: the young ones could realise their ambition earlier: the aged could devote more time to contribute to the agrarian revolution (it did not really matter whether they had been pen-pushers all along and were not cut out for that sort of agrarian thing) which would keep them trim during the autumn of their life: it would also ease pressure on the Empire's accommodation and other facilities: and above all, it would bear the clearest testimony to the fact that the economy was growing, or as they preferred to describe it, buoyant; after all, who injects young blood into an ailing economy?

And verily there was an abundance of young blood in the Empire. For it came to pass in those days that the youth in the land had embraced to so-called "spirit of the revolution", and they turned their energies to productive labour: they reaped or harvested what others had sown, even though they themselves never came round to sowing or planting, whatever the difference in the two operations. They cleared heaps of rubbish in some of the backward parts of the metropolitan areas; they dug irrigation trenches, and in this particular case aroused such patriotic enthusiasm that other people, both local sons and foreigners, emulated their example, everybody wanting to find his name on the roll of honour. Even though there was some controversy as to the real value, in purely financial terms of their contribution, there was absolutely no doubt about the psychological import of these various gestures. For the first time in the history of the empire, the enthusiasm of the juvenile elements of the realm had been turned to productive ends, and the various undertakings had kept them out of mischief.

It ensued from all these that the youth had earned the moral right to make their voice heard in the affairs of the empire, and this was recognised by the emperor himself, who held a dialogue with them in the People's Senate, where he made certain promises to them in

return for pledges of loyalty, some of which promises were redeemed in due course, to the general jubilation of the youth, particularly those engaged in intellectual pursuit on an apprenticeship basis, designated more commonly as students. But the emperor had not reckoned with the full potential of the youth. He had forgotten, in effect, that the youth, having earned for itself the right to be heard on imperial matters, meant to use this right. And so did it come to pass that the youth held periodic conventions whereafter communiques were issued. Some of the issues raised in the communiques were somewhat unpalatable to the emperor who thought that the most politic thing to do was to ignore them altogether. The emperor, as must have become clear from his other acts and non-acts, was a clever man who had taken some lessons from the book of another emperor of another land. This other emperor was reported to be very tolerant and liberal, but his liberalism was reduced to this dictum of his: "I shall willingly allow the people to say or write what they like, provided they also allow me to do what I like." And thus the youth (and the elders too) spake what they liked—within the limitations set out in the first epistle—and the emperor for his part did what he liked. Did the youth issue some communique about some contemplated palatial edifice? Or about the purchase of some coaches? Or about investigations to put the historical records straight? The emperor chose to ignore them.

And thus it came to pass that in pursuit of their imperial zeal, the youthful scholars in the land undertook to show their gratitude to the empire of whose generosity they were beneficiaries. They proposed the

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General Manager

Imperial Service Project hereinafter referred to as the I.S.P. under which the empire's young men and women who had successfully completed a period of scholarly apprenticeship would give a year's free service to the empire; free, this is a way of speaking, because a token stipend was offered; token, too, is a way of speaking because the stipend represented a fairly respectable percentage of what the volunteers would have been paid for their regular services. The offer was accepted by the imperial authorities, but no one was quite sure what form it was going to take. At one point it was proposed that the youths be given the type of training that the regular legionaries received. This was quickly forgotten, and though no reason was given, the sages started speculating about the reasons. Some opined that since even the regular legionaries did not have enough to occupy them, not having had the opportunity of exercising their prowess in any major skirmishes, hence it would be wasteful to give such training to the youth, since they might never get the opportunity of displaying their valour. Others further opined that it would be better to keep the monopoly of striking force where it was at that moment located rather than initiate unpredictable young men into the manipulation of offensive weapons. Anyway, for whatever reason, the imperial authorities abandoned that particular proposal.

And it came to pass that when almost everybody had forgotten about the whole project, somewhere out of the blue, an announcement emanated from the Directorate of Public Instruction to the effect that the I.S.P. was going to commence within a few months of the announcement. Some citizens who knew that the strongest weakness of the imperial authorities was to undertake projects without the necessary homework started wondering whether adequate planning had been done. Of course, the consuls did not want subversive elements to say that they had done their thing again, namely done one of their instant ad hoc things, and let it be known that the plan had been nurtured in the depths of their consciousness for many a month. And so it did transpire that the project was commenced all right, to the satisfaction of a few and to the frustration and irritation of many others. From the slapdash

manner in which the project was implemented, the cynics were given the opportunity of thinking that the imperial governors had gone ahead with the project simply in order to pay people less for the work they would have done anyway, I.S.P. or not.

