

WELCOME TO NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before the House enters upon its regular work, I wish to extend to the new Members a very cordial welcome on behalf of their colleagues and myself. Some of them were Members of this House before and do not need any introduction to its ways. Others, who are new to these ways, will soon know them. All in all there is much cordiality and mutual respect although at times serious differences and conflicts arise. It will be presumptuous for me to bring before you the importance of the work which the Nation expects of us. This House is popularly known as the Upper House and its Members are known as Elders. These truly represent the status of the House and its Members. In a sense, Democracy does double distillation before a Rajya Sabha Member emerges. He is thus in a double trust and it is up to him to prove himself equal to this double trust.

Personally I have felt during the short time I have been Chairman, that much more can be done if the House proceeds in an orderly way and the Members have a positive and not a negative approach to the problems before the Nation and we all know they are many and very pressing. We have no time to lose if fruitful social services expected of us are to be achieved. I am very interested in giving every Member and every Party an equal chance with others, but I am often frustrated by the frayed feelings which are displayed in Party attitudes. There is unnecessary recrimination. Perhaps a little more tolerance and a little less recrimination will make things pleasant and the task lighter for all of us. The eyes of the Nation are upon us and our doings and we must do our best for the Nation as a whole.

And now I welcome the new Members again and invite them to take a

proper share in the work of the House. We shall now proceed to the work which is before us.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Assam): Is it a message for new Members or old Members?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You heard me telling the new Members that they will soon learn its ways.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI (Tamil NADU): You told them what the old Members are doing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have got rather some sad business before us. I want the undivided attention of the House.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia and to the passing away of Shri Jethalal Hari Krishna Joshi, Shrimati Shyam Kumari Khan, Shri Kasu Vengala Reddy, Shri Mahavir Tyagi and Shri P. Abraham, ex-Members of this House.

President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, as the Members are aware, had been ailing after amputation of a leg owing to blood circulation problems, in January last. He was one of the great leaders of our times. With his passing away the world has lost the last of surviving Generals who led the course of events in the Second World War. Though he came to occupy this position from the ruins of a World War, he will be remembered for the cause of peace which he espoused fervently after the war along with our late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

President Tito was born in a poor peasant family of Yugoslavia in 1892. He started his career as an apprentice mechanic, but was soon drafted