

MANN

August 6, 1978

1. 50 more people are going to be charged over the next weeks for various fraud and currency violations.
2. Wilbur Bassoni, the former General Manager of the Guyana National Coop Bank, who skipped the country before getting charged and who was under investigation, is speculated now as having known too much and was allowed to go by a couple of ministers of govt. (I don't know who the ministers were.)
3. Ex-minister of state for trade William Hayden was charged with fraud but has not been found. He tried to leave the country 3 weeks ago and was not allowed to leave. One week ago, the Prime Minister gave him permission to get medical care outside the country and allowed to leave. The papers are playing it up that he hasn't been found but I heard he was given permission to leave.
4. This "clean-up" of officials and businessmen

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in all people are talking about in Guyana.²
Every conversation is centered around this.

4. Henry King, who is known as "Mr. Ten Percent" (his bribe commission for favors), was cleared by the Prime Minister in his accepting King's resignation speech so most people think he'll get off the hook. Others speculate he'll still get charged.

5. Frank Noel, the former Guyana secretary, is the highest official charged so far. He is still in jail because bail was set at \$100,000. He is in a Catch-22. If he puts up bail for himself, they'll inquire where he got that kind of money because he was not making that kind of money. Mann said the Prime Minister was glad to hear he was sweating it out. The P.M. said I hope he sweats more.

6. The "man-on-the-street" comments are that Burnham waited until he won the referendum. Now he's arresting all the black people. Mann and Burnham

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so that what really gets to him is that ⁽³⁾
these people (like that) are where they are
because of him (Bumham) and they've let him
(Bumham) down. Bumham told Mann that
there were more to come (more arrests).

7 What seems to be happening is that
people getting picked up are "singling" and
exposing more and more people. Mann
speculates there will be another 100 arrests.

8 Rahaman (of Rahaman Sawmills) was one
of the first picked up. He is one of the
most corrupt businessmen in the country,
I've been told. He has been the biggest
source for getting others arrested. He has
named a number of people. He said he
gave Frank Noel a car for favors ~~given~~ received.

9 Ministry of Trade, therefore, has been hit
the hardest because of the foreign exchange
that has been sent out of the country thru
 bogus import licenses. One of my speculators
on why this Ministry got it first is because of
the IMF loan. There were a ~~no~~ number of
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conditions which IMF set on their loan. A large degree of this is based on foreign exchange and hoarding rackets, therefore they needed to clear up this area first.]

20 One of the hoarding rackets which used to go on involved government subsidies. Consonan evaporated milk was formerly subsidized by the govt at a rate of 18¢ per tin of milk. They found that there were always shortages even though over the necessary Guyana consumption ^{part} was being imported. When they investigated the matter they found out that ~~the milk~~ ^{the milk} was being smuggled into Surinam because at the govt. subsidy cost, it was cheaper than any place in the Caribbean and in Surinam. When the subsidy was removed last year, the hoarding and smuggling stopped because it was no longer profitable. Rice was another racket because of govt. subsidies. Flour and sugar also. Part of the sugar subsidy was just removed. The sugar price rose by 100% for Guyana consumers. (1976 to 1977)

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11 From listening into so many conversations about different "operations" people had going, it shows how much money the govt might have if the corruption was stopped. Within each ministry, there will be clean-ups.

12 Today Skip Roberts mother and father came over to see Neil Cheong. They are close friends of Neil's and Skip's dad made it clear that nothing would happen to Neil if Neil would have brought in a few banned articles (like canned corned beef, salmon, etc). I've been told before that Skip's dad has a lot of influence over his children, Skip Roberts of CBS and Robbie Roberts, director of civil aviation. Robbie was a big man in Bookman. He is white or Portuguese and his wife is mixed black and white. He is a history book of Guyana. He told stories about characters of Guyana dating back 40 years. He made one comment about Gagan that when he was Prime Minister they had more milk in the country than they knew what to do with. He said you could bathe in it, there was such a surplus (from milk cows) but now you can't get it at all. He also

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mentioned (just as a point of interest) that he ⁽⁶⁾ uses baking soda for deodorant. He had read somewhere that it works, and he says it does. Deodorant is very expensive here and expected to be off the market because of high import costs in the next few months.

13 The P.M. said in his speech that aluminum can be used as the abrasive in making detergents and swine fat can be used in place of tallow in making soap. [I am just adding these points because we may be able to utilize the knowledge.]

14 Boladon is a country which is based on a tourist economy and produces nothing. They are totally dependent on imports and give preferential treatment to Canadian goods. If we produce any commodity, that should be the first, or one of the first, places we look into for an export market. Right now their shelves stock a number of Japanese items, I was told.

15 I have had very little time alone with
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⑦
Mann for several days so I don't know
much about what he personally knows.

Aug. 7, 1948

1 I asked what he thought of Mingo. He
sd he didn't know him except to say
hello. He sd, "I do know he is a weak
Minister. He relies too heavily on the opinions
of civil servants." He sd, "He is very weak
in comparison to Raymond Hoyle and Herbert
Jack who I know very well."

2 When I sd I know you had your hand in
this clean-up campaign. He sd nothing in
response directly to my statement, but said,
"The Prime Minister feels he was let down because
it was he who put them there in the first place."
He sd, "Hoel was always a shifty public
servant but he was energetic and capable."
He sd, "The problem was that people are
underpaid and when they see a way to make
a few dollars to supplement their income,
they take it." He sd, "You watch there will
be a hundred more arrests." He sd the P.M.

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