

CLARION CALL

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TO THE
ACTIVISTS
OF THE

N. O. B. W.

BY

SRI D. B. THENGADI, M. P.

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Mr. President, brothers and sisters,

This is the last item on the agenda of this Conference. In the field of art there is a convention that the closing of the plot or a story in any fiction or drama should not be far off from its climax. The climax and the end should be as close as possible. I am, therefore, apprehensive that any lengthy speech on this occasion will keep the closing distant from the climax. This would be against the conventions of aesthetic sense and therefore I think it would be in good taste and more appropriate to be as brief as possible.

From yesterday morning we are sitting here in a conference. All of us are sharing the sense of gratitude expressed by your President, Shri Gokhaleji about the trend setting, industrious character of our Bangalore brethren and the efforts they have put in for the success of this conference. I am also afraid about our expectations from the Bangalore brethren on future occasions. Such of you who are elders, senior in age, may be remembering a remark by Mr. Bernard Shaw who said "it is dangerous to be too good". I hope that our Bangalore brethren would not be required to remember this remark of Mr. Bernard Shaw, in times to come. On behalf of of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, I take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to them.

The sessions held since yesterday, the deliberations conducted, the decisions taken and the orations given have all indicated the success of this conference. You have also given the much needed guidance to the

bank employees and to the Nation in general, by adopting appropriate resolutions on subjects such as the price rise, co-operative banking, bonus, gratuity, providend fund, second and third bipartite, composite bargaining agent, the banking industry and the directions of national economy.

From every point of view, I have no hesitation to say that this conference has been a remarkable success. You have also elected a team of Office-bearers and Executive Committee Members for the ensuing couple of years. For your outgoing President Mr. Chamanlal Bharadwaj, I do not think I have any words to express the sense of gratitude. He had been the pioneer of this Organisation and his tireless efforts have been responsible for the bringing up of the National Organisation of Bank Workers. During his tenure as President, he had worked hard and I must say that this conference is also indicative of the tireless efforts of our team of activists among whom Shri Chamanlal Bharadwaj has been the foremost.

Regarding the message of this conference we have demanded the early initiation of negotiations for the third bipartite with NOBW as a party to the negotiations. Our slogan of changing class banking to mass banking and our earnest desire and determination to build up the Organisation are the three items we are going to take back with us in order to deliver them to our co-workers and colleagues who were not fortunate enough to attend this historic conference. I am quite sure that because of your sincere efforts NOBW will certainly be a party to the next negotiations for wage revision and if the Government decides

to reject the claim of NOBW to be a party to the bipartite negotiations, it would be only to the peril of the Government and the Nation, which God forbid. I hope the Government will not either willingly or under the pressure from the Communists commit such mistake. Today I must say that the Government of India is in a most confused state of mind, which I am not referring taking the political aspect into consideration.

Since yesterday morning we are being reminded of the imminent economic crisis and that we are on the brink of economic ruins. The Government is aware of its own directionlessness. It is responsible for this economic ruin though I will not say that the Government is pursuing the wrong policies, because I know that the Government has no policies at all, whether right or wrong. They had given a number of assurances to the Electorates. But they had not prepared themselves properly, equipped themselves properly for the fulfillment of the promises. They had initiated a number of actions without the adequate preparations. As has been referred to here, nationalisation has been one of them. We know that we are neither opposed to nationalisation nor are we in favour of nationalisation. Whenever we are questioned whether we are opposed to it or are in favour of it, we say that the question is irrelevant. Each issue should be framed against the back ground of the particular situation. If you ask whether Streptomycin is a good medicine, any Medical Practitioner will tell you that it is an irrelevant question. When you are asking about the advisability of Streptomycin you

