

[Shri P. N. Sapru.]

What we want to do and what we need to do today is to hearten the Vice-Chancellor. Many hard things have been said about the Vice-Chancellor. I have not the pleasure of knowing him myself but I have heard good reports from men who know him and, in any case . . .

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Hearsay evidence is a very poor source to depend upon.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: My distinguished friend may grudge his eminence but I do not. Always we must give all support to the Vice-Chancellor. There must and there cannot be any question of his resignation. There can be no question of a new Vice-Chancellor at all till conditions settle down and we have a new set up. I do not want even that. I want the present Vice-Chancellor to be continued because it is essential and it is in the interests of discipline that we must not allow ourselves to be dictated to by our young friends as to who their Vice-Chancellor shall be. We must not allow ourselves to be dictated to by aspirants in the teaching profession as to who their Vice-Chancellor shall be. I saw some disgraceful things and scenes three years back in regard to the manner in which the Vice-Chancellors are treated. I think authority has to be asserted. I am not one of those who is unfriendly to the younger generation. Believe me, I have an immense faith in them. I have an immense liking for them. I want them to be self-governing but self-governance requires self-restraints and I think we shall not be doing the right thing if we attacked the Vice-Chancellor in this House. I think that we should not do or say anything which would undermine the authority of the Vice-Chancellor.

May I also say, before I close Mr. Vice-Chairman, that it would be a good thing for us to visit that University? Some of us should visit that University, not now but after order

has been restored, after the students have called off their agitational activities, after the staff is in a reasonable state of mind. Political parties should not exploit the occasion for their own ends.

Finally, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would say with regret that a reference was made in the report to Eastern U.P. It happens that the University is situated in Eastern U.P. It is not their fault that students from Eastern U.P. flock to the Banaras Hindu University. I can say one thing about my State and that is, we are free from aU regionalism and provincialism.

Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. R. B. GOUR): Let us for a moment depart from the debate.

Yes, Mr. Amolakh Chand.

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON THE PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION) BILL, 1957

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to declare that certain offices of profit under the Government shall not disqualify the holders thereof for being chosen as, or for being, members of Parliament.

THE BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1958— *continued.*

DR. P. J. THOMAS (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am in general agreement with the objects of this Bill. I was glad to hear from the hon. Minister that some fuller Bill is in preparation. I was impressed by the earnestness of his remarks and I am quite confident that soon there will

be a more full and comprehensive Bill.

Sir, much has been spoken against ; the report of the Committee. I am sure that most of us who know these gentlemen and who have followed the university affairs in this country will agree that this Committee consisted of really competent men. I agree with Dr. Kane on this point that in spite of certain shortcomings and small inaccuracies in the report, the i main body of it is most valuable; it has brought out that there are very serious matters to be rectified in this university. I had not known much about this university and for me it was a revelation to read this report. There is a lot of indiscipline going on there—it is still going on at other places too—among the young student people. Even this morning I read in the papers that students of seven colleges in Calcutta are keeping away from their classes—at whose cost?— because some slight increase had been made in the college fees. They were also at the gate of the 'Raj Bhawan' and the poor Chief Minister was harassed by them. If such things go on, how can we expect the students of today to become the future leaders of our country? In my State also there was the same trouble and the students were agitated over a small matter.

I suppose in all these matters poli- i tical parties are at the bottom.

Now, Sir, much has been spoken about it. Our Minister himself spoke about it in the other House, that political parties should keep away from students. It is true that in our national struggle students had been utilised. At long last we won our freedom, and to-day when we are making frantic efforts for the improvement of the country, to make the nation a prosperous one, to attain higher living standards by way of an increase in production in all directions, such indiscipline cannot be tolerated at all, and whoever causes such indiscipline must be punished. Now

in this case, apart from the general charge against the political parties and their leaders, there is the charge against a new type of politicians, the teacher-politicians, who have been carrying on similar activities to attain their own ends. I do hope it will also cease. As has been pointed out by the Committee, such teacher-politicians can be much worse than party politicians, and the teacher-politicians of the Banaras Hindu University have apparently been utilising students. The Committee has said that the real cause for all this trouble—as Dr. Kane emphasised—was the teachers and that power politics had been their game.

