

## TIME IS MONEY

T. HAGA

**W**E have in Japan a maxim, "Time is Money".

There may be huge differences in wealth between the rich and the poor. But one day consists of 24 hours for both the rich and poor. There are poor countries and rich countries, but one day is 24 hours everywhere; one year is 365 days for every country. We cannot buy a second of time. Time is more precious than money. The real problem about time is how to utilize the given amount of time effectively.

If someone steals or destroys the belongings of another person, there is the law to punish him. But if someone makes an engagement to meet his friend at an appointed time and fails to do so, he keeps his friend waiting in vain, and thereby wastes his priceless time. Who is going to punish such a culprit? In many countries the value of time is much honoured, and every one tries his best to be punctual. Alas ! in India, I have felt that "delays" are seldom taken seriously.

The delays in trains and planes are accepted as quite common features and if one arrives in time a person must thank his own luck.

When I prepared my itinerary for going round India, one Indian friend considered it as too tight.

According to this itinerary I was due to leave from Madras at noon on the first day, give a lecture that very afternoon to the engineers of some factories serviced by the Statistical Quality Control Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute at Madras. But the plane was late by nearly four hours, the engineers were kept waiting several hours in vain and had to go back finally without the lecture. I think they are quite busy people who shoulder many technical responsibilities in their factories, but they had to waste valuable time simply because the plane was late.

Once when I was filling in a requisition slip for a car, an Indian friend advised, "if you want to start at 9 p.m., it is better you should requisition the car for 8.30 p.m." At first I took it to be a joke, but realized later, through my experiences, that my friend was really very wise.

They are only two typical examples which I can give to illustrate my point.

I feel that when my Indian friends duly recognize the value of their own time and pay regard to the value of others' time, a kind of national waste will be checked and the productivity of India will increase considerably.