

TWO

CRITIQUE

India Will Miss Him

The last Titan of India's freedom struggle is dead. Rajaji's passing has caused a wrench to millions of his countrymen who revered him. As a political sage he was clear-sighted above most others; as a patriot he was excelled by none and equalled by few.

Rajaji, in many respects, was more closely akin mentally to Gandhiji than any other leader of that glorious generation. He shared with his guru an intense love of the people and had, like Gandhiji, a native shrewdness that enabled him to reach instantly to the heart of matters as well as see through the hypocritical self-justifications politicians employ when they try to put across ideas that are less than noble. It was but natural that this quality should have made Rajaji unpopular with some whose consciences were more flexible than his and whose championship of others was often an excuse to grab more power for themselves.

Possessed of a razor-sharp intellect, which fortunately remained intact almost to the very end of a lifetime that spanned 94 years, Rajaji was never content with catchwords. In an age where socialism was increasingly the fashion, where politicians imposed a growing burden of controls on the citizen, Rajaji courageously ploughed a lone furrow simply because he knew that the majority view would do incalculable harm to those it claimed to help and would, in the end, rob them of the freedom they had achieved after such arduous struggle.

Among his many pungent and penetrating observations, this brief comment on democracy is truly worthy of note: "A deaf government and a dumb people do not make democracy. Democracy is not just a statutory entity. A knitting together of the people's hearts makes democracy, the hearts being not of sheep but of men..." At a time when government is ever more insistent on its right to regulate people's lives and meddle in matters that do not concern it, Rajaji's observations on democracy need to be taken to heart.

If the people of India had acted when the evil was yet in its early stage Statism would have been aborted, instead of reaching a stage where it seeks to trample over the most basic rights of the people as enshrined in perpetuity in their sovereign Constitution.

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Chinese would want to honour the students is understandable, since they are helping to spread "revolution" in Asian and African countries on Mao's behalf. Arms and ammunition that Palestinian guerrillas use come mostly from China. Our intelligence agencies better wake up and investigate the quantity of Chinese

his duty with great eloquence, Without doubt he performed res the "open session". Menon, was invited to address the "conference" which lasted three days. Invited to the "conference" were "the revolutionary elements", as the conference sources stated, from Angola and Mozambique. The high priest of Pan-Arabism, V.K. Krishna Menon, was invited to address the "open session". Without doubt he performed his duty with great eloquence,