

SENATOR'S VOICE ABOUT
THE FISTS THE PRESIDENT HAD RAISED
AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



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By Senator Professor Khurshid Ahmad

Prof. Khurshid Ahmed of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal opened the debate with a well- prepared criticism of the man his alliance helped attain, parliamentary legitimacy less than two months ago.

He accused the president of involving military in politics and making Pakistan subservient to US policies to the extent of compromising the country's nuclear deterrent and the Kashmir cause.

However, he acknowledged achievements in the economic field such as the highest-ever foreign exchange reserves and a decrease in fiscal deficit and inflation, but pointed to an increase in poverty and unemployment that he said forced many people to commit suicide.

Prof. Khurshid suggested a nine-point remedial plan, including calls for a restoration of the "true, principles" of the Constitution within this year, revival of judiciary's prestige, a "re-examination" of foreign policy to make Pakistan independent of American policies, formulation of bipartisan national policies to defend the country's nuclear assets and its stand on Kashmir, and a "national reconciliation" that should also involve political leaders living in exile.

The plan also called for an agenda and legislative programme for parliament for the whole year, putting local bodies under provincial control rather than being an "offshoot of the presidency", across-the-board accountability by an independent organization rather than the National Accountability Bureau that "has lost its credibility", reform of the presently "lop-sided" education policy, and better healthcare.

Prof. Khurshid said he had thought Gen Musharraf would become a statesman after the 17th amendment, but "he is taking the role of a commando in parliament and politics rather than in battlefield".

He urged the government to give up the idea of reviving the National Security Council (NSC), although the MMA had agreed with the government in their deal over the LFO to create the NSC through an act of parliament rather than having it as a constitutional body.
