PRÉCIS

Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 1975

Passage.

What virtues must we require of a man to whom we entrust directing of our affairs? Above all sense of what is possible. In politics it is useless to formulate great and noble projects if, due to the existing state of the country, they cannot be accomplished. The impulses of a free people are at times a parallelogram of forces. The great statesman realizes precisely what these forces are an says to himself without ever being seriously mistaken: "I can go just so far and no farther." He doe not allow himself to favour one class, foreseeing the inevitable reactions of the neglected groups, prudent doctor does not cure his patient of a passing complaint with a remedy that produces permanent disease of the liver, and a judicious statesman neither appeases the working class at the risk of angering the bourgeoisie, nor does he indulge the bourgeoisie at the expense of the working class. He endeavors to regard the nation as a great living body whose organs are interdependent the takes the temperature of public opinion every day, and if the fever increases he sees to it the the country rests.

Though he may fully appreciate the power of public opinion, a forceful and clever statesmarealizes that he can influence it fairly easily. He has calculated the people's power to remain different to his efforts, they have their moment of violence, and their angry protests a legitimate if the Government brings poverty on them, takes away their traditional liberty, seriously interferes with their home life. But they will allow themselves to be led by a man who knows where he is going and who shows them clearly that he has the nation's interest at heart and that they may have confidence in him.

The sense of what is possible is not only the ability to recognize that certain things are impossible a negative virtue — but also to know that, a- courageous man, things which appear to be were difficult are in fact possible. A great statesman does not say to himself: "This nation is weak," in "This nation is asleep: I shall wake it up. Laws and institutions are of the people's making, necessary, I shall -change them." But above all, the determination to do something must be followed by acts, not merely words. Mediocre politicians spend most of their time devision schemes and preaching doctrines. They talk of structural reforms; they invent faultless so a systems and formulate plans for perpetual peace. In his public speeches the true statesman know how, if necessary, to make polite bows to new theories and to pronounce ritualistic phrases for the benefit of those who guard temple gates, but he actually occupies himself by taking care of the needs of the nation. He endeavors to accomplish definite and precise objectives in ways that seed best to him. If he finds obstacles in his path, he makes detours. Vanity, intellectual pride, and feeling for system are serious handicaps to the politician. Some party leaders are ready to sacrific the country for a theory or a set of principles. The true leader says: "Let the principles go but I must save the nation."

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1975

Final Draft

Characteristics of a Great Leader

(Title with marker)

What threshold of standards a leader posses? The confidence of people in a state is obsiste due to some forces. A can identify those forces. He doesn't Pavour the eliks at the expense elaviols or vice versa. A great leader considers the nation as a body all organs perform - equal function and he doesn't allow temsions to increase within the country. Great leader has an influence on public opinion. Marses have right to prolest if government fails to deliever basic necessities, and interfere in their lives But public entrust their confidence on a leader put nations interest as his main priority Furthérmore, a courageous leader doesn't - take any task as impossible nor he a weak. He considers his nation as changes laws if necessary to make ration perform task awake. He shows will po

and not just a lip service. Unlike poli-
ticians a true leader knows about the
nation's needs and formulate plans to materialize those objectives and avoids obs
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