

# Country Boy, Who Hauled Down English Flag, May Succeed Nehru

By S. R. ROY  
United Press International  
NEW DELHI (UPI) — At the height of British power in India about 40 years ago, a 17-year-old village boy named Karuppanna Kamraj came to the south Indian city of Madras and saw the Union Jack fluttering over the imperial fort of St. George.

"I shall see that flag hauled down," the youngster swore to himself, "and in its place the standard of free India will go up."

The country boy played a big part in hauling down the British flag. Today he is a national figure who is often discussed as the logical successor to aging Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Karuppanna Kamraj is a household word in India, but has scarcely been heard of in other countries.

But Kamraj has just been elected to assume vast political power as boss of the organizational machine of the ruling party, the All-India Congress Committee.

The 60-year-old politician will begin his two-year term as committee president in January. They will be crucial years for the monolithic but moribund national party, for unless its house is put in order before the next general elections in 1967, the congress may either split apart or lose power.

Only three months ago, Kamraj was the chief minister of India's best administered state, Madras. He voluntarily renounced this office in order to go back to the field to revive the state party machine.

Has Little Schooling  
Kamraj hails from the backwoods and had little formal schooling. He was born in the village of Virudinagar near the southern tip of India, and lost his father at the age of six.

As a husky, hotheaded youth, he won a formidable reputation as a political street fighter. He joined the Congress party as a full-time agitator, and spent a year in jail for illegal political activities.

Kamraj was back in jail in

1942, this time for alleged complicity in blowing up a railroad bridge. He spent the rest of the Second World War in prison.

His wartime jail term brought Kamraj's brilliant organizational skill to the fore. Instead of abandoning the anti-British underground which he had created, he managed to run its operations from the inside of a British jail cell.

The underground leader and alleged saboteur was a hero when he came out of prison in 1945. By 1954 he had begun his nine-year tour as chief minister of Madras Province's 33 million people.

Kamraj is bachelor of frugal habits, who says he was too old to marry by the time he was able to afford it.

Speaks Little English  
Kamraj speaks little English. Neither does he know the official "national" language called Hindi. These are the greatest obstacles in the way of his becoming a future ruler of India, because any would-be prime minister must woo the 200 million Hindi-speaking people of north India, and because most government business is done in English.

But Kamraj didn't let this prevent him from running an efficient government in Madras, where he stuck to setting policies and left the detail work to an able set of loyal, English-speaking technicians.

Kamraj has been publicly praised by Nehru. He has an appealing, "folksy" political image. He is a ruthless opponent and a skilled organizer. If his lack of English and Hindi is not too overpowering a barrier, he may be the man to watch as Nehru nears the end of his political career.

TOUGH TREE  
BUENOS AIRES (UPI) — The Ombu tree of Argentina's pampas is the toughest known to the forest industry. Its wood won't burn, no hurricane can uproot, it has no known diseases and scientists have not been able to discover the Ombu's life span.

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## Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER  
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**CRADLE-TO-GRAVE EDUCATION**  
(This is the second of two articles on the education subject.)  
"Picture the event in 1994: The doorbell rings—no . . . the electronic impulse arbor in the leisure room vibrates and flashes on the all-purpose screen the bulky image of the Third-Degree Robot Officer. Third-Degree Robotoffs call in person for two kinds of violators only: scowflaws who hang their hovercraft too close to Tee-Vee aerials (difficult to avoid because they are invisible); or for those who, ignoring the hourly subliminal warnings, have not pressed their Tee-Vee school buttons for three days running.

"Secunda, gum-chewing 12-year-old daughter of the house, goes to the door to argue—and I've done all my homework for the next year, too."

"Metallically but clearly, the truant officer (for it is none other than he) says 'But I am here for your mother.'"

With this imaginative introduction, Milton R. Stern, an assistant dean at New York University, submits his solution to the growing problem of leisure time in the United States—cradle-to-grave classes.

As certain as automation, says he, is adult education for everybody and he even suggests seriously that cradle-to-grave classes "may soon become compulsory."

That automation is creating an explosive problem of non-work in this country is undeniable. The U.S. Government estimates rising output-per-man-hour, due to automation, is now eliminating a minimum of 200,000 factory jobs a year. A leading manufacturer of automation equipment, John L. Snyder Jr., of the U.S. Industries, Inc., says flatly this is "a gross underestimate of the real situation." Snyder declares automation is eliminating 2 million jobs a year not only through direct displacement of workers but also through the "silent firings" of workers who would have been employed had their jobs not been wiped out.

This, of course, is the great force behind the accelerated drive for a shorter workweek—and union leaders openly admit they are fighting for shorter hours than their members really want.

This is the key reason for the development of the extended vacation—dramatized by the 13-week sabbatical recently initiated in the steel and can industries and certain to spread in coming years.

This always has been the factor behind featherbedding which is work in name only.

At the same time, as reported yesterday, non-work is one of the fastest growing "occupations" in the United States. Our non-work population is up to 7.3 million, triple the total in 1949, and this group receives \$100 billion a year, or one-fifth of our entire personal income.

In the past only the wealthy have had the burden of too much leisure and too few interests to enjoy the leisure. Now it's becoming the curse of millions who have been accustomed to filling most of their days with time-consuming tasks and who are utterly unprepared for non-work.

Since extended leisure time is inevitable, what's the answer? It's not more golf, more gardening, more fishing, bowling or TV-watching. These pleasures can become tortures if there is little else.

The answer is a step-up in education of the American adult, as well as the young, to prepare all of us to reach a higher plateau of literacy in every sphere—economic, political, social, cultural.

The stage is being set for this. Closed-circuit TV in the classroom suggests what is to come. The voluntary return to classes of adults across the nation to learn new aptitudes and hobbies indicates how far we have moved from the popular image of night school. The campaigns lauded by farsighted union, business and community leaders to spur adult education during vacation and off-hours telegraph what is on the way.

The dimensions of our future adult education cannot even be guessed, but this is sure: we are a remarkably ignorant people and we have a long, long way to go before we can claim otherwise.

One reason Stern's seemingly eccentric prophecy impresses me is that subconsciously I came to it for myself long ago. Whenever I've been asked what I'll do when I get off this rat-race of a daily column, my immediate answer has been: "I'm going back to school to learn and to teach." I've already arrived where Stern says our country is heading.

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