he weaker colleges require more assistance. Will UGC revise the policy in the light of this consideration?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I will look into the point raised by ShrI Munsi. I do not have the information readily available.

As for the question regarding the RSS at Patna, a question has been put and reply has already been given or is being given. I do not exactly remember. I received notice and drafted a reply. It is a specific case. I cannot possibly keep all information readily available with me. If any information is given to the Commission that the money sanctioned has been wrongly spent, if any specific complaint is brought to notice, I have no doubt suitable steps will be taken on that account.

As for the point raised by Swami Brahmanandji, I thought I had explained this point at some length.

Coming to Shri Dhamankar's question, I have stated that the Commission is deeply concerned about the need for providing better facilities to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: My question has probably not been properly understood. Certain colleges are taking money not only for appointment of teachers but also for admission of students, which is a corrupt practice. Will the Commission blacklist such colleges?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: If a specific complaint is made, I have no doubt the Commission will take suitable action.

15.35 hrs

PRESS COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF INFORMA-TION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Sir, I move:•

"That the Bill further to amend the Press Council Act, 1965, be taken into consideration."

As the hon. Members are aware, the Press Council Act was amended in 1970 and it gave effect to the recommendations then made by the Advisory Committee of Members of Parliament which was constituted and set up by the Government. After the Bill was passed, as desired in the Act itself, a Nominating Committee was set up, comprising the Chairman of the Council of States, the Chief Justice of India and the Speaker of the House of the People. The Nominating Committee invited, in pursuance of the relevant provisions of the amended Act, nominations from various organisations and constituted a Press Council in October, 1970 it Unfortunately, self. some newspapers in India criticised the functioning of the Press Council, and therefore, the Nominating Committee in its wisdom decided to resign. We were inclined to persuade the members of the Nominating Committee to reconsider their resignation. but they did not agree. In the meantime, the term of the Press Council came to an end in October 1972 itself. Therefore, we had to take action and by an ordinance we decided to extend the term of the Press Council so that we in the meantime could decide in the House itself as to what the Nominating Committee should be and what should be its constitution. We have also decided in the meantime to set up an Advisory Committee again as was done in 1970 to advise the Gov-

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

ernment as to what type of amendment should be made in the Act on a permanent basis regarding the nominating Committee itself.

This Bill is a very simple Bill. We have not gone very much further than only giving an extension to the Press Council so that time is available to the House and for the Government to come before the House for amending the Act so far as the Nominating Committee is concerned.

I will not take your time in making a long speach at this stage. But 1 would only say that the purpose for which the Press Council was set up on the recommendations of the Press Commission itself, was to a very great extent being fulfilled by the Press Council, as Members might have seen from the annual reports of the Press Council. I hope that by and large the members are satisfied with the functioning of an institution which is useful. The Government at least feels that it should continue because we feel that it is a sort of a council of peers sitting in judgment over their fellowpeers.

Therefore, I feel that I should recommend to the House that it might consider this Bill so that the House in its wisdom might decide to give an extension to the Press Council for the time being.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Press Council Act, 1965, be taken into consideration."

Before I call the Members, I might point out that the scope of the Bill is limited only to the extension of the present life of the Press Council till June next year; 30th June, 1974. if 1 am not mistaken.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): What is the time for this? MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They have given two hours. I do not know what you will talk about on that limited aspect. If you talk outside the scope you can talk anything! I am only pointing out the scope to you.

Yes; Shri Ramavatar Shastri.

भी रामावतार ज्ञारणी (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष जो, मन्त्री जी ने स्वयं कहा है कि यह जो प्रेस कौंसिल है जिसकी ग्रवधि यह कुछ दिनों के लिए बढ़ाना चाहते हैं उसके कामों की ग्रालोचना देश के ग्रन्दर समय समय पर होती रही है। इस बात से ही यह स्पष्ट है कि इसका काम असतोषजनक रहा है। इस प्रेस कौंसिल ने या तो भ्रपनी जवाबदेही ठीक से निभायी नहीं या इसे जवाबदेही निभाने नहीं दिया गया । यं इसमें जिस तरह के लोग हैं ग्रगर उस तरह के सदस्यों की भरमार रहेगी या बहमत रहेगा तो जाहिर बात है कि जो नया विष्ठेयक ग्राने वाला है उस से देश के अन्दर जो सुधार करना है ग्रीर जिस सुधार की दिशा यह होनी चाहिए कि हमारे देश में जो श्रमजीवी पत्नकार हैं. जो पत्नों का काम करते हैं उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा सहलियत दी जायें । जो परिषद या कौंसिल यह काम न कर सके उसे सफलता नहीं मिलेगी। ग्रभी तक ग्रखवार के मालिकों की ही किसी न किसी रूप में तूती बोलती है ग्रौर श्रमजीवी पत्नकारों की ग्रावाज वहत कम सूनायी पड़ती है । ग्रगर मंत्री जीइस कींसिल को शक्तिशाली बनाना चाहते हैं, ग्रसरदार बनाना चाहते हैं तो इस बात की ग्रावश्यकता है कि इस के सदस्यों में ज्यादा से ज्यादा श्रमजीवी पत्नकारों के प्रतिनिधि रखे जायें. ताकि ग्रखबारी दुनिया में क्या होना चाहिए, जनतंत्र के विकास में उन की क्या भमिका हो सकती है उन बातों को वह कह सकें। लेकिन ग्रभी जो इस की बनाचट है वह उस तरह की नहीं है। इसलिये मेरा कहना

है कि कौंसिल में श्रमजोवी पत्नकारों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा रखा जाय, ग्रीर ऐसे पत्नकार जो सचमच में झाल इंडिया वर्किन्ग जर्न लिस्टस फेंडरेगन के कार्यक्रमों को मानते हए ग्रागे बढ़ना चाहते हैं, बढ सकें । लेकिन दुख की बात है कि श्रमजीवी पत्नकार संघ को कमजोर करने के लिये नेशनल युनियन भ्राफ जर्नलिस्ट्स के कुछ ऐसे पत्नकारों ने, जो पैसे वालों की मदद करना चाहत है. या जो सही माने में श्रमजीवी पत्नकारों की एकता को तोडना चाहते हैं, ऐसे लोग ग्रागे बढ रहे हैं, उन्होंने जगह जगह फुट डाल कर संगठन बना लिये हैं ग्रांर ऐसा लगता है है कि सरकार प्रत्यक्ष रूप से या परोक्ष रूप से इम तरह के तत्वों की मदद कर रही है। श्रगर इस तरह की बात रहेगी तो देश के ग्रन्दर स्वस्थ पत्नकारिता का विकाश नहीं हो सकेगा, ग्रौर हमारे जीवन पर, हमारे देश के पत्नों पर जो इजारेदारों का शिकं**जा** जमा हग्रा है वह ग्रीर ज्यादा मजबत होगा । इसलिये मैं चाहंगा कि सरकार की नीति ग्राल इंडिया वकिन्ग जर्नलिस्टस फेंडरेशन के समर्थन की होनी चाहिये, उसे मजबत बनाने की होनी चाहिये, न के नेशनल युनियन आफ़ जर्नलिस्ट जैसे फट-परस्त जमात को साथ देने की । क्योंकि मेरी जानकारी है, मेरा भी पत्नकारिता से सम्बन्ध रहा है, मैं जानता हुं कि श्रामतौर से यह लोग मालिकों की दलाली करते हैं। इन के पीछे चलने वाले तो बहत कम पत्रकार हैं, फिर भी इन्होंने हर जगह कुछ कुछ सदस्य बना कर के संगठन बना लिया है. ग्रौर ग्रगर श्रमजीवी पत्नकार सही ग्रावाज ले कर ग्रागे बढते हैं तो इस में रोडा ग्रटकाते हैं स्रौर मालिकों का समर्थन करते हैं।

15.40 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL in the Chair]

म्राखिरी बात यह है कि म्राज इस वात की जरूरत है कि पी० टी० प्राई०, समाचार भारतो, यु० एन० म्राई०, इंतल्ह की एजेन्सियों का एक मार्वजनिक ममाचार निगम बनाया आये. पब्सिक कौरपंरेशन का गठन किया जाये क्योंकि झभी जो इन के मालिक हैं वही लोग हैं जो बड़ बड़े पत्रों को संवालित करते हैं, तो फिर इन समाचार ए बेन्सियों में जो श्रम बोबी पत्रकार काम करते हैं उम की दिक्कतों की तरफ़ ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है । भ्रगर इसका पब्लिक कौरपोरेशन बन जाय तो जाहिर वात है कि इन की बातों की तरफ़ मरकार का ध्यान ज्यादा जायेगा। जै तक मैंने खुद देखा कि जब कोयला खानों का राष्टीयकरण नहीं किया गया था तो वहां के मज़दूरों को दो, ढाई रु० मिलता था। करीव करीब वही स्थिति ग्राज है इन समा-चार एजेन्सियों के श्रमजीवी पत्नकारों की । ग्रगर इस तरह का एक कौरपोरेशन बन जोताहै तो सरकार का ध्यान उधर जयेगा ग्रीर उनकी सुविधायें वढ जायेंगी, इन की स्थिति में सुधार होगा ग्रौर काम करने की महलियन भी बढ़ जायगी। इसलिए इस बात की जुरू त है ग्रीर इभ तरह की सिफारिश प्रैस कमीशन ने की है । अब यह बात है तो सरकार को इस पर ग्रमल करना चाहिये। पब्लिक कौर-पोरेशन बनाने की मांग भी पी० टी० ग्राई० ऐमण्डाईज फ़ैंडरेशन सालों से कर रही है। इमलिये मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि ग्राप इन समाचार ऐजेस्सियों का एक कौरपोरेशन बनादें न। जिं पत्रकारों का जो शोषण ग्रीर दोहन होता है उससे उन्हें छटकारा मिल जाये । ग्रगर ऐसाकाम करें तब तो प्रैस कौंदिसल डस के कठ माने होंगे. नहीं तो ग्रभी तक इम का काम वहन संतोब जनक नहीं रहा है य ह सरकार इंगलैंड के तरीके पर कुछ न कुछ यहां बनादेती है, फिर कुछ । ताम है। स्वतंत्र तरीके से हम नहीं चलता ग्रपनी कठिनाइयों को देखें, ग्रीर दूसरे देश

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[क्वी रॉमाबतार झास्त्री]

की नक्ल करें यह बात नहीं होनी चाहिये। हमारी जो समस्यायें हैं, जो उचित हमें प्रतीत हो उस को मपने सामने रख कर काम करें।

श्री रूप्र प्रताप सिंह (बारावंकी) : ग्रादरणीय ग्रधिश्ठाती महोदया, ग्राप ने मुझको जो प्रैंभ परिषद् संगोधन बिग्नेयक, 1973 पर ग्राने विचार प्रकट करने का ग्रवमर दिया है. उस के लिये ग्राप के प्रति हार्दिक ग्राभार प्रदर्शिन करना हं।

