



WHAT the purposeful, indomitable and pugnacious Dr. Ambedkar has done to our (Draft) Constitution is being applauded as something as good as what Gandhi did to the Untouchables. He is not the first rebel in history to have been rehabilitated enough to quell other people's revolts, nor the first draftsman to have been accused of plagiarising other people's amendments. Stubborn learning, undeviating hardness and industrious, intelligent application have elevated him to the status of a constitutional Manu. He would not bend and he could not be broken by the heavy haystacks of heartless amendments. He has had the understanding of an ex-professor of law without the quibbling of a practising lawyer. In spite of the supe-

rior airs of a stand-offish iceberg, he practised punditry without pedantry and managed to lose his temper without losing his head.

If Dr. Ambedkar is more or less monumentally monumental, the Constitution is a frightening monument. The Objectives resolution has been frightfully annotated into the flimsiness of Fundamental Rights, the pious ambiguity of Directive Principles and elephantine dignity of clauses clumsily numbered. Without intending it, Dr. Ambedkar, with the omniscience of the Creator, has created a paradise for lawyers. The Constitution which he has autographed, others will interpret, for with so much political sap in him he might refuse to be transferred to the Federal Bench. While some may look on him as the Frankenstein who has created the monster, there will be wild applause for his watchdog's tenacity in taking care of the "Draft" rejecting the pleasures of lounging in the lobbies or sunning himself in the lawns. The draft will miss him.

The still indomitable Doctor is being persuaded to join the Congress. Accustomed to ministerial comfort he might — or he might not, if the Socialists are near power. For he has a hard core of enlightened social philosophy without fellow-feeling for the political Brahmins of the now Pharisaical Congress.

(November 27, 1949)

JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN'S adventures are invariably escapes. He escaped from Communism. He escaped from jail and having once escaped out of Gandhism he is now busy escaping into it. And always he escapes from or for Values.

The second most important individual in India today, he is trying to stand on a Gandhian pedestal and to look taller than Nehru. Standing on a Gandhian pedestal means twisting class struggle into a purificatory fast. But being the Lenin of ahimsa Jayaprakashji approaches the task undaunted. With the rich achievement of levelling

GOOD planners (in India) like good Journalists are born, not made. Otherwise we would have had to wait a dreary length of time before we got a quintuplet quantum like the one which is our Planning Commission.

Gulzarilal Nanda came to planning because he looks a Planner. A man who can ride trusteeship-trade unionism to the winning post of a Ministry is a born planner if ever there is one.

"V.T." who looks a human Bori Bunder would have made as good a vaishnavite Railway Minister as Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar; but because there cannot be two Ministers to one Santanam, "V.T." had to take to planning. That he has a very progressive outlook (which is very necessary for a good planner) was established when he gave up the most impressive turban in India and took to felt in which he occasionally looks like an Indian Churchill.

The Finance Minister who is an ex-officio economist naturally is an ex-officio planner also. Even if the Plan can't keep the price line, he will, as he so graciously keeps his own waist line.

G. L. Mehta has a sense of humour and a man with a sense of humour which does not crack open even in a Delhi summer must have a plan. What the right side of his mind does, the left side may be laughing at, but such a capacity is very desirable in an economy of public

and private sectors both of which want more dollars than either.

R. K. Patil is clear-sighted and therefore is a born planner. Within the very first days he knew that nothing much could happen to food when he became Food Commissioner. That is why he became a Planning Commissioner. He is an ex-I.C.S. man and ex-I.C.S. men (except of course Vishnu



Kamath) like I.C.S. men can do naught but right. Therefore Patil is an eminent planner.

That leaves out Panditji who is P.M. and therefore must Plan. He is no economist and he had no time, but where there is a will there is a way and a man with a will is the best of all planners.

(July 15, 1951)

Since his break with Nehruism he has most earnestly tried to make Democratic Socialism as much like Nehruism as possible. Therein lies the tragedy of Jayaprakashji. He will always construct himself in the image of his opponent and thereby create situations in which he is at his opponent's mercy, for that opponent can always turn round and ask "Who are you but me?" But fighting as he always does for Values, Jayaprakashji does not mind this for he can reply "If the Values win, what does it matter who wins?"

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