And so it came to pass that some citizens meditated on the question and suggested that the servicemen should be put on a special project which could be monitored and the results of which could be measured after a time. It was suggested, for example, that the servicemen should be put to organise a mass literacy campaign so that the unlettered citizens could be introduced to the rudiments of reading and writing. It was believed that if the project went on for about five years, the population of the unlettered could be halved, and many of the elderly citizens could at least read and write their native tongues. Since most of the unlettered dwell in the rural regions, the servicemen would be obliged to live in those areas and learn to appreciate their problems. This, it was believed would help achieve more quickly one of the objectives of the I.S.P., namely, to forge in the servicemen a sense of belonging to or with those called the "masses" in the radical parlance of the times. When this proposal was put to the authorities they agreed that this would yield visible results; they further conceded that this was a better idea than sending large numbers of redundant youth to over-staffed schools and imperial agencies. The authorities assured the delegation which made these proposals that the matter would be given priority attention in due course.

Good Intentions and Revolutionary Fervour

While these discussions were going on, a member of the delegation who had sojourned in many a land warned that a mistake that had been made in another territory should not be repeated in the empire. He recounted how in a certain empire where a similar project was started, the servicemen were sent to help in road construction, land clearing and other such works. The servicemen did not have much of a say and did that which was required of them, but nobody seemed to have got any benefit out of the whole thing, because if it is just roads that one has to construct one does not need to have gone to school. Therefore, to put youthful scholars on such projects was a waste of manpower, since the expertise they had acquired in their various academies fitted them better for other projects that could equally benefit the empire, and which they could presumably do better or at least less badly, at any rate. The Director of Public Instruction, listened to all this and again conceded that the delegation had a point. He did promise that he would take all this into consideration when thinking of the future implementation of the Imperial Service Project.

The Director of Public Instruction, wanting to convince the delegation of his good intentions and preparedness to listen, added his own gloss to the aforementioned suggestion. He proposed that since in the implementation of that particular project much more was needed than a concoction of youthful exuberance, patriotic zeal, good intentions and revolutionary fervour — the whole lot seasoned with the appropriate rhetoric — he would arrange with the relevant institutions in the land to give future servicemen a crash training course to equip them for the delicate task of initiating adults into the rudiments of reading and

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writing. He named a few institutions which could handle the training, singling out for particular mention the School of Adolescent Instruction attached to a certain metropolitan academy and a college of education situated in one provincial academy. He further assured his interlocutors that contrary to his usual custom of issuing directives without prior consultation with these academies which were supposed to enjoy a certain autonomy in such matters, on this particular question he was going to discuss the best ways of achieving the goal with the authorities of those institutions. Whereupon all agreed that it was proper so to proceed.

The Emperor and His Work

And it came to pass in those same days that another debate was started in the empire. The subject was rather trivial and frivolous, but it generated such passion in the land that it acquired some importance. The citizens wanted to know whether the empire, or at least the individual citizens therein, were growing richer or poorer. The vast majority thought that the citizens were getting poorer, and the constantly diminishing purchasing power of the drachma was the most solid argument or evidence they could adduce. Those who opposed these pessimists pointed to the new habitations that were rising daily in several parts of the empire, especially in the metropolis, and more specifically in an area lying halfway between the garage for airships and the metropolitan academy which was variously referred to jestingly as either **Esikafo-ammabantem** or **Apewosika** simply because it was the area of predilection for the **nouveaux riches** in the empire. The evidence on both sides was so solid and incontrovertible that a compromise was necessary to end the debate. It was agreed by all that there was money in the land, but the real problem was about its distribution. This conclusion was particularly relished by a catechist present who seized the opportunity to prove the authenticity, wisdom and veracity of the Holy Writ, referring everybody to that part wherein it was written: "Unto him who hath, more shall be given, and unto him who hath not, even the little shall be taken away from him." Whereupon all agreed that the catechist was right, and that poverty was after all a question of fate or destiny, or predestination, ordained as of old and foretold in the Holy Writ.

And so did it come to pass, as I was saying before this biblical interpolation, that it was agreed by all that there was money in the land. The citizens had become so enthused about the acquisition of landed property that everybody who knew or even just thought or felt that he had arrived desired to own a habitation wherein to lay his head. And in this empire whereof I have been speaking, or rather writing, those who were manifestly seen to have arrived were those who had acceded to imperial powers. It followed therefore as a logical necessity that they should acquire habitations in choice areas within the shortest possible time. Time, of course, was an important factor in this whole affair because those who had arrived through accession to imperial powers were not too sure of how long they could cling thereto, hence the necessity of making hay

while the sun shone, as it is said under another climate. The citizens looked on all this with a curious admixture of amused concern and contemptuous indifference, and being charitable, they naturally assumed that everything had been acquired in the proper way. They were also secretly hoping, of course, that at some future date just as one or two consular domiciles had been turned into a V.I.P. jail or sanitary centre, for reasons best known to the chieftains of the day, some other edifices might be put to other uses of more or less benefit to the ordinary citizens in the empire.

