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 self. Unfortunately, some newspapers in India criticised the functioning of the Press Council, and therefore, the Nominating Committee in its wisdom decided to resign. We inclined to persuade were 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 I 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 झारबी (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, 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 ग्रसतोषजनक रहा है। इस प्रेस कौंसिल ने या तो भ्रपनी जवाबदेही ठीक से निभायी नहीं या इसे जवाबदेही निभाने नहीं दिया गया । युं इसमें जिस तरह के लोग हैं ग्रगर उस तरह के सदस्यों की भरमार रहेगी या बहमत रहेगा तो जाहिर बात है कि जो नया विष्वेयक ग्राने वाला है उस से देश के अन्दर जो सुधार करना है श्रौर जिस सुधार की दिशा यह होनी चाहिए कि हमारे देश में जो श्रमजीवी पत्रकार हैं. जो पत्नों का काम करते हैं उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा सट्टलियत 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 तती बोलती है ग्रौर श्रमजीवी पत्नकारों की ग्रावाज बहत कम सुनायी पड़ती है । ग्रगर मंत्री जीइस कौंसिल को शक्तिशाली बनाना चाहते हैं, श्रसरदार 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 दूनिया 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 पत्रकार जो सचम्च में म्राल इंडिया वर्किन्ग जर्न लिस्टस फैडरेगन के कार्यक्रमों को मानते हुए ग्रागे बढना चाहते हैं, बढ सकें । लेकिन दख की बात है कि श्रमजीवी पत्नकार संघ को कमजोर करने के लिये नेशनल यनियन झाफ जर्नलिस्टस के कुछ ऐसे पत्नकारों ने, जो पैसे वालों की मदद करना चाहते हैं, या जो सही माने में श्रमजीवी पत्नकारों की एकता को तोड़ना चाहते हैं, ऐसे लोग ग्रागे बढ रहे हैं, उन्होंने जगह जगह फट 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 दे**ग** 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 भ्रौर ज्यादा मजबत होगा । इसलिये मैं चाहंगा कि सरकार की नीति **ग्राल इंडिया वकिन्ग जर्नलिस्ट्स फेड**रेशन के समर्थन की होनी चाहिये, उसे मजबत बनाने की होनी चाहिये, न के नेशनल युनियन ग्राफ़ जर्नलिस्ट जैसे फट-परस्त जमात को साथ देने की । क्योंकि मेरी जानकारी है, मेरा भी पत्नकारिता से सम्बन्ध रहा है, मैं जानता हूं कि भ्रामतौर से यह लोग मालिकों की दलाली करते हैं । इन के पीछे चलने वाले तो बहत कम पत्नकार 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 ग्रौर 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, य० एन० म्राई०, इंतरह की एजेन्सियों का एक मार्वजनिक ममाचार निगम बनाया आये, पब्लिक कौरपंरेशन का गठन किया जाये क्योंकि ग्रभी जो इन के मालिक हैं वही लोग हैं जो बड बडे पत्रों को संवालित करते हैं , तो फिर इन समाचार ए बेन्सियों में जो श्रम बोवी पत्रकार काम करते हैं उम की दिक्कतों की तरफ़ ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है। ग्रगर इसका पब्लिक कौरपोरेशन बन जाय तो जाहिर वात है कि इन की बातों की तरफ़ सरकार का ध्यान ज्यादा जायेगा । जै 🛙 कि मैंने खुद देखा कि जब कोयला खानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण 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 कौरपोरेणन बन जोता है तो सरकार का ध्यान उधर जायेगा ग्रौर उन की सुविधायें वढ जायेंगी, इन की स्थिति में मुधार होगा ग्रौर काम करने की महलियत भी बढ़ जायगी। इसलिए इस बातकी जरूत है ग्रौर इस तरह की सिफारिश प्रैस कमीशन ने की है । जब यह बात है तो सरकार को इस पर ग्रमल करना चाहिये। पब्लिक कौर-वोरेशन बनाने की मांग भी पी० टी० ग्राई० ऐमण्डाईज फ़्रैडरेशन सालों से कर रही है। इमलिये मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि म्रापडन समाचार ऐजेन्छियों का एक कौरपोरेशन बनादें नाकि पत्रकारों का जो शोषण ग्रीर दोहन होता है उससे उन्हें छटकारा मिल आये । अगर ऐसा काम करें तब तो प्रैस कौंसिल डस के कछ माने होंगे. नहीं तो ग्रभी तक इम का काम वहत संतोषजनक नहीं रहा है यह सरकार इंगलैंड के तरीके पर कुछ ्त कुछ यहां बनादेती है, फिरकुछ **का**म नहीं चलता है। स्वतंत्र तरीके से हम ग्रपनी कठिनाइयों को देखें, ग्रीर दूसरे देश