Now, Sir, as somebody pointed out, there is the necessity for avoiding elections in the universities. There may be elections to some extent but not for important posts. Elections are spoiling these people. If only we can avoid elections as far as possible' the position will much improve. Appointments can be made by nomination by the Visitor, in many cases on the advice of certain experienced all-India bodies, composed of specialists unconcerned with private interests. If we can devise some such method by which nominations to important posts and positions can be made, I think much of university politics can be improved, can be brought under control.

It is a great pity indeed that such things should go on in this great Banaras Hindu University. In some of the universities that I know of such things are not going on. Why is it so? It is because public opinion in some parts of the country is much stronger. In Madras, for instance, when such things happen, there is much trouble outside. Papers write about it. The public also will be rather concerned. In this connection, Sir, it reminds me, how is it that students discipline is much higher in the English universities. It is certainly due to the atmosphere, as Dr. Kane pointed out. The atmosphere is created by teachers; they provide

[Dr. P. J. Thomas.] leadership. Now, in this country too, I believe that if we can have good teachers by careful selection and give them the proper environment, we can also improve student discipline and make things much better.

Now I do not want to speak very long, because it is already getting time, but I should like to say, as I said already, that for improving discipline, both among students and among teachers, and for raising the level of teaching, the one very important thing is to rouse public opinion in the country and if public opinion is still in a nascent condition in the country, Parliament has to be vigilant.

Now may I ask a question of the Government? Why did not Government act earlier? Were not these things getting known gradually? As we know, Vice-Chancellor after Vice-Chancellor had been getting out of the University in disgust, from the time of Acharya Narendra Deva. Even our Chairman, Dr. Radhakrishnan, had to get out of it, and other very important and noted persons in the educational world. Why did not the Government take action earlier? I must certainly ask the Government to explain why some action could not be taken earlier because, as pointed out by two very distinguished persons, much earlier the condition in the Banaras Hindu University had been getting from bad to worse and action should have been taken long ago. Apparently Government had been showing some leniency or indifference—I do not know what it is. But in any case such things cannot continue in future.

For the Government to operate there must be public opinion and in this matter, as pointed out by several speakers from all parties, party considerations must absolutely cease, and party leaders must sit together and decide as to what steps should be taken to avoid indiscipline. The care of the rising generation is in the keeping of Parliament and in this matter

there should be joint action by all parties to attain this goal. It is not right that parties should win over the students to their side. They have to make their own choice. In this there is no room for different parties to show their superiority. Therefore, we must see that a gentleman's agreement is arrived at and political parties cease to drag in the students and inject the students with their ideas, and utilise them for their purposes. This has been going on for a long time and very competent persons have not been able to get on.

I am not very much acquainted with the Banaras Hindu University. I had been there when Malaviyaji was the Vice-Chancellor. I have the highest regard for him and for the then University. I found that at that time things were going on rather well; it was in the thirties. I do not know how things got so bad after that.

I do hope that this educational institution will now be given all facilities to become a model institution for the country. Indeed, it is named a "Hindu" University, but as pointed out by my friend here, it is nevertheless a national institution and for all of us, and we must all endeavour to make it a really model institution, to serve as model for the whole world if possible. Even now, Hindu culture has something valuable to contribute to the whole world; it still has got the potentiality for growing and giving something great to the world. Therefore, if we provide proper leadership, appoint the best men—it does not matter whether they come from the north or from the south, if we select the right men and give them freedom to work in the university and support them, then you will find the atmosphere made congenial and the students will find it difficult to indulge in indiscipline, and when there is no scope for indiscipline they will be spending their time more and more on their studies, research and so on. Then you will find that the Banaras University will be a model to the country.

I do hope that it will soon attain that position and serve as a model to us in the country and also to the whole world.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. R. B. GOUR): You continue to-morrow.

The House then adjourned at twenty minutes past five of the clock till eleven .of the clock on Thursday, the 11th September 1958.