But for the moment there were no murmurs except in parts of the aforementioned select **Esikafoammabantem** or **Apewosika** area. Some prominent and of course wealthy citizens had constructed their comfortable dwellings in the area and had paid all the rates due from them in respect of road and environmental services without such services being rendered despite frequent appeals. The roads were not tarred and those living in the area were not too pleased to cohabit with dust. This had gone on for years until some more prominent (or will it be more accurate to say privileged) citizens decided to have edifices constructed for them in the area. Even before the completion of the said edifices the street passing by was tarred—but only as far as the house of the last privileged citizen's edifice in the area. The older settlers are still where they were, visited at will by clouds of dust, whereas the new arrivals, who do not buy paint or varnish any more dearly than the others, had been protected from the dust even before they could move in. All this was happening in the realm and yet everybody persisted in believing that all was well in the best possible of empires.

The citizens wanted to say that successive chieftains had all the same strengths and weaknesses, but they dared not speak, and consequently held their tongue. It was not at all clear whether the emperor knew all that was happening in the empire. He strode in all majesty upon the land, surveyed his wondrous work and concluded that it was good.

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For The Record

FRIDAY, December, 28

GHANA'S TEAM FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Sports Council announced in Accra today that Ghana will be represented at next month's Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand by a contingent of 29 — made up of four boxers, 18 athletes and seven officials. The team which will be led by Mr. Kofi Badu, acting Chairman of the Sports Council, leaves Accra on January 10 for the Games which start on January 24.

NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR KUMASI UNIVERSITY

Dr. E. Bamfo Kwakye, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. This follows the resignation of Dr. E. Evans-Anfom as Vice-Chancellor with effect from January 1, 1974, to take up a new appointment with the National Council of Higher Education. Dr. Bamfo Kwakye, who until his new appointment was the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, joined the University Staff as lecturer in 1963.

SATURDAY, December 29

25TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR SCHOOL OPENS

Col. I. K. Acheampong, Head of State and Chairman of the N.R.C., today opened the 25th Annual New Year School of the Institute of Adult Education at the Great Hall, University of Ghana.

In his opening address, Col. Acheampong called upon the Institute of Adult Education and the country's universities as a whole to come out with realistic and practical programmes which could help solve some of the problems facing the country. These problems, he pointed out, include massive illiteracy which hinders effective communication with over 50 per cent of the adult population; people's unpatriotic attitude towards locally made goods and the need to inculcate in the people patriotism which would eschew hoarding, smuggling, laziness and indiscipline. Col. Acheampong said the Universities and the Institute of Adult Education should educate the public on the need to grow more food to feed the nation and produce more raw materials to feed its industries. He also appealed to the institute and the Universities to help inculcate patriotism into Ghanians.

The theme for the eight-day School, which coincides with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Institute, is: Adult Education and Man's Environment — The Next Quarter Century.

MONDAY, December 31

N.R.C. RESHUFFLE

The Government of the N.R.C. today announced new appointments and changes in the assignment of portfolios to Commissioners. Col. Victor Coker-Appiah (Commissioner for Works and Housing) has been appointed Regional Commissioner for Brong Ahafo; Lt. Col. D. A. Iddisah (Brong Ahafo Regional Commissioner) becomes

Commissioner for Trade and Tourism as well as member of the N.R.C. and Col. E. O. Nyante (Volta Regional Commissioner) becomes Commissioner for Education, Youth and Culture. Col. J. A. Kabore has been appointed the new Volta Regional Commissioner. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning has been split into two—the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Planning: Major R. J. A. Felli (Commissioner for Trade and Tourism) becomes Commissioner for the newly created Ministry of Economic Planning; Col. C. R. Tachie-Menson becomes Commissioner for Information and Mr. E. N. Moore Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General, has been appointed Commissioner for Works and Housing until further notice. Lt.-Col. P. K. Nkegbe (Commissioner for Education, Youth and Culture) becomes Commissioner for Industries in succession to Col. J. C. Adjeitey who has retired on medical grounds. The changes take effect from January 1, 1974. (Portfolios in brackets indicate the former positions held by the commissioners).

¢2.4 MILLION HOUSING PACT SIGNED

An agreement under which the Social Security and National Insurance Trust will grant a loan of ¢2.4 million to the State Housing Corporation for the construction of over 400 low-cost houses for workers throughout the country was signed in Accra today.

