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C.C. Desai file

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A piquant situation has arisen in Gujarat with the surprise adjournment sine die by the Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly on a motion moved by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs immediately after the passing of the Appropriation Bill but before the Finance Bill which gives effect to taxation measures, could be considered and passed into law. The moral is obvious. Mr. Nitendra Desai and his government are not sure of their position inspite of their boasts of majority or stability. This was clearly proved by the result of the Rajya Sabha elections held on that very day when the four seats from Gujarat went equally to old Congress and to the combined Opposition. Government's third candidate failed miserably even though support was invoked in the name of Scheduled Tribes. It is learnt the Government is now trying to have the Assembly prorogued by the Governor so that there can be no trial of strength on the floor of the House which is the basis of our democracy. All this is being done by Shri Nitendra Desai, the so-called champion of democracy and discipline, presumably with full support from leaders of the old Congress sitting in New Delhi. People will not easily forget how Shri Nitendra Desai voted for disciplinary action against the Prime Minister during the Congress crisis last year and yet the same gentleman would not take disciplinary action against his members when a poor Adivasi, did not get even the allotted number of first preference votes which all went to the other two candidates who are obviously the favourites of the old Congress. It is for Adivasis and Harijans to consider whether after this experience and treatment, they should remain in the old Congress party or whether they should join hands with Swatantra and the opposition parties who mobilised all their strength to see an Adivasi elected with their support in preference to many candidates who are claiming the privilege of election to Rajya Sabha. By getting the House adjourned or prorogued, Shri Nitendra Desai may put off the evil day; but it remains to be seen how long he will be able to defy public opinion or the will of democracy. Nomenia will come sure and certain, sooner rather than later. Meanwhile, reports from Ahmedabad indicate that resentment against Government's action is spreading even beyond the precincts of the Legislative Assembly and that Government is being condemned by all and sundry, including even big industrialists, who only the other day went out of their way to dabble in politics and issued a statement supporting the old Congress against the attacks by Swatantra and opposition parties. The Swatantra Party will no doubt take note of these antics on the part of Gujarat industrialists.

Mr. Nitendra Desai

Message

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SWATANTRA P.P.