311 Press Council

[क्वी र/माबतार ज्ञास्त्री]

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।

श्रो रूप्र प्रताप सिंह (बारावंकी) : आ दरणीय अग्निश्ठाती महोदया, आप ने मुझको जो प्रैम परिषद् संगोधन बिग्नेयक, 1973 पर ग्राने विचार प्रकट करने का स्रवसरदिया है, उस के लिये ग्राप के प्रति हार्विक ग्राभार प्रदर्शित करनाहं।

महोदया. जैता कि माननीय सदन को जात है कि हमारा जनप्रिय दल ग्रोर 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 à लिए प्रयत्नशील रही है कि देश के ग्रंतर्गत लोकतांत्रिक मल्यों का मंरक्षण हो. ग्रीर साथ साथ जो हमारे मूलभूत ग्रधिकार हैं वह प्राप्त रहें। हमें ग्राण्चर्य 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 चर्बा कर रहे हैं वह माननीय सदम्यों की मलाह कार समिति की संस्कृति के ग्राधार पर प्रैस परिषद् का गठन हुग्रा था जिसमें न केवल सरकारी पक्ष के बल्कि समस्त विरोधी पक्ष के सदस्यों के बहुमूस्य 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 पर्णियद् के सभापति, मुख्य ल्यायाधिपति, लोक सभा के प्रध्यक्ष, इन तीन व्यक्तियों की एक समिति वनाई गई पी जो हमारे लिये प्रैम परिषद् का गठन करे। ग्रव उस के सम्बत्ध में

भी, जो हमारे लोक तंत्र के सर्वोच्च शिखार पर बैठे हए व्यक्ति हैं, उन के सम्बन्ध में अगर विरोधी दलों द्वारा झालोचना की जायगी. तो मैं नहीं जानता कि बह लोकतंत्र को कहां ले जाना चाहते हैं, फिर भी मैं सरकार की सराहना करना चाहता हं विशेष रूप से सूचना तथा प्रमारण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री भाई गुजराल जी की कि उन्होंने सदैव लोकतांत्रिक मुल्यों का भी रखा है और साथ ही साथ ध्यान जनताकी स्नाकांक्षास्रों का भी ध्यान रखा है कि क्रीरदोनों में सदैव सामंजस्य स्याधित करने का वह निरंतर प्रयत्न करने रहे हैं।

मुझे यह कहना है कि मरकार ने इसको 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 गौर राष्ट के नव निर्माण में सहायक हो सके। इस में जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने कहा है कुछ समय लगेगा, उन्हें संमद की सरकारी पक्ष ग्रीर समस्त विरोधी पक्षों के विचारों मे ग्रवगत होना है ग्रौर साथ ही साथ उन से परामर्ष करना है ग्रौर 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 È कि तो ग्राप प्रकार के लोग उस समिति में जिस उसी प्रकार के निर्णय वह समिति होंगे लेगी । यहनिष्चित रूप से बात कही

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

लोक सभा के लिए हए माध्यवधि चनावों में जनता हमें इस बात का ग्रादेश दिया कि हम देश में सामाजिक और ग्राथिक विषमताएं समाप्त करना चाहते हैं. हम देश को शोषण से मक्त करना चाहते हैं, पुंजीवादी, सामन्तवादी ग्रौर प्रतिकियावादी, गोषणवादी जो गवितयां हैं, उन का हम ग्रन्त करना चाहते हैं । इस वास्ते मैं कहना चाहना हुं कि इस प्रकार की समिति का गठन कहीं न हो जाए जिससे प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष रूप में ऐसे व्यक्ति उस में ग्रा जाएं जो कि पंजीवादी, सामन्तवादी, स्वार्थवादी, शोषणवादी ग्रौर प्रतिक्रियावादी भावना से दबे हुए हों । यह हमारे देश का दुर्भाग्य है कि माज देश के नब्बे प्रतिशत वडे समाचार पत्र वडे वडे पजी-वादियों के हाथ में है ग्ररंग 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 मूर्य की किरणें हम को नया उत्माह ग्रीर नई स्फूर्ति देती हैं उसी समय पर प्रातः काल जब समाचार पत्न हमारे हाथों में ग्राते 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 जासकती है। ऐसी स्थिति पैदा करने की जरूरत है कि प्रभात की किरणों के साथ जब समाचार पत्र 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 समाचारपतों के माध्यम से होना चाहिये वह नहीं हो पा रहा है ग्रीर इसका हमें दुःख है ।

