

14 FEB 1973

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"Rajaji opposed untouchability before Gandhiji"

By A Staff Reporter

Rajaji as a Brahmin broke bread with Harijans long before Gandhiji even thought about Harijans, Mr. H. V. R. Iengar said in Bombay on Tuesday.

The former governor of the Reserve Bank, who was giving "some reminiscences of Rajaji" at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay, said Rajaji's gesture led to his being disowned by his community.

Despite this ostracism, Rajaji insisted that the Salem water supply should be serviced by members of the Harijan community. It was later that he joined Gandhiji in the freedom struggle.

Mr. Iengar said it was Mr. C. Rajagopalachari who forecast as far back as 1921 in Vellore that swaraj would not for a long time bring a better government or happiness to the people.

The elections would sow seeds of corruption, make politicians power-mad and landlords "tyrants" where injustice to the people and poor administration would be predominant. How right he was, the speaker said.

Mr. Iengar said he met Rajaji personally in 1951 when he became home minister. "Before that we in the government used to keep fat dossiers on people like Rajaji, Gandhiji and Mr. Minoo R. Masani" (Mr. Masani was present at Tuesday's meeting).

QUIT INDIA RESOLUTION

Rajaji, Mr. Iengar said, was entirely opposed to the Quit India resolution passed at the historic AICC session at Gowalia Tank in Bombay in 1942 because he felt we should not then embarrass the British who were fighting a world war.

"I, as home secretary of the then government of Bombay, had the duty to censor mail going to Gandhiji who was on fast in the Agha Khan Villa in Poona in February, 1943, while under detention. I was curious to know what Rajaji would say to Gandhiji when he would be visiting him. We had issued instructions to the jail staff to stand at a respectful distance but within earshot of the two leaders."

"I was completely flummoxed when the report came that all they discussed was dogs. I later found out that despite their sharp political differences, they discussed the lines of mystic poet Francis Thompson's 'Hound of Heaven.' Though they differed sharply, they had respect for each other. 'This will not happen today.'"

Mr. Naval J. Ardeshir, president of the club, presided and Dr. R. C. Cooper proposed a vote of thanks.

Rajaji's house to be kept as memorial

MADRAS, February 13: The district collector of Dharmapuri had been asked to take steps to acquire the house in Thorapalli, near Hosur, where Rajaji was born, the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, informed the state assembly in his reply to the discussion on the governor's address today.

The house is to be maintained by the government as a memorial.

The chief minister said that there was some delay as the present owners had raised the price of the property. But now they had agreed to participate it for half the original price. He, however, did not mention what the price was.

Mr. Karunanidhi, referred to the plea of the opposition members to re-introduce prohibition as a permanent memorial to Rajaji, and said the DMK was also of the same view. Prohibition had been suspended as it could not be effectively implemented in the face of its relaxation in other states.

-P.T.I.



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Hon. Treasurer

March 1, 1973

Rajaji is no more. Yet he is very much alive in the Swatantra Party — the instrument he fashioned to resist dictatorship and the increasing inroads of the State into the private lives of our citizens.

The tributes that are being paid to him (including by those in authority) are evidence enough of the deep appreciation of the values he stood for and fought to the bitter end.

The Swatantra Party is determined to strive for the implementation of Rajaji's ideals.

To pay the Party's homage to him, it has been decided to hold the next National Convention of the Party on April 14 and 15 in Madras, the city where he lived, worked and died.

To honour his memory further, the Souvenir that is being issued on the occasion of the Convention will be dedicated to his memory. We propose to make it a little hand-book on Rajaji and his views on vital issues which have a lasting relevance for our country and our people.

The Convention itself promises to be a mammoth affair. Delegates from all over India who will converge in Madras will represent a wide cross-section of the population. Among them will be farmers, professionals, businessmen, industrialists, traders, middle-class white collar workers and industrial workers and trade unionists.

Past experience has proved what an invaluable medium of publicity this Souvenir offers both in terms of the nature of the readership and its wide distribution. Such Souvenirs have in the past been passed around and therefore its effective readership could well be much larger than the 20,000 copies which will be the print order.

As you are doubtless aware, the Swatantra Party has been defending the role of the Private sector and free enterprise in the economy of the country and it is our desire to project through these advertisements the achievements of private industry and trade. In fact, this would make the advertisements themselves an integral part of the Souvenir.

In view of the excellent medium that we now offer you we are confident that you will have no hesitation in booking space in our Souvenir. Apart from being a useful media, your advertisement in this Souvenir will also be, in its own way, a tribute to the memory of one of the greatest men modern India produced.

Enclosed with this letter is the Advertisement Tariff and other technical data concerning the Souvenir.

Do please fill in the form (attached) and send it back to us on or before 24th March, 1973.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. K.N. Shah
Textile Aniline & Chemical Co. Pvt. Ltd
Bombay 1.