

Since the beginning of July, that is, since the close of Assembly session, the New Congress has been carrying on in the Press a campaign of misrepresentation against the BKD in violation of all canons of Constitutional propriety. Not a single day has been missed. BKD has suffered this sustained attack in silence except for a brief statement by me made on August 12, after Sri Kamalapati Tripathi had formally asked for meetings of his organisation on August 22 and 23 for the purpose of condemning and threatening BKD just on the eve of a meeting in which its National Executive was to take a final decision about merger. The real reason for this campaign lay in the fact that the State leadership of the New Congress had never reconciled itself to a BKD-led Ministry in the State, and was in search of means and excuses for toppling it from the very start. Confabulations to this end were held with the Old Congress right from the month of March to which its several leaders have candidly testified.

There is a blanket charge that in the bargain of a coalition BKD has been the gainer and Congress the loser all along the line. This has no basis in facts. Congress was given a representation in Government according to its strength at the time the coalition was formed — which no majority party in coalitions is ever given. What is more : I did not look into the antecedents of the colleagues with whom I had to work. BKD withdrew its candidate for the Legislative Council in Shahjahanpur district in favour of the Congress candidate who won the seat as a consequence. Out of 13 seats for the Legislative Council in the Biennial Election, we were given only one and had to be content with it. In order simply to oblige New Congress, we gave up one seat for the Rajya Sabha and exchanged another for one to the Vidhan Sabha out of those elected by the Assembly. We offered the Sultanpur Parliamentary seat held by BKD to a Congress candidate who romped home with victory. There were only two important posts, viz., Chairmanship of the Housing Board and the Vice-Chairmanship of the State Evaluation Board

which are manned by non-legislators, and both of them went to the Congress. Much against my better judgment, I agreed to abolition of land revenue on holdings of a size of 5 bighas or less simply in order to meet the Congress half way. As regards nominations to various committees made by the various Ministers, well, BKD has been greatly discriminated against.

As the public is aware, a hue and cry was raised when portfolios were re-distributed consequent on expansion of Cabinet on July 19. In fact, four new departments were handed over to the Congress Ministers, one important department held by a BKD Minister was allotted to a senior Congress Minister at his desire and no department held by the Congress group of Ministers was taken away. Yet, it was propagated that portfolios had been re-shuffled to the detriment of Congress. This was an unmitigated lie.

The talk of policy differences over the Ordinances was a sham. The Control of Goondas Ordinance which had to be promulgated as the law and order situation in the State had deteriorated, was merely a repetition of similar legislation in our own State in the old days and existing legislation in several States of the Union today. The legislation was not only unanimously approved by the Select Committee, but made more stringent than Government had originally proposed. The Preventive Detention legislation exists in some five States governed by the Congress and had been suggested by the Union Government itself in November 1969. The Ordinance aimed against the compulsory nature of the Students Union in Degree Colleges and Universities has been an unqualified success inasmuch as it has saved the student community from unhealthy diversion, giving relief to the parents and teachers alike, as also helped to inculcate a sense of

discipline and genuine purpose in our young generation in colleges and Universities and was welcomed by the community in general. There are no compulsory Unions in the Centrally-governed Universities of Aligarh and Varanasi, and none in the Universities of Poona and Bombay. Yet, it has been assailed by our friends of the New Congress as the greatest sin of BKD.

The illegal strike of electricity workers organised by some unpatriotic elements, although 76 demands out of 120 or so which they had made, had been completely accepted, 18 partially accepted and the rest were under examination by a committee, was successfully curbed, without the people even knowing that a strike was on. Success of Government efforts in this matter also chagrined the New Congress leadership still further. They would have been glad, had the life of the community been disrupted and they were able to lay the blame at the door of BKD leadership of the State Government. They are still making attempts in this direction as the speeches of Sri Kamalapati Tripathi and Sri H.N. Bahuguna made in a meeting of electricity workers held in Lucknow on September 19, would show. (It will not be out of place to mention here the speeches that three New Congress M.Ps from Delhi made at State Employees' gathering sponsored by dismissed hands on September 21. They were on a par with the speeches that Communists all over the country have been making since independence in order to subvert democracy.)