have to suggest whether he wants to administer it to a T.B. patient or a Typhoid patient. For a T. B. patient while it is the most appropriate medicine, for a Typhoid patient it is most risky and dangerous. In the same way, various patterns of ownership are suitable under different conditions and for different industries. Therefore, we are neither opposed to nor in favour of nationalisation. But, we are opposed to the style of introducing the nationalisation by the present Government. When I was studying in the college I read a phrase "Marry in haste and repent at leisure". If any learned man is to coin a new phrase now in the new context, he will suggest "Nationalise in haste and repent at leisure". So we have seen how neither the customer nor the bank employees nor the Nation at large are receiving the benefits of the nationalisation of the fourteen major banks. Now under the present state of directionlessness we have to remind ourselves of the pledge we have taken when we formed, constituted the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and the National Organisation of Bank Workers. We said that we are not just a trade union organisation of self-seeking employees, not mere a trade union or just a genuine trade union. We said that we are a family more than a trade union based upon a written constitution.

✓ We are a family of nation builders and on this solemn occasion when we are to return to our respective places with the message of this conference, I request all of you to remind yourselves once again our solemn pledge to the Nation that the NOBW and the BMS are the organisations of a family of the

Nation builders. We are running the Organisation not on the strength of the constitution alone because we are convinced that any Institution which has its base on the provisions of the written Constitution alone cannot run for long. The various articles in the Constitution will be used before long to break the Institution, rather than to strengthen it. It is the family atmosphere that will be a surety and guarantee of our continuance and for our further strength. We are here not only because we are elected as delegates. These are mere formalities. Even in a family there are certain arrangements. Everybody does not do everything in a family, those who are expected to cook will cook and those who are expected to go to office will go to office. There is rarely any exchange of work except in a few cases and yet we know that without any written constitution being pasted on the door of the kitchen, our families are running smoothly for thousands of years. Therefore it is the sense of the family, the family atmosphere that sustains and strengthens any group of persons and it is not the constitution that does it. It has been our peculiarity that we consider ourselves as members of a single family more than members of different registered trade unions. This is precisely the reason that we are feeling so sorry at the time of parting, after this conference. We have stayed here for only two days, but from this noon I came across a number of our delegates who expressed their sorrow at the very idea of departing from Bangalore after the conference. I don't think that it is merely the "Shira" and "Jilebi" which are responsible for their sorrow. It is the

family atmosphere because of which they are sorry to depart. Partings are always sad, more so in the case of a family. Had we been a trade union based upon the constitution alone, the people would have been glad to depart. But here the case is different. This is a family not merely of those who are demanding Dearness Allowance and Bonus, for this demand is a part of the game. We are a family not only of trade union leaders who are merely enamoured of perquisites of the status of recognition. We are a family of nation builders, of those who consider themselves as the fortune makers and destiny makers of this country, who consider that the NOBW and the BMS are the instruments for this Nation building process. That is why, the elections that are being conducted in any Federation or Union of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh have their own style. Our elections are generally unanimous, because we consider that elected posts are not supposed to be a reward for various manoeuvrings but to be the posts of responsibilities. The elected are those who are least favoured since we intend to put them into trouble for one or two years, for the duration of their office-bearership. In this family of BMS we do not consider that any person is important simply because he is an Office-bearer. We do not have such conventions. Outside our Organisations, social status and Office-bearership go together hand in hand. In the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and the National Organisation of Bank Workers, the most important person is the field worker and the importance we attach to any field worker is directly proportional to his identi-

fication with the Organisation. Nobody enquires what Office he is holding. As a matter of fact we have introduced in the unwritten constitution of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh a very peculiar clause, a peculiar section, which no other Organisation is capable of or dare to introduce in their Constitution. This clause in the unwritten constitution says that whenever elections are held whom we shall elect is not so important, whom we shall not elect should be considered first. If we say that on the basis of merit alone one should be chosen as an Office-bearer then for every post there will be five or six claimants. Because our organisation comprises of meritorious people, people with merit and if merit is the only criteria, we have to create ten Presidents, twelve General Secretaries and so on for every Union. We consider that these posts are only for the sake of convenience. It is merely a proper arrangement of the family. If like a Dutch Army everybody orders everybody else in the field, Armys cannot have any deployment and therefore somebody is to be placed as in-charge of the army. But, no person is important simply because he is an Office-bearer. Therefore we have said that our first consideration would be that atleast one who wishes to be an Office-bearer should not be elected as the Office-bearer. This is the clause in our unwritten constitution. (Such of you who attended the previous conferences of the NOBW will be reminded of the story which has been told in brief.

