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A man for all seasons

By N. A. Palkhivala

(The 101st birth anniversary of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari is on December 10.)

If greatness consists in the combination of character and intellect of the highest order and if it is to be measured by the lasting value of solid work done in the fields of thought and action, Rajaji was beyond question one of the outstanding men in world history.

Rajaji played many parts with great distinction and ran through the gamut of high public offices, including the highest. He was close to the heart of power for decades, but the corroding power of power left his innate simplicity and humbleness untouched.

As Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and as a Cabinet Minister at the Centre, Rajaji practised and preached true socialism. Today when we are carried away by the other type of socialism, on the cheap, which feeds on slogans and promises, and thrives on the people, it is necessary to remind ourselves of the implications of true socialism which Rajaji believed in.

Progress

True socialism means the investment of human and material resources in the imaginatively planned manner which can contribute to the vitality and progress of the nation, keep it in the mainstream of self-generating growth and development, raise the standard of living of the masses, and bring forth the maximum gifts of each for the fullest enjoyment of all.

The translation of such socialism into action demands intellect and knowledge, character and dedication. Possessing these rare attributes, Rajaji gave a truly socialist government to the people. He felt deeply for the poor without, to use his own phrase, "the condescension of aristocracy or the sense of extraordinary virtue." In an age

when "leaders do not lead the masses but are led by the masses," when the clamour is for the false, glittering political popularity which like faerie gold vanishes even at the touch, Rajaji stood as a rock in the wilderness of shifting sands.

Rajaji had a mind like a razor, his mental processes worked for decades with incredible speed and incisiveness. His towering intellect cut sharply into the heart of a matter and then with the lift and power of imagination he offered solutions for the troubled sub-continent.

Vision

The sweep of his mind was matched only by the range of his reading. His vision was almost uncanny. Gandhiji once said, "Rajaji sees at least six months ahead of me." John F. Kennedy described the impact of Rajaji on him as "one of the most civilising influences since I became President."

He had the rare gift of being able to speak to different men at different levels. He could carry conviction to intellectuals with his power of deep thought and precise expression; he could address the masses equally effectively in terms which could stir minds and hearts.

No problem was ever too big for his capacity or too small for his attention. He was a perfectionist in everything that he did. His intellectual integrity, his indomitable courage and his absolute simplicity have already passed into a byword.

However minds might veer or currents shift, Rajaji always steered by the same star, and that star was his conscience and his intellectual conviction. During the half century that he was in public life, none was ever able to overcome his iron will or rupture his sense of public duty.

Seldom has so much been packed into one human life.

Rajaji's English translations of Sanskrit classics and Tamil books on European classics are among the finest in the field.

What made him tower over the stormy scene for so long was the fact that he, the man of thought, was also a dynamic man of action. He has rarely been equalled as an administrator. He had that unfailing, uplifted mental and moral vision, combined with the art of adroit and practical management of men and affairs which is so essential for those who guide the footsteps of nations.

Generations later, this great and benignant lamp of wisdom and humanity will be remembered and revered when most of those who dominate the political scene today are totally forgotten. He carried the story of Indian independence forward into a new chapter — freedom from subjugation of Indians by Indians — the full significance of which will be realised only in the years to come.

Fervour

Not for Rajaji was the satisfaction of enjoying in placid quiet of the autumn years of his life. In him, even at the age of 93, there was the intense, unrelenting fervour to carry on with the task that can never end. Of all his great achievements, perhaps Clio will regard his achievement after the age of 80 as his greatest. Surrounded by politicians whose minds were shrouded in opaque ignorance, he once more decided to do what he had so often done in the past — blaze a new trail.

At a time, when, despite a Constitution which enshrined the highest ideals of liberty and freedom, the citizens' basic freedoms were stifled by an all-powerful bureaucracy, when a permit-quota-licence raj laid its steel claws upon the nation's economy, and corruption stalked the land, this frail man of 80 rose once again

at the centre of the national scene, and campaigned in support of true freedom.

The old world of culture and dharma, of values and decorum in public life, seemed to be doomed; but it did not lack its standard-bearer. He started a new political party. Pithy, trenchant thoughts and phrases poured from him week after week. His articles in "Swarajya" and his speeches in various States acted as a solvent of fear and despondency. In the crowded story of freedom and democracy there is no parallel to what Rajaji attempted during his last 13 years.

Mould

Perhaps no other figure in world history, at Rajaji's age and against such overwhelming odds, tried so much, dared so much, toiled so much and gave so much to his people. This man, cast in a heroic mould, sought to bring back to India the spirit of liberty, to whose defence he summoned every resource of oratory and dialectic, character and action. His message is simple — freedom cannot be inherited in the bloodstream but has to be cherished, defended and preserved by eternal vigilance and struggle.

