



WELCOME
HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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PREFACE

As per the Constitution, the Vice-President of India is also the *ex officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. This constitutional provision has indeed enhanced the dignity and prestige of the Rajya Sabha. Since its inception in 1952, the Rajya Sabha has had many illustrious personalities who have occupied the august office of the Chairman. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the first Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, was a great philosopher and statesman. He has had the distinction of being the Chairman of Rajya Sabha twice. He subsequently adorned the office of the President of India. After him, Dr. Zakir Husain, an eminent educationist, became the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. He was also subsequently elected as the President of India. The third Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri V.V. Giri, had a rich and varied background as an eminent administrator, statesman as also a famous labour leader. He later rose to become the President of India. Dr. Gopal Swarup Pathak, who succeeded Shri V.V. Giri was an esteemed jurist and a legal luminary, known for his integrity and probity. After Shri Pathak, the august office of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha was occupied by Shri B.D. Jatti, a distinguished administrator, prominent public personality and a renowned social and political worker. He also acted as President of India. Shri M. Hidayatullah, the great jurist and the former Chief Justice of India, was the sixth Chairman of Rajya Sabha, who also acted as President of India. Shri R. Venkataraman, an able and experienced administrator, who later became the President of India, was the seventh Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma was a scholar of eminence and an able administrator. He was the eighth Chairman of Rajya Sabha and later became the President of India. Shri K.R. Narayanan, the ninth Chairman of Rajya Sabha was hailed as a man with wide social sympathy and excelled as an original thinker, statesman, scholar, educationist and diplomat. He later adorned the office of the President of India. Shri Krishan Kant who succeeded Shri Narayanan and became tenth Chairman of Rajya Sabha, was a freedom fighter and a prolific writer. He passed away on 27 July 2002 while still in office. Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, an agriculturist having vast legislative and administrative experience, became the eleventh Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the present Chairman of Rajya Sabha, is a distinguished diplomat, an eminent academician and an ardent advocate of the cause of the minorities.

All of them have enhanced the dignity of the House by conducting its proceedings with judicious combination of firmness, fairness and flexibility. With their erudition and skillful management of the House, they have

remarkably guided the Rajya Sabha in its deliberations and laid down healthy parliamentary traditions, thus securing a unique place for the Rajya Sabha in our democratic polity. They have ensured that Rajya Sabha plays its role, as carved out for it in the Constitution of India, with efficiency and with a determination to secure public good. The role of the Chairman is thus of critical importance in strengthening democratic edifice. Upholding the tenets of justice, equality and fairness, the Chairman ensures that meaningful and substantial deliberations take place in the House without any hindrance or obstruction. While conducting the proceedings of the House as Presiding Officer, the Chairman has to perform the most delicate and vital functions in protecting and balancing the rights of all sections of the House in non-partisan and impartial manner, which is essential for successful functioning of parliamentary democracy. In current political scenario, his task has become more onerous and challenging in the context of the multi-party chamber and formation of coalition Government. This publication is a compilation of the felicitations offered to the Chairmen of Rajya Sabha in the House, and also the Chairmen's response to the felicitations. The speeches contained in the publication have been edited and the portions of the speeches which are not directly linked with the felicitations offered have been removed. The readers are, therefore, advised to see the relevant debates of Rajya Sabha to get the authentic version of the speeches made in the House and the interjections made by the Members. The publication brought out in 1996, has been updated by incorporating the felicitations offered to late Shri Krishan Kant, late Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari when they came to occupy the Chair of the Rajya Sabha in 1997, 2002 and 2007 respectively.

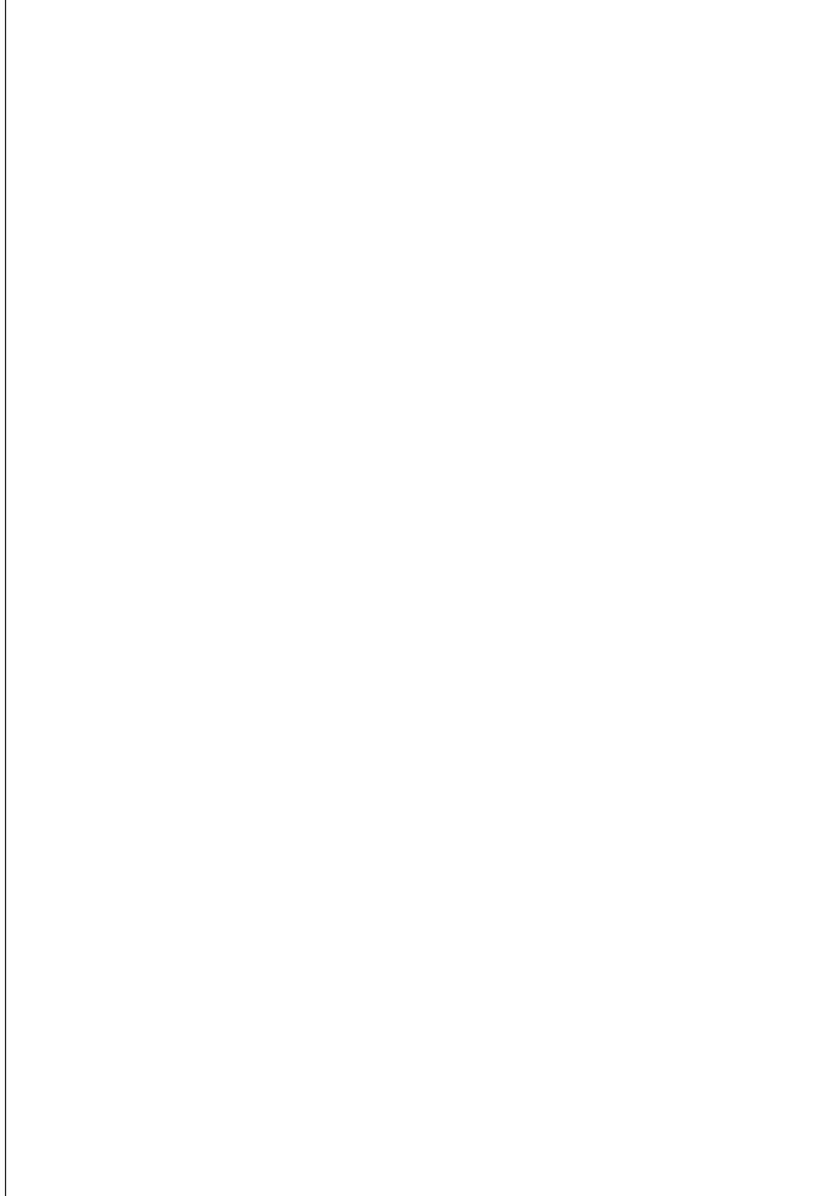
I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts made by the officers and staff of the LARRDI Service of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, for preparing the manuscript of this publication. Printing and Publications Service of the Secretariat also deserves appreciation for checking the proof of the manuscript and coordinating with the printer and bringing out the publication in its final shape in a record time.

I hope this publication would provide a glimpse of the dynamic role which the Chairman of Rajya Sabha performs as the Presiding Officer of the House. I am sure that those interested in the functioning of our parliamentary institutions will find this publication useful and interesting.

New Delhi;
April 2012

DR. V.K. AGNIHOTRI
Secretary-General;
Rajya Sabha.

**FELICITATIONS
TO
HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN**



DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN

(5.9.1888–17.4.1975)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(13.5.1952–12.5.1957, 13.5.1957–12.5.1962)

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan : A profile

RADHAKRISHNAN, DR. SARVEPALLI: M.A., D. Litt. (Hony.), LL.D., D.C.L., Litt. D., D.L., F.R.S.L., F.B.A., Hony. Fellow, All Souls College (Oxford), Vidyachakravarti, Pour Le Merite (Germany); s. of Shri S. Veerasamiah; b. September 5, 1888; m. Shrimati S. Sivakamma; 1 s. and 5 d.; King George V Professor of Philosophy, Calcutta University, 1921-39; Vice- Chancellor, (i) Andhra University, 1931-36 and (ii) Banaras Hindu University, 1939-48; Indian Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to U.S.S.R., 1949-52; President/Chairman, (i) Indian Philosophical Congress, 1927 and 1950, (ii) Executive Board, UNESCO, 1948, (iii) University Education Commission, Government of India, 1948-49, (iv) UNESCO General Conference, 1952-54 and 1958 and (v) Buddha Jayanti Committee, 1956; Author of, (i) Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore, (ii) Reign of Religion in Contemporary Philosophy, (iii) Indian Philosophy 2 Vols., (iv) The Hindu View of Life, (v) An Idealist View of Life, (vi) East and West in Religion, (vii) Kalki or the Future of Civilisation, (viii) The Religion We Need, (ix) Gautama the Buddha, (x) Eastern Religions and Western Thought, (xi) India and China, (xii) Religion and Society, (xiii) Education, Politics and War, (xiv) Bhagavadgita, (xv) Dhammapada, (xvi) The Principal Upanishads, (xvii) East and West: Some Reflections, (xviii) Recovery of Faith, (xix) A Source Book of Indian Philosophy, 1957, (xx) The Brahma Sutra, (xxi) Occasional Speeches and Writings, and (xxii) Articles on Indian Philosophy in Encyclopaedia Britannica; Recipient of Bharat Ratna, 1954; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 13.5.1952 to 12.5.1957 and 13.5.1957 to 12.5.1962; President of India, 13.5.1962 to 12.5.1967; Died. Obit. on 25.4.1975.

Felicitations offered to Dr. Radhakrishnan on 16 May 1952

The Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, during the last two or three days we have been engaged on various ceremonials in this House and in the other House. Members have taken the pledges and oaths of service. It is right that we should go through these ceremonials; they have a definite meaning. And now we start, in both these Houses, on our real work. Before we do so, with your permission, Sir, I should like to say a few words, not of congratulation to you on occupying this high office, but rather of congratulation to the House that we have the privilege of having you here to guide the deliberations of this House as well as, if I may say so, to help us in a multitude of ways in another high capacity.

We are both old and new in this country and in these Legislatures. We have, I suppose, some fund of old experience and wisdom, if not in each individual, at least in the corporate sense. Nevertheless we face new situations and new problems, and the world itself rapidly changes, and it is not an easy matter to keep pace with those changing events either in our own country or in the world. At such a moment one requires many things. One requires some roots in our ancient wisdom and experience of a race through thousands of years; one requires at least as much a certain capacity to understand this changing world, to understand its new problems, to adapt ourselves to them: in other words, to interpret the fundamentals of wisdom in a new environment and for the new demands of the situation. I doubt if one can easily think of any other individual who combines those two great qualities in himself more than you do, Sir, because you bring to this great task an intimate knowledge of the wisdom of our race, or the accumulated experience of our race—call it what you will. You bring also an intimate knowledge of the modern world and its movements and its problems.

You have occupied high positions in many fields. You are an educationist; you are a philosopher; and you have been, recently, a diplomat; and in that particular position also you distinguished yourself and did great service to this country, and, if I may say so, you contributed somewhat to that vast problem of today, perhaps the overriding problem of today—the maintenance of peace in the world.

Therefore, Sir, you come to us with this background and experience and insight and knowledge of affairs in the East and the West, in the past and the present, and with some vision of the future, and I do not think our country could have been more fortunate than to have you in this high position. Therefore, I beg with all respect to congratulate you on having come to this high position, and to congratulate this House and Parliament in general and the country that we have the privilege of having you there.

Shri P. Sundarayya: Mr. Chairman, we on behalf of the Communist Party of India who have been elected by the representatives of the people in the State Assemblies and who are present here congratulate you. We are glad that you are occupying this Chair, because you have won the confidence of not only the Congress Party but of all other democratic parties in the country, which has been shown in your unanimous election as the Vice-President of India. We have been following your multifarious activities in the interests of the country, first as an educationist and philosopher, and later as the Ambassador of India in the Soviet Union, our great neighbour. We are glad that you represented our people and our great country and explained to the whole world that we, Indian people, are for maintaining world peace. You have rendered a great service, and we feel pleasure and pride that you are presiding over this House. We hope and we are confident that you will see that the deliberations of this House are conducted properly and the privileges of this House are maintained.

Shri C. G. K. Reddy: Sir, I have the greatest pleasure in associating myself on behalf of the Socialist Party with the sentiments that have been already expressed. I should have thought that it would not have been necessary to congratulate you because the whole country has in fact congratulated you in the sense that you have been elected to this high office unanimously. All the same, I should like to express on behalf of the Socialist Party our congratulations and we are sure that as the Chairman of this House, you will be able to—and I hope that you will—maintain the dignity of this House and control the deliberations in such a way that every section of opinion and every section of the Members present here would be able to express themselves, so that this House would set standards of dignity and decorum, probably a little higher than those of the Lower House.

Shri B. C. Ghose: Sir, on behalf of the K.M.P. Party* I should like to associate myself fully with the glowing tributes that have been paid to you by the Prime Minister. You will permit me to recall with a thrill the occasion when as a student in the London University I had the privilege of hearing you in the London University where a large number of students attended and loudly applauded you. Coming from West Bengal, I also take special pride in the fact that you were long associated with the Calcutta University

* Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party.

as the Professor of Philosophy there. It is extremely fortunate that we have you here as our presiding officer, for, I am certain that we shall have justice with an even hand and that we shall carry on the deliberations of this House under conditions which would move justice and equity to every section of this House.

Shri H. D. Rajah: Sir, I am extremely happy that the Prime Minister has congratulated you today. The point is that we have been here for the last four days and you have been elected to this honoured place by a unanimous choice inasmuch as the other parties in this country did not set up a candidate to oppose you. That itself shows that the entire nation looks upon you, not as a party man, but as a custodian of the rights and interests of the people in the country. As a great philosopher who is truly Indian, whose outlook is Indian and who will conduct and guide us in the true Indian spirit, so that the people who speak multifarious languages, who are of multifarious sub-races, who are in every aspect Indian to the core and whose culture and civilisation are deep-rooted for centuries in this country, and as an honourable and great citizen of our country, we look to you to guide the deliberations of this House in the true Indian style and tradition. With these few words I congratulate you, Sir, on this high office to which you have been elected and I hope that you will mete out fairness and justice to all the Members of this House.

Shri S. Mahanty: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Ganatantra Parishad may I join with others in paying my tributes for the high office that you have been elected to? May I say that in your achievements probably you are the nearest approximation to the Philosopher-King of Platonic ideal? To my reckoning, Sir, the sole purpose of this House is to bestow a certain amount of objective thought on the deliberations and legislations of the House of the People, who being directly elected, probably are subjective to a greater extent and therefore to my mind, Sir, none could have been better able than your esteemed self to preside over the deliberations of this great House where impassioned objectivity should be the guiding principle. With these humble words, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

Janab M. Muhammad Ismail Saheb: Sir, on behalf of the Muslim League Party I wish to say that though I happen to be the only Member here of the Muslim League Party, my words are all the same as earnest as earnestness can be in the matter of congratulating you. I have great pleasure in associating myself with the words of praise that have fallen from the mouths of the previous speakers. Sir, you as a great educationist, a philosopher and a diplomat, have rendered distinguished service outside the field of Legislatures of the country and it is really our great good fortune that we have been able to secure your high services in the field of Legislature, particularly for guiding the deliberations of this august House. It is really congratulating ourselves, as was said by the honourable

Prime Minister, and not so much a matter of congratulating you. Sir, I join the others in the proud privilege of tendering our heartfelt praise to you and heartfelt thanks for securing your services for guiding the deliberations of this honourable House.

Shri S. Banerjee: On behalf of the Forward (Marxist) Bloc, I join my voice with the chorus of encomiums that have been showered upon you. Sir, congratulating you is superfluous. It is like painting a lily. You, Sir, are a philosopher and a statesman. You possess the wisdom of the past, the knowledge of the present and a vision of the future. We hope and trust that with that vision you will raise the dignity of this House before the world as it deserves and I am sure you will hold the balance even between all the parties and groups and the rights of the minorities will not be neglected at your hands. With these few words, I congratulate you once more and thereby congratulate ourselves.

Shri H. N. Kunzru: Mr. Chairman, the House is particularly fortunate in having you to guide its deliberations, for who could have believed a few months ago that you would agree to occupy the position for which you have been unanimously chosen? Our Constitution provides for the election of a Vice-President and so seeks to resemble the Constitution of the United States of America. But there is a vast difference between the position of the Vice-President in India and that of the Vice-President in the United States. While in the United States the Vice-President may be called upon in an emergency to take the position of the President permanently, here the permanent work of the Vice-President is to be the Chairman of the Council of States and he will only incidentally be called upon to act as the President of India for a short period, should an unfortunate emergency compel him to do so. Here he is the Chairman of the Council of States. It would be more correct to say that the position according to our Constitution is that the Chairman of the Council of States is asked to act as the President of India when that position falls vacant. In the United States, however, the Vice-President is asked to preside incidentally over the Senate. Your experience and wisdom, I should have thought, would have been used for greater purposes more beneficial to the nation. We, however, are glad that a person of your eminence and of your ripe wisdom has been chosen to guide us in the work that we shall be called upon to do. As the Prime Minister has said, you combine in yourself the best that the East and the West have to offer. We could not have made a better choice. I am, therefore, very glad that, although you will not have many opportunities of utilising your grasp of fundamental principles and your knowledge of the modern world for the good of the nation, a person of your exceptional qualifications will guide us in the initial stages. I congratulate you also, Sir, on your modesty in having agreed to act as the Chairman of this Council.

Principal Devaprasad Ghosh: Sir, I have much pleasure in associating myself with the very proper chorus of congratulations that have been

showered upon you, and upon this great House on its great good fortune in having a man of your stature and calibre to guide its deliberations.

Speaking on behalf of the Jana Sangha, an organization that cherishes the noble ideals of Indian culture, I welcome you all the more, Mr. Chairman, as our Vice-President, as you are an embodiment of Indian culture. We are on the threshold of a great era. But India stands at the present moment, despite the traditions of her hoary culture and civilization, in a state most perilous and dangerous. In fact, she is in danger of being swept off her feet by the impact of alien cries and crazes. In the midst of this slippery slope on which India stands today, the presence of a man like yourself, standing like a rock of Indian cultural traditions, is a great solace and inspiration to us all.

I hope, Sir, you will not take it amiss if I strike a more particularistic, or if I may say so, parochial or provincial note. I come from Bengal, and I make bold to say that if Madras claims you as her son, Bengal claims you as her foster-son. Mother Bengal is proud to have such a distinguished foster-son of hers in the present high position that you have been called upon to occupy. The Calcutta University to which I have the honour to belong looks upon you as one of its ornaments. In fact, up till now, whatever situation providence has called upon you to fill, there has been no situation that you filled but did not adorn; and I am sure and confident that the very exalted station that you have now been called upon to occupy will be no exception.

May God shower His choicest blessings upon you.

Shri D. D. Italia: *Mr. Chairman, I heartily congratulate you on your election to the Vice-Presidency of India by virtue of which you are at this time acting as Chairman of this House. Parsis are the smallest community in India. I, as a member of this community, feel great pleasure in congratulating you. I am sure your high education, great experience and charming behaviour will stand you in great stead in giving us the right lead to solve the problems with which this House may have to deal. Members of every community and sect will, I am sure, be equally treated by you and given full opportunities to express themselves before this House. With these words I again congratulate you, Sir.

Dr. Kalidas Nag: With your permission, Sir, I wish to say a few words. India is a country not belonging to any province, but there is a greater India also. For the last quarter of a century, I wish to remind my honourable colleagues, that Dr. Radhakrishnan has not belonged to any province or any particular country. He has passed through five continents. I bring this fact before my colleagues that there is a world outside, which is looking to our Legislature, because we have the great tradition of Mahatma Gandhi who

*English translation of the Urdu speech.

belonged not only to India but also to the whole world. The downtrodden millions of the world, for whom Mahatma Gandhi laid down his life, are looking to us. India possesses a great tradition which was admirably espoused by him in his life time and Radhakrishnan presents a picture of Gandhi to this outside world.

श्रीमती शारदा भार्गव: अध्यक्ष महोदय, यद्यपि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने आपको सदन की ओर से बधाई दे दी है और इसके बाद अन्य सदस्यों को अलग-अलग बधाई देने की विशेष आवश्यकता नहीं रह जाती है फिर भी मैं इस परिषद् की महिलाओं की ओर से, जो कि यहां तो अल्प संख्या में हैं परन्तु देश की आधी जनसंख्या का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं, आपका हार्दिक स्वागत करती हूं। हमारे देश का महिला-वर्ग पिछड़ा हुआ है किन्तु हमें आशा है कि हम लोग आपकी अध्यक्षता में कार्य करके इसे उन्नति की ओर अग्रसर कर सकेंगी।

आपका निर्विरोध चुना जाना ही यह सिद्ध करता है कि देश के सभी वर्ग तथा समुदाय आपको इस पद के लिये सबसे योग्य समझते हैं अतः हमें गर्व है कि हमें आप जैसे योग्य व्यक्ति की अध्यक्षता में कार्य करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है।

मैं एक बार फिर आपका अभिनन्दन करती हूं तथा बधाई देती हूं।

Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo: Sir, I rise to congratulate you again with all my heart on behalf of the Ganatantra Parishad. I have heard, Sir, both in the Oxford University and in the Cambridge University the description of the "Walking Encyclopaedia of Indian Philosophy" attributed to you. In my opinion it is a title which should justly belong to such a distinguished person as yourself who combines in himself the wisdom of the East and all the experience of the West. In you we see today the embodiment of all that is good, all that is just, all that is impartial. It is my earnest hope that this august body will under your inspiration see our philosophy translated into true life, so that in this great Republic we shall truly see the rule of the people, for the people, by the people and so that the great maxim of *vox populi, vox Dei*, आवाजे खल्क नक्कारा-ए-खुदा, (*Awaze khalk naqqara-e khuda*), पंचमुख परमेश्वरमुखं (*Panchmukh Parameshwarmukham*) will again be achieved truly in all our lives.