WEDNESDAY, December, 2

SOVIET TEAM SUBMITS REPORT

The Soviet Ambassador to Ghana, Mr. V. I. Tcherednik, today submitted the report of a team of Soviet experts which examined Soviet projects in the country abandoned after the 1966 coup to Col. I. K. Acheampong, Head of State and Chairman of the N.R.C. at the Castle, Osu. The report covered the Tarkwa Gold Refinery, the Prefabricated Houses Factory in Accra and the Tema Food Complex. Col. Acheampong thanked the Ambassador for the work done by the team and said that his government would study the report carefully.

STATEMENT ON ALIENS

An official statement issued in Accra today by the Ministry of Internal Affairs said that all aliens in Ghana should be registered to make it possible for an up-to-date data on aliens to be compiled. Immigration officers are being posted to all District Administrative Offices to register all aliens in the country. The statement continued that as part of the exercise, hoteliers, resthouse keepers and landlords would be required to submit particulars of aliens ledgers to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Under this exercise, the statement further said, any alien of 16 years and above who intends to reside in Ghana, within a fortnight after he has been granted a permit under the Aliens Act 1963 (Act 160) to remain in the country, should apply to the District Immigration Officer in the district where he intends to stay to be registered. The Statement said, however, that members of the diplomatic corps or consular services of countries accredited to Ghana, officials of international organisations entitled to diplomatic privileges, persons in the employment of the Republic of Ghana and members of the Armed Forces of friendly powers entering Ghana on duty by permission of the Ghana government are all exempted from the registration.

ON-THE-SPOT FINES FOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES

The N.R.C. has given approval for the adoption of a system whereby tickets are issued to drivers for certain traffic offences committed by such drivers without the case going to court except where the charges are contested, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Accra today. The statement said that with the adoption of this system, several minor traffic offences which are handled by the courts would be eliminated to enable the courts to concentrate on major offences. Minor traffic offences such as exceeding speed limit in town, causing road obstruction, neglect of traffic sign post and parking at prohibited places would be covered in the new system. Fines to be imposed range from ₵2.00 to ₵10.00. The statement added that existing laws are being amended to give effect to the new system.

THURSDAY, January 3

NURSES' SEMINAR OPENS

A one-week Commonwealth Nurses' Federation seminar opened at the University of Ghana today. Declaring the seminar open, the Commissioner for Health, Major A. H. Selormey, said that basic nursing education has been liberalised with the addition of more of the social sciences to improve nurses' understanding of the patient. He pointed out that by giving nurses an orientation in public health, psychiatric, maternal and child health nursing, they would be able to work in the various areas of health services. The theme of the seminar is "Educating Nurses for Community Health Services".

FRIDAY, January 4

COMPANY'S CONTRACT CANCELLED

The Government has cancelled its contract with Messrs Promintec Limited, a Ghanaian firm, for the building of a ₵382,000 irrigation canal at the Asutsuare sugar farm. The cancellation of the contract was disclosed by Col. F. G. Bernasko Commissioner for Agriculture to Mr. Amos Baah, Managing Director of the Company at Asutsuare today. Col. Bernasko explained that the Government was not satisfied with the progress of work on the canal. The contract was awarded to the company in February 1971 by the former Progress Party Government and should have been completed by March, 1972.

SATURDAY, January 5

WEST AFRICAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A ₵250,000 West African Historical Museum has been opened at the Cape Coast Castle by Commander J. K. Amedume, Central Regional Commissioner. In his address, he appealed to former colonial governments in possession of items of historical interest collected from West Africa to return them. Such items, he said, would be of great benefit to research fellows from all over the world.

KUMASI UNIVERSITY MAKES DISCOVERIES

The University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, has successfully proved that shea butter, starch from cassava and some gum extracts could be substituted for imported products required for the manufacture of ointments, creams and certain tablets. This was revealed by Prof. D. K. Santra, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Pharmacy, at a chemistry colloquium at the Great Hall of the University.

SUNDAY, January 6

AIRCRAFT: ONLY TWO MODELS TO BE USED

The Government has approved that the Ghana Airways Corporation should use only Boeing 707/320C and Fokker aircraft in its operations, Major Kwame Asante, Commissioner for Transport and Communications, announced in Accra today. This is because the main economic difficulties of the Ghana Airways were due to the operation of multi-aircraft types, the Commissioner said. He also revealed that a contract had been signed for the purchase of a Fokker aircraft and negotiations were going on to get funds for two Boeing 707 aircraft.

