

For favour of publication

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Bombay, October 25, 1962

A constructive suggestion that the Swatantra Party may consider taking the initiative in inviting the cooperation of commercial and trade organisations and other voluntary associations in considering the establishment of non-official Vigilance organisations which would keep an eye on and bring to light black marketing, hoarding, profiteering and other anti-social economic activities was made by Mr. M.R. Masani, General Secretary of the Party, while addressing a public meeting this evening. He recalled that he had made a suggestion for the establishment of a non-official Ombudsman for the free sector of the economy last July in Ahmedabad.

According to Mr. Masani, in a democracy there could be no unconditional or blind support to a party Government during war time. It was the duty of opposition parties to give the fullest support to the war effort and the winning of the war while retaining the right of criticising those policies of Government which came in the way of the country's defence and the national interest. This distinction was particularly important where there were in office, at the beginning of hostilities, guilty men whose policies had placed the country in a weak and adverse military position and who persisted in these mistaken policies. Thus, during World War Two the British Labour Party had refused to enter into a coalition with the Conservative Party, then in office, unless and until Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the apostle of appeasement, was removed from the Prime Ministership. As soon as the Conservative Party accepted this demand, a coalition government under Mr. Churchill became possible. Even thereafter, Mr. Arthur Greenwood and a number of Labour Party members in the House of Commons were allowed to sit in opposition and function as an opposition till the end of the war.

While not wishing to prejudice in any way the decisions the Central Organising Committee of the Party may take on November 13 and 14, Mr. Masani drew attention to the fact that even today our armed forces were being asked to fight the Chinese with their ~~arms~~ tied behind their hands backs, through the persistence in refusing to accept arms and equipment from friendly countries which would rectify the inequality in fire power. It is in India's interest to establish friendly relations with the Chinese Nationalist Government and create conditions where our enemies would be forced to fight a war on two fronts. Instead of this, the Congress Government was refusing to sever diplomatic relations with Peking and it had been announced that India would support the Chinese Communist Government's claim to be admitted to the United Nations, thus giving aid and comfort to the enemy. These policies of the Nehru Government, which obtained only 45 per cent of the popular vote at the recent General Elections, do not enjoy the support of the people.

Not for publication:

M.R. Masani
(M.R. MASANI)