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P. Masani

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BLITZ

INDIA'S GREATEST WEEKLY

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R. K. KARANJIA

Game of fools

LAUGH LOUD AND LONG, DEAR READERS. Laugh your sides out, but take care not to burst them! For we promise you even more uproarious hilarity from the Grand ("MERA NAM JOKER") Alliance, or Front, or Backside, or Stunt, or Whateveryoucallit, before the Midpoll is over and done with.

MASANI, who fathered and mothered the no-longer-Grand Alliance only to stage a pathetic walk-out from its crucial session, was right when he dismissed the Cong-O Joker-in-Chief Gappa's assurance that "we are nearer an agreement than before" as "VERY FUNNY!"

VERY FUNNY indeed was the whole strategy and conduct of this Corporation of the Clowns of Reaction at Sunday's midnight farce, even though it left poor Gappa in tears.

OVERLEAF

"MERA NAM JOKER" FRONT CRACKS UP



EH, BHAI! JARA DEKH KE CHALO! Because the Alliance has proved not only fragile but frangible, as seen in these splintered sections (l. to r.) VAJPAYEE, MASANI, MORARJI and GAPPA.

FREE...FRANK...FEARLESS...FIRST

BLITZ

Jokers' Front!

Continued From The Front Page

WE understand that allies of the Alliance manhandled one another at the meeting. Fisticuffs rose high and even shoes and chappals were displayed.

INDIRA GANDHI could not have wished for a crazier political jig-saw than such an "alliance" for a foe. IN FACT, THE ENEMY IS HELPING HER TO CERTAIN VICTORY.

PROOF is provided by the massive exodus to the New Congress from citadels of the Opposition like Gujarat and Mysore, and the crack-up of the original five-party Grand Alliance into a tripartite Mini-Front without any common policy, ideology or programme. Such is the pitiful fate of those who would block the inexorable forward march of historical forces.

SHADOWS VERSUS REALITY

TAKE the example of BKD Chieftain Charan Singh. His Lordship's pre-condition to joining this noisy racket was that he should be nominated the Prime Minister of a Shadow Cabinet of the Front even before it goes in for the election! Can you imagine a more gratuitous insult to the electorate?

LET the jokers have their Shadow Prime Minister and their Shadow Cabinet, for after all, they are merely using SHADOWS. The REALITY lies elsewhere, beyond their reach, with the Prime Minister and her radical programme-of social and economic changes.

AND it is this reality that has scared the looters and exploiters of our people and their political agents to seek refuge in the Mafia Alliance.

THAT is why they dare not make public even their "minimum common programme": for what is their programme except more exploitation of the people's labour and more loot of public wealth?

AND that is why all they could agree upon is the hollow, unprincipled, negative, rabid ONE-POINT PROGRAMME of "INDIRA HATAO" to slander, denigrate and oust the Prime Minister for her crime of seeking to provide a better life to our impoverished people.

MADHU LIMAYE himself admitted so much in his official press briefing on behalf of the Front when he confessed "at the moment, the only common programme the parties have is to bring about the defeat of Mrs. Gandhi."

INDIRA JITAO: DESH BACHAO

LET us tell the Front in plain words that our people are too wise and mature to be fooled by this kind of a game of fools. The primary function of any Opposition worth the name is to present to the electorate viable alternative policies and seek the franchise of the people for such a programme.

IT is an imperative condition of the exercise of the freedom of choice that there must be clear, comprehensible alternatives. What we now see is the operation of rival EGOS in unseemly, complicated conflicts, a confusion of personal prejudices on shameless public parade, a medley of individual and group ambitions gone berserk.

LET us repeat, our people are not going to be fooled into carrying out the dull drill of dropping pieces of paper into a closed box and leaving it to chance. An election is not a game or a lottery. THE PEOPLE HAVE A STAKE. THEIR FUTURE IS INVOLVED: They want to exercise their minds, their wills and make a genuine choice. But of this right they are being cheated.

THEY shall not be cheated by this game of fools, as the Mafia will learn at its cost on March 8. In the meantime, we call them to meet and defeat the enemy's "INDIRA HATAO!" slogan with the militant national cry: "INDIRA JITAO! DESH BACHAO!"



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