

Coal power plant and power politics

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Island

When I read about the cancellation of the Coal Power Plant, I am reminded of the sayings of the the Poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, which I paraphrase,

"He who begins by loving his religion more than truth, will eventually love the temple more than religion and end up by loving himself more than all"

Truth is sacrosanct, and true religion has no conflict with it. Let us examine the truths of the Coal Power Plant.

1) Sri Lanka is in dire need of expanding its Thermal Power Generation capacity.

2) If this is not done, we will face 6 to 10 hour power cuts in the future.

3) The Coal Power Plant will be built complying with Sri Lankan air pollution standards.

4) There is only 60 per cent electric power usage and many Lankans are eagerly awaiting a connection so that electricity a commodity taken for granted is

available to them.

The Catholic Church is concerned about a shrine, which in any case the CEB says will be protected from harm's way. Yet it does not satisfy the Bishop obviously, but let us remember what Jesus Christ himself, the true head of Christianity, has said on prayer. "Prayer is made for man and not man for prayer", similarly we can say "A shrine is made for man and not man for the shrine". In short, a shrine can be moved or re-located if there are fears about its location.

Let us also remember Jesus' saying "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God, the things that are Gods."

Power Plant Planning is certainly not within a Bishop's purview, except in a decadent Sri Lanka. Are we not sowing the seeds of religious disharmony ?

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