

Gist of complain lodged by Sosan Panday at Palton Road, Police Station,
on September 17, 1984.

Complain No. N.C.1934/84

I am the proprietor of The White Star and a ^{Sub} joint tenent with the Swatantra Party,
of the premises on the 1st Floor, 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road.

These premises are divided into two sections, with each section having its separate entrance. The partition is formed by doors and pillars running vertically between the two sections. The doors are kept closed. I have keys of both the main entrances of the two sections, as the White Star has premises on both sides of the partition. In one section I have a room which had my lock on it, and the other section has the White Star cabin, which also bears my lock and some outer space adjutant to the cabin. ?

Mr. Ratansinh Rajda, M.P. had been jointly using with me and Mr. Vedprakash Bhatia, a portion of one section of the premises. All three of us had a separate key to the main entrance of this section.

Mr. Ratansinh Rajda M.P. used a cabin while I had my lock on a door of a room in this section of the premises. Mr. Bhatia, an old Swatantra Party man had the keys because of steel furniture, wall cupboards, I believe containing the Swatantra Party material is still there.

I used the White Star room to keep old files, unwanted furniture etc.

After an absence of about 6 weeks when I returned to work I found that my key would not unlock the front door, of the premises which as used by Rajda, Vedprakash and myself. Subsequently the door was ajar and I was taken aback to see that Rajda had broken and shifted the cabin used by him on to the wall of the White Star room, and had built it ~~on~~ surrounding the door of the room, thus stopping my direct access to this room. Now I can only enter through this new construction, if I should be able to enter the premises at all.

Mr. Rajda after changing the main entrance door lock has not given Mr. Bhatia or me the keys.

I have written this gist from memory.

Correction:

It has been brought to my notice that there are a few irregularities in the above statement.

1. I am told that, I am not a joint tenent, but a sub-tenet of the Swatantra Party. ✓
2. I seem to have given the impression that the entire premises on either side of the partition belongs to the White Star. That is not so. Only the room bearing my lock, the portion of the premises which were used by Rajda, Bhatia and myself and a ~~small~~ cabin bearing my lock on its door, and space adjacent to it belong to the White Star. ?
3. Mr. Vedprakash Bhatia, I believe, looks after the premises and had the keys, as the Executive Secretary of the Bharitya Lok Dal.

Mrs. Sosan Panday,
Hampton Court, 7th floor,
125, Wodehouse Road,
Colaba, Bombay. 400 005

October, 12th 1984.

To,
Dr. G. G. Parikh,
President,
Janata Party of Bombay.

Dear Dr. Parikh,

Attached to this letter is a gist of a complaint, I have had to lodge at the Palton Road, Police Station, on September 17, 1984. The complaint is self explanatory. Nevertheless I would like to write to you in detail as to the turn of events that led to this complaint.

I am the Proprietor of the journal 'The White Star', and the office of this publication has been paying rent to the Swatantra Party - the main tenants of 1st floor, 143 Mahatma Gandhi Road, since 1964. To understand the composition of the office, please refer to my police complain, which is attached herewith.

After discovering what Rajda was upto, I took another 10 or so odd days to lodge the complaint. This was because after a lapse of about 6 weeks, when I returned to the office on perhaps September 5 or 6, and failed to unlock the main door of the section of the office which was in use by Rajda, Vedprakash Bhatia and myself, and subsequently realised that he had broken and shifted the cabin, on the same day I ran into Rajda, at the office near the staircase and he said that he would explain the whole position. That very night he rang me up at home, and it was decided that we should meet for lunch at the Taj Hotel. We met at the Sea Lounge and then went on to the Golden Dragon. Rajda had brought Jamnadas Popat also with him. Mr. Popat, is the gentleman who, I think, owns the medical store at the Bhatia Hospital where one of Rajda's brother works, and in which Rajda too enjoys a percentage. Mr. Popat signed on the Taj Credit Card and paid the bill.

During the lunch, Rajda explained, that he had to change the lock as it seems that Vedprakash Bhatia, who works at Ballard Estate, on being informed about the breakage of the cabin came to 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, and stopped the labour from working on the new cabin and locked them out. As for shifting the cabin to the end of the wall which had the door to my room, Rajda said, that as I was using the room so sparingly and kept it mainly for old files, and unwanted furniture, he thought he would use it as his luncheon and siesta room. He said he ment to speak to me on this matter but as he himself had just returned from U.S.A. and Mexico, and I too was not coming to office regularly, this change had taken place without my knowledge. He agreed to let me have the main door key again, and suggested that we share this room. He also said that I could enter this room anytime I wished. I refused both the suggestions completely and insisted that Rajda, demolish the cabin and leave me my direct access to the room door. At this point, Rajda tapped Jamnadas on the shoulder and told him that immediately after lunch when they return to 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, they should instruct the labour to shift the cabin back to its original position. We were at the Taj from practically 1.30 p.m to 4 p.m. and the rest of the talk after this initial conversation was about Rajda telling me what a wonderful person I was, and, though I may not consider it important, he knew my contribution to nursing non-negotiable votes in parts of his constituency, South Bombay. (I have been a volunteer in both of the elections, 1977 and 1979-1980).

