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C. R.

The best story I know about him is this: Chakravarty Rajagopalachari when he was Governor-General of India said to Marsland Gander, an English correspondent who was interviewing him, "What funny names you English have!"

Th se were the days—a brief lull—when the Indian could make fun about his countryman, however high, without being dubbed anti-Indian.

Not today. Today you either get imprisoned or as in the case of one great cartoonist, you get elevated to the Rajya Sabha. Abu now mainly draws cartoons of Nixon!

To return to Rajaji. This was a brain, one of the most lucid of our time.

His was a heart too—a sound heart. The cardiogram showed no slithers in the 's-t segment; no marks of early scars.

He was big-hearted.

When he formed the Swatantra party and there was an inaugural meeting in Bombay, it seems a post-mortem was held. Rajaji sat at the head of the table with Minoo Masani, his P.R. boy, beside him.

Minoo was summing up press comments for the Swatantra founders or "leaders".

Minoo rattled off press comment after press comment with Rajaji attentively listening in and the High Command of the new party noting the verdict of the Fourth Estate.

Minoo had finished.

Well, almost finished. As an afterthought he added that CURRENT had produced its

usual sniping effort. 'Sniping' was the word used.

Rajaji took note. Serious note. He chipped in to say, "Minoo, I will not let you speak rudely about my editor. . . . What CURRENT says is very important to me."

This comment was not because Rajaji had written one or two articles for us but because of the similarity of views we had expressed on the concept of democracy and how its leaders should function.

Rajaji was dead right. Our editorial comment on that day proved prophetic, like much else that we have said.

Let us, therefore, pay our tribute to the man who knew our worth, a man who wrote several letters of encouragement to us during his lifetime, a man whose mode of correspondence with the Editor of CURRENT was often only a post-card.

What a man he was!

Product of our great South, he was India's first Governor-General. That he died feeling sad and frustrated at the state of his country was his countrymen's fault, not his.

Let him rest in peace while others continue with the vandalism he could not halt.