

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

adjournment so that it must be discussed straightaway. Therefore, I am informing the hon. Member that if I give my consent, then I will decide about the date and the time. Then the hon. Members would be informed and they will have the opportunity which they want just now.

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): Let the House know the contents.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House would know if he shows a little amount of patience.

12-04 hrs.

#### NOTICE UNDER RULE 222

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Nath Pai has sent me a notice under rule No. 222 of the Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure, giving notice of his intention to raise a motion of privilege. He says:

"The matter arises out of a PTI report of the proceedings of the House of the 1st of April, 1959 published in the *Times of India* of 2nd of April, 1959. The relevant document is being attached herewith. As is evident from the reported remark of the hon. Member Prof. Hiren Mukerjee to the effect that, "You are American Agents (turning to the Praja Socialist benches)." . . .

It is *prima facie* a slander against the PSP Members of Parliament and constitutes a very serious breach of privilege'.

So far as this is concerned, this was brought to my notice, and I looked into the file. Our records do not show that such an observation was made or such remarks were uttered. Now, the only course left for me is to find out from the hon. Member whether he uttered those words. If he were present I would have asked him just now, but as he is not present, I will hold it over. When he is present, I shall ask him what the position was and tell me.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I would like to say only one thing. My party normally would not have condescended even to repudiate a charge which is palpably silly and patently wrong. Nonetheless, since it is alleged as having been uttered by a senior Member of the House we are interested in seeing that such an impression does not go round the country. I should like to say one thing more. There would not be two opinions in this country so far as the loyalty of my party is concerned. Throughout, the record of my party is a fine record of the most glorious chapter in the freedom struggle of the country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What does he want to say? He might come to that straight.

Shri Nath Pai: I am coming to it. I want to bring to your notice this thing. It is true—that it is not perhaps on the record—and I am not interested in condemning Shri H. N. Mukerjee who unfortunately is not here, nor am I interested in arranging the press agency. But you must guide us before I formally raise it, as to what is the protection given to a party which on the face of it, seems to be malign-ed like this?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think there is any necessity for discussing it just now, because we have to ascertain the facts. I am holding it over so that the hon. Member against whom this charge is made might also be present and so that we may make enquiries as to what position he takes. Unless he is present and we know the facts, how can we go further? That is what I am doing. I am not disposing of it. I do not think there is any discussion necessary.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Shri H. N. Mukerjee's absence was referred to now. My friend Shri Nath Pai said that he was going to give a notice of a privilege motion. He informed me yesterday. I consulted Shri H. N. Mukerjee. As he had to

leave for Calcutta he informed me that he has not uttered those words.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla** (Baloda Bazar) You can consult the tape recorder and know whether he has uttered those words.

**Acharya Kripalani** rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I can presume what he is going to say I will give him every opportunity, but would it be necessary now to go on further, when our records do not show that there was such a thing, and when the hon. Member who is alleged to have uttered these words has said that the fact that he has not done it should be conveyed to the House? We should not go into this controversy and then discuss whether really it was uttered or not. When the Member says that he has not done it—even if in excitement some such words were understood to have been said by certain other Members—it should be taken that this matter should be closed. It would be advisable that this matter is considered as closed.

Even to those who would say that they have heard it I would advise that when the Member concerned says that he has not uttered it, it should be the last word. It should be tantamount to, and it should be considered as if he had withdrawn it, even supposing—I am saying, “even supposing”—he has uttered it, like that and when he says he has not done it that should be the last word on the subject. I do not think any discussion is necessary.

**Acharya Kripalani** (Sitamarhi) May I say a word. As I was in possession of the House, I thought that the remarks were addressed to me—that I am the agent of the Americans. There were other remarks which were more elevating. He said that I was senile. As for my being the “agent of the Americans” I wish it had been so because in that case our party would have more funds than the Communist party! But I believe that the 18(A) L.S.D.—3.

Bengalis are rather emotional and excitable, men and women, men more than women.

**An hon. Member:** Is it relevant?

**Shri I. B. Vittal Rao:** On a point of order (Interruptions)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** He is talking of Bengalis, whom he knows much better than anybody else. Why should there be excitement over it?

**Acharya Kripalani.** Therefore, I do not mind the remarks so far as they concern me. As for my being senile, I have examined myself. I have examined my top and the thatch there is natural. I do not tar my hair. My eye-sight is very clear and I do not use spectacles. My ears do not need the hearing-aid, the earphone.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I would request the hon. Member just to confine himself to what is before the House. This is not in controversy whether those words said by him.

**Acharya Kripalani.** I further want to say that my intellect is so sharp that I can see through the meaning of the resolutions passed by the communist party better than the Prime Minister.

**Shri Nagi Reddy** (Anantapur) On a point of order (Interruptions)

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** When we are trying to rectify, we should not commit other mistakes. We should not go further into this. As I requested the House, let this matter be closed. When Mr. Mukerjee had just conveyed to us that he never uttered those words and when they do not appear in our records too, that should suffice and the matter shall be considered as closed.

**Shri Thirumala Rao** (Kakinada) Is there no tape-recorder?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Prime Minister.