महोदया. जैपा कि माननीय सदन को जान है कि हमारा जनप्रिय दल क्रोर उस की वनी हई लोक प्रिय सरकार सदैव इस वात का प्रयत्न करती है कि राष्ट्र में लोकतांत्रिक मल्यों की रक्षा हो 1 हमारा दल ग्रीर सरकार सदैव डम वात के लिए प्रयत्नशील रही है कि देश के ग्रंतर्गत लोकतांत्रिक मल्यों का मंरक्षण हो. ग्रीर साथ साथ जो हमारे मुलभुत ग्रधिकार हैं वह प्राप्त रहें । हमें ग्राण्चयं होता है कि म्राज देश के लगभग समस्त विरोधी दलों का यह कार्य हो गया है कि केवल विरोध विरोध के लिए करते हैं।

आप को मालूम है कि जिस विषय पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं वह माननीय सदम्यों की मलाह कार समिति की संस्कृति के ब्राधार पर प्रैस परिषद् का गठन हुग्रा था जिसमें न केवल सरकारी पक्ष के बल्कि समस्त विरोधी पक्ष के सदस्यों के बहुमूख्य सुझाव लिये गये थे। हमें ग्राज इस बात की गहरी चिल्ता हो रही है कि इस के द्वारा जो एक नामांकन समिति का गठन किया गया था वह हमारे देश के माननीय राज्य परिषद् के सभापति, मुख्य न्यायाधिपति, लोक सभा के ग्रध्यक्ष, इन तीन व्यक्तियों की एक समिति वनाई गई गी जो हमारे लिये प्रैम परिषद् का गठन करे। ग्रव उस के सम्बन्ध में भी, जो हमारे लोक तंत्र के सर्वोच्च शिखर पर बैठे हुए व्यक्ति हैं, उन के सम्बन्ध में भगर विरोधी दलों द्वारा मालोचना की जायगी, तो मैं नहीं जानता कि वह लोकतंत्र को कहां ले जाना चाहते हैं, फिर भी मैं सरकार की सराहना करना चाहता हूं विशेष रूप से सूचना तथा प्रमारण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री भाई गुजराल जी की कि उन्होंने सदैव लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों का भी ध्यान रखा है ग्रीर तोनों में सदैव सामंजस्य रखा है कि ग्रीर दोनों में सदैव सामंजस्य स्थापित करने का वह निरंतर प्रयत्न करने रहे हैं।

मुझे यह कहना है कि मरकार ने इमको स्वीकार कर लिया है कि हम पुनः इम बात पर विचार करें कि किम प्रकार से नामांकन ममिति का गठन किया जाए ताकि जन ग्राकां-क्षाग्रों के ग्रनरूप एक समिति बन सके ग्रीर राष्ट के नव निर्माण में सहायक हो सके। इस में जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने कहा है कछ समय लगेगा, उन्हें संमद की सरकारी पक्ष ग्रीर समस्त विरोधी पक्षों के विचारों मे ग्रवगत होना है ग्रौर साथ ही साथ उन से परामर्थ करना है ग्रीर समिति के गठन के सम्बन्ध में इन सभी के क्या विचार हैं इसको जानना है । उन को यह भी देखना है कि प्रभावपूर्ण ढंग से यह समिति काम कर सके तो जो हमारा उद्देश्य है, जो लक्ष्य है वह प्राप्त हो सके। हम जब परिषद के गठन के बारे में विचार कर रहे हैं तो स्वभावतः हमारा ध्यान उस तरफ जाता है कि समिति जो हम बनाने जा रहे हैं उस में किस प्रकार के लोग हों । जानते ही कि म्राप तो <u>₹</u> जिस प्रकार केलोग उस समिति में उसी प्रकार के निर्णय वह समिति होंगे लेगी । यह निश्चित रूप से बात कही

जा सकती है कि जैसे व्यक्ति उम ममिति में होंगे उसी प्रकार की भावना उस समिति केढारा परिलक्षित होगी ।

लोक मभा के लिए हए माध्यवधि चनावों में जनता हमें इस बात का श्रादेश दिया कि हम देश में सामाजिक और प्राधिक विषमताएं समाप्त करना चाहते हैं. हम देश को शोषण में मक्त करना चाहते हैं, पुंजीवादी, सामन्तवादी ग्रीर प्रतिकियावादी, शोषणवादी जो शक्तियां हैं. उन का हम ग्रन्त करना चाहते हैं । इस वास्ते मैं कहना चाहना हं कि इस प्रकार की समिति का गठन कहीं न हो जाए जिससे प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष रूप में ऐसे व्यक्ति उस में आ जाएं जो कि पुंजीवादी, सामन्तवादी, स्वार्थवादी, गोपणवादी ग्रीर प्रतिक्रियावादी भावना से दबे हुए हों । यह हमारे देश का दर्भाग्य है कि प्राज देश के नब्बे प्रतिशत वडे समाचार पत्न बडे बडे पंजी-वादियों के हाथ में है ग्रीर उन के माध्यम मे हमारी जनता की जो ग्राकांक्षाएँ हैं वे बाहर नहीं निकल पाती हैं। उल्टे होना यह है कि प्रभात की सून्दर बेला में जब मुर्य की किरणें हम को नया उत्माह ग्रीर नई स्फर्ति देती हैं उसी समय पर प्रातः काल जब समाचार पत्न हमारे हाथों में श्राते हैं तो हमारे मन में निराणा की भावना पैदा करते हैं, भ्रस्थिरता की भावना पैदा करते हैं। यह जो स्थिति है यह देश के हित में नहीं कही जा सकती है । ऐसी स्थिति पैदा करने की जरूरत है कि प्रभात की किरणों के साथ जब समाचार पत हमारे हाथों में ग्राएं तो हमें उत्माह दिलाएं, स्फूर्ति दें हमारे स्पन्दन में एक नव चेतना दें ताकि देश के नव निर्माण में हम ग्रागे बढ सकें । इस प्रकार का कार्य जो हमारे समाचारपवों के माध्यम से होना चाहिये वह नहीं हो पा रहा है ग्रीर इसका हमें दु:ख है ।

वर्तमान जो व्यवस्था है चाहे सरकार इत्तसंकल्प है लेकिन समाचार पतों पर जो एकाधिकार स्थापित हो गया है उसके रहने जनता की ग्राकांक्षाग्रों की पूर्ति नहीं हो सकी । इस वास्ते समाचार पत्नों पर पूंजी-पतियों का जो एकाधिकार है उस को हमें समाक्ष करना होगा । ऐसा होगा तभी देश में हम सामाजिक न्याय लोगों को दिला सकेंगे एक ऐसे समाज का निर्माण हो सकेगा जो शोषण से मुख्त हो जिस में किसी प्रकार की ऊंच नोच की भावना न हो, भेदभाव न हो ग्रीर पूजी-पति निर्धन जनता का, दलित जनता का, शोषित जनता का, सर्वहारा समाज का शोषण न कर सके ।

हमारी प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधो जी ने एक बार कहा था कि विण्व भर में सर्वोत्तम समाचार पत्र लाभ के उद्देश्य से नहीं चलाए जाते बल्कि उनका उद्देश्य जन सेवा का होता है । मैं समझता हूं कि परिषद जो बनेगी उस के ध्यान में यह बात निष्टिन रूप मे ही एहेगी।

मैं ग्रधिक समय लेगा नहीं चाहता हूं चूकि ग्रौर भी माननीय सदस्य इसके बारे में ग्रपने विचार प्रकट वरेंगे । मैं जाजा करता हूं कि माननीय राज्य मंत्री जी किस प्रकार में इस समिति का गठत हो, इसके ग्रधांश इसके सदस्यों का सामांकत हो इसके बारे में हमें विश्वास में लेंगे . हमको ग्रपने परामर्ग देने का ग्रवसर प्रदान करेंगे ग्रीर इसी प्रकार से हमें वहां भी ग्रपने विचार प्रकट करने का मौका देंगे ।

अन्त में मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि समाचारपत्न जनता के लिए होतें हैं, जनता समाचारपत्रों के लिए नहीं होती है ग्रौर जनता को ममाचार पत्नों के हाथ की कठ- [श्री रुद्र प्रताप सिह]

पुतली न बनाया जाए । ऐसा होगा तभी देश में समाजवाद की स्थापना हो सकेगी, तभी एक ऐसे समाज की रचना हो सकेगी जो कि शोषण से मुक्त हो ग्रीर प्रत्येक ध्यक्ति को सामाजिक ग्रीर ग्राधिक न्याय मिल सके !

मैं अपने दल का प्रयम वक्ता हूं। इस वास्ते विरोधी पक्ष की ग्रोर से जो जो बातें कही जानी हैं उनका उत्तर तो मैं दे नहीं सकता हूं। फिर उन के जो विचार हैं उन से इम ग्रवगत हैं। विशेष कर हमारे जनमंघ के भाई कांग्रेस संगठन के भाई ग्रौर प्रतिक्रियावादी विजचारधारा वाले दल हम जानते हैं कि बड़े पूजीपतियों की, निहित स्वार्थों की वकालत करेंगे। मैं ग्राणा करता हूं कि उनकी वातों का उत्तर देने में टमारे नौ जवान साथी श्री मूंगी ग्रांर श्री टोम्बो सिंह समर्थ होंगे।

ग्रव ग्रंतिम जो वाक्य मैं कहना चाहता मैं प्रार्थना करता हूं कि उस पर ग्राप विशेष रूप से ध्यान दें :

कल यही ख्वाव हकोक़ तमें वदल जायेंगे आराज जो ख्वाव फक़त ख्वाव नजर आरते है।

डा० सक्सी नरायण पांडेंग (मंदस रि) हम प्रेस परिषद् संगोधन पर चर्चा कर २ हे हैं। इस त्रिल के उद्देश्यों ग्रौर कारणों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए मंत्री महोदय ने यह बताया है कि यद्यपि परिषद के काम से तो ग्रापको संतोष है लेकिन फिर परिषद की रचना किस प्रकार से हो किस व्यवस्था से हो इसको ग्राप फिर से देखना चाहते हैं। पहले जो व्यवस्था की गई थी रचना के सम्बन्ध में ग्रौर जिन व्यक्तियों पर यह भार सौंपा गया था उन के द्वारा त्यागपत्र दिए जाने के कारण ग्रापने कहा है कि गह स्थिति पैंदा हुई है। लेकिन आपने कुछ संकेत नहीं दिया कि ग्रालोचना

किस बात की हुई मौर किस प्रकार की हुई ? क्या परिषद के कार्य की ग्रालोचता हुई ग्रथवा परिषद के सदस्यों को नामांकित जो करते थे, परिषद का जो निर्माण करते थे म्रथवा जिन को ग्रधिकार दिया गया था नामिनेट करने का, उनकी ग्रालोचना हुई । मापने ग्रध्यादेश के सम्बन्ध में जो वक्तव्य दिया है उस में ग्रापने इस के बारे में कुछ नहीं बताया है । ग्रापने इस विधेयक में भी