In olden times it is recorded that when Prophet Mohamed became old and Islam was spreading thro-

ughout Arabia, a deputation of villagers from a distant village came and waited upon Prophet Mohamed. They had come to represent to the Prophet Mohamed regarding a dispute amongst them and they were seeking a verdict. They wanted that Prophet Mohamed should visit their village and solve the dispute. For this, Prophet Mohamed is recorded to have said that it is impossible for him to visit the village personally firstly because of old age, secondly because Islam is being spread throughout the length and breadth of Arabia and thirdly because the means of communication are so rare and sparse. Therefore, Prophet Mohamed suggested that the people from the village who have the dispute should come together and elect their Ameer, that is the leader and abide by his verdict. The deputationists told him that the election of the Ameer is their precise difficulty and they sought the Prophet's suggestion on the criteria for the election of the Ameer. Prophet Mohamed has given the golden advice that while electing a leader the first qualification should be that one who should be elected as Ameer or leader who has absolutely no desire to become an Ameer or leader. About the other qualifications of the person, the same may be considered later on. This golden advice of Prophet Mohamed has been picked up by the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and has been assimilated and implemented. And that is why the atmosphere that is prevailing in other Institutions in the name of democracy do not find a place in the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. It has become a fashion to presume that unless there is indiscipline democracy is absent, and if we are democratic we

should be indisciplined. It is the presumption of the progressive and the radicals of the first water of our country that there cannot be a disciplined democracy or democratic discipline. Therefore, people from other Organisations whether in the Trade Union field or any other field of activity are wonder-struck to find the smoothness with which the affairs are being conducted in our Unions and Federations. This aspect is the speciality of our Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. We not only try to woo the employees and win them over, we are not after cheap popularity since we are fully aware of the responsibilities that we are shouldering as responsible nation builders. In this family atmosphere and with this sense of responsibility we are conducting ourselves in this Organisation.

When we have taken up certain decisions and each one of us have felt that this Bangalore Conference has given a new turn, has opened a new chapter in the history of trade union movement of the Banking Industry, we must also try to understand how best we can equip ourselves for the role that the Nation is expecting us to play. We will explain to the employees through our propaganda machinery what we mean by Labourisation, by Class Banking and Mass Banking, what were the omissions and commissions of the AIBEA in the second Bipartite Settlement and consequent agreements and what are the principles we want to introduce on the negotiating table for the third Bipartite. All these intellectual messages can be explained through our propaganda machinery, but what is the foundation for our aboun-

ding success, for our victory in the form of nation building activities. I am not confining myself to the problem of your recognition. Recognition will come whether we are worthy or not. Your inclusion in the negotiation in the bipartite talks is sure to be there if not today, tomorrow, because we are a growing Organisation. Therefore, I am not worried about your recognition. Those outside NOBW and BMS are enamoured of recognition, because in their life that is the highest thing that they can dream of. But, we are here in NOBW not simply because once in a while we should have a cup of tea with the General Manager or the Chairman of the Bank. We don't consider that our status is raised if you are offered a cup of tea by them since we are a family of nation builders and he is only a money seeker. And by his taking tea with you, his status is raised but not vice-versa. So we are not after these fishes and loaves. We have always said that as a genuine trade union organisation we will strive our level best to shower the highest benefits on the ordinary employee. Right from its inception, the BMS has conceived that whatever is to be offered to the general employees is something different from whatever is to be offered to our activists. To our cadres we have told that the highest happiness to the employees is our goal, whereas for our cadres the greatest unhappiness, misery and trouble is our goal.