With these words I offer you, Sir, my heartiest congratulations.

Dr. (Smt.) Seeta Parmanand: Sir, I do not like to add anything to what has been so eloquently expressed by the Prime Minister. I would just like to say what is in the minds of so many, that your noble example of humility, we should follow, as someone else has expressed. I would not congratulate you, Sir, because I feel it is we who should be congratulated. We who have come to this House have to bear in mind that we should try to serve the country rather than try to serve ourselves by securing some offices and places. We should try to serve rather than try to see what percentages, what places as office-bearers, we get on different committees.

Mr. Chairman: Members of the Council, I am greatly moved by the very generous words used by the Prime Minister and those who followed him and also by the cordial way in which the House received those words.

I belong to no party, and that means I belong to every party in this House. It shall be my endeavour to uphold the traditions, the highest traditions, of parliamentary democracy and act towards every party with fairness and impartiality, with ill-will to none and good-will to all.

A democracy is distinguished by the protection it gives to minorities. A democracy is likely to degenerate into a tyranny if it does not allow the opposition groups to criticise fairly, freely and frankly the policies of the Government. But at the same time minorities have also their responsibilities. While they have every right to criticise, their right of criticism should not degenerate into wilful hampering and obstruction of the work of Parliament. All groups, therefore, have their rights, and have their responsibilities. And if we recognise them and act in their spirit I have no doubt we will be able to build up great traditions for this Council of States, which will be helpful to all sections of the Council.

Generally, in the rules, etc. that we have here, we take for our model the British Parliament and the conventions that have grown through centuries of parliamentary life in Great Britain. But we have to adapt them to our needs. We have to recognise the growth of public opinion, we have to be sensitive to it and we must try to adapt those conventions to our own needs. I remember a statement which Lord Balfour once made, that hell was probably a place where the only reading matter was the file of Hansard! We should not be bound down by everything that is laid down in Hansard. We should use our intelligence and try to develop traditions which are in consonance with our past and responsive to our needs.

There is a general impression that this House cannot make or unmake governments and, therefore, it is a superfluous body. But there are functions which a revising chamber can fulfil fruitfully. Parliament is not only a legislative but a deliberative body. So far as its deliberative functions are concerned it will be open to us to make very valuable contributions, and it will depend on our work whether we justify or do not justify this two-Chamber system which is now an integral part of our Constitution. So it is a test to which we are submitted. We are for the first time starting, under the new parliamentary system, with a Second Chamber in the Centre, and we should try to do everything in our power to justify to the public of this country that a Second Chamber is essential to prevent hasty legislation. We should discuss with dispassion and detachment proposals put before us.

I do hope that we will all work together inspired by the one great ideal of a better life and a richer life for the ordinary people of this country.

Felicitations offered to Dr. Radhakrishnan on 13 May 1957

The Leader of the House, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant: Sir, it is my privilege to tender very respectful and cordial felicitations to you on your unopposed election as the Vice-President of India, on behalf of the Members of this House and also my own. You have filled this office with unique distinction. In fact, you have shed lustre on every office occupied by you. The millions living in this country have the benefit of your mellowed and mature wisdom and scholarship. You have carried to all parts of the globe the ennobling message of non-violence, truth, fellowship and friendliness on behalf of this ancient land. It is a matter of legitimate pride to us that the deliberations of this House are guided and regulated by you. You have treated every Member of this House with tender consideration and even affection. The proceedings of the House have been conducted by you with unerring dignity, grace, imperturbable patience and, if I may say so, gentleness. The rights and privileges of the Members of this House and of everyone of us are in your safe keeping, and we could not have thought of a better and safer custodian and guardian. I am confident that the proceedings of this House will bear your impress in the future as they have done in the past. It will be the unanimous prayer of all of us that you may be spared for many years to come and that under your guidance this House may gain further strength and prove equal to the confidence that has been reposed in it and in its Members by the country. I, Sir, with great humility wish you and this House godspeed and success.

Dr. R. B. Gour: Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party, I join the honourable the Leader of the House in greeting you as our Chairman again after the last five years. We have also shared the benefit of your benevolence as the Chairman of this House.

With these few words, I congratulate you again.

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह: श्रीमान्, आज इस पवित्र और महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पर इस सदन के लीडर के साथ मैं भी, सिर्फ बाजाब्ला तौर पर नहीं लेकिन हृदय से, हार्दिक रूप से, अपनी बधाई आपको देना चाहता हूँ।

बहुत बार ऐसा होता है कि ऊंचे पद के लिये उसी तरह का ऊंचा आदमी मिलना मुश्किल होता है, कभी-कभी हम ऐसा देखते हैं कि व्यक्ति बहुत ऊंचा मिल जाता है और पद उतना ऊंचा नहीं हो पाता है, कभी-कभी ऐसा होता है कि पद जितना ऊंचा है व्यक्ति उतना ऊंचा नहीं है। इस पद

का और आपके व्यक्तित्व का जो सोने और सुगन्ध का संयोग हुआ है यह हमारे लिये गर्व का विषय है। अपने व्यक्तित्व के जरिये से, अपनी विद्वता के जरिये से, अपने व्यवहार के जरिये से—मैंने देखा इस पिछले एक वर्ष में जब से कि मैं इस सदन का सदस्य रहा हूँ—आपने सब की श्रद्धा, सबकी भक्ति, सब का प्रेम हासिल किया है और आप को देखने के बाद भारतीय परम्परा की वह कड़ी ज्यों की त्यों मालूम होती है जिसका वर्णन हम पहले से पढ़ते रहे हैं। आधुनिकता और परम्परा का ऐसा सम्मिश्रण शायद ही कहीं देखने को मिलता हो। इसलिये इस पद पर आपको फिर पा कर हमारे हर्ष का ठिकाना नहीं है। आपको देखने के बाद जो प्राचीन भारतीय नेतृत्व का चित्र था वह आज हमारे सामने आ जाता है जिस का वर्णन किया गया था, “अग्रतश्चतुरो वेदान पृष्ठतः सशरं धनु”, कह कर।

वही चित्र, वही परम्परा आज भी कायम मालूम होती है, और उसमें आधुनिकता का जो सम्मिश्रण हुआ है वह हमारे लिये, हमारे देश के लिये गर्व की वस्तु है।

मैं इन शब्दों में श्रद्धा के साथ अपनी बधाई अर्पित करता हूँ।

Shri V. K. Dhage: Sir, on behalf of myself and the Democratic Party in this House, I join with the Leader of the House and the other friends here in offering felicitations to you for having been elected uncontested to this high office. Amongst other things that I have felt mostly, I would say that you as the Chairman of the House never allowed anyone in the Opposition to feel that you have been partial in any way in the matter of giving the rulings. We will be maintained and that we need not be afraid of anything. You have in this House lent charm, grace and dignity on very many occasions. Your sense of humour sometimes—probably many times—had dissolved many an intricate position here. Sir, I am confident and we, being in the Opposition, feel secure that our rights and privileges will be completely protected by you.

Once again, I congratulate you.

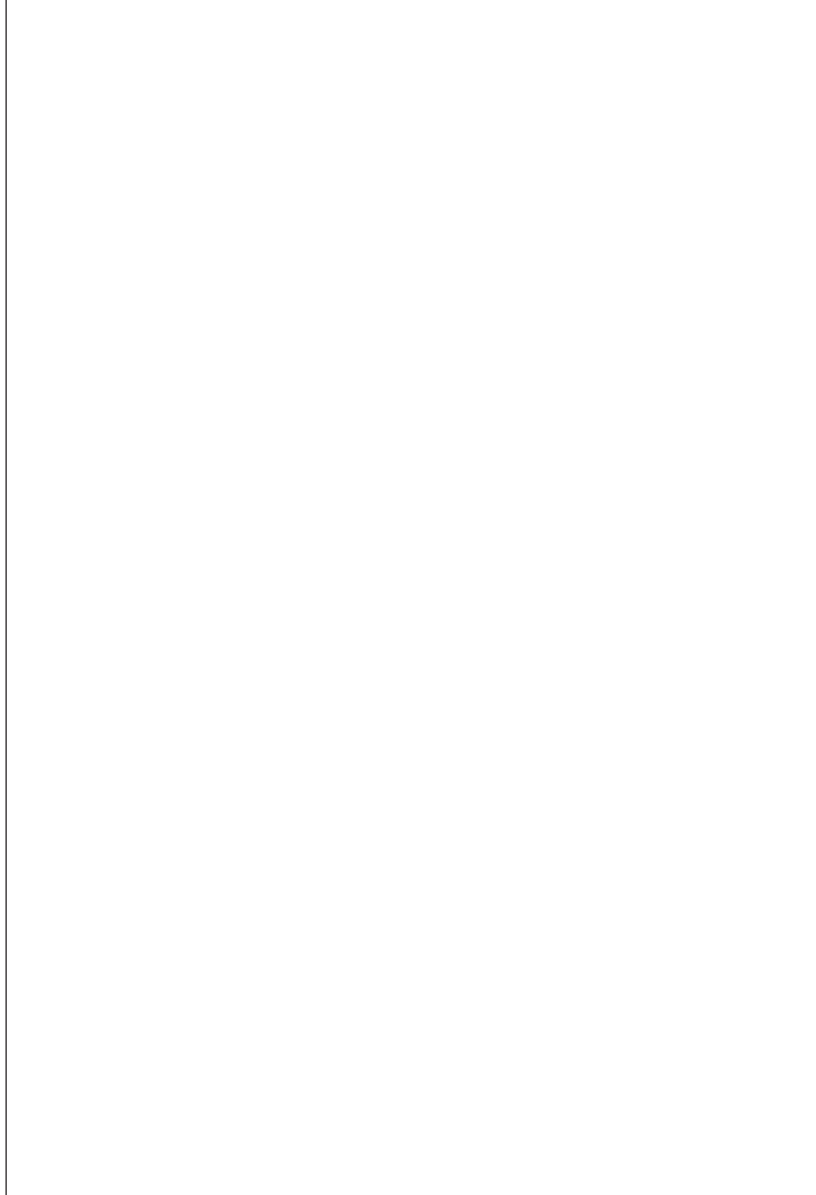
श्रीमती सावित्री निगम: श्रीमन्, संसद् की महिला सदस्यों की ओर से अपने सदन के सम्माननीय नेता के साथ ही अपनी भावनायें आपको बधाई देने के लिये अर्पित करते हुए मुझे अपार हर्ष हो रहा है। श्रीमन्, इन दिनों में, जबकि हम देश का नव-निर्माण करने जा रहे हैं विभिन्न नई सामाजिक विधियों की रचना कर रहे हैं, उस समय आपके समान न्याययुक्त और समदर्शी अध्यक्ष पाकर हमारा हृदय खुशी से बहुत ही प्रफुल्लित है। एक बार मैं फिर से महिला सदस्यों की ओर से आपको हृदय से बधाई देती हूँ।

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Leader and friends, I am grateful to you for your kind words about my conduct as Chairman of this House. If I have been successful in that matter, it is not due so much to me as to the co-operation and goodwill and affection which have been extended to me by all Members of this House. It is quite true, being a smaller House, I know almost all the Members, I know their parentage, surroundings, neighbourhood and other things and so they trust me and I trust them and that policy has worked for the good behaviour of both the Chairman and the Members.

I would like to extend a very hearty welcome to the new Members who have been admitted today. They are men of great experience and wisdom, and they have come to us with stored-doubt that their contributions to our discussions will raise the level of our debates. I have no objection to anybody criticising frankly and freely. Only I hope that they will do so with charity to their opponents. So long as they do it, anybody has the right to express his opinions as strongly and as loudly as one wishes to do.

In the present state of our affairs, the work of our Parliament is of great importance. We have defined our ideals. We are politically sovereign. We have the framework of a democratic Constitution. We have defined our goal as a socialist order. We hope to create a new society. These are our ideals. If they are to become realities, certain conditions are required. We may, with pardonable and justified pride, say that we have done some work. The integration of States, the land reforms, the construction of dams, hydro-electric projects, scientific laboratories and our efforts for peace in the international world, all these stand to our credit. But we should also realise that we cannot afford to be smug and complacent. We cannot live in a world of make-believe. As a people we tend to deceive ourselves a great deal. It is necessary for us to note the warnings that have been given to us, the demoralisation that has set in, which has come out in the recent elections—the caste spirit, the communal passions and the craze for power, personal ambitions, all these are there. We seem to be victims of too many small loyalties. If we are to realize our goal, we have to institute a search into ourselves and realize that we are divided not by external forces but by our own inward nature. The call is for an improvement in the quality of ourselves. We need hard thinking and self-examination. That is what is necessary. The conditions in the country cannot be allowed to drift. This is the time for dynamic, vigorous, courageous, imaginative leadership. If that is not given in this period of five years, our position at the end will be worse than what it happens to be today.

We are celebrating the Buddha Purnima today. For 2,500 years the Buddha has stood as an example of human nobility and moral purity. We have to absorb the lessons of his life and act in an unselfish manner, and try to promote the interests not of our parties but of our people. I hope this Council will contribute to the improvement of the general situation by restoring standards and values in public life. Thank you.



DR. ZAKIR HUSAIN

(8.2.1897–3.5.1969)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(13.5.1962–12.5.1967)

Zakir Husain: A profile

ZAKIR HUSAIN, DR.: M.A., Ph.D. (Berlin), D. Litt. (*Honoris Causa*) (Universities of Delhi, Aligarh, Allahabad, Calcutta and Cairo); s. of Shri Fida Husain; b. February 8, 1897; m. Shrimati Shahjehan Begum; 2 d.; Vice-Chancellor, (i) Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, 1926–48 and (ii) Aligarh Muslim University, 1948–56; President, Hindustani Talimi Sangh Sevagram, 1938–50; Chairman, (i) Basic National Education Committee, 1937, (ii) International Students Service, India Committee, 1955, (iii) World University Service, Geneva, 1955–57 and (iv) Central Board of Secondary Education, 1957; Author of, (i) Shiksha (Hindi), (ii) Capitalism: an essay in understanding, (iii) Urdu translations of—(a) Plato's Republic, (b) Fredrich List's National System of Economics and (c) Edwin Cannan's Elements of Economics, (iv) Lectures on the Scope and Method of Economics (Hindustani Academy, U.P.), (v) Educational Discourses (Urdu), (vi) Principles of Educational Reconstruction Patel Memorial Lectures, (vii) Ethics and the State (Mavalankar Memorial Lecture) and (viii) The Dynamic University and Abbokhan Ki Bakri (Urdu); Recipient of, (i) Padma Vibhushan, 1954 and (ii) Bharat Ratna, 1963; Member, Rajya Sabha, 3-4-1952 to 2-4-1956 and 3-4-1956 to 6-7-1957; Governor of Bihar, 1957-62; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 13-5-1962 to 12-5-1967; President of India, 13-5-1967 to 3-5-1969; Died. Obit. on 5-5-1969.

Felicitations offered to Dr. Zakir Husain on 15 June 1962

The Minister of Irrigation and Power, Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: Mr. Chairman, I heartily congratulate you on your election as the Vice-President of India and as a corollary to that, as the Chairman of this House. Sir, the highest honour which this country can confer on any of its citizens is the Presidentship and next to that is the Vice-Presidentship which this country has conferred on you because you are recognised by this country as a patriot, as a learned man, possessing abilities and efficiency of every kind. You had been most fit for the Vice-Presidentship of this country and, therefore, it elected you. I am going to quote a Persian proverb in this connection. I will translate it. There is a Persian proverb:

حق به حقدار رسيد //

Rise reaches one who deserves it. It just applies to the election of our Chairman as the Vice-President of India.

Sir, I can say much about you but I do not want to take much time because so many other honourable Members of this House would like to say something about you. Therefore, briefly I will go into a few points about you.

First of all, I mention your career of studentship, how in the M.A.O. College where you were receiving education, you were respected by all the students and by the staff because of your brilliance and ability that you exhibited in various ways there as a student. After that I come to a point which concerns more with your service to the country, I mean your service in Jamia Millia. It is too well known in the country that in consultation with Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom movement, the institution was started, which was named Jamia Millia, which meant the University of the Nation. Education is imparted there on national lines. I am mentioning that because of one thing. The pay of the staff there was very low. The staff could not meet both ends with the salary which they used to get. Anyone who used to go to serve there had to make a sacrifice and had to court inconveniences of life and you, Sir, accepted to be the Head of that institution. You served there as the Sheikhu Jamia. The Vice-Chancellor or the Chancellor was called the Sheikhu Jamia. There you spent years and years and you made so many improvements. You introduced so many branches of teaching there and at the same time you provided a very nice building for it which is existing—which is a very splendid building—in Okhla. I have seen that so many times. So, for the sake of the country you adopted and accepted a

life of sacrifice and you worked there hard not for good money, not for any high salary but only for the sake of the country. After that you became the Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University. There also you rendered a very splendid service to that University. There were so many difficulties and so many problems which required solutions, wise solutions and you were able to meet every situation which arose there. You enlarged the scope of the University by adding so many things to it for the purpose of education; also so many buildings were constructed there during your Vice-Chancellorship.

Then I go further and say a few words about your Governorship in Bihar. Personally I have no experience but from your example I came to know that Governors also can make themselves very popular among the public. For the first time I noticed this in your case. What I heard from the members of the Government of Bihar and also from the members of the public was very good about you. They said: "He possessed such a good reputation, he is very popular, he is loved by them for his character and ability and for the manner in which he conducted himself there as a Governor, etc." Lastly I attended a meeting here which was held in Delhi in which all the Biharis who are residing in Delhi were collected and I was invited there. There the speeches were made both by the Chief Minister and by the members of the public. On hearing those speeches, I formed the opinion that probably no Governor might have been so popular and so beloved to the people as yourself. This much about the Bihar Governorship.

Now about the Chairmanship of this House. This is a House which is a very dignified House. It serves and performs very elaborate duties and it has its own traditions, practices, rules and regulations and I hope you will maintain them and I hope you will make such additions as may be more useful for the purposes for which this House exists. With these words I conclude.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: I associate myself with the sentiments just expressed by the Leader of the House in welcoming you here amongst us as the Chairman of this House. It was a matter of great satisfaction and encouragement for us when we saw that you had been nominated for election as the Vice- President of the country. We felt that it was important in more ways than one. After all, in the presentation of the State and its structure and its high offices to the world, we make ourselves felt and understood. In a country like ours where there are, as we are told, majority and minority communities. we want to uphold this symbol of unity in every sphere of life. You, Sir, come here as the symbol of such unity. I need not mention about your past illustrious career. It is well known to the country. You have been a great educationist and scholar, an educationist born not out of the rich but out of the poverty- stricken people and in you the down-trodden of the society has expressed that it is in a position to produce such men of scholarship and learning even in circumstances that are not very congenial. These high traditions of the people you yourself carried forward when you, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, took charge of a national institution in our country. That is your creation, and that is a tribute to your dedicated service to our nation, to that institution of learning and to education.

We have known you, Sir, not only as a scholar but also as a great patriot and it is no small task on the part of a person in such a position to present himself as an active patriot while engaged in certain other fields of activity which do not directly bear on political matters. Therefore, in you, Sir, is blended flaming patriotism and high scholarship. So we are particularly happy to have you here because I think we shall get the radiation of those fine and excellent traditions of mind and heart in the functioning of this House.

Again, Sir, you are stepping into a situation which for the past ten years, has been adorned by one distinguished son of India who today, by the will of the people happens to be the President of this country. He has left us, no doubt, but he has left here certain excellent traditions of good humour, wisdom, tolerance and democratic orientation, and above all, regard for the parties of the opposition. I am sure, Sir, as you step into his shoes and assume the responsibility bequeathed to you by your predecessor, you will be living up not only to those traditions but as always dynamic personalities do, carry forward and enrich those traditions. That is what we expect of you.

On our part, Sir, we extend to you the fullest measure of cooperation. It is a matter of joy for us and also a little token of love from our side towards you that you have come to occupy this high office almost after a unanimous choice in the country. All the opposition parties which are sitting here supported your candidature, and if I may say so on behalf of one of the leading parties of the opposition, we felt so happy when your name was being discussed as one of the probable candidates for the Vice-Presidency. We made known to those concerned, that if you were nominated we would be whole heartedly supporting you. Naturally we are particularly glad to have you here amongst us.

