

political activities of all kinds and that was the reason why, in recent months, I have been engaging myself in such manifestly non-political activities like demanding the dissolution of the Bihar Assembly, advising the students not to attend classes for one year and asking the people not to pay taxes. And I am determined to stay that way in the years to come.

So I will not even entertain the thought of dismissing the government of Shri-mati Gandhi. That will be a political act and I, as has already been said, have a horror of everything that is even remotely political. Besides she has a mandate from the people to rule the country for another couple of years and so it will be a negation of democratic principles to deny her that chance.

What the nation now needs to pull itself out of the morass which it has sunk into in the dedicated service of the people who firmly be-

lieve in the principles of bhoodan and sarvodaya. We will be betraying the trust of the Mahatma if we dissipate our energies in purposeless agitations like the one now going on in Bihar.

I earnestly appeal to the students to go back to their classes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to lay at rest the rumour that Vinobaji doesn't approve of my decision to accept this post. As I had made clear during the Bihar campaign, he had given me his blessings a long time ago and I would allow no one, even Vinoba himself, to take it away from me.

*Piloo Mody* Greetings to my friend Zulfikar.

You might think it rather an odd way to begin an acceptance speech. But in these past years I have never missed an opportunity to tell the world that Zulfikar and I are on the first-name basis. I have said it so many times that it

has got to be a habit. You may excuse me.

Though modesty should prevent me from saying it I am afraid that I will be failing in my duty if I don't congratulate the members of the electoral college for the first-rate taste they have shown in electing me to his high office. Now any Indian on this side of the border can look any Pakistani on the other side full in the eyes and refuse to blush. That is so because for the first time this country has got for its president a man who can match Mr Bhutto jokes for joke, ribaldry for ribaldry and peg for peg. In short, here is a man who can fill the big presidential chair in more ways than one.

While I have always been forthright in my criticism of the Madam Prime Minister it has to be conceded now that she is not any more fascinated with impractical dogmas. That honey-moon is over. The inexorable laws of economics have finally forced her to veer round to the view that the cake has to get appreciably bigger before it can be cut. Now all that prevents the free enterprises from hailing her as the great chief in her totally unreasonable attitude on black money,

man with very few ambitions. If I had one, it will be this: I would like posterity to say, "that was a man who had no prejudices, a man who firmly believed that no colour superior to another, a man who dedicated his adult life to prove that black money, to the last paisa, was as good as white money."

*Karunanidhi:* Truc Tamilians, rejoice! Tamizhagam has produced not one Cengai kanda cholam but two! You have heard of the first one and you are looking at the second. I had been the Mudalvar all these years; now I have become the Thalaivar, Tamil Thaya, Mother, Vazhga, Vazhgal

I am a man who is ready to give his life-blood to oppose the precious theory of the 'sons of the soil'. At the same time, I will give what is left of my life-blood to see that local people get preference in the matter of jobs. When I say local people I mean all those who call, are ready to call, are friendly with or related to all those who call or are ready to call me "Thiru Mudalvar Thalaivar Dr." Every other fellow is a Malayalee and if he knows what is good for him he will stay the hell out of my sight.

I, my countrymen, am a

RAZIYA



"Soon inflation will make us millionaires. A few years hence this slum will be worth millions."



"The ban on defections would mean a crippling blow to our fundamental principles..."