This is the final goal of our NOBW. We are to be constantly aware of this role of the nation builders. For this we have also to equip ourselves as this is very important. Those who have talked about

many high things, different isms and utopias have failed because they were not adequately equipped within the proper time. If we fail to equip ourselves within the proper time, their fate may also await us. Their example is a lesson from which we have to learn. Take the example of our Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. It is reported recently that some people who call themselves as 'radicals', because it pays to be a radical, from Punjab who went to see the Prime Minister complained to her about the unwillingness, the inability and the inefficiency of the Government of Punjab, in which they had no place, in implementing land reforms. The reply she reported to have given is very significant. She is reported to have said that apart from the fact that in the course of implementation of land reforms, they will have often to hurt some section of the peasantry. The crux of the problem, according to her, was the lack of machinery for implementing the radical reforms. She is reported to have said that while the bearaucracy is corrupt, the ruling party had no cadres. As such there was no machinery which could be depended upon for the implementation of any radical reforms. I think that is the crux of the problem today. We are not lacking in high sounding phrases, we are not lacking in the number of isms, we are not lacking in slogans and catch words. But, what we are lacking is the machinery for the implementation of anything, whether it is right or left or centre or above or below or whatever it is. These are all irrelevant terms. But, there is no machinery throughout which can implement any

measure and therefore more than any ism, more than radicalism, more than reactionaryism, the most important thing that can save the country today is the raising of the cadres that are devoted to the nation, that are selfless, that understand the problems of the nation and that are determined to strive their best to surrender themselves completely to the Nation. Only such cadres can save the Nation. That should be the calibre of the cadres of NOBW which are going to form part and parcel of the army of such cadres that are going to be saviours of our Nation. This important role of ours we must recognise. Recognition you are seeking from a worthless Government. That means you are recognising the Government. I am not prepared to recognise. We will seek recognition, we will secure recognition on the strength of our membership, of our mobilisation, of our propaganda, of our serviceability, and not as a mercy from the unworthy Ministers. Who are these Ministers to grant us recognition? At least we are the permanent employees of the people. No Minister is a permanent employee. To one of the Ministers, who is a close friend of mine, I have told in our personal talk, not to speak about granting recognition to the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. Because, we in the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh are continuing the work for the last 17-18 years but during this period we have seen equal number of Ministers coming and going. Therefore, I told him since our relations are very good, to excuse me and with all due regards to him I told him "Minister may come and Minister may go, but the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh will go on forever". What holds good for the BMS

will equally hold good for the NOBW. So, to all these transitory Ministers we are not going to apply for recognition. We want recognition, it is true, but not from the Ministers but from the employees themselves. And more than that, we want recognition from our own selves, the most important recognition being the recognition from our own selves. Do we recognise ourselves as Nation builders?

A worthy leader of the Country has said that he is not caring for the majority vote at the same time he is only after one vote and that is the vote of God in his own heart. Recognition we have to seek from God who is residing in our hearts. Our motivation as Tulasidas has said "Swantha Sukhaya" or as John Bunyan observes in his Apologia to "Pilgrim's Progress" - 'I did it for my own self to gratify'. We want recognition of our innerself, of God in our hearts. We are not enamoured of the perquisites and privileges growing out of legal recognition, if it does not satisfy the above criteria of higher recognition. For as Lord Jesus said "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?".

Can we honestly say to God in our heart that we are upto the standards as Nation builders and that we are always selfless? Everybody has to earn money because the family is to be fed. There is little to earn and many to keep, which is true, but apart from that can we tell our God who is residing in our hearts that we are honest to the pledges we have taken as nation builders? That is the question.

