

Very Urgent  
for Shri S.V. Raju

423, Budhwar Peth,

POONA. 2.

18th August 1974

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Dear Shri Raju,

I was to come to Bombay yesterday for attending the Executive Committee Meeting of the Maharashtra State Party. I was, however, unable to come, due to some serious domestic difficulty. As I could not meet you, I am writing this letter. Please consider what I am suggesting and take very urgent action. I am very much anxious that the Party must continue to exist.

Chaman Singh is holding the national convention of the BKD on 27th and 28th August. I fear Shri Piloo Mody will be able to announce the dissolution of our Party on 29th August. We must act well before that.

At Delhi, Shri Masani announced that five state Units of the Party had decided to continue to function. I do not know what further steps you have taken for the <sup>ensured</sup> continuation of the two Units of Haryana and Kerala. I hope you have done something in this regard.

On 7th August, I had spoken to you on phone at Bombay, regarding the election symbol and the nature of action which could be taken by Tamil Nadu Unit in this regard. Has it been done?

Now, urgently or almost immediately, Shri Parmanand Kejriwal can issue a letter to all the members of the General Council of the Party on the following lines. I am just suggesting this. Shri Kejriwal and Shri Girish Munshi, <sup>and</sup> yourself must decide very urgently about this, in consultation with Shri Masani.

I have got some very serious domestic difficulty and I am quite disturbed on account of

that difficulty. Due to this disturbed state of mind, I am not able to write in a better way. I am, however, sure that you ~~can~~ will appreciate the following points, which I am suggesting for a letter to be issued to ~~the~~ all the members of the General Council of the Party. I strongly feel that Shri Parmanand Kejriwal is best suited to issue such a letter, making the following points-

(1) The Delhi convention of the Party was held with a deliberate tampering of the Party Constitution and with complete disregard for the specific provisions regarding the number of delegates from various States.

(2) The usual <sup>programme</sup> ~~practice~~ of holding a General Council Meeting before the National Convention was ~~also~~ deliberately dropped, because it was not possible to tamper with the membership of the duly and constitutionally elected General Council.

(3) Malpractices of ~~using~~ <sup>utilising</sup> money-power, intimidation and pressure tactics were used for securing a majority in favour of the dissolution of the Party. Physical assault was the worst ~~part~~ <sup>part of the scheme</sup> of the ~~straightforward~~ <sup>straightforward</sup>.

(4) The most <sup>honourable</sup> ~~straightforward~~, clean and honest way ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> of resigning from the Party and joining the proposed new party was available to those who had no faith in the future <sup>role</sup> of the Swatantra Party. They had no business to get this Party dissolved. Their resignations could not be called "defections", as Shri Piloo Mehta stated at the fag-end of the Convention. It is a split.

(5) Under all the malpractices, the dissolution has been agreed to by a majority of the delegates in the Convention.

(6) Delegates from some of the States were not properly elected as per the provisions of the Party Constitution.

(7) In spite of the resolution of the Delhi

Convention, five State Units have declared their intention of carrying on as the Swatantra Party.

(8) Those who have decided to join the proposed new party have no moral right to say that others in the Swatantra Party must not use the word "Swatantra".

(9) In fact, the five state Units do continue to exist and function as <sup>the</sup> Swatantra Party.

(10) In such an unprecedented situation, it is the moral duty of <sup>those who believe in</sup> ~~the~~ ~~beliefs~~ of the Swatantra Party Philosophy, that they must take a bold action.

(11) Members of the General Council are bearing this responsibility and duty in the highest degree.

(12) I (Parmanand Kejriwal, Vice-President of the Maharashtra State Swatantra Party), moved a resolution for the continued existence of the Swatantra Party, when the Convention was held at Delhi.

(13) I (Parmanand...) appeal to those members of the General Council of the Party who wish the Party to ~~contin~~ continue.

(14) My appeal is that such members may please communicate their wish to me.

(15) I have nothing to say about those of the General Council Members who have decided to join the proposed new party.

(16) I sincerely hope that at least some members of the General Council from other State Units, ~~besides those from~~ ~~besides those from~~ Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, will decide personally and individually in favour of <sup>functioning for</sup> the continued existence of the Swatantra Party.

(17) On receiving such communications from the members, the Maharashtra State Unit of the Party will arrange their meeting at Bombay.

(18) This meeting will elect Office-bearers and Executive Committee for the Party at the national level.

(19) This newly constituted national executive can ~~take~~ undertake sincere ~~and~~ efforts for the growth of the Party in all the parts of the country. ....

(20) This is the moral duty of the followers of Rajaji.

A letter on the above lines is necessary to be issued immediately. Under any circumstances, it must reach the members well before 27th August.

Please consider the above proposal and take necessary action urgently. I am very sorry that I could not come to Bombay yesterday, when I could have spoken to you personally.

Please excuse me for the way in which I have written this letter. Haste, and disturbed state of mind have caused this letter to be somewhat ~~un~~ like a <sup>rough</sup> ~~rough~~ work.

With regards,

yours sincerely,

Sumatilal P. Shetye