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Dependence On Govt. Machinery

MR. U. N. DHEBAR'S CRITICISM

Mr. U. N. Dhebar former Congress President, said in New Delhi on Monday that political life in the country was "gradually being woven round offices in Government" and regretted there was a belief that effective functioning was possible only through them.

"I have been confirmed in my belief that day-to-day contact with the masses based upon constructive service is the only rational answer to house-to-house communistic contact based upon hatred and animosity, with all the violence implied in it," he added.

Mr. Dhebar stressed that he owed a duty to himself and the country to implement what he believed in.

Mr. Dhebar was commenting on speculation about his holding various possible offices in the near future including chief ministership of Gujarat. He expressed the hope that "in future those who speculate about political events would bear this aspect of my views in mind. If they do so they will be sparing me a lot of embarrassment and will be indirectly strengthening my hands too."

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Mr. Dhebar said: "I have come to know that a weekly magazine has speculated about the forthcoming changes in Bombay. As a part of this speculation, it has involved my name as a possible aspirant to the office of the Chief Minister in Gujarat. A few days back a friend sent me a cutting in which I was promoted to a higher office in Delhi. My active association with the politics of the Congress involves me in those speculations. I must, therefore, explain my position to those who work on that basis."

"I am one of those who believes that the Congress has a dual responsibility to perform. It has a responsibility to give a democratic government through the parliamentary institutions to the country. It has also, as a national institution faithful to its historical mission, a responsibility to render full assistance to the nation in evolving a new socio-economic structure. It will be a sad day for the country when the nation's premier political organisation will confine its energies only to sustain the governmental apparatus neglecting the popular constructive aspect of its programme. I am clear that the Congress must have a cadre of persons whose task should be to attend to this wider aspect."

"This has been my thesis ever since independence. I have made no secret of it during my tenure as the President. I realise that there is another opinion within and without the Congress that most of the ills of the Congress will disappear if the Congress becomes a mere parliamentary organisation. I would recommend these people to study the situation in Kerala. But for the rational constructive approach, we shall have to vie with the Communists in the use of the very weapons we object and sometimes condemn. I have, however, no desire to enter into a controversy with those who believe otherwise."—P.T.I.