We must understand that is how our motives are cleared. Then, all our wishes, our desires, our decisions in the resolutions will be blessed by God. Because, the motives of our people are clear, we are not after building up personal leadership or image of any individual. We are not affiliated to any political party and we are not after the satisfaction of any political ends. We are inspired to enter the trade union movement because we as patriots could not bear the idea of the toiling millions starving, suffering to such an extent. What inspired all great people to serve humanity, what inspired Vivekananda to say that "so long as there is a single dog starving in my country, I do not want Moksha", the very same feeling, the very same sentiments have inspired us to form the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and the NOBW. Therefore, we should be able to tell God in our own hearts that we have lived upto the pledge and if we will be honest to ourselves and honest to the pledge we have taken, then alone we can get recognition, the true recognition that we are seeking. When we get that recognition, that is the recognition from the God, then recognition of these transitory Ministers does not count. So true recognition we are seeking is from our own heart and from our own self. And in this direction I may assure you that we have covered a long distance during the last seventeen years.

When we formed the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh on 23rd July 1955, you may be wonder-struck to know that there was not a single registered trade union with us and not a single pie in our treasury, which did not exist. We had no activists with us, no legal adviser

with us, not a single member with us, we started from zero. The very venture appeared to most of others as phoney, since we were pitted against the authority, the power that be, the managements, the various trade union leaders who had formed a sort of vested interest in their leadership. So that when we used to start small unions as every new business man starts with a retail shop since he cannot be a wholesale dealer immediatly, we used to start small unions like the Rikshaw pullers or the shop employees. In the beginning itself, the first seven employees who used to put their signatures on the form of application for the registration of the trade union were subjected to dismissal or suspension. Then people used to come and tell us what is the use of BMS as with every union formed our people were put out of job. Instead of any gains only dismissals, suspensions and tears fell to our lot. We faced opposition from every quarter, we had to fight against heavy odds, with no one to support to us. We have traversed a long distance from this state of affairs. Today when the BMS has insisted that every Central Labour Organisation should get its membership verified, the Government should verify the membership of each central labour organisations, either recognised earlier or aspiring to be recognised in future. On the 19th of July last, the Government conveyed its decision of verification of membership of eight central labour organisation, four of which were already recognised, namely the INTUC, the AITUC, the HMS and the UTUC, and the four that were aspiring for recognition, namely the UTUC (other faction), the Bhara-

tiya Mazdoor Sangh, the CITU of the Marxists and the National Labour Organisation of Ahmedabad, the CPI led AITUC came out with a resolution that they wanted to boycott the verification of membership for which they gave some lame excuses. They wrote a letter to the Government of India a copy of which they were pleased to send to the Central Office of BMS. In that letter in the last para AITUC leaders said "after all, why should the Government want to varify the membership ? Is it not because some new Central Labour Organisations have entered the arena and they are demanding recognition?" Well the AITUC leaders said, that the Government can recognise the BMS and the CITU and in this respect the AITUC will not raise any objection. But, they requested the Government not to conduct the verification of membership. Now, this is a letter from AITUC to the Labour Ministry, from the very same AITUC which was supposed to be the monopolists of the trade union movement in the country. When this is the fate of AITUC what of the AIBEA ? It is true that the AIBEA has some hold in the Banking Industry. But we also must remember that the Banking Industry is the last strong hold of the CPI and the AITUC in the industrial field of the Country. They are concentrating so much upon the Banking Industry because in the Banking Industry the Communist Party and the AITUC will be fighting their last big battle. We have pushed them back from their stong holds such as Defence, Railways, etc. And if this last strong hold of the anti-national elements is shattered and we are able to capture, then they will be completely backed out from this land.

The worthy task of the NOBW has become more difficult because we know that even a cat when desperate tries to jump at the throat of its pursuer. In the circumstances, how do you expect our friends in the AIBEA, the AITUC and the CPI to be less self-preserving than a cat? So if a cat can become desperate and can assault the persons trying to catch it, why should not the CPI and the AIBEA become desperate, because already they are frustrated and as such they try to assault your people? So this is the last strong hold of the treacherous elements in the country. Therefore, it is true that your battle is stiff and more difficult. But, I am going to say that we have covered this much distance and we have progressed this much as BMS in spite of heavy odds. Would they try to imagine what should have been our conditions when we had no Unions?

