

The. Balitz 16/1/71

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Indoscope

ROUGH WEATHER

A TAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE'S "Nashistan, Guftan, Barkhastan" (we sat, talked and dispersed) may still prove to be the last word on the so-called Alliance of the Congo-JS-SSP-Swatantra, judging by the way they dispersed in all directions, talking in contradictions and merrily treading on each other's toes... First it was Swatantra's Masani, dripping with disappointment, complaining that the SSP's argument of "Indira Hatao" had persuaded Congress (O) leaders against a principled electoral pact... Even his followers in Bombay, Mehta and Cooper, told Morarji, on January 5, that their party could not join hands with anybody who sought an alliance with the Communists... However, 5 days later, and despite Fernandes' assertion that the SSP's participation in the front "did not preclude its alliances with the Marxists", they were back...

IN BOMBAY, the Alliance ran into rough weather as SSP's Fernandes accused Patil of being more "anti-Fernandes than anti-Indira," and as he went ahead with his campaign for the South Bombay seat, Patil and his cronies were still chorusing about their "right" over the seat... The khursi-chitkoo wailed, "I cannot go anywhere else. I have lived there for over 35 years. It will not be proper to suggest that I should make room for anybody"—some democrats are ignoring the fact that a seat is not a throne even for those suffering from a hangover of the "uncrowned" days!...

Patil's anxiety for Shiv Sena's support caught party boss Nijalingappa on the wrong foot... Gappa blithely said "the fact that the Sena opposed the Communists in the Parel by-election goes well with me" and refused to come out directly on the Maharashtra-Mysore boundary issue. To go it alone, it would be pertinent to highlight a remark made by the Jan Sangh's ORGANISER of January 9: "The two stalwarts of Indicate (Jagjivan Ram and Chavan) are preparing for another kind of confrontation within the party... This week the two made a determined bid to carve out spheres of influence... There are 118 scheduled castes and scheduled tribe seats in the Lok Sabha...."

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