

L/9/72, Tilaknagar
Bombay 400 089.

April 27, 1977

PERSONAL

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Dear Bhanubabu,

Thank you for your letter. The wrong address explains the absence of a reply from you. You must have read in the papers (and the news was also announced over the radio and TV) of the decision of the Swatantra Party to merge with the Janata Party. Subsequently a telegram was sent to you from Madras by Mr. G.K. Sundaram immediately after the meeting of the National Executive. Similarly a letter and telegram was also sent to you from Bombay by Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal President of our Party in Bombay. Such telegrams and letters were also sent from Madras to Mr. Morarji Desai and Mr. P. Ramachandran and from Bombay to Mr. Asoka Mehta and Mr. Nanaji Deshmukh. To none of these did we have the courtesy of even a formal acknowledgement. I feel very bitter about this because if the Swatantra Party decided to continue after 1974 the decision was based on a principle of morality (the entire 1974 convention was rigged) and on the premise that the BLD as then constituted was not a national alternative. Mr. Masani said in his speech at the convention that when Jayaprakash Narayan would give the appropriate call we could then respond. I can realise what is happening at your end. Mr. Piloo Mody whose ego has been hurt must have insisted that we do not exist, and therefore how can a Party that "does not exist merge." He may think what he likes but the Party kept the flag flying. I feel sad that even an old friend like you has not apparently understood.

Regarding my own attitude to the Janata Party though it hardly matters, I am still not certain that I should join. If I have kept an open mind it is only because Mr. H.M. Patel advises that I should join the party. My doubts are strengthened by the "cold-shouldering" of a group of honest and dedicated men whose only desire was to see that a Party founded by Giants like Rajaji and Masani was not destroyed by pigmies who unfortunately gained control of the Party.

It is a pity that a number of our members who wanted to attend the May 1st Convention will not be going to Delhi as we in the Swatantra Party have always held honour to be most important and would not wish to be unwited guests.

I pray for the success of your Convention.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(S. V. Raju)

Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh
Janata Party
206, Vithalbhai Patel House
New Delhi.

P.S. As this letter was being typed we have received a letter from Mr. Asoka Mehta inviting us to send our "representatives". How can we do so now with only 3 days to go?