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P. Bauer

Socialist planning does not augment resources but only concentrates power. Moreover, it augments and creates power, because when decision-making is not centralised there do not exist such positions of power as are created by such planning.

The state cannot create new additional productive resources. The politicians and civil servants who direct its policy dispose only of resources diverted from the rest of the economy. It is certainly not clear why over-riding the decision of private persons should increase the flow of income, since the resources used by the planners must have been diverted from other productive public or private uses.

The governments of many underdeveloped countries are anxious to plan when they are unable to govern. They try closely to control the economy while at the same time neglect the elementary parts of government.

Making the rich poor does not make the poor rich.

Enforced present austerity does not in the least produce future abundance. Indeed the policies of current austerity tend to perpetuate it in all sorts of ways, such as reducing the supply of incentive goods, imposing heavy taxes, provoking political tension and in various other ways as well. Here also the rule applies that few measures are so lasting as those introduced as temporary.

Statement reflecting the consensus of the discussions held in Madras on December 9 and 10, 1978.

The opportunity provided by the Rajaji Centenary Celebrations in Madras on 9th and 10th December 1978 was availed of by several of the supporters of Rajaji for the last twelve years of his life to meet and compare notes on the state of the Nation.

There was unanimous agreement that the country is in bad shape and that there is wide disillusionment and disappointment in place of the jubilation of March 1977 and a dangerous vacuum was developing which could facilitate a backlash toward authoritarianism.

In this context, it was agreed that Rajaji's principles were more than ever relevant and that, unless the country adopted those principles, the outlook for India was bleak. These principles could be analysed as consisting of three main aspects:

- a. The place of Dharma in public life and the maintenance of moral standards which are notably absent in our political life today;
- b. The restoration of the Constitution of the Republic as adopted in 1950 which has been "defaced and defiled" by repeated Amendments and in particular the 24th, 25th and 42nd Amendments which, for all practical purposes, still disgrace the Statute Book;
- c. The abandoning of the continuing State Capitalist pattern involving inter alia
 - i. the dismantling of the Permit-Licence-Quota Raj,
 - ii. the dissolution of the National Planning Commission,
 - iii. the reversal of the priorities of the Second and subsequent Five Year Plans, and
 - iv. a drastic reduction in both direct and indirect taxation.

It was felt that those who found themselves in agreement with these policies emanating from Rajaji should endeavour to educate public opinion about the validity of these policies and the need for their adoption.

There is no question in the present conditions of forming a new political party. It is desirable, however, that at the grass roots levels of the town, district and state, non-party associations be set up to further these objectives. Some such local organisations already exist, such as the Rajaji Trust and Rajaji Forum in Madras, the Rajaji Foundation in Bombay, the Forum for Democracy in Orissa, the Hindustani Movement and the Indian Liberal Group. These and any new organisations

that might spring up should naturally keep in touch with one another so as to provide mutual help and encouragement.

In view of the general distaste and disgust with "politics" and politicians of all kinds, it is desirable that those who join such organisations testify to their dedication to Rajaji's principles by undertaking, as suggested by Gandhiji, "constructive work" to help different sections of the people, particularly the poorer and more backward sections, to deal with their problems and hardships and ameliorate their lot.

Among those who participated in the discussion in Madras on 9th and 10th December were:

1. Mr. I.S. Bhargava
2. Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah
3. Mr. C.R. Irani
4. Mr. Babu Joseph
5. Mr. Ajmal Khan
6. Mr. K.R. Koshti
7. Mr. G. Latchanna
8. Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
9. Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
10. Mr. Harihar Patel
11. Mr. G.M. Manjanathaya
12. Mr. M.R. Masani
13. Mr. S.S. Mariswamy
14. Mr. Madhu Mehta
15. Mr. Rajballabh Mishra
16. Mr. Girish Munshi
17. Mr. S.V. Raju
18. Mr. A.S. Nagabhushana Rao
19. Mr. Ainthoo Sahoo
20. Mr. L.R. Sampat
21. Mr. Sumatilal P. Shah
22. Dr. Y. Sivaji
23. Mr. P.S. Sridharamurthy
24. Mr. V.S. Srikumar
25. Mr. M.K. Stephen
26. Mr. K. Sundaram
27. Mr. Tribikram Tripathy

Names and Addresses of those who participated in the discussions on
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