

Swatantra Party

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"The events of the last two months have shown that the Congress Party is in a state of active disintegration and that the Kamraj Plan, because of the distorted manner in which it has been implemented, has only brought to the surface the disruptive forces that have been burrowing underground," said Mr. M.R. Masani, General Secretary of the Swatantra Party, addressing the Lions Club of North Bombay on "India After Two Months of Absence Abroad" this evening.

Mr. Masani continued: "The night of long knives, which is the fight for the succession, has already started. The real issue between the Prime Minister and his domestic critics is not that of socialism as he seeks to make out. That is a red herring. The retiring Finance Minister had shown no reluctance to introduce such socialist measures as the Super Profits tax, the Gold Control Order and the Compulsory Savings Scheme, which had incurred the people's wrath. The real issue is whether the authentic Congress leadership is to continue or whether crypto-communists like Mr. Krishna Menon are to be allowed to reduce India to the position of a Soviet satellite. While Shahjehan is still alive, the fellow-travelling Aurangzebs, with the support of the present Shahjehan, are trying to get the rightful heir-apparents, the Daras, out of the way".

The speaker described as a crying shame the intention of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to preside over a public meeting to be addressed on November 14 by Mr. Krishna Menon, that guilty man who was responsible for our country's defeat and with whom no patriotic person should wish to appear on the public platform.

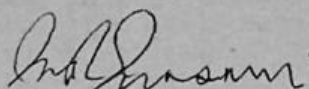
While there were obvious dangers to the country in the move of communist fellow-travellers to infiltrate the Congress, Mr. Masani said that on balance the current developments were to be welcomed as they provided the Indian people with an opportunity to be educated and awakened to the plight to which the country had been brought by the present government in Delhi. The attempt of the Prime Minister to protect those who were guilty of misbehaviour like Mr. K.D. Malaviya and Mr. Pratap Singh Kairon raised the question whether, so long as Mr. Nehru, who represented the dead hand of the past, remained Prime Minister, the country could hope for clean and efficient government.

The shocking disclosure made by the Hong Kong correspondent of the Times of India that the Prime Minister had given a secret assurance to Chou En-lai that the Indian army would not move back into NEFA showed that the cowardly appeasement of the Chinese Communists still continued.

The speaker welcomed the evidence of some sense of realism to be found in recent pronouncements of economic policies by government spokesmen. "The Prime Minister in his new found zest to give priority to agriculture over large scale industry and the new Finance Minister in his correct emphasis on incentives to increased production have started to talk like members of the Swatantra Party," said Mr. Masani.

Recalling that the Prime Minister had attacked him on the floor of Parliament as recently as the end of August for the same things as he was now saying himself, Mr. Masani sounded a note of caution: "Before we rejoice at this change of heart, let us watch the actions of Government. If they mean what they say, they must withdraw the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, abandon the mad plans of putting up four more steel plants in the State sector and reduce oppressive taxes. Otherwise, all this talk may only prove to be a move to sooth public indignation voiced in the recent by-elections and to lull people into a false sense of security .

Not for publication:



(M.R. Masani)
General Secretary.