वर्तमान जो व्यवस्था है चाहे सरकार कृतसंकल्प है लेकिन समाचार पत्रों पर जो एकाधिकार स्थापित हो गया है उसके रहने जनताकी ग्राकांक्षाग्रों की पूर्ति नहीं हो मकी । इस वास्ते समाचार पत्नों पर पंजी-पतियों का जो एकाधिकार है उस को हमें ममाप्त करना होगा । ऐमा होगा तभी देश में हम सामाजिक न्याय लोगों को दिला मकेंगे एक ऐसे समाज का निर्माण हो सकेगा जो जोषण से मन्त हो जिस में किसी प्रकार की ऊंच नीच की भावना न हो, भेदभाव न हो ग्रौर पुजी-पति निर्धन जनता का, दलित जनता णोषित जनता का, सर्वहारा का. ममाज का शोषण न कर सके।

हमारी प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी जी ने एक बार कहा था कि विषव 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 निष्टित रूप मे ही रहेगी।

मैं अधिक समय लेना नहीं चाहता हूं चूकि और भी माननीय सदस्य इसके वारे में अपने विचार प्रकट वरेंगे। मैं जाजा करता हूं कि माननीय राज्य मंत्री जी किस प्रकार मे इस समिति का गठत हो, इसके अधाक्ष इसके सदस्यों का स्टमांयत हो इसके बारे में हमें विश्वास में लेंगे. हमको अपने परामर्ग देने का अवसर प्रदान करेंगे और इसी प्रकार से हमें वहां भी अपने विचार प्रकट करने का मौका देंगे।

ग्रन्त में मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि समाचारपत्न जनता के लिए होतें हैं, जनता समाचारपत्नों 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 झौर प्रत्येक ध्यक्ति को सामाजिक झौर झाथिक न्याय मिल सके **!**

मैं अपने दल का प्रथम 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 जनसंघ के भाई कांग्रेस संगठन के भाई ग्रौर प्रतिकियावादी विजचारधारा वाले दल हम जानते हैं कि वड़े पूजीपतियों की, निहित स्वार्थों की वकालत करेंगे। मैं ग्राणा करता हूं कि उनकी वातों का उत्तर देने में टमारे नौजवान साथी श्री मूंगी ग्रांर श्री टोम्बो सिंह समर्थ होंगे।

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

कल यही ख्वाव हकोक़ तमें वदल जायेंगे श्राज जो ख्वाव फक़त ख्वाव नजर ग्राते है।

डा॰ सक्मी नरायण पांडेय (मंदसौर): हम प्रेस परिषद् संगोधन पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। इस बिल 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 में 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 पैदा हुई है। लेकिन श्वापने कुछ संकेत नहीं दिया कि ग्रालोचना

किस बात की हुई झौर किस प्रकार की हुई ? क्या परिषद के कार्य की द्यालोचता हुई स्रथवा परिषद के सदस्यों को नामांकित जो करते थे, परिषद का जो निर्माण करते थे स्रथवा जिन को स्रधिकार दिया गया था नामिनेट करने का, उनकी स्रालोचना हुई । स्रापने स्रध्यादेश के सम्बन्ध में जो वक्तव्य दिया है उस में स्रापने इस के बारे में कुछ नहीं बताया है । झापने 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 मख्य न्यायाधीश उस में थे । लोक सभा के ग्रध्यक्ष ग्रीर राज्य सभा कं चेयरमैनं उस में थे। मैं जानना चाहता हं कि ऐसे बड़े व्यक्तियों की ग्रालोचना जिन ग्रौर ग्रालोचना किस प्रकार की थी. था क्या उन्होंने परिषद के कर्त्तव्यों के बारे में परिषद की कार्य प्रणाली के बारे में कोई या **ग्रालोचना की थी** ? उस पर यदि ग्रापने प्रकाश डाला होता तो उसकी संरचना के बारे में फिर से विचार किया जा सकता था। यदि कुछ व्यक्तियों द्वारा ऐसे महानतम व्यक्तियों की, उच्च पदों पर वैठे हए व्यक्तियों की कोई ग्रालोचना की गई तो फिर ग्राप संसद सदस्यों की कोई समिति बना कर उन से पूर्नावचार चाहते हैं तो मैं समझौता हं कि उस से भी कोई हल निकलने वाला नहीं है ग्रीर जो संशोधन ग्राप लाए हैं यह निरर्थक होगा ।

