

Bombay

Client: **Swatantra Party**

Subject:

Indian Express, Madras

24 DEC 1973

Rajaji: a man of compassion

By Our Staff Reporter

Mr. H. V. R. Iyengar said in Madras on Saturday that Rajaji had tremendous affection and compassion for the ordinary people of the country though he appeared to his subordinates while in office like an "intellectual machine", devoid of warmth or personal feelings and affections.

"Everything he gave to the country or wrote or spoke was basically motivated by humility and com-

passion," Mr. Iyengar said while addressing a memorial meeting organised by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Mr. Iyengar who quoted a number of instances from his close association as a civil servant with Rajaji and other eminent leaders, said history alone could correctly judge on the reservations felt by Rajaji and his utterances on issues like accepting the principle of partition of the country when it was strongly opposed, linguistic division of the country and on achieving political independence without preparing the people for it.

Mr. K. Santhanam said personal position or prestige did not matter for Rajaji. In private life, he was greater than what he was in public life. Keenly sensitive about public money, Rajaji was always scrupulous in spending it, he said.

Mr. Jerome D' Souza, who presided said Rajaji belonged to the calibre of the great Acharyas of South India. He was one of the "very greatest" of men of India, he said.

Mr. T. V. Viswanatha Iyer, Bhavan president, welcomed the gathering. M. S. Narayanaswami proposed a vote of thanks.