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Letter dated 24.8.1974 to Shri Pileo Mody, President.

I am sorry to inform you that it is not possible for me to attend the National Executive meeting on 28th August as I have some important cases before the Revenue Board on 20th and 31st for hearing and so I beg to be excused for my absence.

I would like to make my stand clear once again so that I may not be misunderstood.

Multiplicity of parties is certainly not helpful for healthy growth of democracy and efforts at any time to reduce number of parties by reasonable and proper realignment are welcome. But there is a procedure for everything. Some regard procedure as more or less a ritual but I am unable to agree with them. Minor details in the procedure at times may be regarded as not very material but gross disregard of the procedure is always the root cause of deterioration and degeneration in an organisation. Procedure is not mere formality but an accepted code of conduct and manner of manifestation of the substance in harmonious manner. Disregard of it is only disregard of democracy.

In the absence of any provision for dissolution of the Swatantra party in its constitution no proposal to that effect is competent or effective without amendment of the Constitution first.

I have already protested that there was no election of delegation in Orissa as required under our party Constitution and as such those who attended from Orissa could not claim to be delegates and were not competent to speak as such.

But, even if they had been elected the proposal for dissolution or authorising you to achieve it were incompetent and ineffective in the eyes of law.

Politically also I have not been able to understand the undue haste for dissolution. Going through the agenda I had formed an impression that a subsequent date will be fixed for dissolution and I thought there can be some scope to take into consideration the points of illegalities I have mentioned. But, after talking with Sri Ghasiram Majhi it is now clear that the dissolution will be announced during this meeting of the National executive. I must tell you again that it will be illegal and ineffective and complicating matters only.

Dissolution is ~~not~~ always a subsequent affair and should take its own time. It is necessary to follow this course, because future developments may make it clear that dissolution may not be wise or necessary. Without dissolution of a party also there can be united and concerted action. Considering the nature of the National Alternative you are bringing up and the nature of our party - the Swatantra party - it is wholly inadvisable to think about its dissolution - atleast at this stage. It has been difficult for me to reconcile to the idea of dissolution.

A few words regarding Orissa, I have already told you in the past about undemocratic attitude and conduct of our leaders here. I would have been happy if there had been a probe. But it seems, you had all along simply not trusted me and depended on the leaders whatever may be their conduct. A mere change of the label to Bharatiya Lok Dal will not reform ~~xxx~~ them and I do not see any future of the party under their domination.

So, in conclusion, I would like to tell you and through you my friends in the National Executive that I stay on as Swatantrite and will watch with interest the course the Bharatiya Lok Dal will follow.

With my profound regard for you and my honourable friends in the National Executive.