

tion a universal consequence of floor-crossing.

This requirement may need to be examined from many angles and then qualified and refined. But howsoever much it may have to be hedged in, it would still be safer and more effective than two of the suggestions put forward by the Research, Planning and Review Division of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. For example it would be a comparatively poor safeguard, riddled with loopholes, to prevent undue expansion of ministries for the sake of accommodating defectors. By what criteria is the optimum size of ministries to be fixed, how is a distinction to be made between expansion for reasons of genuine increase in workload and for the sake of rewarding defections, how is anyone to check other kinds of enticement which may be difficult to prove or even to detect? Not much more suitable as a deterrent to floor-crossing is the second suggestion by the Division that a Chief Minister confronted with downfall by defectors may be given the right to ask for dissolution of the legislature not only while he still has a majority but even when he may be suspected to have lost it. There is much to be said for and against this right and the recurrence of mid-term elections which its exercise would promote. But the case should be judged on its own merits, as that of limitation upon the size of ministries, not as a turnstile in the way of a floor-crossing group. Large majorities for one side or the other are perhaps a thing of the past now; the margins likely to be available will be open to erosion by a change of allegiance by no more than five or 10% of the members. To prevent them from changing over by exposing all the rest and the electorate as a whole to the risk and expense of mid-term elections is on the face of it a remedy so drastic as to be impracticable. Deterrence loses its meaning if it fails to discriminate and select, and this it clearly can if the burden of election is forced only upon those who intend to cross the floor. They themselves should be required to pay the price of their actions or convictions; to require all others to do so as a consequence would confer the powers of the blackmailer upon the unscrupulous defector.

ing Treated Y Governm —GURNAM SINGH REPRESENTATIVE

ed the statement of Mr. Bish
that deputy leader of the Con-
gress Party who pointed out that
the proposition was inopportune
that it was wrong to say that
there was no business before the
House that the taxation proposals
made in the budget speech re-
mained to be considered that the
excutive should not discuss them
was in difficulty and that the
legislature should be allowed to
function in freedom."

Mr. Gurnam Singh said he did
not agree with Governor that
the proposition would bring
stability in the State. On the
other hand it was merely a prop
to protect a minority Govern-
ment. "I had strong support for
this view in the letter written by
the leader of the Congress legis-
lature party to the Speaker con-
fiding that the Congress Party
had an absolute majority in the
House. The Chief Minister felt
insecure as a result of this letter
and to avoid his fall he has
taken your assistance."

"It is known to you as well as
to the people of Punjab that there
has been a complete breakdown
of the Constitution in the State.
Apart from the dispute on the
certification of the money bill,
you know it well how a huge
budget is carried to have been
passed within 30 minutes under
the police and when a large
number of strangers were pre-
sent in the Assembly chambers."
"It seems to me that you are
shrinking from the responsibility
of the Government of the State
under Article 356 of the Consti-
tution and therefore inside of a
breakdown of the Constitution.
You are continuing giving a
prop to the hopeless minority Gov-
ernment."

"NO RULE OF LAW"

"In view of the letter of the
leader of the Congress legislature
party your obvious duty as a
constitutional Governor is to ask
the Chief Minister to resign and
in case of his failure to comply
with it to dismiss him."
"Mr. B. N. Malhotra who just
resigned as the Industries Minister
has pointed out that there is no
rule of law in the State and the
Chief Minister direct the course
of affairs of the State. The ser-
vice all over the State are in a
state of suspense and insecurity.
Respected officers are being vic-
timized for their impartiality.
Junior officers who are yet men-
tioned in the Chief Minister are being
given punishment. Respectable
citizens are being involved in false
cases."
"Singh, President of
the Provincial Congress
Committee, has
evidently to recall in
these