The decision to take over the Medical College of Lucknow by Government has also been made an object of criticism unmindful of the fact that a previous Health Minister of Congress Government, viz., Sri Dau Dayal Khanna and the then Chief Minister Srimati Sucheta Kripalani had taken a decision in this regard in 1965. A few years

earlier, viz., in 1958, the then Health Minister Thakur Hukum Singh and Chief Minister Dr. Sampurnanand put on record their opinion that the affairs and administration of the Lucknow Medical College and Associated Hospitals were not satisfactory and decided that at least the administration of the hospitals might be taken over immediately. Nor can it by any stretch of meaning be called a decision of policy.

Postponement of take-over of the sugar factories by another season has been seized upon by these friends as a very convenient handle with which, they hope, they will be able to delude the peasantry. The responsibility for this decision is being laid exclusively at my door, as if a Government decision in this regard could be taken all by one man ! ! In fact, as everybody knows by now, it was the Central Government led by the New Congress itself which was ultimately responsible. The State Government had, through several letters and several interviews and deputations, urged upon the Central Government that if it was not itself willing to nationalise the industry, then, at least, it should agree to delegate, under Article 258 of the Constitution to the State Government its power of doing so, which it indubitably possessed, and which, according to our learned Advocate General, Pt. Kanhaiya Lal Misra, and the Law Secretary of the Government of India, the State Government did not possess. For reasons best known to it and which only few can guess, the Government of India did not accede to the importunities of the State Government.

In this connection of nationalisation of sugar factories as also all other decisions mentioned above, it is perhaps unnecessary to remind the public that they were all taken unanimously by the Cabinet which consisted of 13 Ministers of the Congress as against

8 and, later 10 of the BKD.

It was also unabashedly propagated that I had accepted millions of money from factory-owners as a bribe for deferring the take-over of their factories. May be, judging by their own standards, my accusers honestly believe in what they say. I had, therefore, requested Smt. Indira Gandhi on June 11 and written a letter to her more than three weeks ago demanding an enquiry into the allegations, secret or open, whether by the CBI or the judiciary, but I have received no reply till date. It will be an important event in the public life of our State if such an enquiry could be ordered simultaneously into the conduct of my accusers and their supporters, both in Delhi and Lucknow. According to a press report, the Prime Minister has been pleased to accept my request, but it is fantastic that they expect the State Government first to "establish a prima facie case and then refer it to the Centre." How can an accused make out a prima facie case against himself?

To revert to policy differences: BKD's policies are almost all given in its election manifesto. I claim that no Congressman, in fact, no sensible public worker, conversant with country's problems can possibly differ from them. Yet, it now seems, the New Congressmen are ultimately in the right. They have more in common with the Communists and the Muslim Leaguers than with BKD which draws its inspiration, by and large, from the teachings of Gandhi Ji. What this new alliance holds in store for the country, future alone will tell. We, at least, are thankful to Providence that a break with such patriots and democrats of the New Congress has at last come.

Much has been made of my opposition to constitution

of a Coordination Committee. There has been no reply given to my objection that when there are only two partners to a coalition, it does not lie in the mouth of the major partner to demand a Coordination Committee. Also, there has been a parallel demand by the Congress for formation of a joint committee consisting of Ministers of the two parties for taking decisions on "transfer, promotion, demotion, suspension, punishment and posting of officers in the districts" on the analogy of a similar committee at the Centre. The Appointment Committee at the Centre, however, consists of Prime Minister and Home Minister alone and looks only into the transfer, posting and compulsory retirement of officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above excluding the Army and the Judiciary. The interest of State Congress leadership in transfers and punishments, even of minor officials, is understandable, but such a committee would work havoc with the discipline and morale of the services which is already low.

As regards BKD's merging with or into Congress : BKD leadership had offered to do so in the hope that it would fulfil long-term national interest. Finding, however, that its purpose was not likely to be served, it withdrew the offer which had never met the approval of the rank and the file. One fails to understand how a grievance could be made of it, and yet it is this which in reality is the head and front of BKD's offence.

Remains the question of BKD's vote on the Privy Purse on which the New Congress is concentrating at the moment in the hope that it will be able to prove BKD to be a stooge of the ex-rulers of Indian States. It is a vain hope, however, for, the people know by now who is who and what is what. There are more ex-rulers in the ranks of the Congress Party than in any other. The Nawab of