परिषद का गठन प्रैस कमिशन की सिफारिशों के ग्राधार 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 यो ग्रोर उसने उसी उसाल प्रक्तूबर में ग्रपनो रिपोर्ट दे दी थी। उस ने यह सुझाव दिया था कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्याया-धी ज, लोक सभा के स्पीकर ग्रौर राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन को एक नामनिर्दे जन समिति बनाई जाये, जो प्रैस परिषद् में सदस्यों को नामी-नेट करे । उस के अनुसार ही प्रैस परिषद् 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 वह इम बारे में ग्रपने सुझाव दे।

16 hrs.

अभी एक मानतीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि प्रैस परिषद् में वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्म को ग्रधिक प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जाना चाहिए । प्रैस कौमिल एक्ट की धारग 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, वह पर्याप्त है। हमारे यहां समाचार पत्नों में काम करने वाले पत्न-कारों के दो अखिन भारतीय संगठन हैं: आई ० एफ ० डबल्यू० जे० और एन ० यू० जे ० । जब आई ० एफ ० डबल्यू जे ० को प्रपता प्रतिनिधि भे जने के लिए कहा गया, तो उस ने अपना प्रतिनिधि नहीं भेजा। दोबारा समय दिये जाने पर भी उम ने अपना प्रतिनिधि नहीं भेजा । उस ने कहा कि उस के अध्यक्ष विदेश याता 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 मःननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि एन ० रू ० जें० मालिकों का सत्था है मौर वह मालिकों की सहयोगी है यद्यपि इस वारे में उन्होंने कोई ठोस उदाहरण प्रस्तत 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 पत्नकार केवल सरकार की हां में हां न मिलायें, बल्कि वे स्वतंत्र रूप से ग्रपने विचार प्रकट कर सके ग्रौर सरकार की ग्रालोचना भी कर सकें । प्रैस कौंसिल 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 अधिनियम में स्पट बताया गया है कि प्रैस परिषद् के कार्य-कलाभ क्या होंगे । लेकिन एक संस्था को प्रतिनिधि न दिये जाने के प्रक्षन पर ही सतभेद हुआ और उसके आधार पर ही सारी प्रालोचना प्रारम्भ की गई । इस के कारण नामनिर्देशन समिति के सदस्यों के त्यागपत्र देने की स्थिति पैदा हुई मैं समझता हूं कि ग्रुगर मंत्री यहोदय ने उन तीनों को पसुंबेड करने का प्रयत्न किया होता, तो शायद वे प्रपने पदों से न हटते । पत्र कारों की भिन्न संस्थाओं 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 सरबाल पत्नकारिता के क्षेत्र में ग्रपने दायित्व को निभाने में ग्रमफल रही है । वह दिन-प्रति-दिन पत्नों की स्वाधीनता का हनन करती जा रही है । कुछ दिन पहले यहां ग्रखबारी क़ाग़ज़ 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 उम का पक्ष ज्यादा ल ग्रौर जनता के दुख-दर्द ग्रौर कठिनाइयों की तरफ़ कम ध्यान दें। ग्रखवारों की पृष्ठ संख्या कम हो गई है। हां, दिल्ली मे निकलने वाले पेट्रियट का ग्राकार जरूर बढ गया है । पता नही , उमको ग्रखवारी काग़ज का घोटा कहां से प्राप्त होता है। नैशनल हैरल्ड ग्रोर कुछ दूसरे समाचार पतों के मालिकों की ग्रोर[ँ]में ग्रपने कर्मचारियों को परेशान 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 दे ग्रौर उनकी सहायका करे। मरकारने ऐसा नहीं किया है । ऐसा प्रदीत होंता है कि सरकार समाचार पत्नों को धीरे धीरे ग्रपने पुरे नियंत्र ग में लाना चाहती है जिससे कि वे सरकारी भाषा बोलें।

यदि सरकार चाहती है तो वह बहुत समय पहले --- नामीनेटिंग कमेटी के सदस्यों ने जब इस्तीफा दिया, ,उसी समय--कोई बैकल्पिक व्यवस्था कर सकती थी । लेकिन उम ने इस्तीफ़ा देने के बाद डेढ़, दो वर्ष तक वह सोती रही । ग्राज वह यह विधेयक लाकर कह रही है कि वह नामी-नेटिंग कमेटी को 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 होंने जा रहा है, वह यह विधेयक लेकर मदन के मामने ग्राये हैं कि प्रैम परिषद् का समय एक्मपेंड किया जाये।

मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय यह ग्राज्वासन दें कि इस समिति का गठन जल्दी में 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 चाहर्ती है।

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

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

भी चन्बूला स्व कर (वर्ग) : सभापति महोदय , मंत्री सहोदय ने बताया है कि इस विवेयक का उद्देश्य बहुत सी फित है । इसके द्वारा प्रेंस कोंसिल की ग्रवधि जून , 1974 तक बढाई जा रही है । प्रेंस कोंसिल के मैंस्बसं 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 ग्रालोचना से बचाना चाहते हैं । सुझे उम्मीद है कि सरकार ने इत बात को काको कोशिंग की होगी कि वे तीतों सरस्य समिति में काम करें। लेकिन किन्ही कारणों से उन तीनों सदस्यों ने ग्रभी तक नामी-नेटिंग क रेटो में काम करने से इंगार किया है । इत प्रम्वन्ध में मेरा सुझाव है को इन सरन की ग्रोर से सभी दलों की ग्रोर से – जर्व – सम्मति से यह प्रन्ताव पास किया जाये कि इन तिनों सदस्यों को नामोतेटिंग कनेटो में अपना कार्य जारी करने के लिए फिर से प्रनुरोव किया जाये । मैं मत्नता हूं कि सरकार, ग्रोर श्री गुजराल ने,इन दिशा में कार्फा प्रयत्न किया है । लेकिन मैं निवेरन करना चाहना हूं कि मन्त्री महोदय द्वारा प्रनुरोव करने पर ग्रोर संमद के सभी पत्नों की ग्रोर से ग्रनुरोव करने में वडा फर्क होगा ।

मुने पूरा विश्वास है कि सदन के सभी दलों के सदस्य सबैं- सम्मति से यह मांग करें कि लोक सभा के अध्यक्ष, राज्य सभा के सभा रति आरे सुप्रिम कोर्ट के चोक 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 आंर से आये, लेकिन मेरा उद्देश्य यह है कि इन तीनों सदस्यों से यह अनुरोध कि रा जाये कि वे उन समिति में बने रहें । इन तीनों के नाम बहुन सोव विचार कर चुने गये थे आंर उनके रहो से प्रैन परिषद में नामीनेगन का कार्य बहुन सहूलियत आरे इपातदारी से हो सकेगा ।

इस विश्वेगक का एक सोमित उद्दश्य है इम लिए प्रैस कौंसित ने क्या किया, क्या अच्छा या बुरा काम किया, या उनके गठन में क्या परिवर्षन होना चाहिए, ये बात इन विश्वेगक को सोमा में नहीं हैं।

आंकन में एक दो सुझाव देना चाहता हूं। कुत्र मितः कर प्रैत कोंसिल की जो पहले स्थापना हुई यो तो बहुत वहुत उम्मीद उससे यो कि उतने स्रनुक अनुक उद्दश्य पूरे होंगे, 2328 LS—11

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

दूसरी बात यह कि ग्रभी शास्त्रीजी ने इसके गठन की चर्चा ग्रौर उसकी ग्रालोचना की कुल मिता करें गठन के विषय में जो व्यवस्था है ऐक्ट में वह ग्रभी तक पूरी नहीं है और किसी कारण से, कूछ टेकिनकल कारण वश वर्किंग जर्नलिस्टस फैडरेशन के सदस्य उस में नंहीं ग्रासके । इसको में समझता हूं 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 उस की पूर्ति हो जायेगी । मं समझता हूं कि ग्रगली बार वर्किग जर्भलिस्टरा फैंडरेशन के लोग भी ग्राएंगें। लेकिन जहांतक इसके गठन का प्रश्न हैमैं समझता हुं कुल मिला कर इस प्रैस कौंसिल का गठन ग्रच्ला ही है ।

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

[श्री चन्द्लाल चन्द्रांकर]

मावश्यकता नहीं, लेकिन फिर भी उस व्यवस्था में ही सेलेक्शन के समय कुछ ऐसी व्यवस्था को ग्रांवश्यकता है कि भारतीय भाषात्रों के लोग उस प्रेस कों सल में हों सके। प्रभी किसी न किसी वजह है से होता यह है कि प्रंप्रेजी पत्नों के तिनिधि ज्यादा ग्रा जाते हैं। ग्राखिर हनारे देश भर में प्रंप्रेजी पत्नों की संख्या भारतीय पत्नों की तुलना में बहुत कम है। इस लिए कोशिश यह होनी चाहिए कि भारतीय भाषात्रों की प्रतिनिधि ग्रंप्रेजी पत्नों के प्रतिनिधियों की तुलना में ज्यादा हो सकें। ऐसी ब्यवस्था इस ढंग से हो सके तो ज्यादा ग्रन्डण 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 thon, 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.