यही बात कही है कि प्रैस परिषद की संरचना के बारे में कुछ ग्रालोचना की गई है । ग्रापने उद्देश्यों में कहा है कि नाम निर्देशन ममिति के सदस्यों ने यह महसूस किया है कि यह वांछनीय नहीं होगा कि उन के पदों के बारे में ग्रालोचना होने दी जाए । हम।रे सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधी ज उस में थे । लोक सभाके ग्रध्यक्ष ग्रीर राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन उस में थे। मैं जानना चाहता हं कि ऐसे बडे व्यक्तियों की ग्रालोचना जिन लोगों के द्वारा की गई उसका ग्राधार क्या ग्रौर ग्रालोचना किस प्रकार की थी. धा क्या उन्होंने परिषद के कर्त्तव्यों के बारे में परिषद की कार्य प्रणाली के वारे में कोई या **ग्रालोचना की थी ? उस पर यदि ग्रा**पने प्रकाश डाला होतातो उसकी संरचना के बारे में फिर से विचार किया जा सकता था। यदि कुछ व्यक्तियों द्वारा ऐसे महानतम व्यक्तियों की, उच्च पदों पर तैठे हुए व्यक्तियों की कोई ग्रालोचना की गई तो फिर ग्राप संसद सदस्यों की कोई समिति बनाकर उन से पुनर्विचार चाहते हैं तो मैं समझौता हं कि उस से भी कोई हल निकलने वाला है ग्रीर जो संशोधन ग्राप लाए हैं यह नहीं निरर्थक होगा ।

परिषद का गठन प्रैस कमिशन की सिफारिशों के क्राधार पर किया गया था जब यह गठन किया गया था उस समय भी संसद सदस्यों की एक सलाहकार समिति बनी थी । यह समिति जनवरी 1968 मेंबनो थो ग्रोर उसने उसी उसाल ग्रस्तूबर में ग्रपनो रिपोर्ट दे दी थी। उस ने यह सुझाव दिया था कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्याया-घी ज, लोक सभा के स्पीकर ग्रोर राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन को एक नामनिर्दे जन समिति बनाई जाये, जो प्रैस परिखर् में सदस्यों को नामी-नेट करें। उस के ग्रनुसार ही प्रैस परिपर् का गठन हुग्रा था। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या मंत्री महोदय फिर उसी कम को दोहराने जा रहे हैं कि संसद्-सदस्यों की एक समिति बनाई जाये ग्रीर बह इम बारे में ग्रपने मुझाव दे।

16 hrs.

अभी एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि प्रेंस परिषद् में वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्म को अधिक प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जाना चाहिए । प्रेंस कौमिल एक्ट की धारा 3 में स्पष्ट कहा गया है

"Thirteen shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee from among the working journalists, of whom six shall be editors of newspapers and the remaining seven shall be working journalists other then editors."

इस में बर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स का जो अनुपात रखा गया है, बह पर्याप्त है। हमारे यहां समाचार पवों में काम करने वाले पत्न-कारों के दो अखिन भारतीय संगठन हैं: आई ० एफ ० डबल्यू० जे० और एन ० यू० जे०। जब आई ० एफ ० डबल्यू जे० को प्रपना प्रतिनिधि भे जने के लिए कहा गया, तो उम ने अपना प्रतिनिधि नहीं भेजा। दोबारा समय दिये जाने पर भी उम ने अपना प्रतिनिधि नहीं भेजा । उम ने कहा कि उस के अध्यक्ष विदेश यात्रा पर गये हुए हैं। सम्भवतः वहरूस या किसी अन्य कम्युनिस्ट कन्ट्री की यात्रा पर गये होंगे, क्योंकि उनका सम्बन्ध किसी कम्युनिस्ट कन्ट्री से ही हो सकता है । ग्रभो म,ननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि एन ० रू ० जें ० मालिकों क, सत्या है ग्रीर वह मालिकों की र,हयंगी है । यद्यपि इस वारे में उन्होंने कोई ठोस उदाहरण प्रस्तुत नहीं किया है यह केवल पारस्परिक प्रतिस्पर्धा से कही गई बात है । लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार का यह दायित्व है कि जनतंत्र की प्रगति के लिए वह ऐसा स्वस्थ वातावरण बनाये, जिम में पत्रकार केवल सरकार की हां में हां न मिलायें, बल्कि वे स्वतंत्र रूप से ग्रपने विचार प्रकट कर सकें ग्रार सरकार की ग्रालोचना भी कर सकें । प्रस कोसिल एक्ट में स्पष्ट रूग से बताया गया है

"To build up a code of conduct for newspapers and news agencies and journalists in accordance with their high professional standards;

"to ensure on the part of newspapers, news agencies and journalists maintenance of high standards of public taste...."

फिर कहा गया है

"to encourage the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those who are in the profession of journalism."

इस प्रधिनियम में स्पाट बताया गया है कि प्रैस परिषद् के कार्य-कलाभ क्या होंगे । लेकिन एक संस्था को प्रतिनिधिन दिये जाने के प्रग्न पर ही मतभेद हुग्रा ग्रीर उसके ग्राधार पर ही सारी ग्रालोचना प्रारम्भ की गई । इस के कारण नामनिर्देशन समिति के सदस्यों के त्यागपत्र देने की स्थिति पैदा हुई मैं समझता हूं कि ग्रार मंत्री यहोदय ने उन तीनों को पसुंवेड करने का प्रयत्न किया होता, तो शायद वे ग्रपने पदों से न हटते । पत्र कारों की भिन्न संस्थान्नों के प्रतिनिधित्व के बारे में तथा उन के निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया के बारे में भी सरकार को पूरी तरह विचार करना चाहिये । [डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पाण्डेय]

मंत्रो महोदय ने कहा है कि प्रैस परिषद ठोक तरह से काम कर रही थी। उसके बारे में संगत कोई शिकायत भी नहीं है। लेकिन सरबाः पत्रकारिता के क्षेत्र में ग्रपने दायित्व को निभाने में ग्रमफल रही है । वह दिन-प्रति-दिन पत्नों की स्वाधीनता का हनन करती जा रही है । कछ दिन पहले यहां ग्रखवारी कागज के कोटे के बारे में चर्चा हई थी। क्या मरकार ने उसके बारे में ग्रपने दायित्व को निभाया है ग्राखिर ग्रख-बारी कागज की कमी क्यों हई ? समय रहते सरकार ने व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं की ? वह चाहती है कि समाचार पत्र उस का पक्ष ज्यादा ल ग्रौर जनता के दुख-दर्द ग्रीर कठिनाइयों की तरफ़ कम ध्यान दें। क्रखबारों की पृष्ठ संख्या कम हो गई है। हो, दिल्ली मे निकलने वाले पेट्रियट का ग्राकार जरूर बढ़ गया है । पता नही , उसको ग्रखवारी काग़ज का घोटा कहां से प्राप्त होता है। नैशनल हैरल्ड ग्रोर कुछ दूसरे समाचार पतों के मालिकों की ग्रोर में ग्रपने कर्मचारियों को परेणान किये जाने की बात कही गई है। सरकार का यह दायित्व है कि यदि पत्रकारों को किसी दिक्कत का सामना करना पडता है, तो वह उन को संरक्षण देग्रीर उनकी सहायता करे। सरकार ने ऐसा नहीं किया है । ऐसा प्रदीत होंना है कि सरकार समाचार पत्नों को धीरे धीरे ग्रपने पुरे नियंत्र ग में लाना चाहती है जिससे कि वे सरकारी भाषा वोलें।

यदि सरकार चाहती है तो वह बहुत समय पहले -- - नामीनेटिंग कमेटी के सदस्यों ने जब इस्तीफा दिया, , उसी समय -कोई र्वकत्तिक व्यवस्था कर सकती थी । लेकिन उम ने इस्तीफ़ा देने के बाद डेढ़, दो वर्ष तक वह सोनी रही । ग्राज वह यह विधेयक लाकर कह रही है कि वह नामी-नेटिंग कमेटी की रीकांस्टीट्यूट करने के में इस सदन के सदस्यों से परामर्श करना चाहती है । यह काम तो बहत पहले ही किया जा मकता था । ग्रगस्त में माननीय मंत्री ने दूसरे सदन में कहा था कि वह प्रैस परिषद् का कार्यकाल ममाप्त होने से पूर्व नई समिति का गठन करना चाहते हैं। सितम्बर में उन्होंने एक ग्रध्यादेश के द्वारा यह व्यवस्था की ग्रीर ग्राज, जब कि नध्म्दर खुत्म होने जा रहा है, वह यह विधेयक ले कर मदन के मामने ग्राये हैं कि प्रैम परिषद् का समय एक्सपेंड किया जाये।

मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय यह ग्राण्वासन दें कि इस समिति का गठन जल्दी मे जल्दी किया जायेगा ताकि इस समय पत्रकार जगत में वेचैनी जी है. , वह दूर हो सके। इस समय सरकार द्वारा पत्रों पर ग्रंकुण ग्रीर नियंत्रण लगाये जा रहे हैं ग्रीर यह महसूस किया जा रहा है कि वह पत्रों का गला घोंटना चाहर्ता है।

मरकार ने पत्रकारों के लिए वेज बॉर्ड की घोषणा की है । पहले के वेज वॉर्ड ने चार वर्षों के वाद ग्रपनी रिपोर्ट दी थी। ग्राणा हैकि दूसरा वेज वॉर्ड जल्दी ही ग्रपनी रिपोर्ट देगा, ताकि श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों को राहत मिल सके।

मैं समझता हूं कि ड्याज ग्रगर सरकार ने समय पर काम किया होता तो इस विधेयक को लाने की ग्रावक्ष्यकतान पड़ती, लेकिन उसने समय पर ग्रपना काम नही किया ।

भी चन्बूला संच कर (दर्ग) : सभापति महोदय , मंत्री ग्रहोदय ने बताया है कि इस विवेयक का उद्देश्य बहुत मीक्ति है । इसकें ढारा प्रेंस कौंसिल की प्रवधि जून , 1974 तक बढाई जा रही है । प्रेंस कौंसिल के मैं स्वसं चुनने के लिए जो कमेटी नियुक्त की गई थी, उस के तीनों सदस्यों ने उस में काम करने से इंकार कर दिया है । उन का कहना है कि बे प्रपने पदों कों भी पतों की ग्रान्तेचना से बचाना चाहते हैं । मुझे उम्मीद है कि सरकार ने इत बात को काकी कोशिंग की होगी कि वे तीतों सदस्य समिति में काम करें। लेकिन किल्ही कारणों से उन तीनों सदस्यों ने ग्रभी तक नामों-नेटिंग क रेटो में काम करते से इंकार किया है । इत प्रम्यन्ध में मेरा सुप्राव है को इत सरन की ग्रोर से सभी दलों की ग्रोर से - जर्ब- सम्मति से यह प्रध्वाव पास किया आये कि इत लेतनों सदस्यों को नामोतेटिंग कनेटों में अपना कार्य आरी करते के लिए फिर से अनुरोध किया आये । मैं मलता हूं कि सरकार, ग्रोर थी गुजराल ने,इव दिशा में कार्फा अवत्व किया है । लेकिन मैं निवेदन करना चाहना हूं कि मध्त्रो महोदय ढारा प्रतुरोध करते पर प्रोर मंसद के सभी पक्षों की ग्रोर से अनुरोध करने में बडा फ है होगा ।