Today atleast we get complaints that our central office has not helped them. But there was a time when no complaints were received, because there were no people to complain, there were no unions, no members, no complaints and we were all very happy. That there are complaints today against the inadequacy of the central office only suggests that we are undergoing the phase of developmental difficulties. The difficulties are there but they are difficulties not of paucity but of development. If a child grows and the mother complains that the old clothes are becoming short and new clothes are to be stitched, then the father should not say "Oh, you are putting me into difficulty." because these are the developmental difficulties. If your child does not grow, you

will not be put into these difficulties. And more than that, if you have no child, there will be no difficulty at all. So whenever there are such complaints about the lack of support from the Head Quarters, I am rather happy because it only suggests that we are developing or growing. Now from zero we have grown to the stature of seven lakhs membership. How it could happen? Is it because that our people are more intelligent and the Communists were less intelligent? On the contrary, the Communists are more shrewd than our people. We do not want our people to be shrewd. I tell you very frankly. Because those who are diplomatic with others in the initial stages, try that diplomacy against themselves at a later stage. The Indian Communists have had that experience. The Communists are more shrewd than our people. The Communists know the short cut to success. But, we don't want our people to know the short cut to success. We want our people to work honestly with full faith in the ultimate ideology, without taking any short cut, without resorting to cheap popularity, we want to take them through a long and arduous way for reaching their goal. We cant say that we are more intelligent or more shrewd than the Communists. We can't say that we had greater support than the Communists. When one world power is financing the leadership of the AIBEA, what is our condition? If our All-India General Secretary has to go from Nagpur to Delhi, he has to raise contributions by approaching four to five persons for purchasing a ticket. Regarding finances, Our condition has been the same. We are poor in finances, we are so right

from the beginning. Somebody jocularly said in Hindi about the financial condition of BMS. It is like that of a person who wants to marry the daughter of an Emperor but has no money to pay the Rikshawala who takes him to the marriage pandal. That has been the financial condition of the BMS right from the beginning. But, We are progressing against heavy odds. Communists are being supported by a foreign power. We are proud to stand on our own legs. We dont believe in what is said in the Hindi phrase "Bhai ke bharose do do lugayee." A man is having two wives both of whom are living on the strength of his brother. Depending upon the strength of Russia, we do not want to run the NOBW or the BMS. They are described as that they are patronised by Breznov. We are proud that we are patronised by ourselves and by the ideals we stand for. Therefore, we have been able to create an universe out of zero. The strength behind it is our idealism and our sincerity of purpose and not the finance or support of any party or power. It was our complete faith in the soundness of our principles, correctness of our ideals. It was our firm conviction that since our motives are clear, as we stand for national reconstruction, as we are selfless, completely devoted, dedicated soldiers of the Nation, ours is a divine mission and through thick and thin for every difficulties the God is with us. The BMS including the NOBW is a partnership firm in which major partner is God. With this firm conviction we could stand in the midst of biggest storms and cyclones when others would have crumbled down. Today we are finding

that as BMS and as NOBW we are advancing at the cost of others.

In the initial stages, I remember, in the year 1959, we just made a claim to seek All-India recognition, not because we were serious about it but because we wanted that the Government must be made to feel that something like Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh exists under the sky and upon the earth. So we said that we exist, of which you kindly take cognisance. We sent our Secretary to the Central Labour Department

to know what was the membership recorded in the name of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh in the year 1959. At that time it was 18,214. Today it is nearly seven lakhs. The Secretary, who went to take down the figures from the records of the Labour Ministry, was a bit frustrated. He said "Thengadiji, how can we hope to prosper? Others are having the membership of 20 lakhs, 17 lakhs, and so on. Their claims may be bogus as is their leadership. But, with the membership of 18 thousands, how can we hope to progress?" I told him that the membership is not only 18, 214, but it is 18,214 plus one. And that plus one is God for whose sake we have dedicated ourselves. When we started the work of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, the first member enrolled was God, whatever may be the name by which we call him. Because our motives were clear and we know that we are nation builders. I may assure you that whatever may be the present strength of your NOBW, kindly put plus one. That plus one is more powerful than all your opponents put together. We must have firm faith in ourselves, in our bonafides, in the purity of our motives, in the

divine character of our Nation and consequently the firm faith in our ultimate victory.

