

Special Safeguards For Minorities Urged
FURTHER DISCUSSION ON DRAFT CONSTITUTION

NEW DELHI, November 6.
DURING today's discussion of the draft constitution in the Constituent Assembly a number of members argued that special safeguards ought to be provided for the minorities, both in the interests of the minorities themselves as well as of a secular democratic State.
Mr. R. K. Sidhwa was cheered by all sections of the House when he urged the minorities in the country to emulate the example of the Parsi community, who even though they had been offered safeguards said "Thank you, we do not want them".
In response to the wishes of the House, the Vice-President, Mr. H. C. Mukherjee, announced that an extra day, Monday had been allotted for general discussion to enable a larger number of members to participate in the debate.
The Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, both of whom attended this session of the Assembly for the first time today were loudly cheered as they entered the hall.
Mr. Arun Chandra Guha, who was the first speaker of the day, stated that on the economic side, the draft constitution was almost silent. He felt that the rights to means of livelihood, education, and leisure should have been effectively incorporated in the constitution.
Mr. Guha criticised Dr. Ambedkar's remarks on the Indian villages and recalled that Mahatma Gandhi's dream of the future constitution of India was a pyramidal structure, very broad-based. That base constituted the villages of India. He urged that the Assembly should even now make an effort to get this done.
Mr. Guha recalled that in the Soviet Constitution, eight of the nine major languages were permitted to be used. By sheer weight of numbers Russian predominated. Similarly in India, too, all the major languages should be allowed to be spoken in the House. By weight of numbers, of course, Hindi would predominate.
Mr. T. Prakasam said. He had hoped that the constitution would be in accordance with the wishes of freedom for 30 years and succeeded in securing freedom under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. But to his utter disappointment he found that this was not so. He did not blame Dr. Ambedkar for this, for Dr. Ambedkar had not fought the battles of freedom as others had done. In fact, he was opposed to all Gandhian ideas and programme. That was why at one stroke he had condemned the village 'panchayats'.
The constitution must be amended as to make it useful for the millions of villagers, for whose sake freedom had been won. An attempt must be made to get rid of the capitalist system. Mahatma Gandhi had realised the need for this. That was why he had enabaled one of his constructive programme which enjoined it on every man and woman to do his or her duty.
Dr. Alban D'Souza described the draft as an "excellent piece of work". He was particularly gratified with the provisions made for the safeguarding of the rights of minorities. He could, however, suggest in this connection that the special officers proposed to be appointed in the Constituent States to watch the interests of minorities should be made responsible to the Centre.
Dr. D'Souza emphasised the need for a strong Centre. A weak Centre in the past had been responsible for the fall of many dynasties and Empires. To consolidate, unify and maintain the freedom won after centuries of foreign domination it was absolutely necessary that the centre should be strong.
Mr. K. Santanam complained that the Drafting Committee took upon itself the responsibility to change certain vital decisions taken by the House. For example, the Committee felt itself entitled to reject the report of a Committee appointed by the House to report on the Centrally Administered Areas.
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
On the merits of the draft, Mr. Santanam asserted that flexibility was not always a virtue. A constitution was like a human frame which had both flexible and rigid parts. In the present context they should pay greater attention to the rigid parts of it. The constitution, Mr. Santanam explained, contained our fundamental principles. They were single, equal and secular citizenship which was sought to be protected by the fundamental rights, federation and responsible type of Cabinet Executive. They should guarantee these principles were properly embodied in the constitution. The fundamental rights provided for were subject to reservations. Like the American Supreme Court, the Indian Supreme Court, might also have to modify them. If that was so, he would prefer to have the whole chapter omitted.
He would, however, emphasise that in these days of emergency powers it was very essential that some at least of the civil liberties of the citizen should be preserved by the constitution and it should not be easy for the legislature to take them away.
In regard to adult franchise, Mr. Santanam suggested that it should be the duty of the Central Government to maintain the roll of voters. By giving this responsibility to the provinces there was the risk of local linguistic and sectional interests not properly compiling these rolls.
RECOGNITION OF PANCHAYATS
Statutory Provision Urged
In regard to dual polity Mr. Santanam suggested that they should restrict the concurrent list or at least define the scope of the Centre in regard to these subjects. It was an inevitable tendency to make the concurrent list in the future. He urged that they must guard against this. Mr. Santanam urged the necessity to precisely and definitely mark the frontiers of responsibility. There should be no ambiguity about it.
Mr. Santanam disagreed with the views of Dr. Ambedkar on village panchayats. He said, India would have been in chaos if he wanted some statutory provision for the recognition of village panchayats. The artificial distinction between States and provinces must be done away with as quickly as possible.
Mr. Ram Sahai said that the States people were in favour of having a strong Centre and would help in setting up one. He complained that the States had been neglected in the draft constitution and had not been given the same rights and privileges as the provinces.
He, however, appealed to the States to retain like the provinces only a limited number of subjects and thus

NEWLY ELECTED U. S. CONGRESS 9 Women Returned
WASHINGTON, November 6: Nine women have won the election to the 81st Congress of the United States. Eight of whom will serve in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate. In addition, a number of women won seats in various State Legislatures throughout the nation but final figures are not yet available.
Five of the victors were Representatives who successfully sought re-election. These were: Mary Norton, Democrat of New Jersey and Edith Nourse Rogers, Republican of Massachusetts. Helen Gahagan Douglas, Democrat of California, former movie and stage actress; Frances Bolton, Republican of Ohio; and Katherine Saint George, Republican of New York.
A sixth Representative, Margaret Chase Smith, Republican of Maine, is the only woman Senator elected.
The two newcomers are Judge Reva Beck Boeene, Democrat of Salt Lake City, Utah; and Mrs. Cecil M. Harden, Republican of Covington, Indiana.—U.S.I.S.
Robbery In Ahmedabad
'Sunday News' Staff Correspondent
AHMEDABAD, November 6: A daring robbery was committed in one of the busiest thoroughfares of the city yesterday. A man had withdrawn Rs. 12,000 from a bank and was buying some articles at a hosiery shop when he was accosted by a band of thieves to collect the dropped coins, and by the time he got up, the bag in which he had put the sum had disappeared.