The measure of Rajaji's stupendous contribution in the last decade lies in the quickening of the seminal forces of basic freedom, and in the momentum which he imparted to the living principles of the rule of law so that democracy and civil liberty may survive in India beyond our own times and in the days when our place will know us no more.

He restored to us our self-respect and made us realise that we do not live by bread alone and that we are greater than we know. The lustre and respect with which a grateful nation lights his memory is a measure of the ceaseless service he rendered and still more of the character he bore.

shy' way to cancer

"Cancer has become a neoplastic outgrowth of body burdens from cultural sources rather than some mysterious curse" he points out.

Prof Rajiv Upadhyay of Azarbaijegan University at Tabriz in Iran says "take honey with a pinch of salt" for researches in Iran have shown the presence of cancer-promoting factors in honey

Sometimes honey becomes toxic and produces a hot burning sensation in the mouth and the burning increases if water is consumed due to the presence of the toxic substance contained in the nectar of plants from where the bee collects honey, he says.

Spectroscopic data confirm the results.

to attend m on cancer

the symposium presided over by Dr. D. J. Jussawala, director of the Tata Memorial Centre.

The symposium is a satellite meeting to the just concluded Asian Cancer Congress and is being sponsored by the Cancer Research Institute of the Tata Memorial Centre and the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Dr. M. G. Deo director of the Cancer Research Institute gave the welcome address.

Dal's city candidates

NEW DELHI, Dec. 9.

The Lok Dal today announced the nomination of Mrs. Kamala Prasad, a sister-in-law of Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, for the Bombay South constituency.

For Bombay North-West, Mr. Bharat Parekh's name was announced by party general secretary Narendra Singh.

Mr. Hamid Vajir Tadi (Jaigaon), Mr. Joginder Bedi (Erandole), Major Prataprao Jadhav (Amravati), Mr. P. B. Raut (Ramtek) and Mr. Anna Khan Dave (Bhir) were the other names for Maharashtra.

In Pune city, Mr. Shyamkant More will contest against Mr. N. G. Goray (Janata) and Mr. Vithal Gadgil (Cong-I).—UNI.

Rural scheme a non-starter

Express News Service
NEW DELHI, Dec. 9.

Kerala Assembly poll on Jan. 21

Express News Service
COCHIN, Dec. 9.

Elections to the Kerala Assembly are to be held on January 21, provided the political parties agree to waive some of their rights.

Leaders of the parties are meeting in Delhi on January 11 when they will be told about the Election Commissioner's readiness for an early poll.

The State's election machinery is ready for the poll on January 21. The only limitation is the non-availability of sufficient number of electoral rolls, it is gathered.

It is impossible to print the rolls again within the short time available. The stocks are so limited that only 30 seats can be given to each party.

Since the rolls are not being revised for the Assembly elections, the parties can use the rolls they now have for the parliamentary elections, it is pointed out.

An early date for the elections to the State Assembly is thought of since the constitutional guarantee of reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lapses on January 26.

Cong-I candidates largest in AP

Express News Service
HYDERABAD, Dec. 9.

The Indira Congress in Andhra Pradesh will be fielding the largest number of candidates who were members of the dissolved Lok Sabha.

The list now announced includes 31 former Lok Sabha members of whom 27 were members of the Indira Congress at the time of the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Congress to have truck with League

Express News Service
NEW DELHI, Dec. 9.

Though the Congress is at loggerheads with the Muslim League in Kerala where it helped the rise and fall of a League-led Ministry, the two parties have reached an electoral understanding in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Rajasthan and some other States.

Announcing another list of candidates, Congress general-secretary N. K. Tirpude told newsmen here today that six Muslim League nominees are contesting from the UP on the Congress symbol.

The Congress list for the Uttar Pradesh released today included three members of the RPI (Gawal Group) who will also fight the election on the Congress symbol.

So far the Congress has named 25 candidates for the U.P. Mr. Tirpude said three or four more will be nominated later.

In Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, the Muslim League is not contesting any seat. But it has agreed to support the Congress candidates there three seats have been left to the League in West Bengal.

Mr. Tirpude released a list of 18 names for Karnataka including Mr. T. A. Pal, Mr. M. V. Krishnappa, Mr. B. Rachalah and Mr. Tulisidas Dasappa. He indicated that six more names would be announced later.

In Maharashtra for which 25 Congress candidates have been finalised so far, 3 seats are being left out for the CPM, 2 to the CPI, 5 to the PWP and 1 to the Nag Vidarbha Samiti.



Show G

Bags, belts, skirts, jacket them. (Who doesn't?) But is cashing in on a ripe market. Airfreight. It's the magic makes your cash register tinkle.

Our schedule: two all-cargo flights the U.K. via Europe. One to Europe and Japan. All over