325 Press Council AGRAHAYANA 5, 1895 (SAKA) (Amendment) Bill 326

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. I 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 this is concerned. With these matter 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 or other controversies is concerned. 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 inthe 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 the IA lockout, one could imagine 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 not sector paper represof adequacy matter of but on the Council entation 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 and several other difficulties. We 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 (बांका): अभी इसको च जने दीलिए ।

समापति महोदय : इतना महत्वपुर्ण नहीं है, है तो सही ले[्]हन

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 उतको कम टाइम मिलता है जो पहो। बोलने उँ उत को जगता, इल्

[भी मनन्तराव 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 to the 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 я 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 with which could have done away 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 whatever the number-for journalists. 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 iointhe controversy, Government ing should hold some sort of ilections 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 लिमये (बांका) : सभापति महोदग, बहुत दिनों के वाद श्री इन्द्र गुजराल के विभाग के वारे में वोलने का मौका मिला हैं। सभापति 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 ग्रवस्था हो चुकी हैं, जिनका दिमाग सठिया गया है ऐसे लोगों को या तो कैविनेट में लिया जा रहा हैं, या रखा जाता है यह कुछ समझ में नहीं ग्राता।

यह कहने के बाद में यह कहना चाहंगा कि यह जो प्रैंस वाला मामना है यह इन के मंत्रालय के तहन क्यों है । मुझे तो ऐसा लगना है कि ग्राप करनना की जिये. कि ग्रगर पुलिन ग्राधीक्षक को या इंग्पेक्टर को यह ग्राधिकार देना है कि हैवियस कौ र्येस की पेटोशनन्स यह मुनेंगे ग्रार फैसला भी देंगे , तो वह जैनी विचित्र वान होगी उसी तरह प्रैंस स्वतंत्रना की वान इन के जिम्मे देना वैसी ही बान होगी । क्योंकि इन का काम क्या है ? सरकारी बानों कों प्रभावशाली ढंग से रखना, ग्राल इंडिया रेडियो का दुरुपयोग करना, टेली-विजन का इस्तेमाल करना श्रौर 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 बिल्कूल हटा देना चाहिये ।

सभापति जी, प्रैस काउन्सिल की जो सलाना 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 रपटहै, उस में जो दो बात हैं उनका मैं उल्लेख करना चाहता हूं । काउन्सिल ने ग्रपनी रिपोर्ट में ''ट्रिब्यून'' केस का उल्लेख किया है । ग्राप जानते है ''ट्रिब्यून '' 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

337 Press Council AGRAHAYANA 5, 1895 (SAKA) (Amendment) Bill 338

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

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

श्री ग्राई० के० गुजराल : स्त्रियों के बारे में भी। इसको भी ग्राप क्लेरिफाई कर दै।

श्री मधुलिमये : मैं उन की राय से बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं हूं । वह उदार-वादी नहीं हैं, मैं उदारवादी हूं । लेकिन मैं मानता हं कि जिस से मेरा मतभेद है, उस ग्रादमी को भी ग्रपनी राय को ग्रभिव्यक्त करने का मौका मिलना चाहिये । इत्तलिए जब उन्होंने मेरे पास मझे ग्राश्चर्य हग्रा सारेतार ग्रौर पत्र भेजेजिन तारों ग्रौर पत्नों के द्वारा डी०सी० म० ग्वालियर रेग्रोन. ग्रौर सचरी रेग्रोन, चरतराम भरतराम बिडला जी म्रादि के सभी उद्योगों ने एक एक के बाद एक मदर इंडिया को विज्ञापन देने वन्द कर दिए । ग्रगर डी • सी० एम० ग्रौर सैंचरी वाले किसी समाज-वादी ग्रादमी के ग्रखवार को विज्ञापन बन्द कर देते तो वात समझ में ग्रासकती थी बाबूराव कोई समाजवादी आदमी लेकिन तो हैं नहीं, यकायक एक डेढ़ महीने के ग्रन्दर उनको सारे विज्ञापन बन्द कैसे हुए इस को भी देखने की जरूरत है ।

