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P. V. Narayana

A message from Rajaji to the National Executive and General Council meetings in Bombay:

Nacroji Road,
Chetput,
Madras-31.

14th April, 1971

I have read the sorry tale which Sri M.R. Masani has presented to the Swatantra Party's General Council for consideration. 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. Failure in any good attempts 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 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.

Sd/-
C. Rajagopalachari