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Mid-term poll 1971

Sir, — The results have come in as a shocker to the Opposition parties, their reactions varying from Mr. Masani's graceful acceptance of the verdict, to Mr. Nijalingappa's talk of money, Russian ballot paper, etc. being the contributory factors to Mrs. Indira Gandhi's landslide victory. But, as

an Opposition party worker I would take Mr. Masani's viewpoint and gracefully accept defeat.

Looking at the massive voting in Bombay city and suburbs, I went out of curiosity to see the crowd at the Thanksgiving last Sunday at Shivaji Park. Listening to Mr. Y. B. Chavan and Mr. V. P. Naik, I heard them constantly referring to the enormous burden this has imposed on them, and their resolve to do their best.

But incongruously they never spoke of socialistic steps which they would take, but exhorted the large crowd to work hard, to increase production, and thereby the wealth of the country and then the problem of equitable distribution would be tackled. I was wondering whether I was at a Swatantra Party rally or at a 'New Congress' rally.

For saying the same thing, the Swatantra Party has been called "reactionary," "rich man's party" etc. by these socialists and today with a massive majority, and the ball in their court, they exhort people to increase production and observe discipline.

What a come-down from sloganeering to harsh economic facts!!

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Personal