मुझे लगता है कि सरकार का इस में जरूर हाथ है । ग्राश्चर्य है कि वह प्रैस काउस्सिल के पास क्यों नहीं आए । ग्रगर वह नहीं भी ग्राए तो प्रैस काउस्सिल 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 बन्द कर 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 ग्रौर पंजी-पति बड़े चतुर हैं ग्रौर वे विज्ञापन बन्द तो नहीं करते हैं लेकिन विज्ञापन ग्रौर इश्तहार देकर ग्रखबार वालों को वे प्रभावित करते हैं। मैं ग्रापको इसके कई उदाहरण देसकता हूं । ताजा उदाहरण मैं भ्रापको देना चाहता हूं। कृत्रिम धागे के ऊपर यहां ढाई तीन घंटे बहंस हुई थी । बड़े बड़े पूंजीपतियों की जो कम्पनियां हैं वे बुनकरों को किस तरह से लटने 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 ? जै० के० ग्रौर सैंचरी एनका, गूजरमल मोदी आदि जिन **ग्रख**बारी को विज्ञापन देते हैं मैं ने देखा कि उन ग्रखवारों में कोई चर्चा जो हई उस के बारे में 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 । इश्तहार ग्रोर विज्ञापन ग्रादि देकर एक

(धी मन् सिनयें)

तरह से प्रलोभन ग्रखवार वालों को दिया जाता है ग्रौर उन से यह ग्रपेक्षा की जाती है कि ग्रापको हमं पैन दे रहे हैं, इण्तहार दे रहे हैं इसलिए हमारेखिलाफ जो संसद् में बात चलेगी उसकी चर्चा ग्रखवार में नहीं होती चाहिये ।

ग्राप जानते हैं कि हमारे यहां समाचार एजेतियां हैं, पो० टी० म्राई० है, यू०एन०म्राई है, समाचार भारती है । इन सारी समाचार एजसियों को प्रत्यक्ष ग्रौर परोक्ष रूप से राज्य और 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 हन्ना है इनफर्पेंगन मिनिस्ट्री में उसी समय . से मैं देख रहा हूं कि जन्मद बुंकि वह काविल <mark>आदमी हैं। इस वास्ते हमारों वातों का जहा</mark>ं पहलें ये एजसियां देती थीं अब उन्होंने क्या चालाकी की है कि इनको उन्होंने विभागों में बांट दिया है । अगर मैं दिल्ली में कुछ बात कहता हं तो वह दिल्ली के बाहर नहीं जाएगी, अगर लखनऊ में कहता हं तो लखनऊ के ग्रखवारों में तो वह छप आएगी लेकिन बंगलौर में नहीं जाएगी और पी० टी० ग्राई० ग्रीर यू० एन० ग्राई० को इन्होंने इस ढंग से प्रभावित किया है कि प्रधान मंत्री या मरकार के खिलाफा हम जो भी टीका टिप्पणी करते हैं, ग्रालोचना करते हैं वह तो बिल्कुल नहीं निकलती है। इसका मैं उदाहरण देना चाहना हूं बम्बई में एक प्रैस कान्फ्रैन्स में मैंने राष्ट्रपति जीको एक ग्रापील की थी, एक पत्न लिखा था , उस के बारे में मुझे एक जरन-लिस्ट ने बताया कि हम ने इस को छाता है लेकिन साथ ही यह भी कहा कि हमें जपर से प्रादेश मिला है कि इस तरह की बातें जिन में प्रधान मंत्री की आ लो-

^चना हो, प्रसारित नहीं करनी चाहिये। स काउन्सिल किस लिढ ह[ै]।

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 मिते है वे कौन है ? श्री ग्रनस्त राव पाटिल ग्रीर श्री जन्दूलाल चन्द्राकर । क्या हम सब लोग मर गए थे ? मैं ग्रपती बात नहीं कह रहा हूं (व्यवधान) मेरे जैसा प्रावमी अब आएगा तो ग्राप सभी लोगों के मामते ठीक हो आएगें। लेकिन मैं ग्रपतों बात नहीं करता। ग्राप श्री मावलंगर को रख लेते, श्री ज्योतिर्मय यमु को लं लेते मेरा कोईझगड़ा नहीं। दोनों सदरप कांग्रेस पार्टी के ? इसलिये मैं उस बात को छोड़ रहा था, उस में जाना नहीं चाहता था।

