

Balraj Madhok

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Ref. No.....

Dated....19...8...2...

Dear Shri Raju

(138)

I have
been getting Raja ji news letters
off & on. I appreciate your
efforts to propagate Raja ji's
thoughts & ideals.

The need of a
nationalist party combining
the best ~~off~~ features of
Swatantra party & Jan Sangh
is greater today than ever before.
Raja ji suggested the name
"Swatantra Jan Sangh" for
such a party when he met
the leaders of Swatantra party

4 Jan Sangh at New Delhi
24,
in 1963.

The enclosed comment
on the spirit of holi dal
& its implications refers to
it. You may use it
in whatever way you like.

With best wishes,

Yours S. V.
Bal Raj Mehta

Shri S. V. Mehta

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BREAK UP OF LOK DAL
Will there be new positive alignments?

Prof. Bal Raj Madhok

The split in Lok Dal following the exit of its socialist constituents is another step towards re-emergence of the pre-1974 political picture of India. Charan Singh led Lok Dal can be now well described as B.K.D and the new Lok Dal led by Vapurji Thakur is nothing more than the old socialist party of Dr. Lohia.

In a way this is a welcome development. The experiment in negative grouping of parties and elements lacking common ideals and ideology for quick power in the name of non-congressism has failed once again. It is, however, too early to say whether leaders who refused to learn from the failure of S.V.D. experiment of 1967 have become wiser by the failure of Janata party in 1980 and Lok Dal now. May be the truth will dawn on them when B.J.P. also goes the Lok Dal way. That may pave the way for a positive re-grouping of political elements and parties on the basis of distinct and distinguishable ideology, programme and policies.

There are two hurdles in the way of new alignments on ideological basis. The first is the cynical belief that Indian electorate is moved more by caste, communal and monetary considerations than ideology. This is partly true. Its main reason is absence of thought orientation among the leaders who prefer politics of convenience to politics of principles. Such leaders have vitiated the political atmosphere and confused people. The Indian electorate is amenable to ideological appeal. This was made clear by the general election of 1967 when the Jan Sangh-Swatantra party combine with a clear cut ideological appeal captured about 100 seats in Lok Sabha.

The second hurdle is the R.S.S. which has become a force to reckon with in Indian politics. R.S.S. leadership being control oriented and not thought oriented has encouraged unprincipled and opportunistic alliances and groupings provided it can maintain its control over such a grouping. But there is one hopeful sign. A section of R.S.S. leadership has begun to realise that physical control without ideological and moral influence cannot last longer. That explains its growing disenchantment with Atal Behari Vajpayee whom it had been projecting for the last 15 years as the prospective Prime Minister of India. Vajpayee with his flexible conscience and disdain for moral values and scruples was able to befool R.S.S. leadership all these years. R.S.S. sacrificed its ideological and moral influence on the Jan Sangh and allowed Vajpayee to scuttle it from within in the hope that he will remain within its control. That hope has now been belied. As a result R.S.S. is finding itself in an unenviable position in which it has neither any ideological and moral influence over B.J.P. nor any physical control over its leadership. As a result some kind of re-thinking has begun in R.S.S. circles. It is bound to have its impact on B.J.P. sooner or later.

Developing situation in and around India has made the re-emergence of a Hindu oriented, nationalist party committed to positive concept, of "Jan Kalyanwad" and "Sarva Dharma-Panth Sam Bhav" as distinct from negative concepts of Socialism and secularism

an imperative necessity. A party like Jan Sangh is needed more to-day than ever before. B.J.P. has been capitalising on the goodwill of Jan-Sangh even after giving up Jan Sangh name, flag and ideology because of the total allignment of R.S.S. with it. But this cannot go on for long unless B.J.P. consciously comes back to the Jan Sangh line. The revived Jan Sangh will hasten this process. B.J.P. will have to become Jan Sangh or it will break.

Re-thinking has begun in some of the erstwhile Swatantra party people also. There is growing realisation that India needs a broad based nationalist and non-socialist party like the Swatantra Jan-Sangh as visualised by late Raja ji and the Christian Democratic parties of the west. Such a party drawing inspiration from Sardar Patel, Raja ji and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee can become a real national alternative to Indira Congress. Gandhi ji has become a common milch cow of all parties. Sardar Patel reflected Gandhi ji's thinking as well. Otherwise Marxists with the help of their Trojan horses in other parties will become the only alternative. That would sound the death knell not only of democracy but also of the values for which India has stood all through the ages.

Time has therefore come when genuine Jan-Sangh and Swatantrites who are now scattered in different parties should be-stir themselves. All Jan Sanghs drawing inspiration from Dr. Mukerji and Dr. Hedgewar should come on one platform as a first step. Similarly Swatantrites should re-group themselves wherever possible. In States like Gujrat, Swatantra Jan Sangh ~~be~~ formed out right. That would give the lead to the rest of the country.

Ch. Charan Singh is ideologically close to Jan Sangh and Swatantra party. In fact all the preliminaries for unification of Jan-Sangh, Swatantra party and B.K.D. on the basis of common programme were completed in 1969, before that move was sabotaged by Mr. Vajpayee. Lok Dal rump of Charan Singh may therefore gravitate towards "Swatantra-Jan Sangh" or whatever new name is given to the unified nationalist alternative as and when it is formed.

A re-allignment of the political forces on the lines suggested above can give a new positive turn to national politics. In that case the current disintegration of different political conglomerations like Lok Dal may prove a blessing in disguise.

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