

Dear Reader

AS THE INTERNATIONAL world has shaped itself, there is no escape for Kremlin from its responsibility to intervene in the Pakistan struggle quickly to bring about a peaceful settlement. The responsibility results from its power and fortunately there is no popular isolationism curbing the Government in Moscow such as Nixon has to face in America. If the US and the UK help Kremlin, so much the better; but Moscow cannot wait for the Western Powers to make up their minds. Every day lost by Kremlin is a day lost to the advantage of China which, it appears, is playing a double game helping West Pakistan to put down the Bangla Desh movement and at the same time encouraging Bangla Desh people to keep up their revolt. It is perilous to allow more time to be lost.

I HAVE READ the sorry tale which Sri M. R. Masani has presented to the Swatantra Party's General Council for consideration at its meeting in Bombay. It is the sad story of how all his attempts to bring into existence a consolidated democratic opposition to the ruling power in New Delhi failed. Before this issue of SWARAJYA will be printed and be available to the public, the Swatantra Party Council will have come to conclusions which will be given to the press. Failure in any good attempt is no disgrace. The effort was our duty and the result is not our fault. The Swatantra Party's mission remains and can be summed up briefly. It is: one, to fight against the totalitarian tendencies at the top and to defend the Constitution, and, two, to educate the people out of the ignorance of economic laws that rule production and out of the tendency among people, educated as well as uneducated, to vote for those in power irrespective of whether they deserve support or not. Both tasks are difficult but we have undertaken these difficult tasks and we must persevere undaunted to justify our existence. The Swatantra Party cannot seek to justify itself by any

form of me-too-ism in the hope of acquiring power. Other parties may follow such a line. So far me-too-ism has not brought and is not likely to bring any power to those who practise it. A party which is dedicated to truth and to educating the electorate cannot follow that line. It would be better to wind up, if that be the only way to maintain the party's existence and leave the nation to learn by going through the calamities that totalitarian rule will lead to. A nation can learn through calamities, but the Swatantra Party's mission is to save the nation from such suffering.

THE PRESENT Government is taxing the rich even at the cost of greatly reducing the incentive for saving and investing. The rich, even so, are few and the poor to be uplifted by this means are millions. The attempt, therefore, hurts production besides being futile. To tax people to get the favour of any group of officials or others and to seek to help the poor by creating paper money to fill the gaps created by deficit financing brings about, not socialism, but inflation and soaring prices, which more than offset any benefit that is given.

THE CHIEF MINISTER of Tamil Nad has done well in strongly objecting

to the erection of new buildings in the Island ground of Madras. He has given good reasons for his objection. He will find from old files that a proposal to construct the Reserve Bank Building in the Island ground was given up by the Central Government for the same reason that he has now rightly pressed, viz., the way in which the Island ground serves the health of the city. A great deal of mischief to the health of the city has already been perpetrated by the erection of various tall buildings keeping off the sea breeze from cleaning up the city atmosphere. The Island ground should be saved at any cost for the sake of the health of the city.

THERE IS MUCH speculation in the press as to who should undertake the Presidency of the Old Congress. It may not be misconstrued as impertinence on my part if I suggest that the best choice will be Smt. Sucheta Kripalani. She is qualified for that position by virtue of her experience and her personal status among our leaders. Sri Nijalingappa should be left free to do his best for Mysore now instead of being burdened with the very heavy task of setting the Old Congress in order throughout the country in addition to the work which Mysore rightly expects of him at present.

C.R.

