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Memorial to Rajaji

Several suggestions have been made for an appropriate memorial to Rajaji. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has indicated that a plot may be acquired near Gandhi mantapam in Madras for this purpose. One suggestion is for setting up a political and philosophic research institution on the lines of the Harold Laski Institute. A plan for a university has also been canvassed. The former Union Finance Minister, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, has come out with a proposal which deserves to be examined. Mr. Krishnamachari feels that a lasting memorial to Rajaji would be an institution to help transmit his ideas and message to the younger generation. It need not be either a university or an institute of higher learning as such, but one which could provide an opportunity to groups of people to absorb the ideas and thoughts of Rajaji and spread them among the masses. Any memorial to Rajaji should not be exclusively orientated toward the elite but should be open to all sections. Mr. Krishnamachari has also made the point that since Rajaji, along with Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru, formed "a complex" any memorial to him should not be isolated from the other two leaders. On the other hand it should be something that would "re-vivify" the image of Gandhiji, Nehru and Rajaji. It is to be hoped that some of these points will be kept in view. In any case the memorial should be of an all-India character and as far as possible sponsored by people with the least interference from officialdom.

phone: 251424
grams: surajyam



swatantra party

national headquarters

sassoon building, 143, mahatma gandhi road, bombay 1.

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