Victory comes to those who visualise it, long before it actually comes. People say that objective circumstances are responsible for success or defeat. This view is wrong. Success and defeat are independent of objective circumstance. Objective circumstances may conspire against you. But, if you are determined not to allow yourselves to be defeated, the circumstances will have to yield, there by you will overcome the circumstances, you will come out triumphant and the circumstances will have no other go than to surrender before you. This is the Law of Success.

When we return to our respective places from Bangalore we have to remind ourselves of the real character of ourselves as nation builders and the divine character of our ambitions, of the recognition we are out to secure which we have already secured from the God within us. We have to return from this place with the firm conviction that victory will be ours and no power on earth can stand between ourselves and the victory. In the world history there are examples when this strong determination has resulted in the ultimate victory, converted defeats into victory. Who does not know how after the miserable debacle of Dunkirk. When people of England had become frustrated and pessimistic, Winston Churchill came out with his symbolic 'V' for Victory. It is significant that after the debacle of Dunkirk, Churchill could talk of 'V' for victory and think of victory. While the people of the World

were under the impression that England is completely defeated and ruined. Churchill declared in the midst of defeats that he had constituted a committee to try the War Criminals of Germany, the Germany which was on the winning side. In the darkest hour of British history, Churchill and the people of England were confident of their ultimate victory and therefore victory was theirs. Similarly we also know on number of occasions in history, defeats were converted into victory because of the determination of the soldiers and their leaders.

Every activist of the NOBW should sit by himself each morning and each night atleast for a moment and concentrate upon his life's mission, that is NOBW and visualise, meditate upon the ultimate condition of complete victory. If every morning and every night for just one second each one of you who are sitting here, just meditate upon the ultimate position of victory for NOBW, I am confident that this mental picture of victory will enthuse you, will inspire you, will enable you to go through all the hardship and come out victorious not withstanding all the obstacles and the opposition whether from AIBEA, the Management or the Government of India. With this victory consciousness we have to return from this place.

Let us recapitulate that we have a message to give, a message of Mass Banking, a message of Labourisation, a message regarding the second and third Bipartite, all these are to be given as messages of this Conference. Let us remember that any Organisation is as great as or as small as its activists.

All of us sitting here are the activists of the NOBW. The NOBW is as great or as small as any one of the activists. Therefore, let us equip ourselves for this role of nation builders, because this is our life mission. If we have this perfect conviction that we are nation builders with a divine mission, we cannot but be victorious. Nothing can defeat us, no power on earth can defeat us. If with this conviction we depart from Bangalore, I am very sure that within the next couple of years we will have performed such an excellent part as the Nation builders, that when we meet next in the sixth biennial conference of the NOBW, we will be assembling as the victorious heroes of this Nation, who have saved this Nation from total economic and general ruin.

With this conviction, with this confidence, with this firm faith, I just say the word of departure for you. In Sanskrit they say "Subhaste Panthanaha Santhu"; In Latin they used to say "Bon Voyage"—'Let your voyage be successful'. With this last departing word "Subhaste Panthanaha Santhu", I wish you "Be Successful and Return for the Sixth Biennial Conference". I close, thank you.



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The speech delivered by Sri D. B. Thengadi, M.P. General Secretary of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh on 9th September, 1973 to the Concluding session of the Fifth Biennial Conference of the NOBW held in Bangalore.

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