MONDAY, January 7

AT THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL

John Alex Hammah, a former trade unionist, who faces a charge of subversion before the Military Tribunal today opened his defence. Alex Hammah denied ever offering money or planning with anybody to overthrow the National Redemption Council. He told the Tribunal that the ₵50,000 he gave to Col. Robert Kotei on June 1, 1973, at Chez Maxim as was for the promotion of a cattle business and not for staging a coup. He said that ₵20,000 out of the amount was Col. Kotei's share of capital in a proposed cattle ranching syndicate. Alex Hammah also denied promising to give ₵100,000 to Col. Kotei to stage a coup. The accused said he had always supported the principles of the N.R.C. and had not at any material time thought of overthrowing it.

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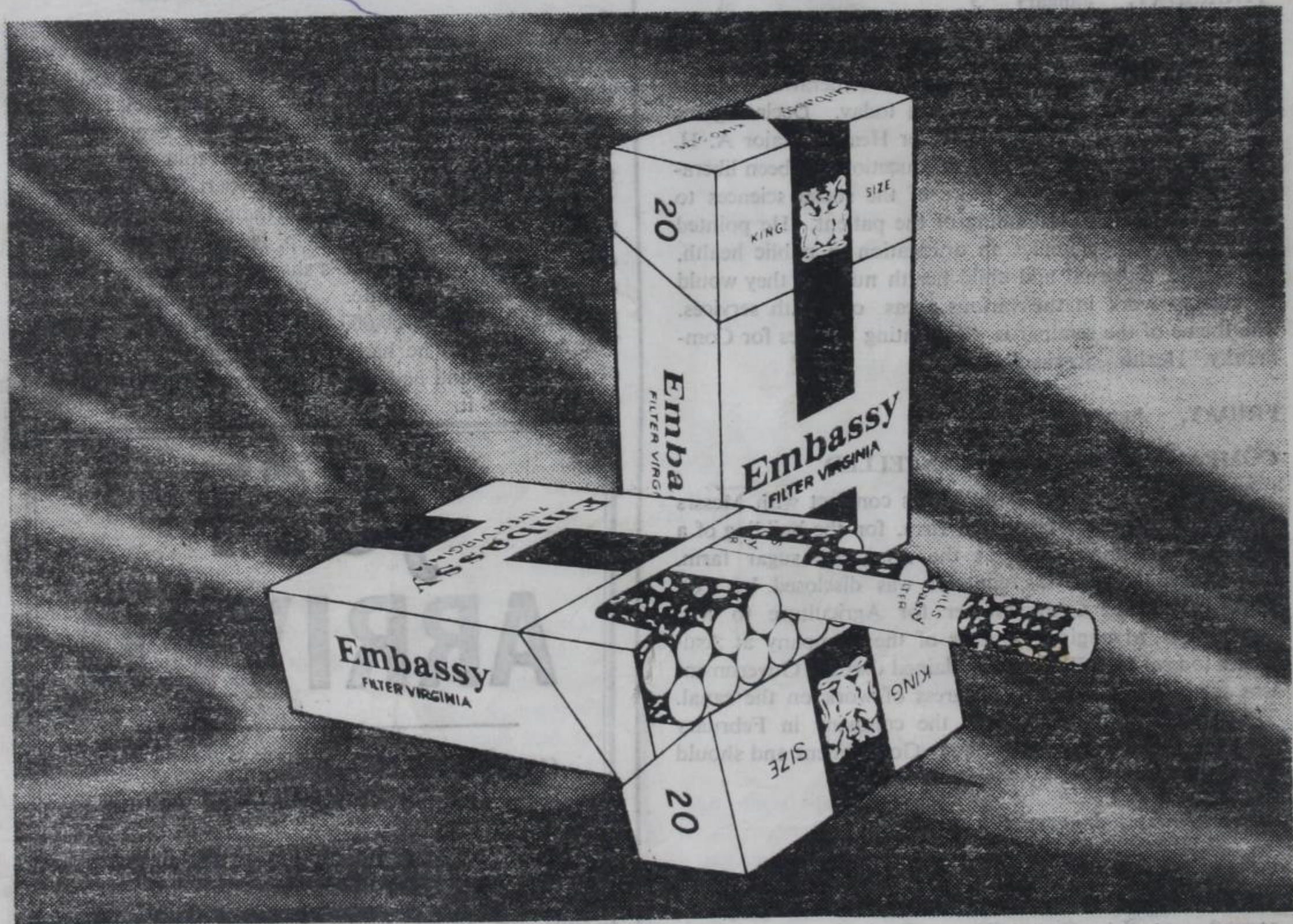
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