मुने पूरा विश्वास है कि सदन के सभी दलों के सदस्य सर्व-सम्मति से यह मांग करें कि लोक सभा के ग्रध्यक्ष, राज्य सभा के सभागति और सुप्रिम कोर्ड के चौफ अस्टिस, ये तीनों उस समिति के सदस्य वने रहें, तो ये तीनों सदस्य उस समिति में काम करना स्रोकार करेंगे । यह प्रस्ताव सरकार की ओर से आये या किसी सदस्य की ओर से आये, लेकिन मेरा उद्देश्य यह है कि इन तीनों मदस्यों से यह अनुरोध कि ग जावे कि वे उस समिति में वने रहें । इन तीनों के नाम बहुन सोव विचार कर चुने गरे थे और उनके रहने से प्रैन परिषद में नामीनेगन का कार्य बहुन सरूलियत और इपातदारी से हो सकेगा ।

इस विदेशक का एक सोमित उद्दश्य है इप लिए प्रैस कौंसित ने क्या किया, क्या क्रञ्ज या बुरा काम किया. या उत्तके गठन में क्या परिवर्तन होना चाहिए, ये बात इन विधेयक को सोमा में नहीं हैं।

ेंगे किन मैं एक दो सुझाव देना चाहता हूं। कुत्र मिन: कर प्रैंत कोंसिल की जो पहले स्थापना हुई थो तो बहुत बहुत उम्मीद उससे थो कि उतने सनुक अनुक उद्दर्थ पूरे होंगे, 2328 LS—11

लेकिन कुछ कारणों से वे उद्देश्य पूर्ण नहीं होने पाये। वैसे कुल मिला कर प्रैस कौंसिल ने काम ग्रच्छाकिया है। लेकिन फिर भी कुळ कारणों से वे उद्देश्य पूरे नहीं हुए । एक तो प्रेंस कौंसिल एक्ट में कमी यह है कि इसे स्टेट्रयूटरी बाडी नहीं वनाय। है जिसके कारण राज्य सरकारें तक इसकी ग्रवहेलना कर देती हैं। जब कि संसद से बने हुए प्रैस कौंसिल एक्ट के अवहुलना राज्य सरकारे तक करने लगें तो ग्राप समझ लीजिए कि इसकी कहां तक उपयोगता रहेगी । इस लिए बहत आवश्यक है कि जब कभी भी इस में मन्त्री महोदय संशोधन लाए चाहे ग्रभी लाऐं, लेकिन इसे स्टेट्यूटरी बाडी अवश्य बनाएं चाहे 1974 में लाएं लेंकिन इसें स्टेंट्रयूटरी बाडी ग्रवश्य बनाएं जिससे कि इसके निर्णाय सभी पार्टियों को मान्य हो सक ।

दूसरी बात यह कि ग्रभी शास्त्री जी ने इसके गठन की चर्चा ग्रीर उसकी ग्रालोचना की कूल मिता करें गठन के विषय में जो व्यवस्था है ऐक्ट में वह क्रभी तक पूरी नहीं है ग्रौर किसी कारण से, कूछ टेकिनकल कारण **व**श वर्किंग जर्नलिस्टस फैडरेशन के सदस्य उस में नंहीं ग्रासके । इसको में समझताहं सभी को खेद है। लेकिन वह एक टैकनीकल कारण था जिस से यह नहीं है। सका वैसे एक्ट के ग्राधार पर उन को ग्रानाही था ग्रोर फैडरेशन ग्राफ वर्किंग जर्नलिस्टस इस में ग्राएगा ही । इस लिए शास्त्री जो का जो कथन था, उनकी जो ग्रालोचना थी, मैं समजता हूं कि उन के आने से उन की पूर्ति हो जायेगी । 🤤 समझता हूं कि ग्रगली बार वर्किग जर्नलिस्टन फैडरेशन के लोग भी ग्राएंगें। लेकिन अहांतक इसके गठन का प्रश्न हैमें सममताहं कुल मिला कर इस प्रैक्ष कौंसिल का गठन ग्रच्छा ही है ।

इस में कुछ थोड़ी सी कमजोरियां ब्रनुभव से मालम हुई हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि उस में बहुत ज्यादा कानन में परिवर्तन करने की

[श्री चन्द्लाल चन्द्रांकर]

ग्रावध्यकता नहीं, लेकिन फिर भी उस व्यवस्था में ही सेलेक्शन के समय कुछ ऐसी व्यवस्था को ग्रांवध्यकता है कि भारतीय भाषाग्रों के लोग उस प्रैस कों सल में हों सके। प्रभी किसी न किसी वजह है से होता यह है कि ग्रंयेजी पतों के तिनिधि ज्यादा ग्रा जाते हैं। ग्राखिर हनारे देश भर में प्रंयेजी पतों की संखा भारतीय पत्रों की तुलना में बहुत कम है। इस लिए को शिश यह होनी चाहिए कि भारतीय भाषाग्रों के प्रतिनिधि ग्रंयेजी पत्रों के प्रतिनिधियों की तुलना में ज्यादा हो सकें। ऐसी व्यवस्था इस ढंग से हो सके तो ज्यादा ग्र च्छा रहगा।

*SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER (Nilgiris); Madam Chairman, I would like to make a few observations on the Press Council (Amendment) Bill. This Bill seeks to extend the term of office of the Press Council from 1st October 1973 to 30th June 1974. Earlier when the term of the existing Press Council was to expire on the 1st October, 1973, an Ordinance was promulgated on the 27th September 1973, to extend the term by 8 more months. This Bill is only seeking to replace that Ordinance.

A Nominating Committee consisting of the Speaker of our House, the Vice-President and the Chief Justice of India was constituted and that Committee was to appoint persons to serve on the Press Council. As a result of the nominations by this Committee, a Press Council was constituted on the 1st October, 1970. It appears that certain criticisms were voiced regarding the persons nominated by this Nominating Committee to serve on the Press Council. The Members of the Nominating Committee in view of the high offices they were holding did not wish to associate themselves with the task of selecting persons for the Press Council and in fact they resigned from the Nominating Committee. The Government are now thinking of finding an alternative method for selecting persons for the Press Council. I agree that some time is required in working out an alternative method for this purpose. But then, Madam it is three years since the existing Press Council was nominated and all these years the Government had ample time to go into that question in all details and find out a satisfactory method for selection of persons to serve on the Press Council. The Central Government did not keep itself alive to that question and when they fund suddenly that the term of the Press Council was to expire on the 1st October, 1973, they came out with an Ordinance to give a new lease of life to that Press Council.

Madam, when I see that even the simple matter could not be attended to by the Central Government in time, I cannot but point out that this kind of inefficient functioning of the Central Government was largely due to the enormous concentration of powers in the Central Government. The Central Government have assumed for themselves enormous responsibilities which have cast on them a heavy burden which they are unable to bear. This Bill is only a symptom to show how unequal the Central Government are to the tasks that lay before them. Whenever some of us speak of granting more powers to the State Governments all kinds of motives are attributed to us. When they demand State autonomy we are suspected as demanding secession. I can only say that those who look through coloured glasses will see things only coloured. When we pin point the areas in which the Central Government have concentrated in themselves almost all powers I do not know why some people should feel rattled. It is just and proper that there ought not to be concentration of powers for, apart from other reasons it leads to inefficiency in the administration. This Bill is only one such instance.

^{*}The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

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Madam, we have been hearing for a very long time about the concentration of the Newspaper Industry in the hands of a few monopolists. We have also been hearing that the Central Government are considering proposals for diffusion of ownership of newspapers for a very long time. There is no doubt that the newspaper industry is in the hands of a few persons which is certainly is not desirable for the healthy growth of an independent press in cur country. What I am asking is: How long the Government would go on shouting on roof tops that there ought to be diffusion in the ownership of newspapers? There is no point in talking about it without the Government taking any concrete action in that direction. I have an uneasy feeling that the Government are not very serious in bringing diffusion of ownership of the newspapers.

The Press Council as it is now does not give any representation to the Working Journalists. 1 would like to know from the Government whether the Working journalists have any say in the publication of the newspapers. What is role that is assigned to these journalists in Press Council. The newspapers today are such that they reflect only the opinions and the views of the monopoly owners. They are able to publish such material either in favour or against the Government which is conducive to their own selfish ends. It is time that the newspapers are allowed to function in an independent manner. In some countries entire industry has been nationalised and the newspapers are controlled by the Government. If you look at the newspapers you will find that the proceedings in the Parliament are not given the full or the necessary coverage. In fact some of the important discussions have been blacked out in the newspapers. What I am interested to know is whether the Government have any proposals to nationalise the newspapers and instead of just talking about the need for diffusion in the ownership of the newspapers will they announce any concrete proposals for action.

Madam, if there is any development in our country during the last 25 years it is in the area of political speeches and newspapers. According to the Report of the Register of Newspapers for year 1971, there were 122118 newspapers and 2773 other periodicals. 1 am sure, by now this number would have gone up further. I am giving these figures from the 16th Report of the Registrar of Newspapers. The Press Council has to function in this background. There is no doubt that the Press Council plays a crucial role in the matters affecting such a large numbers of newspapers. It is indeed surprising that in such an important issue of the Press Council the Government have not been acting quickly and in time.

As I stated earlier the Central Government had nearly three years since the Constitution of the Press Council by the Nominating Committee and they failed during all these days inspite of the members expressing their desire to resign from the Committee to evolve an alternative method in this matter.

I do not want to be misunderstood to criticise our President. I only want to voice the feelings of large number of people that the President should not give his consent to issue Ordinances such as the present one. Ordinance should be resorted to rarely and in unavoidable circumstances. In the present case the Government had enough time and because of their inefficiency a situation was reached which necessitated the promulgation of an Ordinance. I have no words to condemn the irresponsibility of the Central Government so far as thig matter is concerned. With these words I conclude.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): I rise to support this Bill. I remember that just a little while ago the hon. Deputy-Speaker very rightly observed that this Bill had only a very limited scope on which one could speak. As I speak I am keeping this in view. The hon. Minister has very rightly pointed out in the State-

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

ment of Objects and Reasons the basic objectives of the Bill. There is one thing, however, which I would like to re-emphasise, namely that so far as the draging in of the important officers of the press council into political is concerned. or other controversies Government had made their intentions very clear that they do not like to drag into any political or other controversy any of the important officers because in the Press Council Act the concern is with the preservation of the freedom of the press and the preservation and maintenance of the standards of the newspapers on the one hand and of the news agencies on the other which can be done only through the good offices of the Council.

A number of provisions have been made for the nomination of members from different categories, and expensive power has been given to the council. A large number of objectives have also been mentioned so that the council under its constitution might be able not only to preserve the freedom of the press but also maintain and improve the standards of the newspapers.

We are meeting today after a few years of the constitution of the Press Council to discuss this Bill seeking to amend only a small provision. But it will be worth-while to make an assesment of how the council has worked after its constitution, during the last few years, and whether any amendments are necessary, what achievement has been made and whether we stand satisfied absolutely with what has been achieved in this sphere.

May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister in this regard to one important matter? Wide powers have been given to the Press council, equal to those of a civil court to try suits according to the Civil Procedure Code and let us see whether the council has been able to utilise these powers for concrete ends.

