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LET US GO AHEAD

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY
OF
THE MARTYRS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR
FREEDOM.

"Friends, Remember we are Indians First. Let us put aside our petty differences and Interests and stand consolidated for ever. Let us put all our resources to extinguish the existing unpatriotic trend under the camouphlage "Language" Let us one and all come forward and declare at the top of our voice that we want 'Bigger and bigger zones' .

LET US GO AHEAD

(IS NOT THE AGITATION FOR LINGUISTIC PROVINCES REACTIONARY AND WILL IT NOT PUT THE CLOCK BACKWARDS?)

The important decision for the formation of the Bombay Bilingual State was taken at the Parliament in the first week of August 1956, contrary to the anticipation and expectation of the people of Maha-Gujarath. It was too great a shock for the people of Gujarath to keep up thier equilibrium, especially with their fine youth who lost their senses for all practical purposes and roamed about like mad men with the inevitable happenings of ugly scenes and incidents and rowdyism. Everyone is unhappy and sorry at this turn of events and the first week of every August will always freeze our hearts and will ever go down in the pages of our diary as a sad week.

However much ugly and unhappy and sad the incidents may appear to be, a little sober thinking will convince any one that the decision of the Parliament has been a wise one and has averted in time a greater national catastrophe in the future. Any other decision favouring Maha-Gujrath and Samyukta Maharashtra would have paved the way for another Pakistan of still worse sort, as is evident from the election report of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti, wherein prominent office-bearers of the Samyukta Maharashtra have referred to Maharashtra as an Independent nation. We, therefore while mourning for our lost brothers and for those disabled should be really thankful for being in the right path and should also decide to do our best to bring in line those who are not with us, thus trying to increase the solidarity of our nation.

Now going a little deeper it will be realised that the economic interests play a great part in moulding one's opinions as also that of the public and political opinions and upheavals. The real cause for the controversy regarding the fate of Bombay City, is also no doubt economic and

the different reactions of people from different regions are more or less dependent consciously or unconsciously on their interests in Bombay City.

Different forces have played to bring about the Bombay City to its present status. Thus in the early times all people Maharashtrians, Gujarathis, Madrasis etc. have gone to Bombay penniless to work their fortunes there. Every one of them had a start on more or less identical conditions; but different communities developed differently depending upon their natural capacities and aptitudes. And today Maharashtra being still not sufficiently developed industrially, their youths are required to move out for employment and are being absorbed in larger and larger numbers in the various industrial concerns and Government departments in Bombay City. No wonder then that the Maharashtrians wish for inclusion of Bombay City in Samyukta Maharashtra.

Under the circumstances, will redistribution of states on linguistic basis be a permanent solution or remedy? No, certainly not. It will be just a temporary patch work at the most. The real issues, remaining untackled, are sure

to manifest themselves sooner or later again and again in various naked and ugly disguises, viz. upheavals, strikes, wars, etc. Not only that linguistic propaganda if it continues to be propagated as at present, will have disastrous repercussions later, or what we are experiencing today is hardly anything compared to that in store. If this unhealthy trend of linguism is not nipped at its bud in good time, the Indian history may repeat itself in the form of wars and battles between the bordering states.

Pakistan had been till very recently our own kith and kin and are still having common interests and cultur. There are about four crores of Musllims living in our country and about eight crores in Pakistan. Unfortunately Pakistan today has created many problems and is threatening our peace by foreign backing. During pre-Indeqeudence days when late Shree Jinnha gave the call for 'Pakistan' none took him seriously and so no steps were taken to stop the agitation for Pakistan then and there only. For that slip of ours what horrors we and they have had to suffer and are still suffering? If only we had put an end to the agitations for

Pakistan at the very outset itself, would not the fate of the two contries have been a different one ?

And are we not on the verge of committing a similar mistake again, now under the garb of language and culture and thus lead the country into still worse disaster and darkness ?

It needs hardly mentioning that the citizens are the victims of their circumstances and are being carried away by propaganda a great deal and thus are not aware of the underlying currents and undercurrents or realize the pros and cons and repercussions of their acts. Today each and every commission and omission is being painted before the public as accruing from the Bigger Bilingual State and as a remedy demand for Maha-Gujarath and Samyukta Maharashtra is being made. Thus for example—

Maharashtra as yet not being industrally developed, their people are largely employed in the Government services and the Gujarathi-managed private enterprises; the aspiration of many a person has been thwarted and in his short-sightedness he feels that the Gujarathi management and the colleagues are responsible for

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the same. The Maharashtrians are as a rule are very industrious and have been brought up from their very childhood in an atmosphere of sacrifice for the welfare of his people, state, country etc. due to the influence of organization like the R.S.S. This dissatisfaction of not getting sufficient field for self expression is being exploited to the full by their respective leaders and their selfless patriotic sentiments harnessed to the slogan of 'SAMYUKTA MAHARASHTRA WITH BOMBAY CITY' under the garb of language and culture.