MADRAS DEPUTY SHERIFF
Mrs. M. N. Clubbwalla, prominent social worker who was recently appointed Deputy Sheriff of Madras, sat at the session of the Madras High Court last Friday. The Assistant Public Prosecutor welcomed her on behalf of the Bar.
FRENCH UPPER HOUSE
First Election Today
PARIS, November 6: France will elect a Council of the Republic (Upper House of Parliament) tomorrow for the first time since it was first chosen under the new constitution in December 1946.
The voting by 100,000 special electors chosen three weeks ago will, within limits, provide a test of the relative strengths of the Middle of the Road Parties and the Gaullists as compared with the Municipal elections 13 months ago when the Gaullists, going to the polls for the first time, captured between 35 and 40 per cent. of the total vote.
Owing to changes in the method of election, the Communists are expected to suffer a heavy defeat. They are believed to be unlikely to win more than 15 or 20 seats, compared with 85 in the present Upper House.
The Socialists may more or less hold their own while the popular Republicans are expected to lose ground. The Radicals and Independents, on the other hand, are considered to have the best chance of improving their position.—Reuter.
Judges' Pensions Bill
LONDON, November 6: The Judges' Pensions (India and Burma) Bill introduced in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr. P. J. Noel-Baker, Minister for Commonwealth Relations, provides for the payment of proportionate pensions to judges who served in India and Burma whose interests have been affected by premature retirement.
It is not expected that the cost to the exchequer, will exceed £10,000 in a full-year and of £8,000 in the present financial year.—Reuter.
Maharaja Of Kolhapur
'Sunday News' Correspondent
KOLHAPUR, November 6: There were reports current here that the Maharaja of Kolhapur who had left this place, last week, would go to Delhi in response to a call from the States' Ministry but the Maharaja returned to Kolhapur on Thursday.
It was revealed that he did not visit Delhi and was not called there. He is at present in Kolhapur.
DEATH
CARRAL—Felix Pascoal, youngest son of John Anthony, expired yesterday. Funeral leaves for Sahar Church, today, at 4-30 p.m.
MOVE TO ACQUIRE GOA PORT
Light On Hyderabad Deal
The report that the Hyderabad Government had paid £10,000 to the Portuguese Government before the entry of the Indian Army with a view to acquiring Goa port was confirmed by Mr. K. M. Munshi, India's Agent-General in Hyderabad, while speaking at a reception given in his honour by the M a h a Gujarati Rajas t h a Praja Sammelan, i n B o m b a y on Saturday.
Mr. Munshi stated that his first report about the transaction was given to the Government of India by him.
Mr. K. M. Munshi, after administration of the State had been taken over by the Military Government, officials of the Government of India had traced the papers connected with the deal, he added.
Tributes were paid to Mr. Munshi for the service he had rendered in Hyderabad during the critical days when Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, who presided, praised the statesmanship of Mr. Munshi and said every one could be proud of the part he had played. Mr. Bhawanji Arjun Khimji, Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Sammelan, who also eulogised Mr. Munshi for his work, said that he should work for the formation of Maha Gujarat after he had completed his present mission. Sir Harishadhabai V. Divatia, Chief Justice of Saurashtra and Mr. Amritlal Sheth also spoke.
SOCIAL BOYCOTT
Giving a detailed account of the conditions in Hyderabad State, before the entry of the Indian Army, Mr. Munshi said that he had to face a social boycott soon after he had reached there. It was with great difficulty that he could pass through it. It was with the grace of God that he could handle the delicate problem properly and Sardar Patel's complete faith in him also helped much, he added.
The Nizam was rarely allowed to meet Mr. Munshi, he said. Hindus were also prevented from contacting him when he toured the districts. Officials of the State Government were diplomatic and polished in their talks and pleaded innocence of anything brought to their notice, he added.
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U. S. Arms For France Urged By Mr. Marshall
'Daily Telegraph' and 'Sunday News' Correspondent.
WASHINGTON, November 5: A proposal that France should be lent enough military equipment from American reserve stocks in Germany to repair deficiencies in three French divisions was made by the U. S. Secretary of State, Mr. George Marshall when he flew back to Washington on October 9.
He discussed the matter with Mr. Truman, who approved and decided to make a public announcement as soon as the election was over. This move represents the first new departure in the U. S. foreign policy since the election, and should give an assurance to Western Europe that the U. S. will carry out its general pledge to give military support in a practical manner.
Under the existing legislation, the U. S. cannot supply France with the new equipment but large stocks have been left behind by the American army in Germany, including many tanks in Tank Park at Kassel, in the north-west American zone. Plans are also under consideration to bring French maintenance personnel to America for training. Before the end of the war the U. S. had re-equipped ten French divisions.

CORRUPTION AND FAVOURITISM
"Whatever the political and/or economic conception of a State corruption and favouritism in the administrative system thereof would react like a boomerang on the party in power for that would set a pernicious precedent for the other party or parties, ultimately resulting in chaotic conditions which would irretrievably retard the progress of that State".
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