Sir, I do not wish to say much now. I again join others in welcoming you to this House. This House occupies an important position and we, Sir, do not go by the moth-eaten procedures of May's Parliamentary Practice. We are a dynamic society and we have inherited certain noble traditions of our people. We, Sir, wish to shape our democracy according to the genius of our people and bring our parliamentary institutions close to their strivings and aspirations and the general democratic traditions of the masses. In that task, Sir—and it is no small task—I hope, Sir, you will be a creative instrument towards the fulfilment of the aspirations and desires of the people and expectations on their part, in this House.

This is all I wish to say. Once again, I congratulate you on your assumption of this high office and I hope what we have lost here will never be missed, because you shall fill in the gap and carry forward the torch that has come in your hands, in the interest of democracy and in the interest of our people. Thank you.

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह: आदरणीय सभापति जी, आज आप हमारे नये अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से हमारे बीच में उपस्थित हैं। लेकिन आज जो इस हाउस के पुराने सदस्य हैं उनके लिये आप नये नहीं हैं और न यह हाउस आपके लिये नया है। बिहार का गवर्नर होने के पहले आप इस सदन के सदस्य

रहे और जो पुराने सदस्य हैं उनको आपके साथ रहने का, काम करने का और आप से मिलने का मौका प्राप्त हुआ है। इसलिये आपके लिए यह कोई नयी जगह नहीं है और न कोई नयी परम्परा है। पर जो परम्परा कायम है उसके आप साक्षी रहे हैं और उसको कायम करने में, एक सदस्य की हैसियत से आपका हाथ रहा है।

जैसा कि पूर्व वक्ता ने कहा है, और खासकर हमारे मित्र श्री भूपेश गुप्त ने कहा, आपका चुनाव वाइस प्रेजीडेन्ट की हैसियत से हमारे चेयरमैन की हैसियत से, भारतीय एकता का बहुत बड़ा प्रतीक, एक बहुत बड़ा चिह्न है और हम सब इसके लिये गौरव अनुभव करते हैं। आपका देश के राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन से प्रारम्भ से ही सम्बन्ध रहा है और हमारे देश में राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा की जो आधारशिला रखी गई उस आधारशिला के रखने वालों में आप भी हैं और हम लोगों को यह उम्मीद है कि जिस तरह से राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा की आधारशिला रखने में आपने बड़ा प्रमुख हाथ बटाया, उसकी नींव को मजबूत किया, उसी तरह से जनतंत्र का जो प्रयोग हम कर रहे हैं, जनतंत्र की जो इमारत हम खड़ी कर रहे हैं, उस जनतंत्र की इमारत की आधारशिला रखने में और उसके खड़ा करने में भी आपका उसी प्रकार सहयोग और उसी प्रकार हाथ रहेगा ताकि यह प्रयोग अच्छी तरह से सम्पन्न हो।

जहां तक बिहार का प्रश्न है, पिछले पांच वर्षों में आप हमारे सूबे में गवर्नर के पद पर रहे हैं। आपके निकट सम्पर्क में न आने पर भी दूर से ही मुझ पर जो प्रभाव पड़ा, जो हमारे प्रान्त पर प्रभाव पड़ा, जो परिस्थितियां वहां पैदा हुईं, वह ऐसी हैं कि आपके चले आने के बाद भी आज बिहार के लोग ऐसा अनुभव करते हैं कि जैसा उनका अपना ही आदमी बिहार से दिल्ली चला आया। आज आप वाइस प्रेजीडेन्ट हैं और बिहार के लोग ऐसा अनुभव करते हैं कि डा. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद आज प्रेजीडेन्ट नहीं रहे तो जैसे हमारे ही प्रान्त के वाइस प्रेजीडेन्ट आज दिल्ली में बैठे हैं। पांच वर्ष के अरसे में जबकि राजनैतिक उथल-पुथल हो रही हो, आपस में तरह-तरह के प्रपंच चल रहे हों, उस समय एक आदमी के लिये सबका विश्वास प्राप्त करना, लोकप्रिय बनना, सबका प्रियपात्र बनना, यह कोई आसान काम नहीं है। यह बात बाहर वाले उतना अनुभव नहीं कर पाते हैं जितना हम बिहार के लोग अनुभव करते हैं। मैं यही आशा करता हूं कि जिस तरह शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में आपने हमारा मार्ग-दर्शन किया उसी तरह से आगे भी मार्ग-दर्शन करेंगे। अभी हमारी डेमोक्रेसी, हमारा जनतंत्र नया है। बहुत सी परम्पराएं नयी बन रही हैं, बहुत सी परम्पराएं बन चुकी हैं और बहुत सी बनने वाली हैं। इसलिये लकीर का फकीर होने से काम नहीं चलेगा और बहुत सी परम्पराओं का निर्माण करना होगा जो हमारे देश के वातावरण और हमारे देश की परिस्थितियों के अनुकूल हों।

शिक्षा शास्त्री होने के अलावा राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन से शुरू से आपका सम्बन्ध रहा है। मेरा निज का अनुभव है कि शिष्टता के साथ ही साथ आप में स्पष्टवादिता है और साफगोई है। किसी चीज को सफाई के साथ कहने की आवश्यकता हो तो बेमुरव्वती के साथ कह सकने की शक्ति भी आप में है जो आज देश के लिये नितान्त आवश्यक है और उसकी आज सबसे ज्यादा जरूरत मैं समझता हूं। सिर्फ 'सत्यम् ब्रूयात, प्रियम् ब्रूयात' वाली ही बात नहीं होनी चाहिये। आज सत्य अगर अप्रिय भी हो तो कहना चाहिये। और मैं जानता हूं कि उसकी क्षमता आप में है और इसलिये विशेष रूप से मैं आपके प्रति आकर्षित होता हूं और आपका स्वागत करता हूं।

आपके बारे में परिचय देना या और कुछ कहना, सच पूछिये तो मेरे लिये एक तरह की गुस्ताखी होगी। अधिकांश सदस्य आपके बारे में जानते हैं और बहुत तो मुझ से ज्यादा जानते हैं। इसलिये इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका स्वागत करता हूं और उम्मीद करता हूं कि इस राज्य सभा परिवार के

अफसर-खानदान की हैसियत से आप हम सब की देखभाल करेंगे और मैं अपनी तरफ से विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि जिस तरह का भी सहयोग आपके काम में आवश्यक होगा, उस तरह का हम पूरा सहयोग देंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका पुनः स्वागत करता हूँ।

Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel: Mr. Chairman, I rise to associate myself with the remarks of the previous speakers. You have come, Sir, to this House with an illustrious career behind you. You were in the forefront of the struggle for independence. You were known for your outstanding nationalist attitude for which you, like many other patriots in this country, have had to suffer. You have come here after having accomplished many tasks, both in the sphere of education and in the political life of this country. You are no stranger to this House. You have been here before and compared to yourself I am a newcomer to this House and as one who sits in the Opposition I will have to ask for your indulgence and your kindness as all parties in the Opposition will, because, if democracy is to progress in this country, it is the Chair that will have to safeguard the rights, the privileges of the parties which are smaller in number, of the voice that is feeble and is likely to be drowned in the sea of the numbers that sit on the majority side. Sir, we look forward with fond hopes to you and we hope that the traditions laid down in this House by your illustrious predecessor will receive the same consideration and will be cherished in the same manner by you and that the deliberations of this House will be carried on in the same way. We hope, Sir, that under your Chairmanship, the Opposition will be able to make its voice felt perhaps a little more. It has become the tendency of late that certain matters of procedure that are available under the Constitution, opportunities of speaking, have fallen into disuse. We hope, Sir, to see that they will be used more and more and that you will give us encouragement in using them during your time.

श्री ए. बी. वाजपेयी: सभापति जी, आपके निर्वाचन पर मैं आपका हार्दिक अभिनन्दन करता हूँ।

एक शिक्षा शास्त्री के नाते आपने जो सेवाएं की हैं वे सदैव स्मरणीय रहेंगी। बिहार के वैधानिक प्रमुख के नाते जिस प्रकार आपने अपने दायित्व का पालन किया वह भी हम सबके लिये मार्ग-दर्शन का काम करेगा। मैंने आपको निकट से बहुत थोड़े समय से देखा है। पिछले अक्टूबर में जब राष्ट्रीय एकता सम्मेलन हुआ था, उस समय आपने जो विचार प्रकट किये थे उन्होंने सभी देशवासियों के हृदय को आपकी ओर आकृष्ट कर लिया था। अभी राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद् की जो बैठक हुई, उसमें भी आपका योगदान हमें सही दिशा में ले जाने में सहायक हुआ।

यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि जब इस देश में साम्प्रदायिकता की आंधी चल रही थी और बड़े-बड़ों के पैर उखड़ गये या डगमगा गये, तब भी आप राष्ट्रीयता के मार्ग पर दृढ़ता के साथ आगे बढ़ते रहे। हम अपने देश में असाम्प्रदायिक राज्य की स्थापना कर चुके हैं जिसमें मजहब के हिसाब से किसी प्रकार के भेदभाव के लिये कोई स्थान नहीं होगा। और आपने अपने शब्दों से, अपनी कृति से इस असाम्प्रदायिकता के आदर्श को बल प्रदान किया है। उपराष्ट्रपति के रूप में, भारतीय गणराज्य के अधिकारी के नाते आपका मार्ग-दर्शन हमें प्राप्त होता रहेगा, यह प्रसन्नता की बात है।

इस सदन के अध्यक्ष के रूप में हमें विश्वास है कि जो परम्पराएं हमने अभी तक डाली हैं, उन्हें आप बद्धमूल करेंगे और परिस्थिति के अनुरूप उनका विकास करेंगे। एक नये सदस्य के नाते

मैं यह अनुभव करता हूँ कि सदन को और भी प्रभावी बनाया जा सकता है। वाद-विवाद का, चर्चा का और देश की समस्याओं पर विचार-विनिमय का और भी अवसर इस सदन को दिया जा सकता है। इसके लिए सत्तारूढ़ दल को थोड़ा सा प्रेरित करना होगा और सभापति जी, इस काम के लिये हम आपकी ओर आशा भरी दृष्टि से देखते हैं। जहां तक हमारा सम्बन्ध है, आपको हम अपने पूर्ण सहयोग का आश्वासन देते हैं। आपको इस पद पर निर्वाचित करके हमने आपको नहीं, स्वयं अपने को ही सम्मानित किया है और हम इस सम्मान के अधिकारी बने रहें, यही हमारी कामना है।

Shri Sudhir Ghosh: Mr. Chairman, may I, in the name of the independent Members of this House, pay my respects to you on joining our family? This House, Mr. Chairman, is very much of a family in spite of political differences between political parties and groups. Your predecessor was very much a father of this family and I am confident that you too, Sir, will occupy in the hearts of the Members of this House the same place and I am sure you will receive from the Members of this House the same respect and affection and co-operation as your predecessor did. I have had the opportunity of knowing you, Sir, in the past as a person close to Mahatma Gandhi. It is good to have as the head of this family a man who enjoyed the trust and confidence of the Father of the Nation.

प्रो. रामधारी सिंह दिनकर: श्रीमान्, कांग्रेस दल के नेता के अभिनन्दन कर लेने के बाद मेरी हैसियत नहीं थी कि मैं कुछ कहने को उठूँ। लेकिन मैं अपने को रोक नहीं सका। जिस दिन अखबारों में यह खबर छपी कि आप निश्चित रूप से देश के उपराष्ट्रपति चुने जाने वाले हैं उस दिन हम लोगों का हौसला बढ़ गया, खासकर मुझे यह महसूस हुआ कि इस देश का भविष्य अच्छा है, हमारी किस्मत इतनी बुरी नहीं है जितनी वह कभी-कभी दिखाई देती है।

आप भारतीय एकता के सिपाही, साम्प्रदायिक सद्भावना के प्रहरी और भारत के भविष्य के कर्णधारों में से हैं। शिक्षा के आप नामी विशेषज्ञ हैं। जिसको भी यह मौका मिला है कि वह आपका भाषण सुने या आपके निबन्धों को पढ़े वह इस बात से सहमत होगा कि शिक्षा के विषय में जो कुछ आपको मालूम नहीं है वह किसी के भी जानने लायक नहीं है।

मैं उस सूबे का हूँ जहां का आप अपने को वोटर मानते हैं। बिहार में पांच वर्षों तक आपकी उपस्थिति से बहुत अच्छा वातावरण पैदा हुआ है। बिहारियों को आपने जितना प्यार किया वह हम जानते हैं और बिहारियों ने आपके प्रति जो भक्ति की वह भी बिहारियों को मालूम है। असल में, जिस दिन आप पटना से चले वहां वही दृश्य उपस्थित हो गया जो दृश्य दिल्ली से राजेन्द्र बाबू के जाने के समय उपस्थित हुआ था।

हम बहुत ही आशा में हैं, आपके यहां रहते हुए हमारी बहुत सी कठिनाइयां दूर होंगी, हमारी राह भविष्य के लिये प्रशस्त होगी। हम अपनी भक्ति आपको अर्पित करते हैं।

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy also to be privileged to join in the chorus of welcome that has been showered on you and quite rightly too this morning. I have had the privilege of your friendship for many years. I was with you as a member of the Indian Delegation to UNESCO on two occasions and I well remember the impression your personality, your learning and your oratory made on all the foreign delegates

assembled there. Later I had the privilege of working with you on the Hindustani Talimi Sangh, which Gandhiji actually left in your hands because he had the utmost reliance and faith in you, not only as an educationist but also as a man who had sacrificed for India, who loved India and who could truly speak for the poor masses of our country for whom education was so necessary. Sir, you come to this House having the affection of all of us and the respect of all of us. We will, I am sure, give you the fullest co-operation and we know that the dignity and honour of this honourable House will always be safe in your hands.

Prof. A. R. Wadia: Mr. Chairman, whether as a nominated Member or as an educationist or as an independent Member of this House, may I add my humble voice to the warm welcome that has been accorded to you on your election as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. I have had the privilege of knowing you for a number of years and I have always followed your career as an educationist and as a public man with very great interest and with very great admiration. I know that you have been taking a very leading part in the public life. You have never been a mere politician. You have been a great patriot and you have served your country well. To use an old Roman expression, "You have deserved well of the Republic." Now, you are entering upon a distinguished office and I am perfectly certain that you will follow in the footsteps of your distinguished predecessor, who added to the dignity of your office as well as to the dignity of this House. May I wish you a very happy period of your Chairmanship?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Leader and friends, how can I ever adequately thank you for the most generous words in which you have welcomed me. I am deeply moved even to the point of embarrassment. I am embarrassed for I am not at all sure that I deserve all the adjectives you have in your affectionate generosity showered on me. I wish I had deserved at least some of them. I am afraid there is not enough time left to me to set about deserving them and yet I promise I shall try. The embarrassment is also due to the fact that I have been elected to occupy a Chair which was for the last ten years, since the inception of this House, adorned by one of the greatest sons of India, our present President. My feelings at being asked to occupy the Chair can well be imagined. I can hope to maintain the traditions established during his stewardship of the Sabha only by your active goodwill and co-operation and I hope and trust that these will not be denied to me.

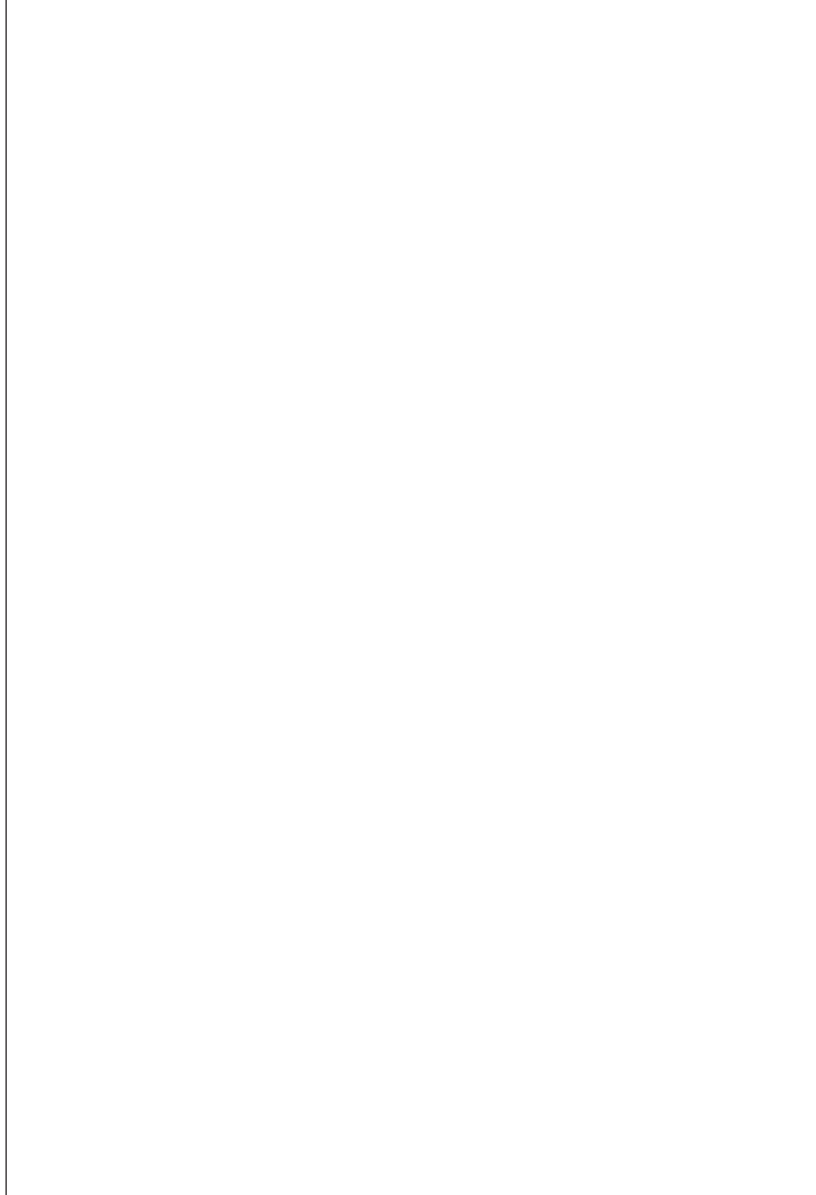
I wonder if I should not tell you that when I first came to know of it, I was greatly surprised that I was being considered for this high office at all and I could not easily convince myself of the reasons why. But the thousands of letters and telegrams of congratulation which I received after my election seemed to give me a clue, for, a disproportionately large percentage of these letters came from teachers, teachers of primary schools in remote corners of the country, teachers of high schools and teachers in the universities. They all seemed to tell me that I was considered worthy of this honour on account my close involvement in educational work, and the significance that our people rightly appear to attach to education in their life. Education, indeed, is the life-breath of our democratic life. A

people as old and as young as ours can justifiably look upon education as the chief formative force of their life, for it is education that can critically appraise our great heritage, distinguish between the heritage that helps and the heritage that hampers; preserve the one and discard the other. It is education, again, that can give us a common vision of the future we are striving to fashion and generate in us the intellectual and moral energy to fashion it. Education alone can preserve the old values worth preserving. Education alone can give us new values worth striving for. This conception of the role of education in our life partly explains to me why you have chosen to elect a person who has so far done nothing more important than the work of a school teacher, as the Vice-President of India and the *ex officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. And in spite of a painfully vivid consciousness of my own personal limitations, I rejoice at this, my people's estimate of the role of education in national life.

But in a developing democratic society, the work of education is not confined to its schools, colleges and universities. All the institutions of public life are potent agencies of education. Among these the highest place naturally goes to the Houses of Parliament. These set the aims of national life and prescribe its procedures. A two-fold influence is demanded of them—a total commitment to a future worthy of a great people and a relentlessly objective appraisal of the appropriate means of attaining it. The first gives a unity of national purpose, the second a healthy variety of opinion regarding the methods of its attainment. The unity of national purpose makes the diversity of opinion regarding means a blessing. The differences of view between the Government and the Opposition are manifestations of this blessing and should, therefore, be welcome. I hope and trust that we in this House will be as tolerant of divergent views as we have always been. We should be as objective in our intellectual assessment as ever possible and that we should give to those not of our way of thinking the respect that all honest opinion demands and deserves. Discussion, criticism and persuasion, are the essence of the parliamentary process and I am confident that this House will continue to demonstrate this unmistakably. The quality of our discussions, the fruitfulness of our deliberations, will be the measure of our contribution to national life and I am sure it will be a decidedly significant contribution.

I pledge myself to leave nothing undone to help you make that contribution. I pledge myself to utter fairness and impartiality. I pledge myself to give to the Government every opportunity to explain and elucidate its measures. I pledge myself to secure for the Opposition due latitude to criticise them, and I promise myself by doing this to ensure, with your goodwill and co-operation, a standard of discussion and debate conducted with decorum and dignity, which would contribute significantly to the attainment of the objective dear to all of us alike—the building up of our country as the home of a free people, safe against material want and striving towards moral excellence in a world free of fear and suspicion and distrust, a world of peace and goodwill.

