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My dear Masani,

Thank you for your reply dated the 6th inst

I agree with your friendly but non-committal reply to Acharya Kripalani. It is too premature and even unwise for any talk of organisational or formal unity between the democratic opposition parties with such diametrically differing and opposite policies and programmes. It may be alright for the P.S.P. and S.P. to make such efforts on such lines and even in their case, so little good has so far come out of their efforts. Indeed the loose talk and suggestions made so many Daily papers in their editorials and letter to the Editor have only served unhappy purpose of weakening the atmosphere of persistent and spiralling opposition to Congress. Shri Lohia has only placed the Coping stone and Lalbahadur is taking advantage of it.

In actual practice, we achieved so much through our work in Parliament by way of voting together on so many vital national issues, without in any way expecting any of the parties to openly changing any of their public attitudes or avow any change in their programmes or policies and we would serve the national cause more effectively by continuing to work on those lines.

I may remind you that we have founded our party because we are opposed to the kind of Socialism that Ashok Mehta, Lohia, Jawahar have begun to advocate and propagate and in pursuance of their ^{cult} ~~courts~~ of socialism, they began to challenge the peasant economy, self-employment and people's enterprise and they hailed these 5 year plans. How can we safeguard the interests of peasants, entrepreneurs and self-employed masses, if we offer to join hands with the P.S.P. and S.P. who took pleasure in shouting at my opposition to the Nehru-type of planning as "Lone Voice in Parliament". We have also to remember that Jaiprakashjee's Sarvodaya Philosophy is ^a ~~totally~~ opposed to our Swatantra philosophy, even though we have great personal respect and affection for him.

There is much in common between us and the Jan Sangh because their economic approaches are so much like our own Socio-economic philosophy and they too believe sincerely in peoples enterprise and peasant proprietorship and are opposed to Nehru's planning and policy of nationalisation. Both of us are opposed to controlled economy,

whereas to S.P. and P.S.P. it is their very life-breath. Yet this language and Pakistan issues keep us apart.

Let us also remember that as things stand today in Parliament, ours is the single largest Democratic opposition party, with nearly 50 per cent of all the organised Democratic opposition strength and we would only be weakening the Democratic Swatantra cause by being swept off our feet by these impractical and unhelpful moves. Lohia has given a foretaste of what is to come from his Group and we will have to exercise all our statesmanship to see that Parliamentarism is not discredited, while the Congress is kept under effective control and what is of equal importance, our philosophy is eloquently expounded and propagated through our work in Parliament.

The most unfortunate thing is that his Language issue, which so much surcharged with emotions and irrational jingoistic momentum from the Northern States threatens to break up the growing sense of unity and comradeship in our party.

The 17th~~th~~ Amendment to the Constitution, which threatens the very stability of peasant proprietorship and which seeks to equate Ryotwari holding (however petty) with the "Estate" of former Zamindars and Inamdars, is coming up before the next session and we have to develop nation-wide campaign from the Kisan Sammelan and ^{our} Party platforms against this insidious move to destroy the property of crores of peasants of Madras, Andhra, Kerala, Mysore, Maharashtra, Punjab, Guzerat and Orissa, i.e. wherever the Ryotwari system prevails. We have to try and obtain the cooperation of Kriplanijee S.P. and P.S.P. to co-operate with us (S.P. & J.S.) in fighting this Bill.

Yours affectionately,