एक दूसरा उदाहरण प्रेक्ष कांजंसिल की रिपोर्ट में दिया गया है । गोमान्तक ग्राख-वार में सम्पादकीय निकला जिस में कहां गथा था कि गोग्रा मुक्त होने के 10-11 साल बाद भी क्या वजह है कि फिरंगियों के बन ग्रभी भी गोग्रा के चोराहों में लगे हए है जिल्होंने साढ़े तीन या चार सौ साल तक अनता को लटने का काम किया, उसको चुसने का काम किया । उसने लिखा कि क्या वजह है कि सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्ता इस मामले को उठाते नहीं है। इस पर गोम्रा की सरकार ने प्रेस काउंसिल के पास शिकायत की यह ये उकसा रहे है ग्रान्दोलन के लिये जनता को। इस पर प्रेस काउंसिल को अपनी राय देनी पर्ड। कि शान्तिपूर्ण आन्दोलन के लिए ग्रगर उकसाया भी जाता है तो उस में कोई गलत बात नहीं हैं। मैं वुराई नहीं कर रहाहं। मैं यह कह रहा हूं कि म्रापने

दो तीन ग्राच्छेकाम भी किए है। लेकिन उनको ले कर मैं ग्राप को थह सिफारिश पत्न देन को तैयार नहीं हूं कि प्रेस के ऊपरइन दिनों जो बड़ा ग्राकमण हो रहा है निजी पूर्जी के द्वारा ग्रीर इनके द्वारा 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 हम्रा है और वह यह कि कम्प-नियों के द्वारा राअनीतिक दलों को पैसा न दिवा आए । अब से वह संशोधन हम्रा है उस तमाशा हमारे देश में समय से एक नया शुरु हो गया है। सोवेनीतर नाम की चीज एक ग्रखबार के सबर्प्टीयट के तोर्पर निकलनी णुरु हो गई है। कभी कभी सोवेनीयर के बड़े लोगों में विज्ञापनों ग्रीर इश्तहारों के लिए इतना पैसा ले लिवा आता है कि जो डेली न्यूज्थेपर हैं या साप्ताहिक है उनको इतने विज्ञापन मिल ही नहीं सकते हैं जितने सोवेनीयर्ज के लिए इकट्र हो आते है। कुछ सावेंनीयर्ज कबारे में मुझे 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 हुए । ग्रधिकतर ऐसे ये सोवेनीयर थे जो कि हमारे मंत्री जीका 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 सोवेतीयर्ज के नाम परल आ रहे हैं, उन में दखल नहीं दे सकती है और क्या उसको इन में दखल नहीं देना चाहिये । इस की आंच करनी चाहिए । इस में कम्पनी कानून का जो उल्लंघन हो रहा है, वह ग्रलग वात है।

17 hrs.

अहां तक तीन सदल्यों की कमेटी का प्रश्न है, मैं भी चाहता हैं कि लोक सभा का स्पीकर राज्य सभा का चेयरमन श्रीर सुधीम कोर्ट का मुख्य न्यायाधी श विवाद के विषय न बर्ने । लेकिन क्या चारा है ? अब लोक सभा के दोनों प्रतिनिधि कांग्रेस पार्टी के सदस्व बनेंगे, तो प्रालोचना 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 श्यामनन्दन मिश्र से सहमत हूं कि नया विधेयक लाने के लिए इतना समय लेन की अरूरत नहीं थी । मंत्री महोदय इस सत्र या श्रगले सत्र में उस को ला सको थे ।

मैं तो चुनाव के सिद्धान्त के ही पक्ष में हूं प्रतिनिधियों को नामजद करने के वज्य यदि वर्किंग अर्नलिंग्टस ग्रौर एडिटर्ज की विभिन्न संख्याग्रों ग्रौर 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 ग्राधिकार ले लेंगे। इसलिये सरकार नामजदगी के सिद्धान्त को खत्म करे ग्रौर चुनाव के सिद्धान्त को लाये।

मंत्री 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 पेटी शन 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 elections. They gave due publicity 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 connec-Madhu tion. My hon, friend Mr. Limaye rightly argued about certain matters. I rightly agree with him share his sentiments. and I also Whenever he speaks in Delhi it does Calcutta, Whenever he not reach speaks in Patna it does not go to Lucknow. In other words the speech

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 а 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 anything that they cannot publish 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.

347 Press Council N

[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 They surrender ultimately members. 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 point. I won't go further into the 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 anv 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 There be prevented from doing it. 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 country. Newsprint blackthis marketing 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 black money in the blackearn marketing 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 amendment 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 mercly 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 situation? My friend, Shri Chandulal 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 jour-I do not think nausm? that the 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 Press Council against a newspaper, 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 They could ask the Tribune cited. 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 Press you want to reconstitute the 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 hut the basic difference between OUL 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.

MAVALANKAR SHRI Ρ. G. (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