

which we must jealously guard against losing. In order to retain this unity, we, leaders, must avoid mental stagnation. Our minds should be kept refreshed by the breezes of fresh knowledge gotten from the vast available literature concerning what other leaders in the rest of civilisation are doing in facing problems similar to ours.

For example, a stirring Presidential Address was delivered last April in Lucknow by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, head of the All India Congress, a perusal of which (in its full version) gives much food for thought. In the course of that address he indicated that the efficiency of Congress organisation means little if it has no strength behind it, "and strength, for us, can only come from the masses." He emphasised the fact that the vital section of the Indian population was that of labour and the peasantry, and that the leaders must protect these classes from suppression and exploitation; for the most important question was appalling poverty, unemployment and indebtedness. Hence the need for closer contact with the masses.

These exhortations are applicable to us. Whatever we do or decide upon, we must not lose touch with our backveld masses. The time is ripe for us leaders to reconstruct and rehabilitate all our mass organisations to fight starvation, poverty and debt.

Says Nehru, "Let us not indulge in tall talk before we are ready for big action." I think this wise advice is worth following.

Once we emancipate our people from the servitude of poverty we shall be able to accomplish great deeds. The stumbling blocks placed in our path are for us to remove. If we do not work hard to remove them we shall get only what we deserve to get. If we succeed in removing them

we shall be in a position to render to the world the contribution due from Africa.

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