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March of the nation

16/1/71

TWO

Delhi this week: SHUTTTLING LEADERS

Commenting on Swatantra Chairman Minoo Masani's walkout from the Alliance talks in Delhi on January 3, the Jan Sangh's Atal Behari Vajpayee said: "It was a tragedy of errors."

So it was, as fac's became known of how the two leaders tried to contact each other and kept shuttling between each other's houses without meeting.

It so happened that Vajpayee could not be present at the talks at 8 p.m. sharp when the SSP leaders had come in strength. Vajpayee was delayed due to his engagement in Ambala, 120 miles away.

When he reached home he was told Masani had left the meeting, visibly angry. He phoned up the Swatantra leader, but he was not at home.

Masani did not go home; he had gone to see Vajpayee at his Ferozeshah Road residence. Vajpayee was not in as he was in the Jan Sangh on Rajendra Prasad Road, half a mile away.

Vajpayee was told Masani had gone to see him. He immediately phoned his residence but the line was busy. When he got through he was told Masani had been there.

Vajpayee then rushed to Masani's place. Back home, Masani was told Vajpayee had phoned: so he rushed back to the JS leader's residence. They missed each other.

Vajpayee then joined the meeting at 6, Janpath, Nijalingappa's

house.

By then Masani had spoken to the Press. *NO*

the Keralites, had earlier rejected whe-

Personal