I thank you once again for your most generous words of felicitation.



SHRI V. V. GIRI

(10.8.1894–24.6.1980)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(13.5.1967–3.5.1969)

V. V. Giri : A Profile

GIRI, SHRI VARAHAGIRI VENKATA: Barrister-at-Law, D. Litt. (*Honoris Causa*) (Banaras Hindu University and Andhra University), LL.D. (*Honoris Causa*) (Agra University); s. of Shri Jogiah Pantulu; b. August 10, 1894; m. Shrimati Sarasvathi Bai Giri, 4 s. and 7 d.; Member, (i) Central Legislative Assembly, 1934-37 and (ii) Madras Legislative Assembly, 1937-39 and 1946-47; Minister, holding portfolios of Labour, Industries, Cooperation and Commerce, Government of Madras, 1937-39 and 1946-47; Indian High Commissioner to Ceylon, 1947-51; Member, Lok Sabha, 1952-57; Union Minister of Labour, 1952-54; Governor, (i) Uttar Pradesh, 1957-60, (ii) Kerala, 1960-65 and (iii) Mysore, 1965-67; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 13.5.1967 to 3.5.1969; Acting President, 3.5.1969 to 19.7.1969; President of India, 24.8.1969 to 23.8.1974; Recipient of Bharat Ratna, 1975; Died. Obit. on 24.6.1980.

Felicitations offered to Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri on 22 May 1967

The Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I, on behalf of all of us, extend a hearty welcome to you! In your case, Sir, it is really a question of welcoming you back to the precincts of Parliament. You are no stranger to this building, having had a long and distinguished career, a parliamentary career, yourself. With your rich and varied background as one of our leading freedom fighters, a veteran labour leader, a Minister, a Governor and an elder statesman in the post-independence years, you will no doubt bring to bear on your high and exalted office the valuable experience of a long and dedicated political career. We look forward to your wise guidance in the conduct of the deliberations of this House.

I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government, to assure you, Sir, that you will at all times have our fullest support and co-operation in your task and of up-holding the dignity of this august House, its privileges and the privileges of each of the honourable Members here.

Once again, I welcome you most heartily.

Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my group, myself, and I believe, the other friends in the Opposition, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the remarks that have fallen from the lips of the Prime Minister. You are no stranger to Parliament. You come here after a very distinguished career, beginning with your life as one of the earliest freedom fighters, then as a Minister in the Government of Madras during the early days when we still were under the British rule and then later on, as Minister in the Government of India; you have also served the Government of India with distinction abroad as High Commissioner in Ceylon; you have also represented this country at international labour conferences. You have always brought distinction to yourself as one who has spoken for the down-trodden, for the poorer classes of this country. May we expect, Sir, that during your regime, not only the down-trodden, but the neglected corner of this House will also receive its due attention and that we will not suffer from any disabilities that we used to during your predecessor's time?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a great privilege and pleasure for me to welcome you to this House. I belong to what you may call the superannuated category of parliamentarians since independence.

Yet, we do not retire as many others in high places do not retire. But, Sir, one thought comes to me as I welcome you. Although you are the nominee of a particular party, we have known you in certain other capacity and situation. How could I forget that some years ago you, on a question of principle of the Bank Award, resigned from the Government and identified yourself with the interests of those struggling bankmen? I also recall the day, immediately after your resignation, when we two appeared on the same platform to speak to the bankmen. Then, Sir, the parting of the ways took place—you went in one direction after that meeting and I continued in my direction. Now, we have assembled here again.

Mr. Chairman, you have come to occupy this high and august office at a crucial moment in our constitutional and political history and I am sure that you are acutely conscious of this formidable fact of our political life. As you are here sitting in this House, I am sure that you are aware of the fact that this House which is supposed to be the representative of the States has acquired a certain anomalous character. For example, in the States, in eight States of India, today the party which is occupying the Treasury Benches is in the Opposition; we are on the Treasury Benches. This is the kind of dichotomy and dual power in a constitutional set-up which has arisen. I mention this thing because our function is to protect the interests of the States. We are specifically assigned the task of looking after the interests of the States in terms of the Constitution. That is why the Council of States was created by the foundation of the Constitution. We have been functioning ever since. Today by the will of the people, the federal principles of our Constitution have come into play. Today, you have to find here, Mr. Chairman, the fulfilment of your high office in upholding the fundamental rights and the constitutional, political and legal privileges of the States in so far as the Centre-State relations are concerned. Here shall be hammered out in the course of the coming months and years, under your Chairmanship a certain thing which is new in our constitutional set-up, at least from the point of view of practical politics, namely, the Centre-State relations. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that under your guidance and leadership we shall succeed in fashioning, with our common effort, common endeavour and common wisdom, the proper fundamentals, the proper norms, for a federal set-up.

Mr. Chairman, I am also very glad that you are here today because you had been identified with the working class movement in your times. Today it is the working people who are coming at the top of the world. They are asserting themselves and without them nothing is worth living for, nothing is precious, nothing is glorious, and that is why I welcome you. When I welcome you, I have these particular aspects in mind.

Mr. Chairman, now I should like only to say one thing more here in this connection and that is that you are undoubtedly in charge of the House. The dignity of the Chair is of fundamental importance, but dignity must base itself on the affection of the people, love for democracy and the passionate consideration for the norms of democracy, especially when the Opposition which is morally powerful but numerically weak has got to be defended against certain other things from certain other quarters. Therefore, the dignity of the House, Mr. Chairman, I assure you, we are all interested in maintaining. But the greatest dignity that man can ever show in our parliamentary career and otherwise—we have come to learn—is the dignity of the love of the people, loyalty to the masses, and I do hope that under your Chairmanship, the word 'dignity' will acquire a new dynamic conception, a conception that will arouse interest in the masses, that will give them confidence, that will make itself felt in the day-to-day life of the people. Therefore, I assure you our fullest co-operation in enriching, enlarging and giving a new context and meaning to the words 'dignity' and 'democracy'. We do hope that under your guidance and leadership—since you have come here and for the next five years—we shall not only hold to what was good and decent in the past but being a dynamic society, we would like you to show the way how to go forward, how to combine the past with the future and how to blend into a common symphony the good traditions of the past into the promises of the future. I do hope that in this House under your guidance we shall be in a position to give an account of ourselves in the sense that we not only love what is best in the present but we project ourselves into the future.

I once again welcome you on behalf of my party and I give you the fullest co-operation and I do hope that a response shall be coming. Before I sit down I wish you well in this office and I do hope under your leadership the federal concepts of our Parliamentary democracy as well as fundamental rights, norms and privileges of the Members of the House and of the people outside will be enshrined never to be sullied by a party which does not respect such things.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: सभापति महोदय, राज्य सभा के सभापति पद पर आसीन होने के उपलक्ष्य में अपने दल की ओर से मैं आपका स्वागत करता हूँ और आपको बधाई देता हूँ। आपका एक सार्वजनिक जीवन रहा है और आपने, विशेषकर जो पिछड़े वर्ग हैं, समाज का जो कमजोर भाग है उनको सुविधाओं को प्राप्त करवाने के लिए अपने जीवन का कुछ समय लगाया है। अपना यह देश सब लोगों को साथ लेकर चलने वाली परम्पराओं में विश्वास करता है। आर्थिक दृष्टि से भी, सामाजिक और राजनीतिक दृष्टि से भी हमारे जीवन में कुछ विषमताएं हैं। हमें इस प्रकार के प्रयत्न करने होंगे कि इन सारी विषमताओं से ऊपर उठ कर समाज के प्रत्येक वर्ग को चाहे वह किसी भी

पक्ष का हो, चाहे वह किसी भी भाषा का हो, चाहे वह किसी भी प्रकार के व्यवसायों को करता हो, उन सबको मिला कर सफल प्रजातंत्र की नींव यहां पर डाल सकें।

राज्य सभा का स्थान और भी महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यहां पर हम अपने देश के विभिन्न राज्यों की समस्याओं को जो विभिन्न कारणों से वहां उलझन का रूप धारण कर लेती हैं और दुर्भाग्य से लोक सभा में भी जिनको ठीक प्रकार से सुनने और प्रतिनिधित्व दिलाने का उचित अवसर उपलब्ध नहीं होता, राज्य सभा में उन पर ध्यान दे सकें, उनकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करवा सकें। यह तभी सम्भव होगा जब आप अध्यक्ष के रूप में सरकार का ध्यान उन पर आकृष्ट करवाने में समुचित रूप से अवसर देंगे। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आपके नेतृत्व में हम सब लोगों को और खासकर हम जो बाईं तरफ बैठे हैं उन लोगों को अपने-अपने हितों के प्रश्नों को, सार्वजनिक प्रश्नों को और राष्ट्रीय महत्व के प्रश्नों को रखने का पूर्ण अवसर प्राप्त होगा। मैं फिर से इस पद पर निर्वाचित होने पर आपका अभिनन्दन करता हूं।

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह: माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, राज्य सभा के अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से मैं आपका यहां स्वागत करता हूं। आप हमारे देश के राजनीतिज्ञों की उस पीढ़ी के व्यक्ति हैं जो धीरे-धीरे हमारी नजरों से ओझल होती जा रही है। आपकी विशेषता यह रही है कि पुरानी पीढ़ी के होने पर भी आपने सिर्फ समय के साथ कदम मिला कर चलने का अभ्यास नहीं किया, बल्कि आपका समय को आगे देखने का भी अभ्यास रहा। उसका सबसे बड़ा प्रमाण यह है कि उस जमाने में जब हिन्दुस्तान में श्रमिक आन्दोलन की तरफ लोगों का ध्यान आकृष्ट नहीं था, उस समय आपने और आपके स्वर्गीय बुजुर्ग साथी श्री एन.एम. जोशी ने हमारे देश में श्रमिक आन्दोलन की नींव रखी, उसके संगठन को मजबूत किया और उसको मार्गदर्शन दिया। पुरानी बातें ही नहीं, पिछले वर्ष बंगलौर में मुझे जब आपके सभापतित्व में एक समावर्तन-संस्कार में दीक्षान्त-भाषण देने का मौका मिला, उसमें जो आपके विचार मैंने सुने उससे मुझे यह लगा कि पुराने श्रमिक आन्दोलन से लेकर आज तक समय की जो गति रही है उसके साथ आप कदम मिला कर चलते रहे हैं और जिस तरह आप उस समय आगे के समय को देख कर आगे बढ़ते रहे, उसी तरह आज भी वर्तमान के साथ भविष्य को भी देखने की क्षमता आप में है। इतनी बड़ी परम्परा लेकर आप आज हमारे बीच में आये हैं। उस परम्परा के भरोसे हम समझ सकते हैं कि राज्य सभा का काम सुचारू रूप से चलेगा। आप सिर्फ आगे देखने वालों की परम्परा में नहीं रहे, सिर्फ संगठन करने वालों की परम्परा में ही नहीं रहे। मुझे स्मरण है कि आपके साथी एन.एम. जोशी को उस पुराने जमाने में ब्रिटिश वाइसराय, सेन्ट्रल असेम्बली में बराबर नामजद करता था, लेकिन कभी भी उन्होंने अपनी मर्जी के खिलाफ सरकार के साथ वोट नहीं किया। अधिकांश अवसरों पर, सरकार के द्वारा नामजद होने पर भी, जोशी जी अपनी रुचि और अपनी बुद्धि का प्रयोग करते थे और उसके अनुसार वोट करते थे। ऐसी परम्परा डाली थी कि नामजदगी की और अपनी मेम्बरी की फिक्र नहीं की और अपने विचारों पर डटे रहते थे। मैं समझता हूं कि जनतंत्र की, विचार-स्वातंत्र्य की यह ऐसी परम्परा है जिसको आपने और आपके साथियों ने कायम किया है और मैं समझता हूं कि वह परम्परा यहां भी आप आगे चलायेंगे, विचार की स्वतंत्रता, व्यक्ति की स्वाधीनता और दलगत भावनाओं से ऊपर उठकर इस बात की चेष्टा करेंगे कि राज्य सभा का निर्माण जिसके लिए हुआ है वह उस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति कर सके।

आज की परिस्थिति और पहले की परिस्थिति में थोड़ा अन्तर आ गया है। जैसा मेरे मित्रों ने जिक्र किया, राज्य सभा राज्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है। इस चुनाव के पहले तक सभी राज्यों में और केन्द्र में एक ही प्रकार के लोगों का, प्रायः एक ही दल का शासन था, लेकिन इस चुनाव के बाद देश के आधे से अधिक हिस्से में दूसरे दलों का, दूसरे प्रकार के लोगों का शासन है, और यहां केन्द्र में दूसरे दल का शासन है। इससे नई परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है और मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि इस परिस्थिति का सबसे ज्यादा सामना राज्य सभा को करना पड़ेगा। ऐसी अवस्था में आपका काम थोड़ा मुश्किल तो होगा लेकिन मुझे विश्वास है कि जो आपकी परम्परा रही है, जो अब तक की शिक्षा रही है, जो आपका अब तक का अनुभव रहा है, उस अनुभव के बल पर आप इस काम को अंजाम दे सकेंगे। आप राजनीति के एक क्षेत्र में नहीं रहे हैं, विभिन्न क्षेत्रों का आपको तजुर्बा है और उस तजुर्बे से हम समझते हैं कि सिर्फ हम ही यहां लाभ नहीं उठायेंगे, सारा देश लाभ उठायेगा। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका पुनः स्वागत करता हूँ।

श्री गोडे मुराहरि: सभापति महोदय, अपने दल की ओर से आपका स्वागत करते हुए, मैं सिर्फ इस बात का जिक्र करना चाहूंगा कि आपने अपने जीवन में जो श्रमिक आन्दोलन के लिए प्रयास किया है और राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में जो कुछ आपने भाग लिया है, उससे हमको यह प्रतीत होता है कि राज्य सभा की कार्यवाहियों में भी आप वही दृष्टिकोण रखेंगे और जैसे श्रमिकों के पक्ष में अपना निर्णय दिया है उसी तरह जो यहां पर अपोजीशन में बैठे हुए हैं उनकी ओर से उसी दृष्टि को रखेंगे।

मैं भी एक तेलुगू भाषा-भाषी हूँ और अपनी राजनीति आंध्र प्रदेश के बाहर ही की है, वैसे ही आप तेलुगू भाषा-भाषी हैं और आपने अपनी राजनीति आंध्र प्रदेश के बाहर की है। हम समझते हैं कि इससे आपका दृष्टिकोण एक राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण है और दल या एक विशेष गुट के प्रति आप पक्षपात नहीं करेंगे। मैं आशा करूंगा कि जो भी कार्यवाही राज्य सभा में होगी उसमें हमारे देश की जो साधारण जनता है उसकी समस्याओं का प्रतिबिम्ब आ सकेगा ऐसा तरीका आप निकालेंगे और अपने निर्णय हमेशा इस पक्ष में देंगे कि देश की जो साधारण जनता है, जो शोषित जनता है उसके सवालियों को यहां पर प्रधानता मिले—चाहे सरकार उसके पक्ष में हो या न हो—इस तरह का तरीका अपनाएं। इससे राज्य सभा की जो प्रतिष्ठा है वह बढ़ेगी और यहां की कार्यवाही की भी प्रतिष्ठा बढ़ सकती है।

जो भी यहां पर अशोभनीय, डिगनिटी या डिंकोरम की बात कही जाती है वह सब इसी से उत्पन्न हो जाती है कि जब जनता के सवालियों को इस सदन में पेश किया जाता है तो उसे दबाने की कोशिश होती है। उस कोशिश में जो कुछ कार्यवाही होती है, होती है। इसलिए मैं आशा करूंगा कि आपके पदाधिकार में जो कुछ यहां की कार्यवाही चलेगी उसमें जनता की जो समस्याएं हैं उनको प्रधानता मिलेगी।

श्री त्रिलोकी सिंह: मान्यवर, आपका स्वागत करते हुए इस स्थान पर मुझे महान हर्ष हो रहा है। आप आज इस स्थान पर बैठे हुए हैं जिसको डाक्टर राधाकृष्णन, डाक्टर जाकिर हुसैन ने सुशोभित किया है और मुझे पूर्ण आशा है कि जो प्रथायें इस आदरणीय सदन ने उनके समय में कायम की हैं उन प्रथाओं को आप बनाये रखेंगे, केवल इतना ही नहीं बल्कि उनको इस प्रकार से मांजेंगे, चमकायेंगे कि राज्य सभा का नाम भारत में ही नहीं बल्कि भारत के बाहर भी रोशन हो जाएगा।

मान्यवर, यह सभी को विदित है कि जितनी संसदीय प्रथायें हैं वे अल्पमत के हक में हैं और उन प्रथाओं को कायम रखना, उन्हें बनाये रखना इधर बाईं ओर बैठने वालों के अधिकारों के लिये है और संसदीय प्रथा की सबसे बड़ी प्रशंसनीय बात यह है कि अल्पमत को कभी भी यह आभास या ख्याल नहीं होता है कि उनके विचारों की, उनके हक की किसी तरह से अवहेलना की जा रही है।

मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जो आपकी जिंदगी का कारनामा रहा है, स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के एक पुराने सैनिक, श्रमिकों के क्षेत्र में संगठन बनाने वाले और उनके एक मशहूर और मारुफ़ नेता, भारत की पुरानी लेजिस्लेटिव असेम्बली तथा, मद्रास की लेजिस्लेटिव असेम्बली के सदस्य, इन सब को आपने सुशोभित किया है और आज जब कि प्लानिंग का युग है तो मैं यह नहीं भुला सकता हूँ कि कांग्रेस ने जिस समय प्लानिंग कमेटी को बनाया था उस समय उस प्लानिंग कमेटी के मंत्रियों में से श्रीमान एक थे और योजना को बनाने में आपका बहुत बड़ा हाथ था। आपका यह पुराना इतिहास, पुराना जीवन जो हमारे सामने है और जो आपके कारनामे हैं उन्हें हम भूल नहीं सकते हैं। मैं एक बार पुनः आपका स्वागत करता हूँ और आपका स्वागत करते हुए यह विचार प्रकट करता हूँ कि आपके सभापतित्व में इस राज्य सभा का काम सुचारू रूप से चलेगा और राज्य सभा अपने काम में और अपने नाम में वह जोड़-गांठ करेगी जिससे कि राज्य सभा का ही नाम नहीं बढ़ेगा बल्कि मान्यवर का भी नाम बढ़ेगा।

इसके साथ ही माननीय नेता सदन अथवा नेता विरोधी दल या अन्य नेताओं ने आपके सम्बन्ध में जो कहा है उन सभी से मैं अपनी सहमति प्रकट करता हूँ और आपका पुनः स्वागत करता हूँ।

Shri Niren Ghosh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of our party, I welcome you as the Chairman of our House. Perhaps it is the first time that a Chairman has come to occupy the Chair through a contest, since the Congress Party and we do not see eye to eye on all the issues that face the country. However, we were happy when you resigned from the Central Government on the issue of their doing injustice to the working class as a matter of principle. But I would also say that we were not happy when you did not allow the Kerala State Assembly to be convened. In future we should expect you as Chairman of the House to function in a way so that we can approve all your actions and think of you as guarding the interests of the Opposition. I would have been happy if I could say that the federal principle has come into play. It is not so. But it is true that the battle has been joined that the federal principle should come into play and the fight will continue in future in all its aspects. In this connection, I would naturally expect you to see that the interests of the States are properly guarded by the House. I consider dignity and decorum is that which can only reflect the hopes and aspirations of the down-trodden masses of India. Dignity and decorum is not just bourgeois words to embellish the present system. So I would also ask you to remember these things when guarding the dignity and decorum of the House. We have seen a systematic sort of erosion of

the privileges of the Opposition. So we would expect you to guard the privileges of the Opposition since, however weakly it may be, we hope to represent and do represent the working class and the down-trodden masses of the country. With these few words, I welcome you as the Chairman of our House.

Shri Chitta Basu: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join in the welcome that is accorded to you. Although you have been elected on the support of a political party, I hope and I am confident that from the moment you were elected to this exalted office; you have ceased to be a party man. On you rests the dignity and decorum of this House and it is the privilege for us to have you in the Chair. A brilliant leader of the national liberation movement and organiser of the trade union movement in its formative period, you are well-acquainted and conversant with the trade union movement of this country. Not only that, the progressive and socialist thought of this country is familiar to you. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we expect and hope that the hopes and aspirations which we want to reflect here should be properly heard by you and through your wise guidance, we will be able to discharge our responsibilities to the people. With these words, I welcome you in this House as Chairman. I would also say that the Centre-State relations have to be re-assessed and re-evaluated on the basis of the changed political context. I think under your guidance we shall be able to re-assess and re-evaluate the Centre-State relations in the interest of the nation and the people of our country.