If that is so, what are these? Is there room for more improvement in the matter of nomination of members to the Council; if we go by the enumerated categories, we have big medium and small newspapers. What is the number of small newspapers? I have to emphasise this because in my part of the country, ony the services of small newspapers are available During these days of IA ockout, standard English or Indian language newspapers will not reach us. This only shows that in this country 43 per cent of the circulation is taken by small newspapers. I think the representation on the Council from the small newspapers should be re-examined in the light of this consideration. We should increase the number of representation from the small newspapers.

1.26 hrs

[SHRI S. A. KADER in the Chair]

We should give more encouragement to the small newspapers. Whether this is clearly within the purview of this Bill may be controversial, but if you will allow me a little indulgence, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the state of affairs concerning circulation of news to different parts of the country, particularly the hill areas of the north-eastern zone where people have to depend only on the services of small newspapers. They have to import standard newspapers from Gauhati or Calcutta as these places happen to be the nearest publishing centres of such newspapers, but when there is a stoppage of air services as is the case now with the IA lockout, one could imagine the difficulties of these people in getting news. They have to depend only on the radio. In how many houses in radio? those places, do they have a So naturally, our attention has to be drawn to encouraging the small newsonly in the sector not paper oſ represmatter of adequacy but Council the entation on also in regard to improving the quality of the small newspapers. I believe the Ministry has made some assessment about this. Wherever small newspapers thrive, it is on the basis of giving sensational and local news In most cases, the small newspapers are owned by political parties. So, naturally a large section of our population is deprived of standard objective news. They are fed on coloured news. Even so they have the consolation that they have some news. In what way can we come to the rescue of these people who are suffering on this account? We have to consider what measures of encouragement or patronage should be taken to help these small newspapers out. I have a suggestion and I hope at the time of his reply, the Minister will be kind enough to say something on it.

The Press Council provides for the improvement of news agencies also. These news agencies like PTI. UNI. Hindustan Samachar and others having teleprinter services should reach the difficult areas, the hilly areas. Perhaps the small newspapers may not be able to subscribe suitably. In this respect, the patronage of the State Government as well as that of the Central Government will be necessary. We have to take up this matter seriously because unless we reach through a cheap teleprinter service, the small newspapers will suffer. As I have mentioned, the small newspapers are mostly thriving in the backward areas where the big newspapers cannot reach because of the poor communications We and several other difficulties. have to subsidise the small newspapers in matters relating to the teleprinter services. What is Government's reaction to this suggestion?

Then there is one thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister. It is about the way in which we can avoid controversies about the Press Council and its constitution. Controversies may happen in spite of best intention and arrangement because we are dealing with one of the most important limbs of democracy and the press is manned by the most educated, eloquent and the most well-informed sections of uor population. Naturally it may not be smoothsailing anywhere. Even so, we have got to be satisfied with the maximum good will and the maximum arangements that we can make in this behalf to avoid controversies. I am in absolute agreement with my friend. hon. Chandrakar, who spoke immediately before me from my side, that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shoull be persuaded unanimously to accept their offices so that we shall be able to avoid the controversy as far as possible; and the Press Council will then have done the best service in the present difficult juncture.

With these words, I support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At 5.30 we have to take up the other discussion. We have got just one hour with us. I have got the list of speakers; about eight in all. Of course the Minister will take about 10 to 12 minutes....

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): 15 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: about 15 minutes to reply.

श्वी मधु लिमये (वांका): अभी इसको च जने दीलिए ।

समापति महोदय : इतना महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है. है तो सही ले**ं**जन

We can adjust it and finish it. If the House so desires, I would request the speakers to confine themselves to very brief rcmarks.

श्री ग्रनन्तरात्र पाटिल (खेड) : जो ग्रःखिर में रहते हैं उनको कम टाइम मिलता है जो पहते बोलने हैं उनको ज्यादा, हुं र

[भी ग्रनन्तर/व पाटिल]

जो उससे कन्सन्ड रहते हैं उन को तो वोलने का मौका ही नहीं मिलता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is the desire of the House that time should be given to all, then it cannot be finished to day.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir. frankly I do not feel very much enthusted by the functioning of the Press Council. I am not quite sure whether it has been able to do its best to see that the norms and proprieties are maintained to preserve and strengthen democracy. While the Council has felt very much concerned at the publication of the pictures of inadequately clothed female figures, it has not cared to see whether a proper proportion is maintained between

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Any clothing is adequate for women.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: So we can expect more interesting pictures in the newspapers with the recommendation of my hon. friend Shri Madhu Limaye. The Press Council has not cared to see....

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): What is the proper proportion?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I am not speaking about the clothing of female figures just now. I am now speaking about the proper proportion being maintained between the publications of the Government point of view and the Opposition's point of view. It is on that correct proportion that democracy is going to be strengthened in this country.

If the newspapers come out with the publication of the Government views in much larger proportion than the opposition point of view, then I should say that the newspapers are not doing their duty. It is to this aspect that the Press Council has to address itself more in the future.

So far as this Bill is concerned, we have to deal with three questions. Firstly, whether the extension should be granted to the present Press Council; secondly if so, for what length of time, whether the period that is being proposed is the proper period and thirdly, whether the required consultations could not have been completed by now so that the Minister could have come up before Parliament with a more comprehensive measure.

Coming to the first question whether the extention should be granted, my answer is: Yes, in the given situation extension has to be granted. Coming to the second question whether extension should be granted tothe extent it is being asked, that is for the period for which it is being asked, I would say: No. I should say that the extension should be granted for the minimum period necessary. The Government has tried to grant extension for nearly a year and that appears to be rather unreasonable in the given circumstances. If the Nominating Committee had resigned because of the criticism against the composition of the Press Council, if there were certain loud criticisms against the composition of the Press Council, it should have been the duty of the Government to see that this Press Council did not exist for а moment longer than necessary. My submission, therefore, is that the extension should not be longer than one or two months. The Government cannot take shelter behind the plea that consultations required with the various shades of opinion in Parliament would require more time. These consultations could have been completed by now. So the extension upto the month of June, 1974 seems to be unwarranted. Thirdly it does appear to me that the Government might bring up a comprehensive Bill soon. The Government might try to soft-pedal it. My feeling is that the Government should bring this measure during the Budget session of Parliament.

With these words, although I express myself in agreement with the need for extension, I do not agree with the period of extension and I also do not agree with the hon. Minister that the consultations required would take a longer time.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): Free Press is one of the pillars of democracy and I for one think that the Press in India is quite free and independent. I also believe that our Minister strongly believes in it and as far as I know he is quite efficient and competent and he will see to it that the free press remains in India.

He has brought this Press Council amending Bill because of certain reasons, but the reasons have not been given properly. I think some more reasons should have been given. It merely says that three eminent men have resigned from the Press Council because of certain criticisms. We would like to know what was the criticism against them and when did they resign. Why was not this Bill brought earlier or steps taken earlier which could have done away with the possibility of bringing this extension Bill? I understand they resigned two or three years back and there was sufficient time for Government to decide upon the course they wanted to adopt. There has been some lapse on somebody's part and I hope the Minister will take some steps to see that such things are not repeated.

The system of asking for nominations from certain unions is wrong. The best system would be that you define who are the journalists who are entitled to be represented on this council and take a normal vote. Those who get the maximum number of votes get nominated. Why do you take the responsibility to decide who should be taken and who should not? A comprehensive amendment should be brought so that in future this trouble does not arise.

I agree with Mr. Chandrakar that you have not given statutory powers to the Press Council. What is the use of platitudes? The Press Council takes a decision but it has no power to enforce? You must make it а statutory body so that its decisions may be enforced. Otherwise, it merely recommends something and nobody is satisfied; neither the person who makes the complaint is satisfied nor is the person who is to be penalised is actually penalised. This also should be taken care of when you bring a comprehensive Bill.

The basic object is to see that the press remains independent and the people who work should get their due share. Their conditions of service, emoluments, etc., should be properly looked into. It is true that Government have decided to appoint a wage board for journalists. But there is controversy among the journalists as to who should get representation on it. There is a certain section which says, this class of workers are antijournalist; they represent a particular faction, etc. Government should not get involved in this controversy. Government should say, this is the number of seats-one or two or number-for journawhatever the lists. Whosoever gets the maximum votes gets nomination. If Government involves itself in the controversy as to who should get representation, it will land itself in a jam because there are many unions of journalists and some have practically the same number of members. Even if Government inadvertently favours one union, the others will get annoyed. So, Government should remain impartial. The wage board is for the benefit of the journalists. Government has nothing to gain out of it. So, why should Government get involved in it? It should give an impression that it is not favouring anyone. It is only trying to help the journalists to decide what should be their conditions of service and what form it should take. Whatever the

[Shri Vikram Mahajan]

conditions of service the Wage Board decides, it will be given to all irrespective of the unions which they represent. Therefore, instead of jointhe controversy, ing Government sort of ilections should hold some under some statutory rules and give representation to those who get the maximum number of votes. Or, they can call all the unions, have a consensus and see to it that people with greater consensus are given representation on the Wage Board.

Finally, I hope the Minister, who is competent and efficient, will bring a comprehensive Bill, which will be in the interest of the free press and in the interest of democracy, and see to it that many shortcomings which are found in the Press Council Act are removed, and a proper functionable statute is brought into existence.

श्वी मधु सिमये (बांका) : समापति महोदग, बहुत दिनों के वाद श्री इन्द्र गुजराल के विभाग के बारे में बोलने का मौका मिला हैं। समापति महोदय प्रवान मंत्री की एक बात मेंरी समझ मैं नहीं ग्राती, हमारे इन्द्र भाई जैसे जो होनहार, उत्साही नीजवान मंत्री हैं उन जूनियर मंत्रियों को तो पदोल्तति नहीं मिलती हैं ग्रीर जिन की प्रवस्था हो चुकी हैं, जिनका दिमाग सठिया गया है ऐसे लोगों को या तो कैविनेट में लिया जा रहा हैं, या रखा जाता है यह कुठ समझ में नहीं ग्राता।

यह कहने के बाद में यह कहना चाहंगा कि यह जो प्रैत वाला मामजा है यह इन के मंबालय के तहा क्यों है । मुझे तो ऐता लगना है कि ग्राप कल्पना की जिये. कि ग्रेगर पुलिन प्रधीक्षक को या इंप्पेक्टर को यह प्रधिकार देना है कि हैवियस को पेत प्रधीकारल यह मुनेंगे और फैसला भी देंगे , तो वह जैनी विचित्र वात होगी उसी तरह पैन स्वतंत्रता की वात इन के जिम्मे देना बैनी ही बात होगी । क्योंकि इन का काम क्या है ? सरकारी बातों कों प्रभावशाली ढंग से रखना, ग्राल इंडिया रेडियो का दुरुपयोग करना, टेली-विजन का इस्तेमाल करना और तमाम अखवारों को ग्रपने कब्जे में रखना । यह इन के मंत्रालय का काम है । इसलिये ग्रगर ग्राप प्रैस स्वतंत्रता में विश्वास करते हैं तो यह प्रैस वाला बिल इन के मंत्रालय से बिल्कुल हटा देना चाहिये ।

सभापति जी, प्रैस काउन्सिल की जो सालाना रपट आती है इस पर बहस करने का हम लोगों को कभी मौका नहीं मिलता है । लेकिन ग्राज यह विल ग्रा रहा है इसलिये इस ग्रवसर पर यह जो 1972-73 की रपट है, उस में जो दो बात हैं उनका मैं उल्लेख करना चाहता हूं । का उन्सिल ने ग्रपनी रिपोर्ट में ''ट्रिंब्यून'' केस का उल्लेख किया है । ग्राप जनते हैं ''ट्रिंब्यून '' केस का मामला यह था :

"Some news items appearing in this paper and certain comments carried on by them were not palatable to him."