After lunch, Rajda, asked me to give him a letter, as the Proprietor of the White Star, stating that he was part of the White Star Establishment. This I refused, and try as hard as he did, when he realised I was adamant, he said he wanted a few days to work out certain matters, and that I should hold my peace till he returned from Delhi, for where he said he was leaving the next day.

cont..2

He said he would personally like to supervise the rebuilding of the cabin away, from the door to the White Star Room. He said that his workers in their "over-enthusiasm" often did things "beyond what they were asked to do". He seems also totally sincere, and the request so reasonable, that I readily agreed. He also requested, that, if I found anything amiss I should not question any of his workers, or lose my temper with them. He explained its futility and that too sounded reasonable and I agreed. I think after a day or two after our luncheon meeting, I saw large sheets of plywood in the passage, outside his section of the office - we use this passage to go to our toilet - and I was really happy, for I took it for granted that the sheets had been brought to rebuild the cabin again, in its original position. For the next one or two days, the main door of this section was kept closed while the labour was working inside. I could hear the sewing of wood. On September, 16, great was my surprise when on hearing loud hammering, from where I was working in my cabin ~~the~~ in the other section, and going over to the otherside, I discovered that plywood was being fixed over the ventilation on the main door of the section used by Rajda, and, on the opaque glass frames, which faced our toilet, I knocked at the door which was opened and I was told by one of his men that "Rajda Saheb had said that no one was to be allowed to enter into his office". While the door was held ajar from what little I could see, Rajda had used the time he had asked from me, to complete the cabin and to fortify the office. At the Taj I had mentioned to him that I would seek an injunction, if matters were not back to their original position. Where Rajda is concerned, I do not know where to draw the line, the man is so totally dishonest and devoid of integrity.

Ratansinh Rajda, M.P. is a guest user of this office. A letter to him by the late Piloo Mody M.P. who had been the President of the Swatantra Party, before it merged with the BLD which in turn merged with the Janata Party, gave Rajda a letter stating that Rajda, or rather the "M.P. of Bombay South" could use this cabin for his constituency work (The original cabin). I was sent a copy of this letter which I have misplaced or lost. Nevertheless I have a copy of another letter dated October 18, 1977, in which the issue of Rajda and rent is referred to and which proves that he is a guest on these floors.

Rajda had begun to have friends and relatives occupying the premises out-side the cabin and I did bring this to Piloo Mody's notice. Apart from making a din, if they got into my way, there was precious little I could do, as they were not occupying the White Star premises.

In this section I have a right only to the room which is now surrounded by the new cabin, in which, Rajda I believe has begun to sit. I have not been able to get anywhere near ~~the~~ room, hence I do not know what has become of my files, etc., I have seen some of the furniture of this room thrown out in the passage leading to the toilet.

In the last General Election, I had opened up this room, and brought a carpet from my house, and three or four of us, used to sit on the floor, to write, if necessary, and sort out Rajda's Election Cards etc. I and a youngman, whose name escapes me, but who I think was connected with the Janata Youth Movement, used to sometime work till the early hours of the morning after which we would distribute the cards to the various sub-Divisions. This youngman would then drop me home, and then go home himself. It was possible for me to work late, thanks to this youngman's courteous care.

After the elections were over, Rajda, had requested to me, that, this room be left open for his afternoon lunch and siesta, and after much growling, between the two of us, the room was emptied. I removed my carpet and the room was relocated. If my memory does not fail me, Mr. Mohanlal Parikh, an elderly gentleman, I think of the old Congress O. used to visit this office quite frequently and he had also commented to me, that instead of locking this space up I should turn it into a place for some creative activity, like a sewing class or something else of commercial value to the class of working women.

Nevertheless I locked the room and the keys have remained with me.

As, far as the original position of the Cabin, is concerned, I will call on the integrity of all those citizens of Bombay and from elsewhere, who have called on Rajda at this office to state their observance.

You could perhaps start with asking your own Party members, and associates as to, in what position they had seen this cabin.

Apart from all else, it has taken me time to accept that a man, who till yesterday had been a friend, not only of mine, but also of the family, should be so devoid of human decency. In perhaps the winter of 1980 or 1981, I spent a most happy week with the Rajda family in Delhi. Quite frankly for me this had been a very bitter experience.

Dr. Parikh, I request you with all the sincerity at my command, to probe into this issue, with all avenues open to you. I am prepared to answer all questions, whenever called upon. If compelled, I will write to the Speaker at Delhi, other men of Public repute, and hit the Press. Please do not take this as a threat, at the moment, this letter is an appeal, but let me assure you that I am prepared to fight every inch of the way. I earnestly appeal to you, and other leaders of the Janata party, to give a serious thought before giving Rajda a ticket for the next general Election. Let not corruption and lack of integrity, merely, be a vice in other political parties for the Janata Party Leaders to criticise loud and long and tied over in their own. Permit those Indian citizens who wish to respect the Janata Party to continue to do so.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

S. Panday
Sosan Panday.

- Enclosed:
1. Sheet showing diagram of premises, (not drawn to scale)
 2. Photographs of ~~off~~ the interior of the office of Rajda Section, showing incomplete construction work.
 3. Other miscellaneous photographs.