

DECEMBER 16, 1960.

'EFFECTIVE THINKING IS IMPOSSIBLE'

Sidhanta Attacks Politics In University Community

From Our Staff Correspondent

LUCKNOW, Dec. 15.

PROF. N. K. SIDHANTA, Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, said here today that the attraction and excitement of political fights was disruptive of the harmony among the youth community.

Prof. Sidhanta, who was addressing the annual convocation of Lucknow University, added that when group loyalties and party allegiances clash in the university community, the atmosphere is fouled; in the fog which is generated effective thinking is impossible; persuasive communication of ideas is completely ruled out.

"Matters become worse", he continued, "when the teachers, like the students, are ranged under different flags and instead of a homogeneous community we have a conglomeration of splinter groups."

Prof. Sidhanta said it was contended that in a democratic republic, based on adult franchise, the intelligentsia, including youth, could not be kept out of active politics and fed merely on political theories and that participation in political fray was part of the training for life.

"To this", he added, "our reply is that the students come to the universities with the definite purpose of intellectual advancement. This is secured not simply by following a set curriculum but through various co-curricular activities as well. Active party politics cannot be described as one of these activities."

IMPRESSIONABLE AGE

Prof. Sidhanta pointed out that two facts to be kept in mind in this context were: one, "the age at which the undergraduate enters the university and the period for which he resides there"; and, two, "the atmosphere of political struggle, which is clouded not by ideologies but by personal bickerings and jealousies leading to a good deal of heat, resulting in the rousing of some of the worst passions of man."

He added: "The period of two years for which one studies for a degree is all too short and introduction of too many outside activities would lead to a complete neglect of academic work."

Prof. Sidhanta observed that the present day fraternity in the university was far from what it was expected to be, and said: "We have travelled a long way from the ancient hermitage where the teachers and students lived together and shared common ideals. Education developed through the interaction between the matured character of the teacher and the still unformed mind of the pupils."

"In a residential university we had hoped for a modern approximation to these conditions, but as the residential character has been gradually whittled down the communion of thought has become less effective and the transmission of the power of the spirit grown progressively weaker."

FALLEN PRESTIGE

"The teacher, he continued, 're-

Sampurnanand Backed Gupta As Successor

From Our Staff Correspondent

LUCKNOW, Dec. 15.—Dr. Sampurnanand, former Chief Minister of U.P., had nominated Mr. C. Gupta as his successor as early as 1957.

Mr. Gupta revealed this at a reception held in his honour by the citizens of Lucknow.

Mr. Gupta said that Dr. Sampurnanand had written to him on the eve of the last general elections that within three months of the elections, he would resign and get him (Mr. Gupta) elected leader of the party.

The plans of Dr. Sampurnanand, however, misfired owing to the unexpected defeat of Mr. Gupta in his home constituency. Dr. Sampurnanand again prevailed upon the Congress High Command, and during the Gaubati session of the A-ICC, he succeeded in getting nomination for Mr. Gupta to contest a Vidhan Sabha seat from Mauddaha in the Hamirpur district. Mr. Gupta was defeated in this election too.

This second defeat of Mr. Gupta seemed to bring about postponement of Dr. Sampurnanand's plan for another five years, not because Dr. Sampurnanand had changed his mind but because the Congress High Command was reluctant to give Mr. Gupta ticket for a third time.

MAN-EATER STRIKES TERROR IN ALMORA

From Our Correspondent

NAINITAL, Dec. 15.—A man-eater has struck terror in the Bichla Chaukote area of the Almora district, according to a report received here.

The man-eater, has already killed four persons, including two girls, the report said.

Another tiger is said to be terrorising the Naini Jageswar area. It has taken a toll of several heads of cattle.

CONGRESS NOMINEE WINS

From Our Correspondent

JAGADHRI, Dec. 15.—Mr. Brij Raj (Congress) has been elected vice-president of the Chhachrauli Municipal Committee.

He defeated Mr. Bameshwar Das, a Praja Socialist nominee.

Sukhadia I Statistician

...the... of... and... position... which he is... The... that the teacher has... the status of the politician... the affluence of the business... graduate.

"The magnetism of his personality has disappeared and he thinks that the farther he keeps away from the students the better it is for both parties. The outcome is a complete lack of respect for teachers and absence of concern for the academic standards."