मतलब मुख्य मंत्री को । श्रौर इसलिये सरकारी विज्ञापनों को उन के लिये देना बन्द कर दिया । इस मामले में जांच प्रैस काउन्सिल ने की । श्रौर प्रैस काउन्सिल किस नर्ताजे पर पहुंची ?

"The Council subsequently examined this case in grant detail and as a result of an enquiry completed in August 1970 had come to the conclusion that the action of the State Government in respect of withdrawal of advertisements and certain other measures taken by it were part of a deliberate attempt on its part to coerce the newspaper and that this constituted a threat to the freedom of the press."

सभापति महोदय, सरकार जव विज्ञापनों को बन्द करती है, मालोचना करने वाले ग्रखवार जो हैं उन के विज्ञापनों

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को, तो प्रैस काउन्सिल आलोचना करता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकारी दबाव में ग्राकर निजी कम्पनियां ग्रीर निजी लोग समाचारपत्नों को विज्ञापन ग्रीर इश्तहार देना बन्द करते हैं उन के बारेमें भी कभी प्रञ काउंसिल सोवेगी ?

इसी सदन के एक भूतपूर्व सदस्य श्री बाबू राव पटेल जो मदर इंडिया नाम का मासिक निकालते हैं, ग्राप जानते हैं कि उन की राय क्या है । उन की राय से मैं बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं हूं । उनकी राय मुसलमानों के बारे में, प्रल्पसंख्यकों के बारे में, पूंजीवाद के बारे में है उससे मेरा मतमेद है ...

श्वी ग्राई० के० गुजराल ः स्तियों के बारे में भी। इसको भी ग्राप क्लेरिफाई कर दै ।

श्री मधुलिमयेः मैं उन की राय से बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं हूं । वह उदार-बादी नहीं हैं, मैं उदारवादी हूं । लेकिन में मानता हं कि जिस से मेरा मतभेद है, उस ग्रादमी को भी ग्रपनी राय को ग्रभिव्यक्त करने का मौका मिलना चाहिये। इत्तलिए मुझे ग्राक्चर्य हग्रा जब उन्होंने मेरे पास सारे तार ग्रीर पत्र भेजे जिन तारों ग्रीर पत्नों केद्वारा डी०सी० म० ग्वालियर रेग्रोन. सचरी रेग्रोन, चरतराम भरतराम ग्रौर बिडला जी म्रादि के सभी उद्योगों ने एक एक के बाद एक मदर इंडिया को विज्ञापन देने वन्द कर दिए । अगर डी • सी० एम० ग्रौर सैंवरी वाले किसी समाज-वादी ग्रादमी के ग्रखवार को विज्ञापन बन्द कर देते तो वात समझ में ग्रासकती थी लेकिन बाबुराव कोई समाजवादी स्रादमी तो हैं नहीं, यकायक एक डेढ़ महीने के ग्रन्दर उनको सारे विज्ञापन बन्द कैसे <u>ह</u>ए इस को भी देखने की जरूरत है ।

मुझे लगता है कि सरकार का इस में जरूर हाथ है । ग्राक्ष्वयं है कि वह प्रैस काउन्सिल के पास क्यों नहीं ग्राए । ग्रगर वह नहीं भी ग्राए तो प्रैस काउन्सिल को ग्रपने ग्राप इस मामले की जांच करनी चाहिये ।

सरकार जो विज्ञापन बन्द कर देती है उस के बारे में प्रैंस काउन्सिल की राय बिल्कुल साफ है । लेकिन सरकारी दबाव में जो निजी कम्पनियां ग्रौर निजी लोग ग्रपने इश्तहार बन्दकर देते हैं वह भी प्रैंस की स्वतंत्रता का हनन है, यह मेरी राय है ।

विज्ञापनों को बन्द करने की जहां तक बात है कुछ निजी कम्पनियां ग्रीर पूंजी-पति बड़े चतुर हैं ग्रौर वे विज्ञापन बन्द तो नहीं करते हैं लेकिन विज्ञापन और इश्तहार देकर ग्रखबार वालों को वे प्रभावित करते हैं। मैं ग्रापको इसके कई उदाहरण देसकता हूं । ताजा उदाहरण मैं भ्रापको देना चाहता हुं। कृतिम धागे के ऊपर यहां ढाई तीन घंटे बहंस हुई थी । बड़े बड़े पूंजीपतियों की जो कम्पनियां हैं वे बुनकरों को किस तरह से लुटने का काम कर रही हैं इसके ऊपर संसुद में सभी की एक राय थी, मेरी भी थी, कांग्रेस के सदस्यों की भी थी, लेकिन हग्रा क्या ? जै०के० ग्रौग सैंचरी एनका, गुजरमल मोदी ग्रादि जिन **ग्रखवारी को विज्ञापन** देते हैं मैं ने देखा कि उन ग्रखवारों में कोई चर्चा जो हई उस के बारेमें एक ग्रक्षर तक नहीं छपा। प्रैस काउन्सिल एक्ट में क्या है :

"To keep under review any development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of things of public interest and importance."

यह प्रैस काउन्सिल एक्ट के तहत है । इण्तहार ग्रोर विज्ञापन ग्रादि देकर एक

(श्री मन् सिनयें)

तरह से प्रलोभन ग्रखवार वालों को दिया जाता है ग्रीर उन से यह प्रपेक्षा की जाती है कि ग्रापको हनं पैज़ा दे रहे हैं, इण्तहार दे रहे हैं इक्षलिए हमारेखिलाफ जो संसद् में बात चलेगी उसकी चर्चा ग्रखवार में नहीं होनी चाहिये।

ग्राप जानते हैं कि हमारे यहां समाचार एजेतियां हैं, पी० टी० क्राई० है, यू०एन०क्राई है, समाचार भारती है । इन सारी समाचार एजसियों को प्रत्यक्ष और परोक्ष रूप से राज्य ग्रीर केन्द्र की सरकार मदद देती हैं, उनकी न्युज सर्विसिस को भी ये लेती हैं और दूसरे ढंग से भी उनकी मदद करती हैं। इधरदों तीन साल से जब से यह नया जमाना गरीबी हटाओं का शुरू हुआ है ग्रौर श्री गुजराल का सामज्य शुरू हुन्रा है इनफर्पेंजन मिनिस्ट्री में उसी समय से मैं देख रहा हूं कि जन्मद चुंकि बह काविल आदमी हैं इस वास्ते हमारा वातों का जहां पहलें ये एजसियां देती थीं अब उन्होंने क्या चालाकी को है कि इनको उन्होंने विभागों में बांट दिया है । अगर मैं दिल्ली में कुछ बात कहता हूं तो वह दिल्ली के बाहर नहीं जाएगी, अगर लखनऊ में कहता हं तो लखनऊ के अखवारों में तो वह छप आएगी लेकिन बंगलौर में नहीं आएगी और पी० टी० ग्राई० ग्रार यू० एन० ग्राई० को इन्होंन इस ढंग से प्रभावित किया है कि प्रधान मंत्री या मरकार के खिलाफा हम जो भी टीका टिप्पणी करते हैं, आलोचना करते हैं वह तो बिल्कुल नहीं निकलती है। इसका मैं उदाहरण देना चाहना हं वम्बई में एक प्रैस कान्फ्रैंन्स में मैंने राष्ट्रपति जीको एक ग्रापील की थी, एक पत्र लिखा था , उस के वारे में मुझे एक जरन-लिस्ट ने बताया कि हम ने इस को छापा है लेकिन साथ ही यह भी कहा कि हमें जपर से प्रादेश मिला है कि इस तरह की बातें जिन में प्रधान मंत्री की आलो-

^चना हो, प्रसारित नहीं करनी चाहिये। स काउन्सिल किस लिढ हैं।

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL: That is outside the scope of this Bill. This is about constitution of the Press Council.

सभापति महोदय : कास टाक नहीं होनी चाहिये ।

श्री मधु लिभये : इतकों जो लोक सभा के दो सदस्य भिते है वे कौन है ? श्री प्रवस्त राव पाटिल ग्रीर श्री जन्दूलाल चन्द्राकर । क्या हम सब लोग मर गए थे ? मैं ग्रपती बात नहीं कह रहा हूं (व्यवयान) मेरे जैसा प्रावमी अब आएगा तो ग्राप सभी लोगों के मामने ठीक हो आएगें । लेकिन मैं ग्रपती बात नहीं करता । ज्ञाप श्री मावनं गर को रख लेते, श्री ज्योतिर्मय वसु को लं लेते मेरा कोई झगड़ा नहीं । दोनों सदस्य कोग्रेस पार्टी के ? इसलिये मैं उस बात को छोड़ रहा था, उस में आना नहीं चाहता था ।

एक दूसरा उदाहरण प्रेश्व कांडसिल की रिपोर्ट में दिया गया है। गोमान्तक झख-बार में सम्पादकीय निकला जिस में कहां गया था कि गोस्रा मुक्त होने के 10-11 साल बाद भी क्या बजत है कि फिरंगियों के बुन ग्रभी भी गोग्राके चो राहों में लगे हुए हैं जिन्होंने साढ़े तीन या चार सौ साल तक अनता को लूटने का काम किया, उसको चुसने का काम किया । उसने लिखा कि क्या वजह है कि सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्ता इस मामले को उठाते नहीं है। इस भर गांग्रा की सरकार ने प्रेस काउंसिल के पास शिकायत की यह ये उकसा रहे है ग्रान्दोलन के लिये अनताको। इस पर प्रेस काउंसिल को अपनी राय देनी पड़ी कि शान्तिपूर्ण आन्दोलन के लिए ग्रगर उकसाया भी जाता है तो उस में कोई गलत बात नहीं हैं। मैं वुराई नहीं कर रहाहूं। मैं यह कह रहा हूं कि म्रापने

दोतीन ग्रच्छेकाम भी किए है। लेकिन उनको लेकर मैं ग्राप को थह सिफारिश पत्न देन को तैयार नहीं हूं कि प्रेस के ऊपरइन दिनों जो बड़ा ग्राकमण हो रहा है निजी पूंजी के ढारा ग्रीर इनके ढारा इस ग्राकमण के खिलाफ लड़ने का काम प्रस काऊंसिल ने किया है, ऐसा मैं नहीं मानता हूं।

कम्पनी कानून में हम लोगों की पहल से एक संशोधन हुन्ना है और वह यह कि कम्प-नियों के द्वारा राअनीतिक दलों को पैसा न दिवा आए । अब से वह संशोधन हुम्रा है उस तमाशा हमारे देश में समय से एक नया णुरु हो गया है। सोवेनीतर नाम की चीज एक ग्रखबार के सबल्टीयट के तोर्पर निकलनी णुरु हो गई है। कभी कभी सोवेनीयर के बडे लोगों में विज्ञापनों ग्रीर इश्तहारों के लिए इतना पैसाले लिवा आता है कि जो डेली न्यजपेपर हैं या साप्ताहिक है उनको इतने विज्ञापन मिल ही नहीं सकते हैं जितने सोवेनीयर्ज के लिए इकट्र हो जाते है। कुछ सावेंनीयर्ज कबारे में मझे यह जानकारी मिली है कि सोवनीयर्ज के लिए रसीद दी गई कम्पनी के एकाऊंट से चैक फाडा गया लेकिन वे सोवनीयर्ज कभी प्रकाशित ही नहीं हए । ग्रधिकतर ऐसे ये सोवेनीयर थे जो कि हमारे मंत्री जी का जो दल है उसी दल के थे। इस तरह के जो सोवनीयर निकलते है क्या प्रेस काऊंसिल जो विज्ञापन ग्रखवारों को मिल सकते हैं ग्रीर उन विज्ञापनों को ये सोवेनीयर्ज के नाम परल आ रहे हैं, उन में दखल नहीं दे सकती है झौर क्या उसको इन में दखल नहीं देना चाहिये । इस की आंच करनी चाहिए । इस में कम्पनी कानन का जो उल्लंघन हो रहा है, वह अलग वात है।

17 hrs.

