

S. V. RAJU

14/9/72, Tilaknagar
Bombay 89.

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I just had occasion to see from a member of the National Executive resident in Bombay a circular seeking your approval to a proposal regarding the delegates' quota for the forthcoming National Convention in August.

As you are aware, I have organised for the Party five National Conventions and in all these conventions the delegates' quota was based on the premise that as many delegates as possible should have an opportunity to attend. We had therefore kept the ceiling low which generally used to be 1 for 10 with a maximum of 200. The ceiling was meant to prevent any one State from dominating the Convention. Now the National Headquarters has suggested a strength of 1 for 100 without an upper ceiling, the reason being given that we would not be meeting in a shamiana and a Hall would not accommodate a large number and hence the total strength of delegates should be limited.

This argument is really untenable. Of the five Conventions the Convention in Bangalore in 1964 and the Convention in Delhi in 1966 (when the Party was at its peak) were held in halls. As a matter of fact the 1966 Convention was held at Sapru House (where it is proposed to hold the next one) and accommodated as many as 642 delegates.

The total number of delegates even if the ratio of 1 to 10 with a ceiling of 200 is accepted would surely be accommodated in the hall at Sapru House. Surely we don't expect more delegates attending this time than in 1966 when the Convention met on the eve of the general elections of 1967.

Frankly the whole attempt appears to me to be to ensure dissolution with the help of a massive influx of delegates from U.P. (A perusal of the Statewise strength of delegates as proposed in the circular would bear this out). As a member of the Party and one who has had and continues to have unshaking loyalty to what the Party stands for, may I please request you not to approve the recommendation of the National Headquarters but to insist that the quota of delegates should remain the same as was adopted for the 1973 Convention held in Madras viz. 1 for 10 with a maximum of 200.

I do hope you will give this letter your serious consideration.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(S. V. Raju)