Shri B. D. Khobaragade: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend a sincere and heart-felt welcome to you. You have a vivid experience of multifarious activities as you are interested in many spheres. You are a pioneer of the trade union movement in this country. As such, you have dedicated the major part of your life to the working classes and, therefore, you can justly be called the champion and guardian of the underdog. No doubt, you have been associated with Parliament for some time. But since then there has been a considerable change in the composition of Rajya Sabha. As there is a change in the political and social situation in the country, naturally there would be a reflection of that change in this House also. We believe in parliamentary democracy. My own opinion is that democracy cannot be successful until and unless there is equality, social and economic, and there is justice, social and economic as well. As you have been a champion of the downtrodden people, I hope that you will always strive to help the cause of the underdogs and whenever we try to raise issues of those people, we expect the full support and co-operation from you. Sir, on behalf of the Republican Party of India, I accord you a welcome and I can assure you that we will always extend our full support and co-operation in maintaining the dignity and decorum of this august House.

The Deputy Chairman*: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to offer my felicitations to you. You now come to the Chair as a veteran. You have been in this House and the other House, and you have had a brilliant record, and with the abundant experience and understanding of men and matters you would be able to steer the debates and the proceedings of this House very diligently and to the satisfaction especially of the Opposition. There will be many problems, battles fought inside your chamber and on the floor. Passions will rise; reason will sag, and then you, as a veteran, will steer the deliberations of this House to the shores of calm and reason and peace. Again I wish you well.

श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह ब्रार:** चेयरमैन साहब, मैं अपनी तरफ से और अकाली पार्टी संत फतह सिंह ग्रुप की तरफ से आपको खुश-आमदीद पेश करता हूँ। आपके जीवन से नावाकिफ होते हुए भी प्रधान मंत्री और दीगर बुजुर्गों की ज़बानी जो मैंने आपकी तारीफ़ सुनी है ऐसा दिखाई देता है कि आपके जीवन के पीछे एक हिस्ट्री है। इसके बारे में ज्यादा न जाते हुए कुछ और अर्ज करूँ क्योंकि बहुत सा टाइम पहले लिया जा चुका है कि मैं अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से आपको यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि हम हर किस्म का आपके साथ तआवुन करेंगे। जहां तक कि गवर्नमेंट के कदम दुरूस्त होंगे, किसी किस्म की गड़बड़ या आपके वक्त को जाया करने की कोशिश नहीं की जायेगी और आपकी काबलियत का हम एहताराम करेंगे, यह कहते हुए मैं आपको अपनी तरफ से और अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से तआवुन पेश करने का यकीन दिलाता हूँ।

श्री राजनारायण: श्रीमन्, मैं आपके साथ अपने पुराने सम्बन्धों के कारण इस पद पर आपको देख कर बहुत प्रसन्न हूँ। जब सरकारी पक्ष के और विरोधी दल के लोग कुछ अपनी भावनाओं को व्यक्त कर रहे हैं, तो मुझे छिपाने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि मैं आपके द्वारा सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों को बताना चाहूँगा कि आप मुझे अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं और मैं भी आपको अच्छी तरह से जानता हूँ। इसलिये इस सदन के सदस्यों को जनाबे सदर को जानने में कोई कठिनाई नहीं होगी और सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य इस बारे में निश्चिन्त रहें कि मैं आपकी खूबियों को जानता हूँ और उन खूबियों को जो सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य नहीं जानते उनको बताना चाहूँगा।

यह सही है कि चुनाव में मैंने आपका विरोध किया था, यह सही है कि चुनाव में हमने राष्ट्रपति पद के लिये डा. जाकिर हुसैन का भी विरोध किया था। मगर सरकारी पक्ष के कुछ लोग रास्ते में जब जाने लगे तो मुझे यह कहने लगे कि ये व्ही.व्ही. गिरी साहब आ रहे हैं, अब इनसे कैसा सम्बन्ध रहेगा तुम्हारा? हमने कहा, हमारा सम्बन्ध बड़ा मधुर रहेगा जैसा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में विधान सभा के सदस्य की हैसियत से मैं था और राज्यपाल की हैसियत में जब आप वहां थे तब मैंने आपको वहां देखा था।

* Shrimati Violet Alva.

** Spoke in Urdu.

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय के जो हमारे मौजूदा चेयरमैन साहब हैं, उनसे सदन को क्या-क्या उम्मीद करनी चाहिये। श्रीमन्, आप श्री पुरुषोत्तमदास जी टंडन का नाम जानते हैं: श्री पुरुषोत्तमदास टंडन विधान सभा के सम्मानित अध्यक्ष रहे हैं। जब मुस्लिम लीग उत्तर प्रदेश में थी तब टंडनजी ने विधान सभा में कहा-क्योंकि एक बार मुस्लिम लीग की कमेटी की मीटिंग में कहा गया और अखबारों में समाचार आ गया कि मुस्लिम लीग अध्यक्ष के ऊपर अविश्वास का प्रस्ताव पेश करने वाली है-कि अगर इस सदन के एक भी सदस्य का मेरे ऊपर अविश्वास है तो मैं अध्यक्ष पद पर रहने को तैयार नहीं हूँ। तो मुस्लिम लीग के लीडर जो बैठे थे उन्होंने कहा, नहीं श्रीमन्, आपमें हमारा विश्वास है, आप रहें, आपने जो अब तक व्यवस्थाएं दी हैं उससे हम सन्तुष्ट हैं, जो अखबारों में बात निकल गई वह गलत तरीके से निकल गई। ऐसे-ऐसे अध्यक्ष, ऐसे-ऐसे सदर, विधान मण्डलों में रह चुके हैं-मैंने तो केवल संकेत किया। यूँ मैं अपनी भावनाओं को छिपाना नहीं चाहता। मैं उस ऋषि की वाणी को याद करता हूँ कि जिसने सबक दिया है कि पहले तो विधान निर्मात्री परिषद् में जाने के लिये लालायित न हो और अगर जाओ तो अपनी भावनाओं को छिपाकर कोई बात नहीं कहो, सत्य को असत्य द्वारा खंडित होते हुए मत देखो। उस ऋषि की वाणी को हम बराबर याद करते हैं और चाहते हैं जब तक यह जिन्दगी रहे तब तक और बराबर उसी के अनुकूल आचरण रहे, हमारी बुद्धि और आचरण में भेद न हो। जो आचरण बुद्धि के तदनुरूप नहीं है वह आचरण भ्रष्ट है, जो बुद्धि आचरण के तदनुकूल नहीं है वह बुद्धि छलना है। इसलिये भ्रष्ट आचरण और छलना बुद्धि एक साथ जाना चाहते हैं। मगर मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि जो हमारे संविधान में यह व्यवस्था है कि वाइस प्रेसीडेन्ट जो हों वे राज्य सभा के सदर के पद पर काम करें, मैं इस व्यवस्था से सहमत नहीं। उसके अनेक कारण हैं और मैं समझता हूँ, अगर व्यक्तिगत ढंग से आपको अपने जज़्बात का इज़हार करना होगा, तो आप भी हमारी भावनाओं से संभवतः सहमत होंगे। मगर इस अवसर पर श्रीमन्, मैं अपनी ओर से आपको पूरा आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ, अपने समकक्ष विचारधारा रखने वाले लोगों की ओर से आपको पूरा आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा और जनतंत्रीय प्रथाओं के विकास के लिये आप जितनी भी कुर्बानी, त्याग, मदद, बलिदान, हमसे चाहेंगे, हम बराबर देने के लिये तैयार रहेंगे। अब सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा और जनतंत्र के समुचित विकास के लिये-यह सही है कि अगर सरकारी पक्ष यह चाहे कि यह सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा रहे और सरकारी पक्ष का कोई मंत्री खड़ा होकर स्कूल बायज़ की तरह सबक देने लगे, तो मैं उस सबक को इन्कार करता हूँ और मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, जब तक हमारे सदर श्री व्ही.व्ही. गिरी जी रहेंगे तब तक और ज्यादा इन्कार करते रहेंगे क्योंकि हमें विश्वास है कि हमारे उन अधिकारों की रक्षा आप करेंगे। हमें पूरा विश्वास है, जनतंत्र की उन्नति के लिये, जनतंत्रीय प्रणाली की पद्धति को विकसित करने के लिये आप बराबर, सतत् प्रयत्नशील रहते हैं और रहेंगे-क्या यह सबको मालूम नहीं है, क्या यह हमारे मौजूदा चेयरमैन साहब किसी चीज के भूखे हैं? ये श्रम मंत्री की हैसियत से इस्तीफा दे चुके हैं। ... मैं गिरी जी की भावना की कद्र करना चाहता हूँ। इसलिये मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यहां बहुत से, और बहुमत सरकारी पक्ष के लोगों को गिरी जी की सभ्य और साधु व्यवस्था से चिढ़ होगी, मुझे मालूम है, मैं उस दिन को बहुत दूर नहीं देखता हूँ जब कि सरकारी पक्ष के लोग कहने लगेंगे कि चेयरमैन साहब आपके द्वारा विरोधी पक्ष को ज्यादा समय दिया जा रहा है वह समय आयेगा, क्योंकि मैं जानता हूँ गिरी जी निष्पक्ष हैं। जहां निष्पक्ष सदर रहेगा वहां विरोधी पक्ष को ज्यादा समय होगा, विरोधी पक्ष के अधिकारों

की रक्षा होगी, विरोधी पक्ष को बहुमत पक्ष दबा नहीं सकेगा। किसी भी सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा में काम करने वाले अध्यक्ष अथवा सभापति का यह प्रथम पुनीत कर्तव्य है। तो श्रीमन्, मैं पुनः अपनी भावनाओं को आपके सामने व्यक्त करता हूँ। मैं जानता हूँ कि सरकारी पक्ष के बहुत से लोगों को पढ़ने लिखने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। अगर वे पढ़ें तो उनको मालूम होगा कि संसदीय प्रथा का अध्यक्ष कौन हो। तीन चार शर्तें विशेष हैं। अध्यक्ष वह होना चाहिये जो जब चाहे तब नेता, सदन की जगह ले सके। अध्यक्ष वह होना चाहिये जिसका त्याग, जिसकी विद्वता, जिसकी प्रतिभा सर्वविदित हो। अध्यक्ष वह होना चाहिये जिसके प्रति स्वतः, अपने आप आदर का, सम्मान का भाव व्यक्त हो।

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मैं अदब के साथ आपके लिये अपनी भावनाओं को व्यक्त करते हुए सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों से निवेदन करूंगा कि जो लोग गिरी जी से पक्षपात की उम्मीद करते होंगे कि बहुमत पक्ष को गिरी जी संरक्षण देंगे, उनको निराश होना पड़ेगा और जब-जब उनको निराश होना पड़ेगा तब-तब हमारी वाणी और बढ़ेगी, यह मैं आपको आश्वस्त करता हूँ।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ पुनः आपके प्रति आदर और श्रद्धा व्यक्त करते हुए सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा के अबाध विकास के लिये मैं आपको इस पद पर और इस स्थान पर देखने के लिये बराबर लालायित रहूंगा। नमस्कार।

Mr. Chairman: Comrades and colleagues, I am extremely grateful to honourable Members of this House for their kind sentiments and I feel highly honoured. The encomiums you have showered on me, on the one hand, make me embarrassed and on the other place a heavy responsibility on my shoulders. My illustrious predecessors who adorned this high office are men of great intellectual attainments, known for their scholarship and erudition. In contrast, I am only a common man who has spent the better part of his life for the underdog. I hope to maintain the excellent traditions set by them and in this I count upon your goodwill, cooperation and support.

As you all perhaps know, I am no stranger to this House, nor this is my maiden speech. It may perhaps be styled as an old maid's address! I have been connected with the Parliamentary institutions for the last four decades either directly or indirectly and now I am returning to my old haunts after a decade.

I would like to utilise this opportunity to thank my comrades here and the Lok Sabha for electing me to the high office of the Vice-President of India in which capacity I am also *ex officio* Chairman of this House.

I consider the felicitations expressed by the Members have deeper significance than mere congratulations to an individual chosen to be the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. In my view, they represent an urge that

changes in the composition of the House or in its chairmanship, would not in the least affect the determination of all of us to bend our energies for the national task of speedy and orderly development. This House is not merely an Upper Chamber: this is representative of the States of the Union. In fact, this is the only place where the chosen spokesmen of the States are constantly and directly in touch with the representatives of the Union Government.

In the developing federal structure of our country, the Rajya Sabha has a greater role to play in the future. From the rich diversity of representative opinion we have here, from the daily dialogues we will be having on matters of moment, will, I am sure, emerge a greater unity, a more lasting national consensus. I feel it a privilege to be associated with this experiment.

Today we are facing great economic difficulties in different parts of the country and we cannot consider them as the responsibility of any particular State or the Government at the Centre. It is only through the united effort of all that we will be able to solve them. Apart from this, I would like to reiterate that whatever our differences be, we should all consider that we belong to one nation and that we are Indians first, last and always, and the seeming diversities are not deep-rooted but only superficial.

While it is held that the duty of the Opposition is to oppose, in my humble opinion, in a developing country like ours, the Opposition has a very important role to play, by being responsible as much as the Government in achieving for the common man the fundamental rights adumbrated in our Constitution, especially the right to work and the right to live.

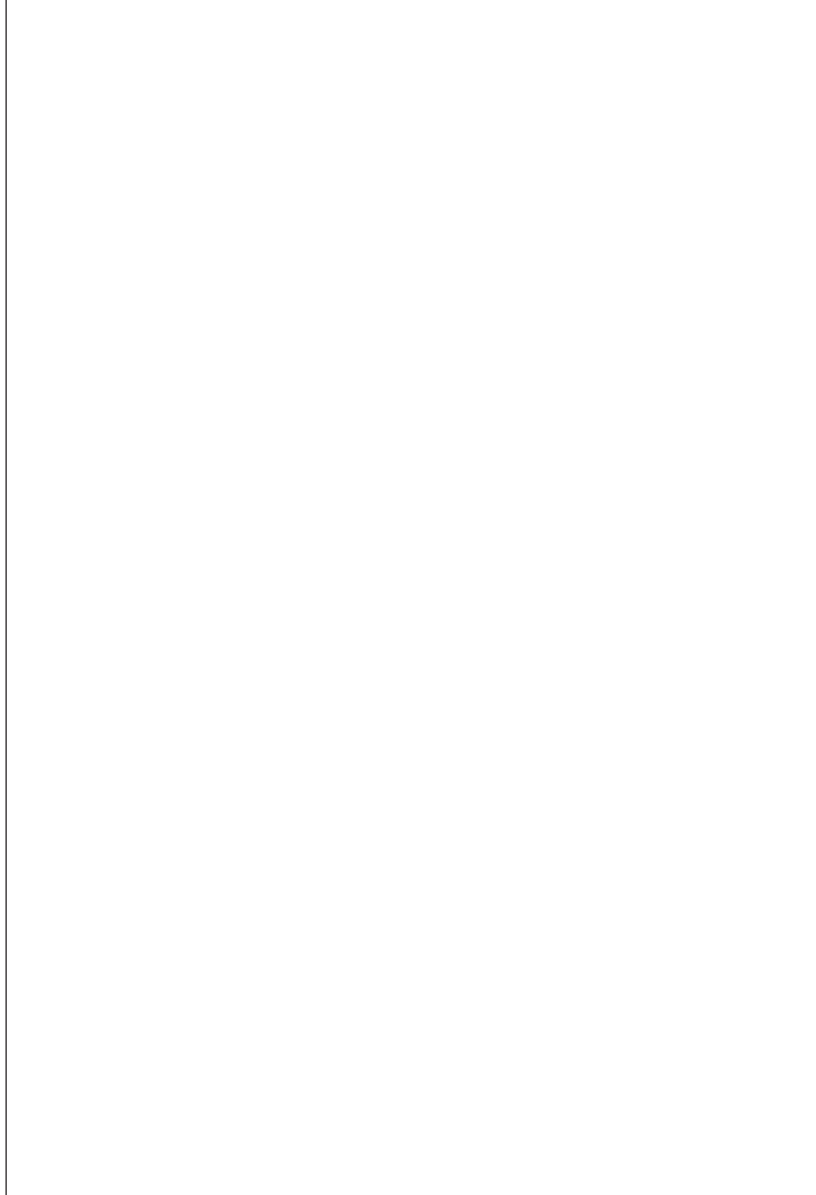
So far as I am concerned, let me assure you that I will make no distinction between the Members of the Treasury Benches and those of the Opposition. I would give the fullest opportunity to every Member, to discharge his duty. In this connection, I would like to emphasise that the Question Hour the most effective method of parliamentary control over the activities of the Executive—should be judiciously used. The Members of the Treasury Benches should realise this as an opportunity to provide full facts and explain the policies of the Government. This will produce a happy atmosphere and result in the supplementaries being reduced. Of course, it should be understood, that the Ministers cannot divulge information which is against public interests.

In order to facilitate the work of this honourable House, I would concede the privilege to any honourable Member to see me any day during the session between 10.15 a.m. and 10.50 a.m. in my Chamber so that he may be able to make any representations on any matter which will ensure

cordial relations and foster better understanding between the Chairman and Members and among the Members themselves.

On the last working day of the week I would like to meet the leaders of Parties or their representatives and the Whips so that we may generally discuss and review matters and that would facilitate our work.

I am grateful to you for allowing me the opportunity of stating some of my views regarding the conduct of business of this House. I thank you once again.



Shri G.S. Pathak
(26.2.1896–31.8.1982)
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha
(31.8.1969–30.8.1974)

Gopal Swarup Pathak : A profile

PATHAK, SHRI GOPAL SWARUP: M.A., LL.B.; s. of Pandit Krishan Swarup Pathak; b. February 26, 1896; m. Shrimati Prakashwati, 3 s. and 3 d.; Judge, Allahabad High Court, 1945-46; Member, Rajya Sabha, 3.4.1960 to 2.4.1966 and 3.4.1966 to 13.5.1967; Union Minister of Law, 1966-67; Governor, Mysore State, 13.5.1967 to 31.8.1969; Chancellor, (i) Mysore University, (ii) Bangalore University and (iii) Karnataka University; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 31.8.1969 to 30.8.1974; Died. Obit. on 4.10.1982.

Felicitations offered to Shri Gopal Swarup Pathak on 17 November 1969

The Leader of the House, Shri K.K. Shah: Mr. Chairman, I deem it to be a privilege to extend a very warm welcome to you. You are no stranger to this House. You have distinguished yourself as a Parliamentarian and as a Minister in the past. You have earned a reputation for ability, integrity and judicious acumen of rare quality. With your background as a Judge, as an eminent jurist, as a diplomat and as an intellectual you have enriched different walks of public life and we have no doubt that we shall benefit considerably by your wise guidance and equanimous temperament.

It is only in times of stress and strains that one is called upon to give his best and very healthy precedents are created. We will be facing in this House momentous occasions when your wisdom, fairness and generosity will enable us to be participants in equitable decisions which posterity will acclaim with gratitude and will uphold as the highest traditions of parliamentary democracy.

Sir, I have no doubt that you will bring to bear on your high and exalted office not only the rich and valuable experience of a selflessly devoted career but your rare acumen of justice and fairplay. On our part, I wish to assure on my behalf and on behalf of Government that you will have our fullest support and co-operation in not only upholding the privileges of each individual Member in a just and equitable manner. It will be our endeavour to judge each issue with sobriety and in national interest. Needless to assure you that we shall strive our utmost to accommodate every point of view.

May I once again extend to you our warmest felicitations.

Shri S. N. Mishra: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my privilege to offer my sincerest congratulations and greetings to you on behalf of the Congress Party in Parliament. We are conscious that you have assumed office today in the midst of some profoundly seminal developments that have taken place in the country and also in the Parliament of India... You will be presiding over a House on which the shadow of the Government would not loom very large now, and in which there will be a rightful, official Opposition for the invigoration of democracy and for the establishment of democratic socialism in this country. We have heard too much about some of the socialist ideas which are, in fact pseudo-socialist slogans and it will, therefore, be the duty of my Party to work for the establishment of a real democratic socialist society.

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The historic development that has taken place today is bound to have a tremendous impact on the political life of the country. It is in this context that you are now assuming the responsibilities of this high office. One who has got even a milligram of insight as they say into the future would feel somewhat disturbed at some of the portents. Our House is a continuing House and, therefore, it is a factor for stability. We want to preserve it as the bastion of democracy. We will co-operate with you in maintaining its position. It is possible that the waters elsewhere might be ruffled, but we would like that here the waters should be as placid as possible for it is a continuing House, as I said.

As was said by the Leader of the House, you are not a stranger to this House. You have been a distinguished Member of this House. A man so rich in experience, so eminent in law and so loved and liked by all the Members is certainly going to fill the bill admirably. We have absolutely no doubt about it. You have adorned not only our Benches, the Benches of the private Members, but you have also adorned the Treasury Benches. You have given ample evidence of your erudition in law and your devotion to the institutions and practices of democracy. Your familiarity with the rules and practices that govern the conduct of this House is also well known. Your long and distinguished legal training and career is bound to prove to be a great asset to all of us.