अहांतक तीन सदल्यों की कमेटी का प्रश्न है,मैं भी चाहता हैं कि लोक सभा का स्पीकर राज्य सभा का चेयरमन श्रीर सुझीम कोर्ट का मुख्य न्यायाधी झ विवाद के विषय न बनें । लेकिन क्या चारा है ? अब लोक रूभा के दोनों प्रतिनिधि कांग्रेस पार्टी के सदस्व बनेंगे, तो ग्रालोचना तो होगी । ग्रगर इन लोगों को यह ग्रालोचना पसन्द नहीं है, तो फिर हम लोगों को नामीनेटिंग कमेटी के ढांचे को बदलना पड़ेगा । मैं श्री ग्र्यामनन्दन मिश्र से सहमत हूं कि नथा विधेयक लाने के लिए इतना समय लेन की अरूरत नहीं थी । मंत्री महोदय इस सत्व था श्रगले सत्र में उस को ला सका थे ।

मैं तो चुनाव के सिद्धान्त के ही पक्ष में हूं प्रतिनिधियों को नामजद करने के वज्य य यदि वर्किंग जर्नलिख्टस और एडिटर्ज की विभिन्न संख्याओं और वार कौसिल ग्रादि के जरिये प्रतिनिधियों का चुनाव हो तो ज्यादा ग्रच्छा होगा। लेकिन सरकार के द्वारा हर विषय में नामजदगी की बात कही जाती है। कभी कभी हम को लगता है कि श्री इन्द्र गुजराल हम कोभी नामजद करने का प्रधिकार ले लेंगे। इसलिये सरकार नामजदगी के सिद्धान्त को खत्म करे और चुनाव के सिद्धान्त को लाये।

मंती महोदय से तो यही उम्मीद ह कि वह सरकार के हित का संरक्षण करेंगे। तो फिर प्रैस का विषय उन की मिनिस्ट्री के तहत नहीं होना चाहिए, बल्कि वह किसी दूसरी मिनिस्ट्री को-कल्चरलएफेयर्ज मिनिस्ट्री को दे देना चाहिए। मंत्री महोदय के पास इस विषय का रहना एक पलिस इंस्पैक्टर के द्वारा हेवियस कार्पस पेटीशन सुनने के समान है।

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Calcutta South): The scope of the Bill is very much limited and the purpose of this very Bill, as explained by the Minister, is also limited. I agree with the proposal of the Minister which he has explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, that is, for extension of the term of the Press Council and to bring an amendment to the statute with regard to the Nominating Committee after a proper consultation with all shades of opinion in this House and all political Parties belonging to the Parliament. I agree with this view point and I think a comprehensive approach will be adopted for furthering the process of the Nominating Committee so as to create an atmosphere in the Press Council that the criticism that we are facing every day from the Opposition parties and many other political parties would get due recognition and due consideration.

I would like to refer to two or three points which have been argued by many members of the Opposition that the Congress Party and the Government are utilising the press. If I remember and if I am not misunderstood, I may submit to you that the basic objective of the Congress Party when it fought for elections in 1971 was against the monopolists of this country as also the reactionary forces of the country. At that time, if you would recollect, it is these very newspapers or at least most of the leadnewspapers, you would have ing noted, commented that there was no chance for Shrimati Indira Gandhi and her Congress Party winning the due pubelections. They gave licity in all the papers and all the publicity was for the leaders of the grand alliance. We know the basic reason because the newspapers were controlled by the big business belonging to big industrial units which they have inside and outside the country and they were not in favour of her approach and her policy, that is, Indira Gandhi. But, Congress and ultimately, when by the people we got elected to this Parliament, it is not the Press which started changing their views but it is the people who pressurised the Press to change their views and ultimately, they could not avoid the situation. In a democracy, the basic objectives are controlled by the Parliament and the political Parties and the press. Press is the main weapon and they have to reflect the opinion of the people.

I agree with the Members of the Opposition that in some cases due publicity and expressed information was not given on important matters. Mr. Shyamnandan Mishra said that there should be a proportionate publicity between the ruling party and the opposition. So, I want to make a submission. I belive in democracy. Proportionate means proportionate according to the wishes of the people. If the ruling party in this country can control the State Governments in major States including the Centre and the opposition parties in this House represent the united opposition a faction of the CPM, a small faction of the Jana Sangh and a very small faction of the Cong(O), according to the proportion, I think the first proportion should go to the ruling party then the second proportion and should go to the leading opposition. If we give the proportion according to the merit of the opposition, I think Mr. Madhu Limaye and Mr. Shyamnandan Mishra will not have any room in the Press. It is a credit of the nation, Sir, that this Press still maintains its autonomy in all spheres and Government is not trying to interfere in that matter. Press is now, because it is in the hands of the big business, trying to distort the impressions and expressions of Mrs. Gandhi. I will give you three or four important points in this connection. My hon, friend Mr. Madhu Limaye rightly argued about certain matters. I rightly agree with him and I also share his sentiments. Whenever he speaks in Delhi it does not reach Calcutta, Whenever he speaks in Patna it does not go to In other words the speech Lucknow.

of the person is assessed on the ground where he stands and not on the ground where he has no base. Accordingly his Delhi speech does not reach Bengal and other places. I would like to state one other distortion which the Press made at that time. This was on the occasion of Mrs. Gandhi's address to the Congress Parliamentary party. She spoke about relation of working people with the management. In the present state of the national economy, she said, the working people should cooperate with the management, as far as they can. This is what she said to the Congress Parliamentary Party. But the Press gave out a distorted version saying, that working people have no right to work, they should leave their right to work, etc. But the Prime Minister meant only cooperation of the working people in view of the state of the national economy. But the Press barons, the press magnates and the monopoly press published that Mrs. Gandhi asked workers not to have the right to strike. It appeared in newspapers every day.

Having said that, let me tell you about the second matter. It is this. I went to Germany this time, G.D.R., leading the delegation of Indian youth to the Youth Festival. We came back with great success. I consider, Sir, it is not only great success for the interest of the party, but, for the nation. We did wonderful cooperation there with all the friendly nations including the democratic, socialist and capitalist countries' youth organisations. They also came. While returning home there, we found, when appreciations were coming from all parts of the country, one leading newspaper distorted the version that the youth of India went there drunk, danced, created all non-sense. I sent my personal contradiction. It was not printed, because they knew it, Sir, that the day it was published, after three days, the delegation of the Peace Conference was supposed to reach Moscow. They wanted to provoke the section of the

forces of the country. They did not like this sort of cooperation with the Socialist countries. So, this motive is always plain and this autonomy they are enjoying. I stand for autonomy of the Press. I stand for an independent Press. I don't want press freedom to be curtailed. But I would like to submit that the Press had no ground whatsoever to distort the basic concepts of our nation and the concept of communal harmony and integrity and democracy, and the security of the nation.

Sometime back a newspaper published something relating to a high dignitary who is now in Bangladesh. The Press wrote some derogatory remarks. That created certain atmosphere which may not to helpful to certain solution of problems between friendly nations. The Press Council which is an independent authority should go into thesematters and they should control their members in all these respects.

My hon. friend from DMK party spoke about Centre-State relations. I do not know how far he can speak about those things in this Bill which is limited in scope. My friend from the DMK should understand one thing. When he speaks for autonomy of the State he should also encourage the autonomy of the Press.

On the one hand they speak for the autonomy of the State and on the other, they go and attack the press, the editor and everybody. By their violent group, in Madras, you know, the DMK attacked the editor of the 'Alai Ozai', a Tamil daily. They say that they cannot publish anything which goes against the interests of the DMK. Never has it happened in this country so far as Congress party is concerned. We know that every day they bring fabricated news against our Prime Minister. We allow it still. You know that it is the people's will that prevails and not the representatives of the people.

One of our friends referred to the Patriot of today. Whether the news

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[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

given by it is good or bad, it is for the people of the country to know. Whether it is Patriot or National Herald or the Times of India or Statesman, that does not matter. The natter depends on what are the basic issues of the people and how they are being projected in the newspapers. There are some leading newspapers which have today published news regarding the reception that is going to be presented in this country to Shri Brezhnev. But, a group of newspapers have published distorted versions about the visit of Shri Brezhney. That has been printed. It clearly indicates the motive of those business groups who do not want that to be published. At the same time they went to speak about the democracy and the progress made in the economy of our country. We know that ultimately it is the people's will and their pressure that will prevail and not the congress members. They surrender ultimately to the people's pressure and will. But, still, they claim that they did not surrender to the Congress people but they surrendered to the people.

I would like to touch upon one the point. I won't go further into conditions of working journalists of the newspapers. Today there are many friends in this industry who will not be able to do editing but they claim that the editing is done by them though it may have been done by the working journalists. They are supposed to express the wishes of the people whether they are in favour or against the Government. It is a fact that some times the owners of the Press claim that they know editing but they do not edit a single editorial. I know that about one dozen editors get prizes at the silver jubilee of the presses. They simply claim to know editing but, in fact, the owners are not able to write a single editorial either in Tamil, English or in any language. They keep the people to write the articles on their behalf. My friends have told me that even if they want to publish anything they

are not allowed to do so because the owners of the press feel that they may go against their interests.

Sir, with regard to distribution of advertisements I should say that it is disproportionately done to all newspapers. Nobody knows on what grounds that is done. There is blackmarketing with regard to newsprint. About food adulteration we have got a law in this country to arrest the people under the MISA.