Prof. Sidhanta, who was associated with Lucknow University for many years, recalled the aims with which the university was started and said that "it was to be residential with its activities not confined simply to class-rooms where the aspirants for a degree congregated for a few hours every day."

"Today after the lapse of years", he said, "I may be investing the past with a halo of non-existent glory and those of my old colleagues and students who are present here will excuse my belief that even if we did not achieve all that we set out to do, something fresh emerged out of those efforts and the people spoke of a new atmosphere."

"How is it", he asked, "that the process of evolution was never completed and after a decade or so the workers were conscious first of being static and then of retrogression?"

Prof. Sidhanta pointed out the reasons immediately noticeable and said that "the unitary character of the university has been diluted through the emergence of associated, if not affiliated, colleges. The residential character has disappeared to a great extent as only a small percentage of students live in the hostels."

OVERCROWDING

"One finds that here, as elsewhere, the provision of additional teachers, class-rooms, play-grounds and residential accommodation has not kept pace with the increase in enrolment. For the latter, numerous reasons may be assigned, the main being the widening of the base of education with larger numbers at primary and secondary schools", he said.

He also pointed out that overcrowding in the institutions of higher education had meant crowded class-rooms, deterioration in the teacher-pupil ratio and altered methods of instruction. The residential idea, therefore, had to be modified if not abandoned.

"Congregation of a few hundred students in a compact area is desirable but not of a few thousand students who come from varied strata of life and have different aims and ideals", he said.

Prof. Sidhanta advised the new graduates of the university to have "patience and perseverance", with the spirit of fair play and consideration for others, and move forward with the firm confidence that "the best is yet to be, the last of life for which the first was made".

DEFENCE ARGUMENTS IN AMBALA CASE-END

AMBALA, Dec. 15.—Ranbir Singh Sehgal, accused in the case for alleged conspiracy to kill the top leaders of the ruling party, today closed his defence after the court, Mr. Pritam Singh Pattar, Additional Sessions Judge, recorded the statement of Mr. Surinder Mohan, path moharrir, police station Chhachhauri, as the solitary defence witness.—PTI.

THE Chief Minister of Rajasthan, said here today that aspects of socio-economic life available at village and block implementation of the democratic decentralisation scheme.

Mr. Sukhadia, who was inaugurating the 9th annual conference of Central and State statisticians, said that they would have to consider what repercussions decentralisation was likely to have on the system of collecting statistics for rural areas especially after village institutions were entrusted with the responsibility of revenue collection.

About 125 economists and statisticians from all over the country will discuss for five days various matters relating to statistics.

The Chief Minister said that in the wake of rapid industrialisation of the country, a rapid flow of industrial statistical data had become essential for proper planning at State level and delays as such, he felt, would hamper and retard the programme.

He, therefore, pleaded that so States might be asked to transmit statistical data to the Centre for further processing but "primary collection" of such data should be the responsibility of the States.

Mr. Sukhadia stressed the need for having only people with requisite background and proper training to handle the job of statisticians.

He said that if "unscrupulous and incompetent hands" were allowed to deal with statistics, they would create an impression that "what statistics reveal is interesting and what they conceal is vital".

The Chief Minister appealed to statisticians to work out ways and means to improve both coverage and quality of agricultural statistics at least up to the regional level in the first instance.

He said that time lag in the release of agricultural statistics was something "far too long" and it should be reduced to the minimum.

Mr. P. C. Mathew, Director of Central Statistical Organisation New Delhi, in his presidential address urged statisticians to go a little beyond their tables and explain to people the importance and implications of statistics and also submit their suggestions in matters of framing policy.

They should, he said, take interest in studying problems of administrators more intimately and sympathetically.

Mr. Mathew said that as power was now vested with the people, statisticians in this country would have to furnish to the people reliable, honest and scientific statistics. He was happy that importance of statistics was now being appreciated in official and non-official circles.

POLLING STATION NEAR SIKAR ATTACKED

From Our Staff Correspondent

JAIPUR, Dec. 15.—When informed of his defeat in the panchayat election in the village of Dhan Jaitwar in Sikar district, a candidate attacked on the polling station with about 200 of his supporters and belaboured the newly-elected sarpanch.

The polling officer rushed to adjacent room with ballot boxes and locked them up. The men forced its entry into the room and took away ballot boxes and papers.

Some persons have been arrested.