You are also conscious, as you have been one of us for a pretty long time, how anxious we are to preserve the rights and privileges of all Members. We however, do not want that only the rights and privileges of the Members of the Opposition should be preserved, although their rights and privileges are really the concern of the whole democracy, It may be that sometimes you may not be indulgent to the Government, but you have to be indulgent to us. Therefore, since you have yourself experienced in this august House, for quite a long time, how Members are solicitous of the rights and privileges of this House, you will certainly give your best consideration to preserving them.

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I feel that in you we have a person who has whenever he did anything earned only good-will and friendship from all and whenever he said anything he exuded only charm and sweetness. We are glad that such a person occupies the Chair today.

Now, on behalf of the Opposition generally it has become somewhat customary to say that we pledge ourselves to loyalty to the Chair and the high traditions of this House. Although it is a good custom to do that, we would like it to be more than a custom and I would not like to make any loud protestation about that and I would only submit to you that our Party is going to show that we want to back up this pledge by practice that is what we propose to do.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, I offer again our heartiest felicitations on this occasion and you can very confidently look forward to having very sincere co-operation from us.

Thank you very much.

Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of our group and other Members in this House, we welcome you to the high office that you are going to fill. You have a background, tradition and training which befits you most eminently for this position and I am sure you will acquit yourself with credit in your duties. On behalf of a section that has suffered very much in the past, perhaps due to certain reasons, may I plead that this corner of the House would receive a fairer treatment? Intentionally or unintentionally, my group has been the group that has suffered very much in the past and I hope that will not happen in your regime. I am not making any charges. I am just mentioning a fact with the hope that there will be no reason for us to refer to this matter and that it will be a matter of the past.

श्री पीताम्बर दास: आदरणीय सभापति जी, उपराष्ट्रपति पद के ऊपर आपके निर्वाचित होने पर मैं आपको बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और इस सदन में सभापति के नाते आपके आगमन पर आपका स्वागत करता हूँ। एक जमाना था कि सत्तारूढ़ दल इस सदन में अत्यधिक भारी बहुमत में बैठता था, ब्रूट मेजरिटी में। उस समय जिन लोगों को सभापतित्व का काम करना पड़ा वह काफी सरल था। उसके बाद एक जमाना आया जब कांग्रेस पार्टी साधारण मत में बैठती थी और उस समय का काम कभी-कभी कठिन दिखाई देते हुए भी कठिन नहीं था, परन्तु आज परिस्थिति बहुत भिन्न है। आज का सत्तारूढ़ दल एक नाजुक बहुमत में है, मार्जिनल मेजरिटी में। मेरे कुछ साथियों का यह भी ख्याल है यह बहुमत है भी या नहीं लेकिन मैं उसके सम्बन्ध में अभी कोई मत प्रगट करना नहीं चाहता। तो ऐसी स्थिति में सभापति का काम बहुत कठिन है, परन्तु मुझे विश्वास है कि अपनी बुद्धिमता, योग्यता, कुशलता, क्षमता और अनुभव के आधार पर आपके लिये वह काम कठिन नहीं होगा। इस सदन की कार्यवाही में मैं स्वयं और मेरा सारा दल आपको पूरा सहयोग देगा मैं इस बात का आश्वासन देता हूँ और ईश्वर से आपकी सफलता की कामना करता हूँ।

श्री गोडे मुराहरि: अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपका निर्वाचन और उपराष्ट्रपति बनना इस सदन के लिए एक गौरव की बात मैं मानता हूँ क्योंकि आप इस सदन के सदस्य रह चुके हैं। बाद में कई स्थानों पर मिनिस्टर और गवर्नर की हैसियत से रहे हैं और अपनी जिम्मेदारी को अच्छी तरह आपने निभाया है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि सबसे कठिन काम जो आप निभाने वाले हैं वह राज्य सभा की चेयरमैनी है और वह भी ऐसे समय जबकि राज्य सभा का स्वरूप बदला हुआ है क्योंकि कल तक जो राज्य सभा का स्वरूप था वह आज से नहीं है और कल परसों यह पता चलेगा कि यह सरकार बहुमत में है या अल्पमत है या कितने लोग, कितनी पार्टियां इसके साथ हैं और कितनी पार्टियां इसके खिलाफ हैं।... मैं आपको अपनी पार्टी की ओर से बधाई देता हूँ और आश्वासन भी देता हूँ कि हमारी पार्टी कभी भी पार्लियामेंटरी नियम और जो पद्धति है उसके खिलाफ काम नहीं करेगी, लेकिन अगर कहीं अन्याय होगा तो उसका प्रतिरोध हम करेंगे। जब तक हम अन्याय का प्रतिरोध नहीं करेंगे तब तक

हमारे यहां आने का मकसद ही पूरा नहीं होता। इसलिए मैं आशा तो यही करूंगा कि आप किसी समय ऐसा अवसर हमें नहीं देंगे और इसी आशा के साथ मैं आपको अपनी पार्टी की ओर से बधाई देता हूँ।

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my party I welcome you not as a granite nor as a lollipop. I am a man of common clay, and in that humble capacity I heartily welcome you in the esteemed and high position which you occupy today. It has been one of your unique privileges today to preside over this House when our parliamentary democracy is facing certain deadly challenges from the side of dark reaction. It is a testing time which has summoned you to an assignment of high importance, and I have no doubt in my mind that you shall discharge your responsibility in a true spirit of democracy, keeping all the time in view that what happens outside in the life of the masses finds its vibrations within the precincts of Parliament. When the life marches outside in giant strides. Parliament cannot mark time or stand still. Therefore, it will be one of your very basic assignments, if I may say so, and undoubtedly you shall carry out that assignment, capturing the spirit that is outside.

You are also in a very interesting situation for the first time in the annals of parliamentary democracy. Suddenly overnight an opposition has been born in the womb of a party that is in power. It has not been created by any mandate of the people. The party has not been created by the mandate of the people outside or by election through our Assemblies. It has been created somewhere else by, shall I say, defection or fascination for something else. This itself is a unique situation. Whether it is a drama or a melodrama is not for me to say, but nonetheless we take the life in its stride and we take it for what it is worth. I am sure you should bear in mind that even in the Opposition there are oppositions and oppositions. It cannot be tarred with the same brush or painted in the same way. There will be always something to be sorted out from others. I have been here in this House for the last sixteen years on the mandate of a parliamentary party, elected by an Assembly and came here in opposition. I have not left my parents to become the opposition. I have not forsaken my mother or my father to assume suddenly the mantle of opposition. You will forgive me if these are my disqualifications. I tell you that despite these disqualifications and difficulties I shall be, without being a granite co-operative with you.

Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure that we have today in you an esteemed jurist, an eminent lawyer and above all a man of integrity and I am sure you do not like in the political life malpractices, corruption, syndicalism or whatever it is. It is quite clear. You like in political life straightforward behaviour.

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I look forward to your indulgence sometimes, your affection sometimes, your admonition sometimes, your rebuke sometimes, but always I shall

expect of you that in the crucible of the fight for democracy against reaction you are on the side of democracy and against reaction. Parliament is not a non-aligned body between democracy and reaction. Parliament is a partisan of progress. Parliament is a partisan of democracy and it shall be your privilege. Mr. Chairman, when the challenges are being met here and outside by the people, even the turmoil inside what has been the big ruling party—I am sure your guidance, your wisdom, your statesmanship, your courage, your integrity of character, your knowledge, your judicial mind, will all be harnessed to the cause of tending the forces of democracy and weakening the forces of reaction so that this Parliament under your leadership records a new chapter of fighting counter-revolution and reactionary forces and of triumph of democracy.

Thank you. With this confidence I greet you on this happy occasion.

Shri Niren Ghosh: On behalf of my party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), I would like to heartily welcome you, You have been a Member of our House and have come to occupy this august position. Now. Mr. Mishra said that turbulent times are ahead. I say, there are turbulent times, and it will perhaps be a turbulent House. So, it would need all your skill, sagacity and sense for the rights and privileges of the Members on the basis of democracy in order to conduct it.

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If we in this House even in a faint way reflect the people who are fighting outside for better times, we will be fulfilling our minimum duty. But I can only say—Mr. Murahari has said that if there is injustice we will protest—that I would expect that there should not be partisanship in deciding questions of procedure, etc. In that way you should see that all parties and all groups can have their say and that a broad exchange takes place and in that the issues take shape. You will see to it and I can assure you from my party, that you will get our sincerest co-operation in this effort.

Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy: Mr. Chairman, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, I offer sincere and heartfelt felicitations to you. I know you for a long time. You were with us as a Member of this honourable House. You were with us in this House as a member of the Treasury Benches. And till very recently, you were the Governor of Mysore. Wherever you have been and whatever position you have occupied, you have always distinguished yourself as a great jurist, as a great administrator and as the Governor of Mysore you have always followed the Constitution of India in letter and in spirit and you have always upheld the right causes. I have no doubt that you will strive your best to safeguard the rights and privileges of Members of this House and you will also try your best to maintain the dignity and privileges of this House when we are confronted with such a situation.

Mr. Chairman, we are very happy that you are presiding over this House at a time when things are changing very rapidly in this country. We are sure

that you will always try to uphold the right causes, that you will strive for the establishment of a democratic society in this country and that you will help this House in striving to establish that society where injustices perpetrated upon the larger sections of the masses will be done away with.

Shri Thillai Villalan: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I welcome you whole heartedly. You have adorned the Bench in the field of Judiciary previously; you have earned fame and name. Now, in the political field, you are adorning the Chair. I hope you will earn fame and name. Whether you are in the Chair or in the Bench, I hope the judicial mind is always there. Being Members of the House of Elders, we consider that you are the elder of the olders of this House. On behalf of my party, I assure you of my fullest co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings of this House. With these words, I welcome you.

Shri B. D. Khobaragade: On my own behalf and on behalf of the Republican Party of India, I offer my sincere felicitations and congratulations to you on this occasion. Being an eminent lawyer, erudite scholar, skilled and experienced Parliamentarian, and having shouldered multifarious responsibilities with distinction, I have no doubt that you will conduct the proceedings of this House fairly and impartially.

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On behalf of my party and myself, I welcome you and say that we will extend our full co-operation to you in conducting the proceedings of this House.

Shri Chitta Basu: Sir, I offer you my sincere felicitations and in the course of it I do not like to repeat the most splendid career that you have had.

I think you are well aware of the mass democratic movements taking place outside this Parliament, and we, being the representatives of the people, elected by the representatives in the States, are naturally to reflect the movements that are taking place outside. And in the course of reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people outside, we are to abide by your ruling, we have to accept the rules and procedures of this House. Although you have been elected as the candidate of a particular political party, it is also your responsibility to see that the people's hopes and aspirations are adequately represented and reflected in this House. And in the matter of shaping the destiny of the people, you have a very big responsibility to shoulder.

I sincerely assure you, as a Member of this House and also on behalf of my party, of my party's fullest co-operation in the matter of the peaceful conduct of the proceedings of this House.

Shri A. K. A. Abdul Samad: On behalf of my party, the Indian Union Muslim League, I congratulate you and assure you of our support in maintaining democratic traditions and constitutional rights.

सरदार नरेंद्र सिंह ब्रार*: चेयरमैन सर, आपके इन्तेखाब पर मैं अपनी तरफ से और अकाली पार्टी की तरफ से आपको मुबारकबाद पेश करता हूँ। आपके कामयाब होने की हमें खुशी है। हमको तो इसका उसी वक्त अन्दाजा हो गया था जबकि हमने आपके नाम के आगे जी.एस. लिखा देखा। श्री जी.एस. ढिल्लों से तो हम पहले ही ताल्लुक रखते थे और आपके नाम के साथ भी जी.एस. आ गया तो आपके नाम के साथ झुकाव हो गया। यह सवाल जी.एस. के लिये बड़ा मुबारक है और आज हमको खुशी है।

अब दिक्कत यह दिखाई देती है कि कितनी कठिनाइयां आपको आज आई हैं और कितनी आयेंगी लेकिन इसके बाद भी हमें पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आपकी सी काबिल शख्सियत जिसको इतना तजुर्बा है, जो कि हर शुअबा से गुजरा है वह इस काम को बड़ी खुश उसलबी से निभा सकेंगे। मगर साथ ही मैं आपसे इल्तजा करूंगा कि आप जब हाउस में आयें तो एक गवर्नर की शकल में आयें और जब आपकी विनम्रता मैंने देखी तो ऐसा मालूम होने लगा कि कोई बुजुर्गों के बुजुर्ग, कोई एल्डर्स के एल्डर बैठे हुए हैं। इस वक्त जो आपकी जिम्मेदारी है वह एक अच्छे बुजुर्ग की हो गई है। पिछली बातों को छोड़कर मेरी अर्ज है कि जहां तक हमारे तआवुन का ताल्लुक है हम अपना बेहतरीन तआवुन आपको देंगे और जहां तक मुमकिन होगा अपनी आत्मा से बर्दाश्त करेंगे और आपको कोई ऐसा मौका नहीं देंगे। फिर भी इत्तफाक से कुछ गलती हो जाये तो आप बुजुर्ग हैं, गालिबन इसको महसूस नहीं करेंगे। मेरी छोटी सी पार्टी है और हमारी तरफ आपकी तवज्जो गालिबन रहेगी और मैं यह भी कहता हूँ कि जिस तरह आप मेरी तरफ अब देख रहे हैं इसी तरह कभी-कभी देखते रहेंगे ताकि हमको भी मौका मिलता रहे। यह कहते हुए मैं फिर अपने तआवुन का यकीन दिलाता हूँ। थैंक यू।

Shri A. D. Mani: Sir, I cannot speak in a representative capacity, but as an old independent Member of this House may I join the Leader of the House and the honourable colleagues on this side who have paid warm tributes to you on your election. In electing you the country has not elected a politician but a jurist of great standing whose sense of fairness is well known all over the country. You have also been associated actively with the social service movement, and you have been called upon to occupy this office at a time of great crisis and tension. We are sure that you would maintain the dignity, decorum and the furtherance of this Chamber and give a lead to the country. I extend my warmest feelings to you for success in your office.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Leader and friends, I cannot adequately thank you for the warm welcome that you have given me. I greatly appreciate your congratulations on my election as Vice-President in which capacity I have to act as Chairman of this august House also. I am not indulging in the language of conventionalism when I say that I have been touched by the generous terms in which you have spoken about me.

For seven years I enjoyed the privilege of working with you in this House as your colleague. I recall with pleasure and gratitude the uniform

* Spoke in Urdu.

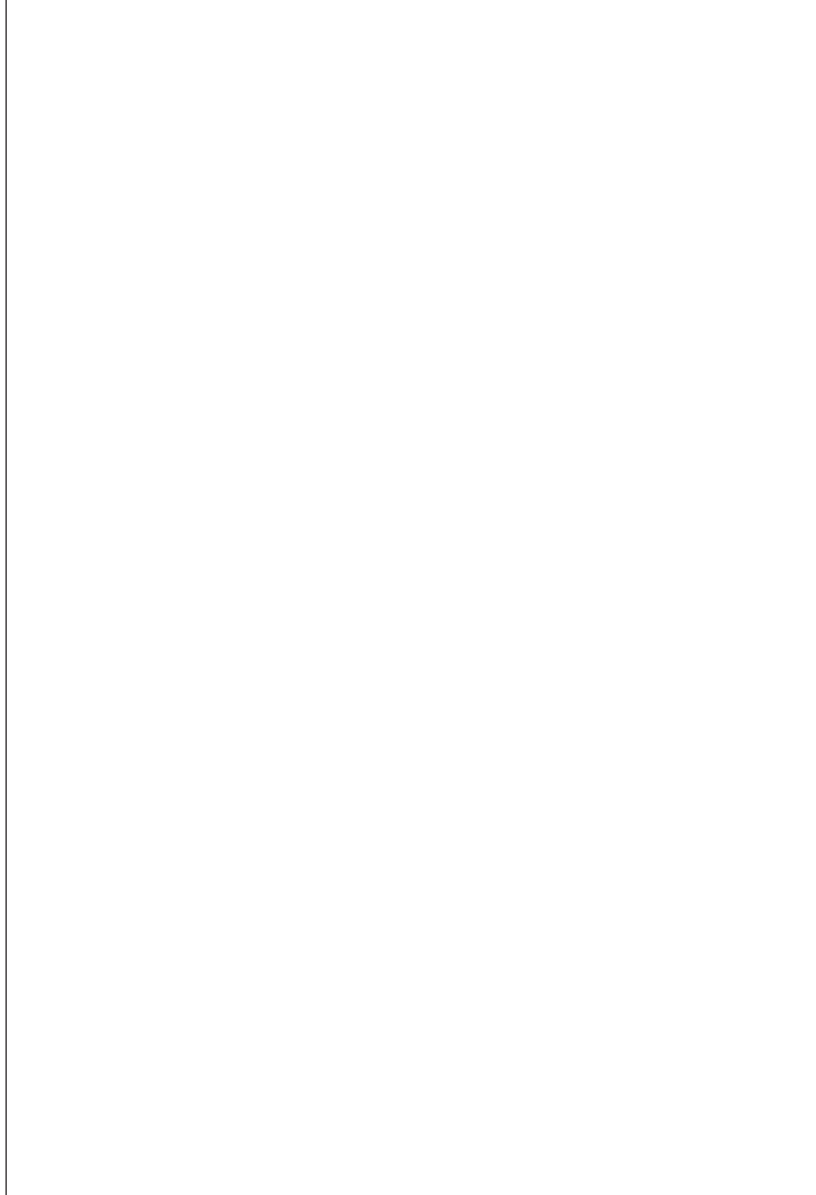
courtesy and kindness that I received at your hands. By the expression of your sentiments today I have been assured that my absence from this scene for a little over two years has not made any difference and that I enjoy your confidence which, I am certain, will make the fulfilment of my responsibility as your Chairman, easier.

Parliament occupies the centre of our constitutional structure. It is the most powerful instrument for securing to our people, who are sovereign, justice, economic and social, and for making political progress. It is through Parliament that peaceful change is ensured. Parliament is the protector of the citizens' rights and citizens' freedom in the land. All this underscores the solemnity of our obligations to Parliament. We must, therefore, endeavour to preserve and strengthen our parliamentary system. We can secure that end by faithful observance of the relevant constitutional provisions, the rules and our conventions. These constitute the real bonds ensuring the healthy functioning of the various parts of the parliamentary machinery.

The Government must govern, but the Opposition is also an essential part of our democratic system. While the Government has a right to explain its policies, the Opposition is entitled to criticise it, and to exercise control over legislation by debate and over the administration by seeking information. The parliamentary machinery must function according to parliamentary law and within the limits assigned by law.

Friends, you have spoken about my work in the legal sphere. I do not know whether I deserve even a modicum of the praise you have bestowed on me. It is true that I spent half a century, the best part of my life, in the service of the law. The training and experience gained have created in me the faith that nothing is higher than justice. The office to which I am called involves the exercise of some judicial functions. The ordinary task of interpretation of the Constitution and the Rules devolves on me. I assure you that I shall give fair and impartial judgment in the fullest measure I am capable of.

I shall always be anxious to help in the preservation of the dignity and decorum of the House. Our House has great traditions. I pledge my service to the cause of Parliament and shall faithfully observe the traditions that belong to it. I deem it a great honour and privilege to serve it as its Presiding Officer. I assure you that I shall make every endeavour to protect and defend your rights and privileges and the rights and privileges of this House. For all this, I need not say, I need your goodwill and co-operation which you have so kindly offered me today. I am confident that working together we shall be able to meet successfully the challenges of these times. I thank you once again for your felicitations.



Shri Basappa Danappa Jatti
(10.9.1912–7.6.2002)
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha
(31.8.1974–30.8.1979)

Basappa Danappa Jatti: A profile

JATTI, SHRI BASAPPA DANAPPA: B.A., LL.B.; s. of Shri Danappa Jatti; b. September 10, 1912; m. Shrimati Sangamma B. Jatti; 3 s. and 1 d.; Member, erstwhile Princely State of Jamkhandi Legislature; Chief Minister, Jamkhandi State for three years; Member, erstwhile Bombay Legislative Assembly; Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister and Minister, holding portfolios of Health & Labour, Government of Bombay State; Member, erstwhile Mysore State Legislative Assembly, 1956 and 1967; Chief Minister and Minister, holding portfolios of Finance and Food, Government of Mysore State, 1958-66; Chairman, Land Reforms Committee, Mysore State; Lt. Governor, Pondicherry, 1968-72; Governor, Orissa, 1972-74; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 31.8.1974 to 30.8.1979; Acting President, 12.2.1977 to 24.7.1977. Died. Obit. on 15.7.2002.

