

Journal
of the.
ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS

VOL. XXXVI

MARCH

No. 1

Editorial Notes

A notable factor in Technological advancement in recent times is open International Technical Co-operation for peaceful purposes as distinct from secret International Competition for purposes of national supremacy to exercise suzerainty over other nations. This is a healthy development which is much to be commended. It has resulted in great progress in our five year plans for the upliftment of our depressed economy in various spheres and in the establishment of three steel factories to reduce our shortages without exciting the jealousy of other nations or causing any harmful loss of business to them, Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela.

The policy of Domination of one country by another has given place to collaboration and cooperation. The trend is now away from closed markets bound by tariffs and customs duties towards combinations of open market, free of duty.

A disturbing feature is, however, exploitation of "patriotism" by businessmen, politicians, industrialists and the state. Advantage of

peoples' patriotism is being taken to sell goods of inferior quality, to obtain votes for positions of power, to establish improperly managed industries and retain in poorly paid employment highly qualified youth of the country, who have better prospects elsewhere and to revile them as "unpatriotic" if they accept more lucrative service abroad. It is time the State took care to pay its own youth better than it pays its "foreign experts" and to exercise proper control over the quality of goods produced by Industries which enjoy the State's protection. In the name of preserving foreign exchange credit for the country many futile and harassing restrictions have been placed on very necessary foreign imports by Import control authorities who in many cases have not any expert knowledge of the materials they control. It is feared that the foreign exchange thus saved does not truly serve the purpose for which it is so zealously protected. It seems to be forgotten that the main purpose of preserving foreign exchange credit is in fact to facilitate purchase of foreign goods, not to prevent their purchase. Foreign exchange control has developed into a method of preserving the right of purchase of foreign goods to the State only and depriving its individuals of such right in order to compel them to manufacture their requirements out of the raw materials available in the country with doubtful economy, while the State may spend any amount abroad with impunity. Exchange control must be related to the economics of production of the required article and not merely to the availability of the raw materials for it in the country.

Since the above lines were written the text of the President's address to Parliament has appeared in the press and it is gratifying to note that "Government are alive to the requirement of scientists, technicians and technologists for our expanding economy;" that "measures are being taken to step up progressively the output of these cadres and to provide increasingly better career opportunities and higher status for old and new entrants."

In this issue we publish a few typical essays received from engineering youths of various parts of India showing some diversity but general unity in trend of thought. These essays were submitted in competition for a prize offered under the Bruhl Memorial Fund to be awarded to the best essay on "*Engineer as a national asset.*" In making the award the opinion of the members of the association will be taken into account, and members are requested to send their opinion by the end of April, 1960.