In Gujarath the citizens have had all along implicit faith in their veteran leaders, who gave their approval for Bigger Bombay State and in good faith of due support from the people in the interest of the country.

But however the news of nonformation of Maha Gujarath was too crude a shock and their high strung-hopes and expectations were shattered overnight. And instead of tactfully meeting out the situation with feelings, sympathy and appeal to reason, tear-gas, bullets and sermons were showered on the people, thus wounding

their sentiments more deeply and making them more irritable and touchy. No wonder this atmosphere has become a favourable media for the rapid growth of many a dormant political party.

Under such circumstances the 'Intelligentia' can play and should have really played a unique and important role by taking to the people the correct exposition of the various anomalies that encounter them in their day-to-day life and thus give the people a long range of outlook and vision and also guiding them as to how best they could work for a better deal within their own set up and in their interest of the society at large.

Thus, the intelligentia could have easily explained to the people the various factors that go to contribute for the full growth and enrichment of language and culture, viz. books, schools, universities, Courts press, papers, sufficient development of his own region economically so that the people are not required to go to another region of different language, and sufficient means leisure and background for the common man to enjoy literature and also make his own contribution.

They could have very profitably explained to the people of Gujarath that the Gujarathis are very cosmopolitan in their outlook and they have made their home very comfortably at every nook and corner of the country and it is indeed 'Ungujerathilike' to speak of "Maharashtriyakaran" and that the little advantage and gain that may be there by formation of Maha-Gujarath may be at the cost of the Gujarathi business-man settled down in other parts of the country and the development of business which is so vital to the development of the country, over and above the danger to the solidarity of the country.

Thus the intellegentia should have made their *Maharashtrian friends realize that what they are groaning under, is not peculiar to them or because of the Gujarathi Management as such, but is a universal phenomena concurrent with the industrial economy in its early stages and that including Bombay City in Maharashtra or change over of the management or the breaking up of the industrial economy will not help their lot any way, but only more and more production and fair distribution can improve the general lot.*

Again the intellegentia could have explained to the people of Saurashtra that the long delay that they are experiencing in their dealings after the merger of Saurashtra in Bombay State is mainly due the neglect of duty of the personnel—who happen to be their own kith and kin—and that lag in the devolpmental activities is more due to the general financial stingency prevalent. Then much of their bitterness towards the Bombay State would have evaporated away.

But unfortunately for us and for the country, the intellegentia keep mum saying "it is politics," "it does not concern me," "I am a government servant and cannot talk of politics," "politics is dirty," etc. etc. It seems they have not as yet got out of the spell of the imperialistic propaganda to shun politics.

If our forefathers who have died in the arena of our freedom's struggle were only to raise their heads from their graves and see what is happing under the name "Language" will surely sink low with remorse and there will be no peace whatsoever for their souls.

It is not my intention to belittle one's natu-

ral feelings for his own family, people, community, language or religion etc and I do believe it is a healthy phenomenon. But however it is my contention that as in other fields; here also the normal just slides into the abnormal very hideously and imperceptably and the line of demarcation between the normal and the abnormal is a very delicate one and maybe missed by even very experienced and seasoned people in the line. That may be probably the reason why the leadership for the linguistic citations rests upon some of our old veteran workers in the struggle for Freedom Movement. No one can doubt or question their sincerity or integrity or the amount of sacrifice and privations the leaders and their dependants have undergone and are undergoing still for the sake of our motherland. They are amongst the finest sons and daughters of our country.

But however we have to grieve with a heavy heart that the linguistic agitations have taken today an unhealthy turn and will not help to carry our country forwards.

Our sincere appeal to various leaders is that "*Looking to the larger interests of the coun-*

try as a whole please bring down the linguistic bonfire within reasonably healthy limits thought it be at a little disadvantage to the section of the people that you represent, and give the people a lead for the formation of different zones, so that at no time will ever in future the question of Linguism arise"

" Friends, Remember we are Indians first, let us put aside our petty differences and interests and stand consolidated for ever. Let us put all our resources to extinguish the existing unpatriotic trend under the csouphlage 'Language', let us one and all come forward and declare at the top of our voice that we want
" BIGGER ANIBIGGER ZONES".

Jinithri, via Sonj.

Saurashtra.

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