

Prof. N.G. Ranga,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(LOK SABHA)



44-Western Court,
New Delhi.

January 23, 1963.

My dear Rajaji,

I am sorry to find that you do not appreciate the exact position obtaining in Parliament. For the first time on such an important issue Nehru is unable to get a decision in Parliament in favour of his acceptance of the Colombo proposals. It is not he who has manouvered this. So many patriotic Congressmen, who resent these proposals, as we do - who are in their Executive, Cabinet, Ministries - ~~pressed~~ urged on him that it would be most unwise to divide Parliament on this issue and thus spoil the atmosphere of unity created by November 14th unanimous resolution. So they have persuaded him that if he would not try to get merely a majority vote the Opposition Parties might also not come to press for a vote. In that way the Congress Party have decided not to ask for a vote favouring the proposals.

From our side we thought that by getting this question talked out without any vote in favour of Government we would be able to demonstrate that Parliament fails to give a positive support to his stand, ^{and Nehru would be} ~~Nehru is~~ unable to get his acceptance endorsed by Parliament, ~~and not even his Party.~~ The fate of the final shape of these proposals would become uncertain and therefore the Western nations might feel a little more confident in Parliament's capacity to maintain a state of belligerency against China.

Our own Members are not all so well knit together that I could feel confident to ~~this~~ agreeing to walk out



or even standing firmly for voting by ourselves when all other Opposition Groups are willing to take a softer line. They might possibly agree but I could not feel quite confident. When therefore the other Parties, possibly having their own similar difficulties, were ready to get the motion talked out. I did not wish to oppose it especially as I was convinced that such a procedure would be advantageous to the Opposition at this juncture. The most important thing, according to me, is to prevent the P.M. to get the positive vote in favour of his acceptance of the proposals and that we have achieved. You will find from tomorrow's Press reports how strongly I opposed these Colombo proposals. In fact Dhebar said that Prof. Ranga has rejected them totally and he would be accepting them totally. Tomorrow Shri P.K. Dēo would also demand their total rejection. In fact all Opposition Party leaders are taking the same strong stand against them excepting, of course, the Communists and their fellow travellers.

Shri ^{Mr.} Swami has phoned to me twice and explained to me your point of view. I am thankful to you for taking all these troubles. I am sorry I am obliged to follow this different line of action intended to promote the objects of our Madras resolution. I have consulted the Party twice and told them about the advices I have received from you and Mr. Masani. I have tried my best to wriggle out of the commitments we made with Jan Sangh and P.S.P.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(LOK SABHA)



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but could not succeed. I have thought of moving our own independent amendment and consulted our friends also but ultimately we decided not to break the tenuous understanding that we are developing with the other Groups. The most important consideration is that Government is not asking the Parliament ~~of the acceptance of~~ the Colombo proposals and Parliament will be free to decide as it likes if and when its verdict is sought.

Yours affectionately

Shri C. Rajagopalachari,
c/o Kalki,
Kalpauk,
MADRAS CITY.