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J.M. PRABHU



15, Rajaji Road,
Coimbatore-9.

18th May, 1968.

The Editor,
"Economic Times"
Bombay

Dear Sir,

Please publish the following in your "Letter to the Editor" Column.

"CRISIS OF CHARACTER"

Mr. M.R. Masani inspite of all pressure from his partymen to withdraw his resignation from the Parliamentary Board and National Executive of the Party has indeed shown a deep courage of conviction much needed these days for the maintenance of democratic processes in the country. Whether disciplinary action was taken against the five swathanthra members of Gujarat or not, Mr. Masani did extremely well in his decision. He has shown that he is not only for the party but for a principle too. That "Means" is equally as important as the "goal" and that there is no compramise with a "principle is the key note of his decision.

The larger lesson which Mr. Masani and his party heads should learn from such instances is that we are today suffering in this country from a "crisis in character". National character the basic "political multivitamin" is conspicuous by its absence. This is where congress failed. The wave of political defections which we see these-days is a sign of further deterioration. The Swathanthra Party was formed by the Founder C. Rajagopalachari from among old disgruntled congressmen. "Hate congress" and "throw the congress out" policies were adopted by the party inspite of declared Gandhian Ideals. A healthy responsive opposition to the Congress is a great need of the hour,
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(Contd.....)Page-2

but how their "hate congress" policy is going to produce the answer is every body's guess.

Mr. Masani and his lieutenants should now stop, pause and see that the party is clean swept of all such elements. They should now give the lead to the country by refusing to accept defectors from other parties until they face the electorate. If the warning from Gujarat is not heeded they will face greater troubles elsewhere.

J.M. PRABHU

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

