

TALK OF THE WORLD

BANGKOK — The Thais are looking forward with more than passing interest to the upcoming trial of pork butcher Sai Kiah.

Sai is no ordinary butcher; in fact, by profession he is a politician. But about four years ago — shortly after an army marshal named Sarit Thanarat installed himself as Premier through a pocket-sized revolution — Mr. Sai managed to finagle the pork butcher monopoly for himself.

It was all for the good of the people, of course. Health reasons and that sort of thing. Mr. Sai's butchery became the only government-san-

tioned slaughterhouse in this country of 19 million people.

It might have looked like a prudent, sanitary thing to set up, but by and by the farmers smelled something rotten in Mr. Sai's abattoir.

He kept knocking down the prices he paid the farmers for their pork — and raising prices to the consumer, something that's easy to do when you don't have antitrust acts and Bobby Kennedys around to watch things.

The farmers and consumers started complaining loudly. The newspapers, although government controlled throughout the five-year "state of emergency" Sarit imposed when he took over, started to make snide remarks about Mr. Sai's operation.

Finally people started writing letters to the Premier and even to Thailand's jazz-loving King Bhumibol.

Recently, Sarit decided that now was the time to crack down on his pal, Mr. Sai, the National Butcher who was pinched.

The government boys started going through his books and came up with the startling report that Mr. Sai, through his cozy little monopoly, had been pocketing something like 4.5 million baht (about \$825,000) a month.

Sai the Butcher was accused of maladministration and illegal profiteering and his trial is coming up soon. Meantime he is out on 400,000 baht bond.

Even in a country where corruption for years has been a way of life Mr. Sai's trial will be looked on with a good deal of interest — partly because he's been going whole hog, partly because the Thais are anxious to find out whether Premier Sarit really means to crack down on corruption or just wants a little publicity.

While the trial is pending, it's still business as usual in Bangkok, which is to say that: The prudent businessman still sets aside a sizeable item in his annual budget for "getting things done through channels."

Dropping a few baht in the right place will reduce the two-month waiting period to get as simple a thing as a driver's license.

The post office cop continues to take half a baht from the messenger boy to permit him to park his bicycle outside the post office.

Public works in many areas are still going at snail's pace while the contractors are figuring ways of chiseling.

If Mr. Sai gets his just dues, it's possible that things might change. It will certainly be a bad omen for the grafters and chiselers who, up to now, have considered themselves men of honor and virtue.

Torrance Slates Baseball Outing

A theater bus trip to Dodger Stadium for the Los Angeles-Milwaukee baseball encounter on Friday, Aug. 23, will be sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department.

The \$4 cost per person will include reserved seats, bus transportation and trip insurance. Reservations may be picked up at the Recreation Department office.

For further information call FA 8-5310.

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DIRECTOR AT WORK... Ed Long (standing, foreground) is shown during a dress rehearsal of "The Five Finger Exercise," Chapel Theatre's newest production. The local theater group will present the more serious study for five weekends, beginning Aug. 23, at its theater, located near the Smith Brothers Fish Shanty. The new production follows two very successful comedy hits.

Chapel Theater

'Five Finger Exercise' Opens Friday, Aug. 23

Following on the heels of two very successful comedy hits, Chapel Theatre has turned its attention to more serious drama. The local theater group is now in the midst of rehearsals for the opening of "The Five Finger Exercise," "Five Finger Exercise" will open Friday, Aug. 23. Curtain time for the premier performance is 8:30 p.m.

ED LONG will direct the new play, which includes a cast of five featured performers.

Television

Writer Will Speak Friday

Television writer Meyer Dolinsky will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the Southwest Manuscripters tomorrow night at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held at Clark Stadium, Hermosa Beach.

Dolinsky, who has written scripts for such shows as "Bonanza," "Stoney Burke," and "Alcoa Theater," will talk about television writing. He has also done several stories for the new "Outer Limits" which begins its run this fall.

Entries for the Manuscripters Short Story Contest are due at this meeting, reports Mrs. Florence Hancher, secretary of the group. Awards will be made at the October meeting.

Fuel requirements of existing jet airplanes pale in comparison to the anticipated consumption of the supersonic transports of the 1970s. Today's long-range jets consume about 18,000 gallons of fuel each eight-hour day. Jets of the future are expected to burn some 14,000 gallons in a single hour.



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Walker to Discuss Continental Trip

Nationally famous John Frey, the man who has twice walked across the continent, will appear as guest speaker this morning at El Nido Park under the sponsorship of the Torrance Recreation Department. Frey's lecture, which will begin at 10:30 a.m., will include discussion of his walking tours with particular emphasis on the Golden Gate-Canadian border stint of his 1956 hike from San Francisco to the Arctic, a total distance of 3,484 miles.

The talk is open to the public and no admission will be charged.

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