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LIMITATIONS OF 'J.P.'s' THESIS

Mr. Nihal Singh's Criticism

"The Times of India" News Service

JAIPUR, December 28: The 22nd session of the Indian Political Science Conference opened here today with an inaugural address by the Rajasthan Governor, Mr. Gurmukh Nihal Singh.

The Governor spoke of the "exceedingly difficult" task of safeguarding democracy in this country and called on every one to save it from such mishaps as had occurred in neighbouring countries.

He had a dig at Mr. Jaya Prakash Narain for propounding the communitarian system of government. He expressed surprise that Mr. Narain had sought "support" from such quarters as the head of a neighbouring State.

The Governor said: "We have to face realities and without being too idealistic recognise that it is not possible to recreate the old and simple economy which would suit the growing needs of the present dynamic age."

The greatest drawback of the "communitarian system," according to him was that in the most important spheres of national activity there was no provision for participation of the people. Representatives were expected to be chosen by mutual consent and matters settled by consensus of opinion or unanimity.

He continued: "History has shown that unanimity is rarely, if at all, available. People are not to be educated (under the communitarian system) in the affairs of state or the world. Political parties must cease to function. No general elections must be held. Such a distrust of the masses by an erstwhile Socialist leader who is also a believer in the essential goodness and wisdom of the people, is most surprising."

Mr. Nihal Singh said that in spite of certain defects, the parliamentary system of Government had been found in the long run to be the best in the interests of the masses. Popular assemblies alone could provide checks to the exercise of arbitrary executive authority.

The President of the Conference, Dr. A. K. Ghoshal, said the country was now pledged to adopt socialism, both in its material and spiritual content. "If democracy is not to mean the merely external institutional set-up it has to be wedded to socialism of this conception," he said.

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