Felicitations offered to Shri B. D. Jatti on 31 August 1974

The Leader of the House, Shri Umashankar Dikshit: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a privilege for me, on behalf of myself, on behalf of the Treasury Benches and, if I may say so, on behalf of the whole House, to extend to you a most hearty welcome. You have occupied positions not only of ability but of great responsibility. You practised as a lawyer for many years with credit to yourself and to the various courts in Karnataka and former Maharashtra. You held several portfolios as Minister first in Maharashtra and then in Karnataka and for four years or so you were the Chief Minister of Mysore now known as Karnataka. Thereafter, as everybody knows, you occupied the responsible position of Lieutenant Governor of Pondicherry and recently, until you resigned, you were the Governor of Orissa. Irrespective of whichever position you have occupied, you have given credit to it and have thereby earned a high reputation. For these reasons and because of your legal background and because of your great experience, we regard it as the good luck of this House that we have you as our Chairman. This House and the honourable Members who compose it have their own ways and sometimes their own mood. There is such an intellectual and political equipment possessed by most of the Members that you will find a great variety and enrichment in the phraseology that we use sometimes, but, on the whole, you will find that we are a very reasonable and co-operative lot. We expect from you and we promise to you that we will give you all the co-operation and support in upholding, promoting, observing and preserving the high standards of parliamentary procedure and parliamentary life of this House.

Sir, I welcome you again.

Shri S. S. Mariswamy: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I deem it to be a privilege to extend a warm welcome to you. You are not a stranger to the parliamentary system of the country, as you have held with distinction various offices before. With your good and varied background, I am sure you will enrich this House by your wise guidance. This House, which was presided over by illustrious leaders who were your predecessors, had set up a record for impartiality and fairplay. The House had the opportunity of having great and eminent scholars like Dr. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Zakir Husain and, again, the great leader who stood for the working class, Mr. V.V. Giri, our

former President, as the Presiding Officers of this august House. Your immediate predecessor, a great legal luminary, Mr. Pathak, was adorning the same Chair for the last five years. You have succeeded all these eminent sons of this country. I wish you all success and good health.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not make a mention that we are passing through very bad days. Our economy is in shambles and I am afraid things, as they look, are not very bright. I do not want to strike a note as a prophet of doom, but yet it is my duty to remind you, as well as the Government, that difficult days are ahead. Sir, this is the House where we reflect public opinion, their sufferings and troubles. It is not only our duty to echo the feelings of the public, but also it is our sacred right to do so. While discharging our duties as responsible members of the parties we may, at times, in our anxiety express our views a little harshly which some people might not like. During such occasions we want you to be more indulgent to the Opposition than to the ruling party because we are in a minority and also in Opposition.

As you know very well, without Opposition, no democracy will thrive and if there is no Opposition no Minister and no Government would be active. As a result, we will have nothing but a fertile ground for Fascism to emerge. So, you will understand the importance of the role of the Opposition parties and would be a little more indulgent.

There may be times when stresses and strains will compel people on this side to be a little tough. On such momentous occasions, your wisdom, fairness and generosity should be there to guide us on the right lines and also direct the Government to be more serious. We want that your decisions and guidance may be acclaimed with gratitude by posterity and upheld as the tradition of Parliamentary Democracy.

Sir, there may be times when we may disagree from you but you must appreciate as Napoleon once said that—

“The people to fear are not those who disagree with you but those who disagree with you and are too cowardly to let you know.”

So, you need not have any fear about us, but you have to be very cautious with the people who disagree with you but are too cowardly to let you know that.

Once again, I welcome you to this august House and wish you good luck and godspeed.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: On behalf of our Party in this House and on my own behalf, I welcome you, Mr. Chairman, on your installation in the august office of this House. You have today come to occupy a position in the House which over the years has acquired a high distinction and a certain democratic credibility, not so much as a result of the fact that the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha happens to be the Vice-President of India as due to the contributions which have emanated from the Chair in the conduct of the business of the House. Indeed, your high office in this House has shone not in any reflected glory but in its dynamic impartiality, its boldness, its comprehension of the problem afflicting the nation and our people's struggle to remake our country and, above all, in its responses to the urges of our toiling masses.

Mr. Chairman, it was my privilege to be in this House when your great office was inaugurated 22 years ago with that eminent philosopher and educationist, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, in the Chair you, Sir, have now come to occupy. In those days when the British Parliament, miscalled 'Mother of Parliament' was uncritically adored in some quarters as a model to follow, there were some attempts to make this House something like the House of Lords in the Westminster, if only in the matter of functioning and procedure. That the Rajya Sabha was the product of no heredity or royal prerogatives tended to be forgotten by those for whom Westminster was almost a shrine and May's out-dated book on parliamentary practice a Bible.

But, Sir, it goes to the credit of our first Chairman and the Members that they did not allow such anti-democratic tendencies to overshadow the Rajya Sabha's future. Step by step, the Rajya Sabha, through the leadership from the Chair and by the efforts and struggles of its Members has fashioned itself into a strident forum of our parliamentary institutions, despite the obvious limitations arising from the manner of its creation and existence and, if I may say so, the attempts on the part of certain authorities to treat it as a mere show-window. I must, however, add that the late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, treated this House with great respect and shared our strivings to make this House dynamic, lively and useful within of course, the four corners of the Constitution. Our first Chairman, Dr. Radhakrishnan, truly an independent, played yeoman's role in building up the high tradition not only of this House but of the Chair itself. Permit me, Sir, to wish him speedy recovery from his present illness on this occasion. He won our hearts not only by his scholarship, high vision but also by his good humour, disarming smile and deep regard and affection for all Members, particularly those in the Opposition. Sir, the image of the Chair in a parliamentary institution such as ours rises with the Chair's attitude of sympathy, understanding and accommodation in relation to the Opposition. This indeed

has been the Chair's by now well-established as well as cherished tradition to which, we hope, you, Sir, will add your worthy contribution not only to uphold but to carry forward that tradition.

We know your path may not always be easy, but you can count on the willing co-operation and goodwill of all of us. We gave that co-operation to Dr. Radhakrishnan's successors and your predecessors, Dr. Zakir Husain, Shri V.V. Giri and Shri G.S. Pathak. You, Sir, have stepped into this office at a very critical moment in our history when the worst ever economic crisis since independence has overtaken our country, when the privations and sufferings of the masses have reached the limit of endurance, when the sharp struggles are opening out between the forces of progress, on the one hand, and those of reaction, on the other, with the protagonists of *status quo* and so-called pragmatism showing up their utter bankruptcy in facing the grim challenge. Democracy is grievously threatened by the combined forces of reaction, and these forces are ramified on either side of the line that, in a parliamentary setting, divides the Treasury Benches from the Opposition. Democracy, including its parliamentary form, is menaced by the forces of neo-colonialism, monopoly capital landlordism and by an arrogant and politically ill-bred bureaucratic brass which has only contempt for Parliament and, last but not the least by rampant corruption to which your predecessor, Shri Pathak, had rightly referred in his farewell address to us the other day. I hope, Sir, you will take note of corruption not in a valedictory performance but in your day-to-day functioning which begins from today as the Chairman of this House.

Sir, the masses are struggling today against high prices, unemployment and for social justice so long and so cynically denied to them. They are fighting for a radical change of the social order which alone can save them from the depredations of the exploiting classes and the nation from an economic and political catastrophe. The Rajya Sabha today can justify itself by giving language to the fighting urges of our down-trodden millions and not by trying to sweep them under the carpet. The voice of the masses echoed, heeded and respected here makes the House great and win it popular esteem and affection. The House must mirror the life and struggles of the masses outside and that must not be allowed to be clouded by what goes on in the corridors of power elsewhere. The rapport with the toiling masses is of paramount importance for the vitality and future of parliamentary institutions and in this context you, Sir, are called upon to play an important and creative role.

You, Sir, in your election appeal to us, expressed your sentiments for overcoming age-old poverty and making "Economic inequality and social

injustice” things of the past. You will agree with us that those objectives can never be won except by the struggles of the masses. They can never be advanced by serving the *status quo* or encouraging the policies that are responsible for perpetuating economic inequality and social injustices.

In your appeal you have said: “I pledge myself to be worthy of the confidence that you have reposed in me. I seek your goodwill and support”. On behalf of my Party, I reciprocate by pledging our goodwill and support to you trusting that your deeds will match in spirit and letter the profound words of your solemn pledge. May I, in the end, congratulate you on the assumption of the great responsibility in the service of the masses, democracy and the nation for which impartiality, imagination and courage to displease the vested interests in economic life as well as in the seats of monopoly power are essential prerequisites.

Sir, once again I thank you and congratulate you.

श्री ओम प्रकाश त्यागी: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सौभाग्य है कि मैं अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी की ओर से आज आपका अभिनन्दन और स्वागत करने के लिए यह सुअवसर प्राप्त कर रहा हूँ—केवल इस कारण से नहीं कि आप अध्यक्ष बनकर यहां उपस्थित हुए हैं बल्कि इस रूप में कि इस अध्यक्ष पद को सुशोभित करने वाले आप वे व्यक्ति हैं जिन्होंने देश की स्वतंत्रता के लिए संघर्ष में अपने को रत रखा और जिन्हें इस देश के राष्ट्रपिता स्वर्गीय महात्मा गांधी के चरणों में सेवा करने का सुअवसर प्राप्त हुआ। राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी इस देश के किस स्वरूप को लेकर संघर्ष कर रहे थे, उनकी कल्पना का भारत क्या था, उनकी दृष्टि में भारत की आर्थिक नीति क्या थी, सामाजिक ढांचा क्या था, इस देश की राजनीति और धर्म का संबंध क्या था आप इससे भली भांति परिचित हैं। मैं महात्मा गांधी के प्रवचनों में से एक ही बात की ओर संकेत करना चाहता हूँ। महात्मा गांधी की एक मान्यता थी कि धर्मविहीन राजनीति रावण-राज को पैदा कर सकती है, परन्तु राम-राज्य पैदा नहीं कर सकती। मैं समझता हूँ कि संसार में वही एक अद्वितीय आत्मा थी इस शताब्दी में जिसने राजनीति और धर्म के समन्वय को रखते हुए इस देश में संघर्ष किया। उनके समस्त संघर्ष का मूलाधार अहिंसा थी और उनके लक्ष्य का भारत न यूरोप और अमरीका था, न रूस और चाइना था। उनके लक्ष्य का भारत वही भारत था जिसकी परम्पराएं आदि काल से इस देश में चली आई हैं। उनकी हार्दिक अभिलाषा थी कि इस संसार में भारतवर्ष अपने स्वरूप को बनाए रखे और राजनीति क्षेत्र में भटके हुए देशों को एक सही मार्गदर्शन दे। ऐसी उनकी अभिलाषा थी और ऐसी भावनाओं में पले हुए व्यक्ति के रूप में आज आप हमारे सामने उपस्थित हुए हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, भारतवर्ष इस समय की संसार की राजनीति में बहुत बड़ा स्थान रखता है और वह यह कि प्रजातांत्रिक क्षेत्र में संसार में भारतवर्ष ही सबसे बड़ा महान देश है। जहां तक संसार में प्रजातंत्र में विश्वास करने वाले देशों का संबंध है उन सभी की दृष्टि अमरीका और इंग्लैंड पर नहीं है, वे प्रजातंत्र के परीक्षण को भारतवर्ष में देख रहे हैं कि भारतवर्ष किस रूप में अपने प्रजातंत्र को सफल बनाता है। उनकी दृष्टि भारतवर्ष की ओर है। भारतवर्ष के प्रजातांत्रिक ढांचे का निर्माण

अगर कहीं हो रहा है तो इस संसद भवन में हो रहा है। इस संसद में विचारधाराएं विभिन्न रूप में आती हैं और आती रहेंगी।

संसार के राजनीतिक पटल पर इस समय हम उन्नत देशों में नहीं हैं, हम विकासशील देशों में से हैं, परन्तु हमें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि प्रजातांत्रिक दृष्टिकोण में हमारा महत्व सर्वोपरि है, सबसे आगे है, हमारा देश नम्बर वन पर है। अगर प्रजातंत्र का पालन करने में हम असफल रह गए तो संसार के दूसरे देश लड़खड़ा जाएंगे। इस दृष्टि से जिस महत्वपूर्ण पद पर आप आसीन हैं उस पद पर रहते हुए इस महत्वपूर्ण बात को ध्यान में रखने की आवश्यकता है।

एक बात मैं विशेष रूप से आपसे कहूंगा और वह यह कि प्रजातंत्र के लिए सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता है विरोधी दल का सशक्त होना। अगर प्रजातांत्रिक शैली में विश्वास करने वाले देश में विरोध और विरोधी दल न हो तो रूलिंग पार्टी उसे तानाशाही में परिणत कर सकती है। फिर एक तानाशाही स्थापित हो जाती है, उसे फासिज्म कहिये या डिक्टेटरशिप कहिये, उसमें कोई अंतर नहीं रह जाता। देखने भर के लिए वह प्रजातंत्र रह जाता है। दुर्भाग्यवश भारतवर्ष के अंदर 27 वर्षों में एक सबल विरोधी दल एक शक्ति के रूप में इन संसद् भवनों में उपस्थित नहीं हो सका और इसको मैं देश का दुर्भाग्य मानता हूँ साथ ही दुर्भाग्य मानता हूँ इस रूलिंग पार्टी का जिसके हाथ में राज सत्ता है। क्योंकि उसको सही मार्ग पर चलाने के लिए विरोधी दल का हंटर, उसका कोड़ा परम आवश्यक है।

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इस पद पर आसीन होने के बाद हम सभी आशा करते हैं और हमारा यह विश्वास है कि आप सच्चाई के साथ इस देश के हित में इस देश की परंपराओं को स्थिर रखने के लिए आप पूर्ण तटस्थता के साथ अपने कर्तव्य को निभाने की चेष्टा करेंगे ऐसी मेरी हार्दिक प्रार्थना है। जिस पद पर आप बैठे हैं वह कांटों से भरा है। ...जो ताज रखा है आपने सिर पर वह कांटों से और कठिनाइयों से भरा है। उसमें आपको कभी-कभी ऐसे निर्णय लेने पड़ेंगे कि जिसमें कभी विरोधी दल नाराज हो जायेंगे और कभी शासक दल। अंत में मैं आपसे यही प्रार्थना करूंगा कि देश में आज विषम परिस्थिति है, देश में महंगाई है, देश में भ्रष्टाचार है और दूसरी अनेक समस्यायें हैं जिन पर यहां चर्चा होगी। इन समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए यहां चर्चाएं होंगी, विधेयक आयेंगे और उसमें आपको अपने निर्णयों से सदन को सुशोभित करना है। मैं अंत में परम पिता परमात्मा से यही प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह आपको शक्ति और साहस दें ताकि आप अपने पद के कर्तव्यों का सच्चाई के साथ पालन कर सकें जिस प्रकार इस पद पर बैठे हुए डा. राधाकृष्णन और डा. जाकिर हुसैन साहब ने इस पद को सुशोभित किया है। उनकी परंपरा को आप बनाए रखें और उसमें आप सफल हों। मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनायें आपके साथ हैं।

श्री महावीर त्यागी: श्रीमन्, आपको चेयरमैन पद को सुशोभित करने के इस शुभ अवसर पर मैं अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी के सब सदस्यों की ओर से आपको हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ और आपका स्वागत करता हूँ। मुझे आशा है कि आप पूरी निष्पक्षता के साथ इस सभा का संचालन करेंगे।

वास्तव में प्रजातंत्र का महत्व इसी में है कि विरोधी दलों के सदस्य जनता की कठिनाइयों को पूरी स्वतंत्रता के साथ सदन के सामने पेश कर सकें। चेयरमैन की हैसियत से आपसे मैं यह आशा करता हूँ कि आप हमारे इस कर्तव्य को पूरा करने में पूरा सहयोग देंगे। विरोधी दलों को जनता का प्रतिनिधित्व करने की पूरी छूट देंगे क्योंकि जो पार्टी पावर में आ जाती है उसका काम ज्यादातर गवर्नमेंट के काम को जस्टिफाई करने का हो जाता है। जो विरोधी दल के लोग हैं उन्हीं को छूट रहती है कि जनता की शिकायतों को संसद् के सामने पेश कर सकें। इसलिए जनता की शिकायतों को पेश करने का कर्तव्य जो हमारा है उसको पूरा करने में आपका पूरा सहयोग चाहते हैं और हम आशा करते हैं कि जनता का प्रतिनिधित्व करने में आप हमारे साथ पूरा सहयोग देंगे और हमको पूरी छूट देंगे। मैं अपनी ओर से और पार्टी की ओर से आपको आश्वासन दिलाता हूँ कि हमारा पूरा सहयोग आपके साथ रहेगा।

अभी मेरे मित्र ने कहा था कि दिमाग आपका उधर हो सकता है, लेकिन जब आप इस कुर्सी पर बैठते हैं आपके जिस्म की बाईं तरफ दिल है और हम भी बाईं तरफ हैं, दिमाग उधर हो सकता है पर दिल हमारी तरफ है। इसलिए मैं आपके दिल से अपील करता हूँ और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि आप विरोधी दलों के साथ इस तरफ से काम लेंगे और चूंकि हम जनता का फर्ज अदा करते हैं इसलिए हमारा ध्यान रखेंगे।

श्री राजनारायण: श्रीमन्, मैं भारतीय लोक दल के सदस्य की हैसियत से और भारतीय लोक दल की ओर से आपका ससम्मान स्वागत करता हूँ।

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श्रीमन्, मैं पहले ही आपको निवेदन कर दूँ और आपके द्वारा इस सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों को निवेदन कर दूँ कि सदन का सम्मान, सदन की प्रतिष्ठा, सदन की गरिमा, सदन की महिमा, सदन की शोभा और सदन की सुरीति को सुरक्षित रखने में हम सदा-सदा आपका सहयोग करेंगे।

श्रीमन्, मुझे आज प्रसन्नता भी है—प्रसन्नता इसलिए है कि आप गांधी परम्परा से आये हैं।.... इसलिए मैं जब अपने उस कर्तव्य का पालन करूँ तो मैं सर्वदा यह चाहूँगा कि गांधी परंपरा से आया हुआ इंसान जो आज इस चेयरमैन की कुर्सी पर सुशोभित है वह उसकी रक्षा करे।

श्रीमन्, मैं यह भी निवेदन कर दूँ कि आपको कई बड़े कर्तव्यों का पालन करना होगा क्योंकि आपकी हैसियत दो हैं। एक तो आप उपराष्ट्रपति हैं और हमारे दूसरे इस सदन में आप चेयरमैन हैं। उपराष्ट्रपति की हैसियत से आप शासन के अंग हो जाते हैं और चेयरमैन की हैसियत से आप संसद् के अंग हो जाते हैं। मैं आपसे नम्रता से निवेदन कर दूँ कि संसद् सर्वोपरि है। आप चेयरमैन के पद को ऊपर रखिएगा। कहीं ऐसा न हो कि किसी कारणवश उपराष्ट्रपति के कर्तव्य का पालन करने में और चेयरमैन का कर्तव्य पालन करने में कॉन्फ्लिक्ट हो तो आप उपराष्ट्रपति को तरजीह दें चेयरमैन को नहीं। मैं बराबर नम्रता से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि चेयरमैन के पद को सर्वथा ऊपर रखिए, उपराष्ट्रपति के पद से।

श्रीमन्, जब हम आपको अपने सम्पूर्ण दृढ़संकल्प के साथ और सम्पूर्ण इच्छा के साथ सहयोग करने के लिए तैयार हैं—सहयोग देने का वचन देते हैं तो यह वचन देते हुए हम कॉन्शियस हैं, हम सचेत हैं। हम आपको अपना कर्त्तव्य पालन करने में सर्वथा सहयोग देंगे। यहां जितने लोग हैं—चाहे सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य हों चाहे सदन के चेयरमैन साहब हों—सबका व्यक्तित्व सीमित है। अपनी-अपनी सीमाओं में सब बंधे हैं। अगर कोई भी अपनी सीमा का उल्लंघन करता है तो उस समय सदन की स्थिति कुछ विचित्र हो जाती है। इसलिए मैं बराबर यह निवेदन करूंगा और मैं चाहूंगा कि आप में कृष्ण जैसा विशाल हृदय हो, आप में राम की मर्यादा हो और आप में शंकर की बुद्धि हो। अगर आप शंकर की बुद्धि, राम की मर्यादा और कृष्ण का हृदय, तीनों का समन्वय करके चलेंगे तो इस सदन में कभी भी आप हमसे असहयोग नहीं पाएंगे, बराबर हमारा सहयोग पाएंगे। मैं इसकी व्याख्या बहुत दूर तक इस समय करना पसंद नहीं करता। मैं इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि कृष्ण ने कभी भी अपने लिए कुछ नहीं किया। कृष्ण ने जो कुछ भी किया वह दूसरों के लिए किया। शंकर की जो कुशलता थी वह विश्व में अद्वितीय थी और शंकर की बुद्धि के बराबर दुनियां में कोई प्राणी पैदा नहीं हुआ। राम अपनी मर्यादा के कारण ही मर्यादा पुरुषोत्तम रामचन्द्र कहलाए जाते हैं। जो जन-जन की रचना करे, जो जन-जन के सुख और सुविधा को देखे, जो जन-जन में समता लाए और जो जन-जन के बीच की दूरी और विषमता को समाप्त करे, वही राम हैं। श्रीमन्, क्योंकि हमारे बहुत से लोग भारतीय संस्कृति से परिचित नहीं हैं वे यूरोप की संस्कृति से परिचित हैं, रूस की संस्कृति से परिचित हैं, इसलिए मैं उनको बता देना चाहता हूँ कि—

वैर करय न कोई।

रामराज व्याप्त विषमता कोई॥

रामराज में कोई किसी से वैर नहीं करता था। क्योंकि वहां विषमता नहीं थी; गैर-बराबरी नहीं थी।

दैहिक दैविक भौतिक तापा।

रामराज काहु नहीं व्यापा॥

राम के राज में किसी को न शारीरिक पीड़ा थी, न बौद्धिक तकलीफ थी।

मैंने पहले कई बार वाल्मीकि के श्लोक सुनाए हैं पर इस समय सुनाने के लिए समय नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज हम जनतांत्रिक पद्धति को अपनाए हुए हैं तो जनतांत्रिक पद्धति का मतलब क्या है?