Nowadays, the MISA is used for the food adulteration. But what about the adulteration business in newsprint that is being done by the various newspaper groups? I do not know what is the law in the country to punish the people who are indulging in this sort of thing. For example, a press can criticise the politicians. I want to know if the politicians want to criticise the press why they should be prevented from doing it. There must be some arrangement by which we should also criticise the character of the leading business group who are behind in destroying the popular will and popular wish of the people in this country. Newsprint blackmarketing has become a biggest trade among the editors of the newspaper groups whether it is the Times of India, Statesman or Patriot. They sometimes write good articles against black money. At the same time they earn black money in the blackmarketing of newsprint. If there is an article against the blackmarketing in newspapers you stop that. The C.B.I. cannot do it. There must be some arrangement independently of the agency like the Press Council or something else to know how far utilisations of the newsprints are made independently by the presses.

With these words, I would like to conclude that the House will agree with Shri Gujral who is our Minister in charge of Information and Broadcasting to bring forward this Bill asking for the extension of the time till 30th June, 1974 after consultation with Members of Parliament of various groups.

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL (Khed): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak. It is late but not too late. I have been listening to the various speeches that have been made in the House with rapt attention by various Members on both sides. Some of them have, of course, made good suggestion -- I mean, they have made very valuable points -while some of them have mixed the issues. Especially, I was very much surprised, sorry and disappointed to hear the speeches of my hon. friends Shri Madhu Limaya and Shri Shyamnandan Mishra. The issue before us that the Government have come forward before the House with this measure to replace the Ordinance promulgated last month extending the course of the Press Council. This crisis had developed because the nominating committee constituted by the Act of 1970, consisting of three members holding big posts had resigned and expressed their desire not to continue and not to discharge their responsibility, because there was a critism in a section of the newspapers about the constitution and about the functioning of the press council. So, the immediate problem before the Government is to find an alternative machinery to constitute a nominating committee, and for this, Government want to get the advice of this House as well as of the Members of Parliament in a committee on the press council.

Sir, the question is not so simple, but it is very much complicated. The constitution of a nominating committee is not very easy, because government and this House will not be in a position to find better men than the three persons, namely the Chief Juctice of the Supreme Court and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Raiva Sabha. So, the Government will have to take the Members of the Parliament who are in the committee into consultation and they have also to think of an alternative machinery. But I would like to tell this House and also the Minister that this should not be the only scope of the

committee, namely how to constitute the press council or how to nominate the nominating committee, for after the experience of the last eight years. after the press council was formed under the Act of 1965, we have amended that act once in 1970 and we have come forward with an anendment again in 1973. So, something must have been going wrong, or the functioning of the press council has not been up to the mark.

Shri Madhu Limaye had made a mention of the fact of my membership of the press council; I am a member, and last time also I was a member of the press council....

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: I had not criticised him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But he did refer to him.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: I had merely asked why there should be two Members from the Congress. I had not criticised him.

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL: I am also not criticising him. I wanted to bring to your notice and to the notice of the House the fact that the two Members on the press council nominated by the Speaker of this House are journalists of long standing. They are not only Members of this House but are journalists of long standing. I for my part can say that I have been a journalist for the last 30 years, and I am there on the press council and I think that it is my right to be there on the press council.

When we talk about the functioning of the press council or there is criticism about its functioning, I have to narrate my experience also as a member of the press council and say something about its functioning, without at the same time criticising it or casting any aspersion on it.

When we sit there in the press council as Members, we do think and feel that the functioning of the press council is not that much satisfactory

[Shri Anantrao Patil]

as was envisaged by the press commission which recommended the constitution of the press council.

The object of constituting the Press Council was to preserve the freedom of the press and maintain and improve the standard of journalism in the country. When we sit in the Council as members with the Chairman and when the question of preserving the freedom of the press comes, we do feel we are not in a position to discharge that function. There is no danger from Government to freedom of the press. That I can say. But there is encroachment and curb on, and danger, to freedom of press from the big monopoly houses. These big monopoly houses under the garb of the freedom of the press have been trying to strangle newspapers which belong to such institutions which are for establishing a social order in this country to which we are committed. Large parts of this country are covered by the small and medium newspapers and the big papers are catering only to the metropolitan cities. These big newspapers with their restrictive trade practices, with their man, money and material try to strangle the small and medium newspapers. The constitution of the Press Council is such that the members thereof are nominated or selected either from the IENS, the Indian Language Newspapers Association, the AINEC, the Indian Working Journalists' Federation and other bodies. What we see and what we feel is that the people coming from various institutions represent the big houses either in the capacity of managers or proprietors or editors or working journalists who are not editors. When the question comes of of trying to restrict or curb these restrictive trade practices indulged in by the big newspapers, they are in a majority. I would like to tell this and to the Minister in this connection that the Constitution of the Press Council should be reconsidered.

Shri Shastri referred to the Working Journalists' Federation and the service conditions of journalists also. With due respect to the Federation--I am also an office-bearer of that organisation--when the representatives of the Federation sit on the Council as equal members, responsible members, with their managers, proprietors and editors, they are not in a position to express themselves freely. What is the use of having these members in a majority there, in the light of this My friend, Shri Chandusituation? lal Chandrakar, suggested a reconsideration of the representation in the light of this consideration. The majority of the press in this country is of the language press which represents the medium and small newspapers. They should be given more representation than the big metropolitan English newspapers commanded by thebig business houses.

Crying about the freedom of the press, these big newspapers have been utilising their power, through money, not only to suppress the small newspapers but put hindrances in the way of the implementation of government policy.

Last year, when Government and the press industry had visualised the newsprint shortage that was going to overtake us, and advised that there should be page restriction in newspapers, that no newspaper should have more than 10 pages, these big monopoly houses owning the big newspapers went to court, the Supreme Court to get that order quashed. After that, they utilised the imported newsprint for printing advertisements. In these newspapers. 70--75 per cent of the space is occupied by advertisements and only 30 per cent is devoted giving news.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Not in the Malayalam press.

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL: These big papers want protection in the name of freedom of press. Where is freedom of press? The newspaper reader who pays through the nose 20 and 25 paisa for a newspaper sees advertisements only in most of the space and not news. Government is heipiess; it cannot do anything. Even the Press Council cannot do anything. What to speak of maintenance and improvement of the standard of jourthe nausm? I do not think that Press Council, as at present constituted, is in a position to maintain the standards and improve the standards of journalism. Mr. Madhu Limaye said that there had been an injustice in respect of some newspapers and that the Press Council on its own did not take any notice. I would like to tell him that according to the Act, according to the constitution of the Press Council, either a newspaper itself has to bring to the notice of the Press Council its complaint against a State Government or a citizen or a reader has to make a complaint to the Council against a newspaper, Press and wherever we have received complaints either about a newspaper or a State Government, we took steps, but I have to say again that the Government, though they have tried to arm the Press Council with powers, have armed it only with insufficient powers. For instance, the Press Council has no satisfactory powers at all by which it can pull up a newspaper or a State Government and punish them. The case of the Tribune and Gomantak was cited. They could ask the Tribune people to come in evidence, but when they were found guilty, they could not punish them. What is the use? The State Government sometimes are playing mischief and they go against some newspapers, but the Press Council is there only as spectator. So, if you want to reconstitute the Press Council and renominate the Nominating Committee, you will have to take all these things into consideration.

The last point I would like to make is this. There also the hon. Minister will agree with me that the Press Council of India was constituted not exactly on the lines of the British Press Council. The idea was taken 2328 LS—12.

from the British Press Council but between the basic difference our Press Council and the British Press Council is this: the Press Council of India has come into existence by an Act of Parliament, and it has to submit its report to Parliament. The British Press Council is not constituted by an Act of Parliament. But still. the functioning or the working of the British Press Council has proved to be very beneficial to the press industry and to journalism. I think too much Governmental power, too much of Government act or interference hinders the smooth working of the Press Council; there is some hindrance caused that way. In view of all this, the hon. Minister should take into consideration all these aspects.

Mr. Shastri referred to the journalists. But I have said that this Press Council has nothing to do with the service conditions of the journalists-their pay or their holidays. The only dimited purpose of the Press Council is to preserve the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of journalism.

With these words, I conclude and thank you, Sir.

Ρ. G. MAVALANKAR SHRI (Ahmedabad): Sir, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, while moving for consideration of the Bill, said at the outset that this is a very simple Bill, and therefore it does not need much discussion. But as the debate has developed, my good friend the Minister who, I hope at a later stage at least will be able to listen to what I am saying, will agree that although he wanted this Bill to be described as a simple Bill, it is not that simple. A number of important and serious implications covering the subject of freedom of speech and freedom of expression in our developing democracy are involved, and I am, therefore, happy that the debate has developed on the lines it has.

Now, the Minister has also said at the outset that the Government have

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

come before Parliament with this amending Bill because the nominations made by the Nominating Committee consisting of the three dignitaries, namely, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, have been criticised by a section of newspapers. He used the words "unfortunately there was some criticism about this." I do not know whether he meant criticism about the Nominating Committee members of criticism about their action.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Both.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: As far as the criticism of the three very distinguished persons is concerned, 1 agree with the Minister, because 1 also am with him that we do not want these three high offices to be brought into political controversy and public debate, because these three gentlemen are concerned with special type of functions and responsibilities and it should not be proper that one can intrude dinto their special responsibilities. Their high offices are criticised because of what they do, not so much as part of their normal functioning as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, but as members of the Nominating Committee,

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue the next day. We now take up the half-an-hour discussion.

17.30 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

FOREIGN EXPERTS WORKING IN THE COCHIN DIVISION OF F.A.C.T.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): I am taking the floor of this august House to draw the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals to the deteriorating state of affairs in the Cochin Division of F.A.C.T. even with the presence of 25 foreign technicians in that institution. I hope you will permit me to quote Mr. D. K. Borooah, the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals who said about the Cochin plant "a scandal of the first magnitude". He added: "the leadership of F.A.C.T. has not proved equal to the task".

I believe that Mr. Shahnawaz Khan, the present incumbent, will not try to repudiate what has been said by his Minister in his frantic search to defend the petty, tiny corrupt and immoral management of F.A.C.T. What is actually happening? Here is an answer given to my question when I asked whether foreign technicians were working. Certain facts are not given completely. Up to 1973-74 they say that they spent Rs. 1.65 crores on foreign technicians and for 1972-73 alone the expenditure given is about Rs. 53 lakhs. It is only half the amount, because the rest of the money was paid by the Fertiliser Corporation of India. But the Fertiliser Corporation of India is getting the money from F.A.C.T. Technically what they say may be correct, but the fact remains that the amount is double of what we have been told.

The question arises: Why it has been necessitated, why these technicians remain in India for the last 22 months. You can calculate how much money is spent on them at the rate of Rs. 7.5 lakhs per month, for the last 22 months, in foreign exchange. This plant was started in 1964-65 and completed in June, 1971. The total expenditure was about Rs. 62 crores. It is a big project and it produces Ammonia and essential fertiliser commodity. Even today the Economic Times Report says that Kerala is suffering heavily in its agricultural production due to lack of supply of fertilisers from F.A.C.T. Now, Sir, in the construction of this plant two agencies joined and collaborated. One is F.E.D.O. and the other is F.C.I: Feddo got collaboration from the power Gas of the United Kingdom