जब सत्ताधारी दल, कुर्सी दल विरोधी पक्ष को उन तमाम सुविधाओं से सम्पन्न करे जिससे कि विरोधी पक्ष, अल्पमत अपने आपको बहुमत में परिणत कर सके। लेकिन अगर अल्पमत को अपने आपको बहुमत में परिणत करने के मार्ग में सत्ताधारी दल बाधक होता है तो इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था में जनतंत्रीय पद्धति टूट जाती है। श्रीमन्, मैं चाहूंगा कि आप इन तमाम चीजों पर अच्छी तरह से ध्यान दें। आप तो विद्वान हैं, कानून के ज्ञाता हैं और सभी चीजों को अच्छी तरह से समझते हैं। बहुत-सी बातें इस सदन में कही गईं। सम्मानित सदस्यों के मुखारबिन्द से बहुत अच्छे-अच्छे शब्द निकले। कुछ सदस्यों के द्वारा प्रतिक्रियावादी, क्रांतिकारी, रिएक्शनरी, प्रोग्रेसिव, लेफ्ट और राइट इन तमाम शब्दों का प्रयोग हुआ। क्या मैं यह समझ सकता हूँ कि इस सदन में किस पक्ष की तरफ से लेफ्ट और

राइट शब्दों का प्रयोग कब से हुआ? Who is right and who is left मैं समझता हूँ कि आपके दक्षिण में जो सत्ताधारी दल हैं वह राइट है और आपके वाम में जो विरोधी पक्ष हैं, वह लेफ्ट है। आपको मालूम होगा फ्रेंच रिबोल्यूशन के अन्दर जो प्रोरॉयलिस्ट थे वे राइटिस्ट कहलाते थे और जो रॉयलिस्टों के खिलाफ थे वे लेफ्टिस्ट कहलाते थे। यहां पर एक शब्द रूढ़िवादी भी कहा गया।मैं चाहूंगा कि जब कभी दक्षिणपंथी या वामपंथी शब्दों का प्रयोग हो या जब रूढ़िवादी शब्द का प्रयोग हो, जिसका प्रयोग करना मैं पसन्द नहीं करता हूँ तो इन शब्दों का प्रयोग ठीक से किया करें। कौन दक्षिण है, कौन वाम है? क्या अपने देश में उस शक्ति को वाम शक्ति माना जाता है जो मातृभूमि की सीमाओं को दूसरों को देने से रोकने के लिए अपना बलिदान कर दे? मैं उन व्यक्तियों को वामपक्षी नहीं मान सकता जो हमारे कार्यों के लिए, जनता और सरकार के कामों के लिए जनता की भाषा की आवश्यकता नहीं मानता। इन तमाम बातों को अगर आप देखेंगे तो आपको पता चलेगा कि यह संसद् क्या है? संसद् वह स्थल है, वह शीशा है, वह दर्पण है जिसमें बाहर की स्थितियों का प्रतिबिम्ब आए। अगर बाहर की स्थितियों का प्रतिबिम्ब यहां पर नहीं आएगा तो आप बताएं कि क्या यह संसद् रह जाती है?

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श्रीमन्, मैं समझता हूँ आप को थोड़े में ही इस सदन की परिस्थिति का ज्ञान हो गया होगा, क्योंकि आप ज्ञानवादी हैं। आप देख लीजिए—एब्सट्रैक्ट और कांक्र्रीट। मैं चाहता हूँ लोग समझें—What is the difference between abstract and concrete? Generalised programme is principle; concretised principle is programme. निर्गुण और सगुण। सिद्धांत जो है वह निर्गुण है, कार्यक्रम जो है वह सगुण है। अगर हम निर्गुण को सगुण में लाए तो लोग हमको कहते हैं कि आप तो गड़बड़ कर रहे हो। जनतंत्र, समाजवाद, समता, बराबरी, सेक्यूलरिज्म, सर्व धर्म समन्वते—यह सब बोलते हैं मगर जब जनतंत्र का टोस आया तो वहां पर सर्वग्राही मनोवृत्ति बन जाएगी, सारी सत्ता अपने में लेने की मनोवृत्ति आ जाएगी। इसलिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप कुर्सी पर बैठकर विरोधी पक्ष के अधिकार के संरक्षक हों और संसद के सदस्यों के अधिकारों के संरक्षक हों। सत्ताधारी दल बहुत विशाल हो गया है, उनको आपकी संरक्षता की आवश्यकता नहीं है। अगर आवश्यकता है तो विरोध पक्ष को है। विरोध पक्ष को, अपने कार्य का संपादन करने में सत्ताधारी दल दिन-प्रतिदिन अपनी सत्तागृही, सर्वग्रासी मनोवृत्ति को खड़ा करके, खण्डित करता है। मैं चाहूंगा, आप हमारे अधिकारों की रक्षा करेंगे जिससे हम संसद की महिमा, संसद की गरिमा को बचाएं, जिसमें हम देश की नंगी, भूखी जनता की मुसीबतों को यहां प्रतिबिम्बित कर सकें और जिन भावनाओं से आज देश की तमाम जनता आपको देख रही है उन भावनाओं को आप साकार स्वरूप प्रदान करेंगे। इन भावनाओं के साथ मैं आपका स्वागत करता हूँ। भारतीय लोक दल की हैसियत से, उस दल की ओर से, आपका बार-बार स्वागत करता हूँ। आप गांधी परम्परा से आए हो, उस परम्परा को बराबर कायम करो।

Shri Niren Ghosh: Sir, I rise, last of all, to welcome you. I extend to you a warm welcome on behalf of my party and on behalf of myself as well. As has been said earlier, you have been occupying various positions of responsibility in the system of parliamentary democracy. But we have a

feeling that parliamentary democracy is being systematically eroded and is being sought to be muffled. I have seen your predecessors in this office. Though I have not been in this House as much longer as Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, but I have seen in this office Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, Mr. Giri and last of all, Mr. Pathak. So, over the great number of years, all through this period, I have a feeling, I have a direct experience that the privileges, conventions and traditions which this House enjoyed at the time of Dr. Radhakrishnan, have been greatly eroded. That is my strong feeling. I do not know whether all will agree with me.

Sir, I would like to remind you that Rajya Sabha represents the States of India, that means the nationalities of India. And as such, I have a feeling and I am firmly of the opinion that Rajya Sabha should enjoy equal powers and privileges with Lok Sabha ... And the Constitution should be amended so that the representatives of the States, *i.e.*, the nationalities can be directly elected to this House. That is my feeling. So, Sir, now we are passing, as I feel in my long life, perhaps through the worst period in the history of India, since Independence.

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I hope you will maintain the traditions and privileges of this House and seek to extend them further as these were during the time of Dr. Radhakrishnan at least. . .

Sir, I warmly welcome you.

Shri Hamid Ali Schamnad: Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, Muslim League, whole-heartedly and sincerely welcome you to this House which is the supreme legislative body of the land. Late V.J. Patel, when he was elected to the Imperial Legislative Assembly, declared, "I cease to belong to any political party or I belong to all political parties". That was the sense of impartiality, that was the sense of justice that has been shown by that great leader. I am quite sure, Sir, that you also would show that sense of justice and impartiality to all groups and to all the parties that are here in this House. You have got wide and rich experience as a legislator, as a Minister, as the Chief Minister of Karnataka and also as a Governor. Now, Sir, as the Vice-President of this great land of ours and as Chairman of this House, I am quite sure you will be upholding the integrity and decency and decorum of this House and on our behalf and on behalf of my party let me assure you, Sir, that we will co-operate with you in upholding the integrity, decency, dignity and decorum of this House. Let me wish you all success, Sir. Let God Almighty give you strength and courage to do justice without fear or favour.

Thank you, Sir.

श्री एन. एच. कुम्भारे: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं रिपब्लिकन पार्टी तथा अन्य छोटे दलों की ओर से आपका हृदय से स्वागत करता हूँ। आपके व्यक्तित्व के प्रति यहां जो सद्भावना व्यक्त की गई है उससे मैं सहमत हूँ।

यह सभागृह दो हिस्सों में बंटा हुआ है। कुछ लोग आपके सामने बैठे हुए हैं। हम कुछ लोग इस सभागृह में पीछे बैठे हैं। जो लोग सामने बैठे हैं उनकी ओर आपकी दृष्टि जाएगी ही किन्तु मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि इस सभागृह का कामकाज चलाते वक्त आप थोड़ी दूर-दृष्टि भी रखेंगे।

Shri N. G. Goray: Sir, I am very glad to extend to you a wholehearted and warm welcome on behalf of my party as well as on my own behalf in this House. Sir, I think this is not the occasion when I should inflict an erudite lecture on neo-colonialism and fascism or refer to the good old days of Ramrajya about which nobody knows anything. We have to live in the present. I can only say that so far as this House is concerned, we have tried to maintain a tradition of dignity, of brotherhood and of justice. Sir, I am quite hopeful that under your guidance this tradition will be maintained. It is very necessary to be very careful about it because the days ahead are likely to be very difficult and very turbulent. A great responsibility will rest on the shoulders of all the Members of this House. There will be differences of opinion, there will be conflict, there will be contradictions. But, Sir, I have no inferiority complex because of the fact that I belong to a small party. Also I have no doubt that those who enjoy the majority are in no way less than me in their patriotism or in their good intentions for the welfare of the people because, Sir, if I lose that confidence, as soon as I begin to doubt their *bona fides*, I think there is no reason why I should sit in this House at all. Therefore, so long as I sit in this House, so long as I participate in the debates, the basic assumption is that it is possible to convince those people who are sitting opposite to me if my arguments are valid and if my love for my countrymen is genuine. That is how I work, Sir.

Sir, I hope and trust that the traditions that have been set by your illustrious predecessors will be upheld by you. I am quite sure, Sir, that in your case appearances will be deceptive: You have a meek and modest exterior but I am quite sure, when occasions arise we will find that you can be firm and you can be decisive. I hope, Sir, you will be firm and decisive in upholding the fine traditions of this House.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri K. Nagappa Alva: Respected Chairman, Sir, it is with pleasure and happiness that we welcome you, the Vice-President of India, as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. I am sure, with your vast experience of over 30 years in public life and having served the country in different capacities, you will

conduct the business of this House ably, upholding the great traditions. You are a man of character; you are personification of simplicity and humility; you are an integrated personality. Devotion to duty and devotion to God are the two vital characteristics of your life. My greatest satisfaction is that at this critical and difficult period of history of this sacred land the one who has grown up in stature with spiritual strength has become the Chairman of this House of Indian Parliament. I wish and pray for your success as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Vice-President of India and greater success in your life in the years to come.

Shri Godey Murahari: Mr. Chairman, Sir, without taking much of the time of the House let me welcome you on my own behalf and on behalf of the other Members also to the Chair. Sir, I have been assisting your predecessor also in this onerous task of presiding over this House and I know, Sir, that when you come on the first day you begin with some amount of nervousness; that happens to everybody because I remember when I first took over the Chair I had the same kind of nervousness and most of the Members I suppose probably felt that being a very meek and soft type of man I might or might not be able to conduct the proceedings of the House. Sir, once you sit there you know what to do. It is with firmness and fairplay that you have to conduct the House and once you sit there I am sure you will do it. It is not just the Rules of Procedure that help the Chairman. Oftentimes we have to skip the Rules of Procedure and cast a blind eye to it because Members also digress from the Rules of Procedure but then that is all in the game and the main purpose of each Member trying to put forward his point of view is to reflect the trials and tribulations that the country is facing today. There are various issues, various problems, that country faces and it is but natural that Members, whether they be in the Opposition or on the Treasury Benches, try to reflect the aspirations of the people of the country and in doing so at times it is possible that a Member feels agitated or a little perturbed with what is going on and reflects it in a very heated type of argument but, Sir, once you know what the Member is about you will also know how to deal with the situation. I know you have had experience not only as a Minister, as a Governor but also as a legislator and you have known politics in this country. You have dealt with politicians and you will be dealing with politicians in this House also. Therefore, it will not be difficult for you to know the minds of the Members and to deal with them and to act with fairness. fairplay and firmness in upholding the good traditions that this House has always upheld and to blaze a path which will enable you to endear yourself to all sections of the House irrespective of party or politics. Sir, you would have had an inkling of what the Members think because even while welcoming you some of the Members had used the occasion to refer to their own programmes and policies and their own political philosophies. And that I think was in

a very subdued tone and in the days to come you will see how it expresses itself in more exuberant forms. I know that with all the rich experience that you have you will be able to endear yourself to all the Members of the House and keep up the traditions that we already maintain.

With these words, Sir, I welcome you to the Chair.

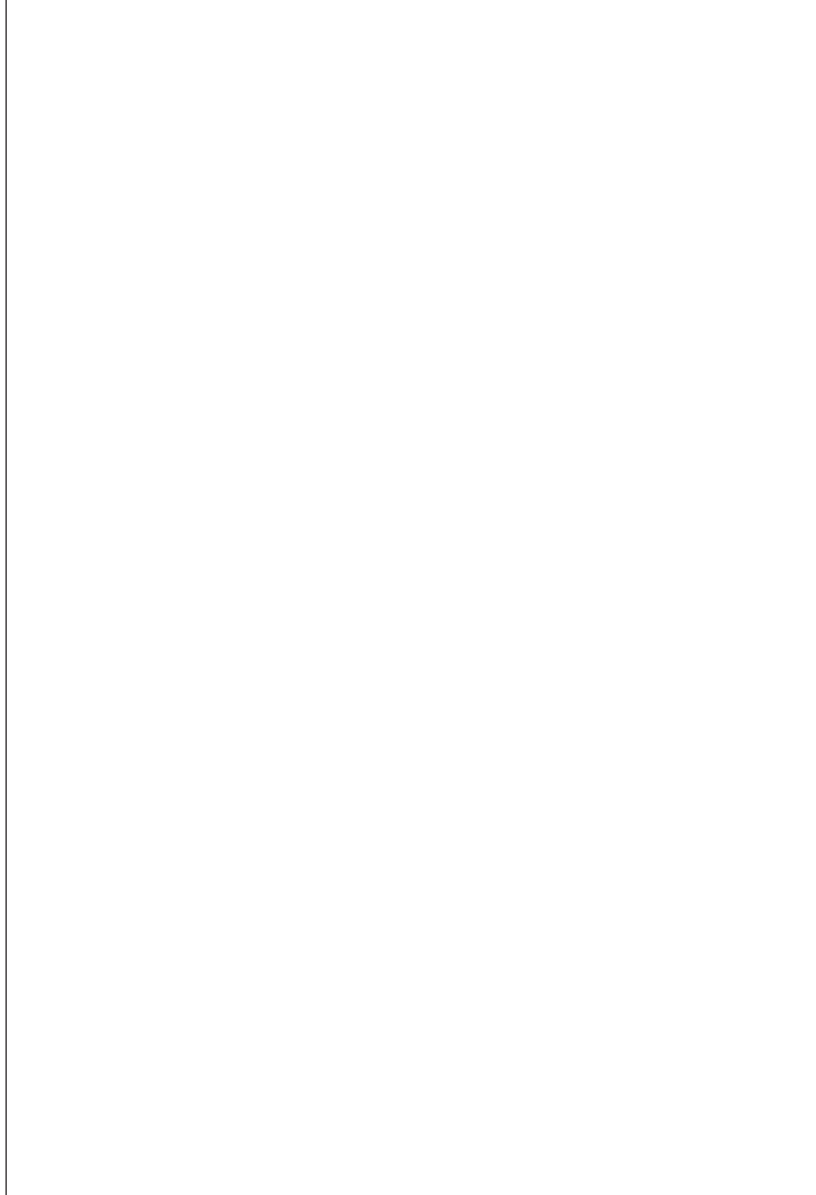
Mr. Chairman: Friends, I thank you all for your kind words of welcome. I feel overwhelmed with gratitude by this signal mark of your confidence, but, even more than gratitude, I feel the heavy responsibility and burden of this high office. I am, however, confident that in lightening my labours I can count upon the rich legacy I will be inheriting from my illustrious predecessors. While doing my duty and discharging my responsibility, it shall be my constant endeavour to follow the guidelines laid down by the galaxy of distinguished men who have occupied this august office before me. In this task I shall require the co-operation of you all and I hope and pray that I may continue to enjoy, in abundant measure, the same love and affection of you all. I can assure you that I shall strive to deserve it and to be fair and impartial under all circumstances.

Friends, I should like to say a few words about my special predicament today. I seem to be at a disadvantage in comparison to my predecessors in one respect. Whilst all of them had ample opportunities of meeting you and getting to know you at a personal and social level before assuming the responsibilities of Chairmanship, circumstances beyond my control have denied me that opportunity. As you are aware, I was sworn in as Vice-President of India just today and I had to come straight to this House to conduct its business. You will, I hope not allow this fact to stand in the way of establishing mutual intimate relations. I hope to make amends for this shortcoming by meeting everyone of you during the next few days.

We are pledged to the democratic way of life and have adopted its techniques of discussion, persuasion and compromise. Under the guidance of Parliament, we have laboured for the fulfilment of the objectives laid down in our Constitution, viz., to secure for all our citizens social, economic and political justice. Democracy signifies a temper of mind, a sense of humility. A true democrat must subject himself to frequent self-examination. It is only such self-scrutiny that will save us from feelings of infallibility and vanity, which are utterly inconsistent with the democratic spirit. In a democratic form of Government, we all subscribe basically to the main objective laid down in the Constitution and may differ only as to the manner in which the objective is to be reached. The plan of action of every party has necessarily to conform to the constitutional imperative of securing social and economic justice. The party programmes may only differ in

regard to the methods to be employed, the paths to be chosen and the pace at which progress is to be achieved. Let us, therefore, put our shoulders to the wheel and strive unitedly to make a success of this exhilarating experiment in which we are all engaged. I look to you all for your valuable co-operation. For my part, I repeat that I shall strive to be fair and impartial. I do hope that, with your co-operation and goodwill, we will ensure a standard of debate, conducted with dignity and decorum, which would ensure the smooth working of this House, and through this means, the due attainment of our national goals.

I thank you all once again for your affectionate welcome.



Shri M. Hidayatullah
(17.12.1905–18.9.1992)
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha
(31.8.1979–30.8.1984)

M. Hidayatullah : A profile

HIDAYATULLAH, SHRI M.: M.A., Barrister-at-law, LL.D. (*Honoris Causa*) (University of Philippines), D. Litt. (*Honoris Causa*) (Universities of Bhopal and Kakatiya); s. of Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Wilayatullah; b. December 17, 1905; m. Shrimati Pushpa Shah; 1 s.; Advocate-General, Central Provinces and Berar, 1943-46; Puisne Judge, 1946-54 and Chief Justice, Nagpur High Court, 1954-56; Chief Justice, Madhya Pradesh High Court, 1956-58; Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of India, 1958-68; Chief Justice of India, 1968-70; President, (i) Indian Law Institute, 1968-70, (ii) International Law Association (Indian Branch), 1968-70, (iii) Indian Society of International law, 1968-70 and (iv) Indian Red Cross Society, 1982; Author of, (i) Democracy in India and the Judicial Process, (ii) The South-West Africa Case, (iii) Judicial Methods, (iv) A Judge's Miscellany, (v) USA and India, (vi) A Judge's Miscellany (Second Series), (vii) The Fifth and Sixth Schedules to the Constitution of India, (viii) My Own Boswell (Autobiography) and (ix) Editor, Mulla's Mahomedan Law and Constitutional Law of India; Recipient of, (i) Order of the British Empire, 1946, (ii) Order of Yugoslav Flag with Sash, 1970, (iii) Medallion and Plaque of Merit Philconsa, Manila, 1970 and (iv) Knight of Mark Twain, 1971; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 31.8.1979 to 30.8.1984; Acting President of India, 20.7.1969 to 23.8.1969 and 6.10.1982 to 31.10.1982; Died. Obit. on 24.11.1992.

