

PREPARATORY MEETING TO CONSIDER REVIVAL OF

SWATANTRA PARTY.

4. V. S. Murthy Sr.
Swatantra
Madras, 15

29 ..8..1981.

Dear Friend,

May we recall to you that a meeting of Rajaji's followers was held in August last at Srinivasa Sastri Hall, Madras, to consider revival of Swatantra Party. You may remember that most of those who attended the meeting, including many - friends from various districts of Tamil Nadu, were of the opinion that there was an urgent need for the revival of - Swatantra Party. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, our chief guest on the occasion said that he would consult the like-minded friends in other states and a decision may be taken there - after.

It is time we take stock of the situation and do what the situation demands.

Shri Masani used to say that formation of Swatantra Party was the greatest event in India after Independence. It was a turning point in our public life. When the flame of freedom was nearly extinguished under the tick fog of Statism, Rajaji rekindled it in the hearts of our people. We had a Party oriented towards principles and policies that were in tune with our national genius and ethos. We provided the nation with a right alternative which caught the imagination of the Public. Informed national debates on vital issues concerning the nation took the place of meaningless slogans and socialistic misadventurism was squarely opposed by patriotism, thought and wisdom.

After Rajaji the Party had a severe set back and it merged with Janata Party in 1977.

We are now where we were in 1959. The ship of the State is drifting dangerously towards authoritarianism unchallenged. The atmosphere is sickening with personalised politics steeped

in corruption. Nation's economy is in shambles. A new sad dimension is the emergence of communal and caste conflicts.

Can we, who have served under Rajaji's leadership afford to remain passive or indifferent? We know that only Swatantra policies will bring prosperity and happiness to our people. Then is it not our duty to spread the message of Swatantra Party as earnestly as we can? Fortunately we have in ^{our} midst some nationalists with great mind and heart who had been close to Rajaji and who can guide the affairs of the nation on proper lines. A few years hence we may not have anybody to care for the country.

While we would get in touch with likeminded elders in Tamil nadu and elsewhere making appeals to them seeking their guidance and involvement in this effort we are arranging a meeting of those who ardently feel the necessity for reviving Swatantra Party. The meeting will be held on ^{20th} ~~6th~~ September 1981 (Venue will be intimated later). The meeting will make an assessment of the situation and take preparatory steps to continue the efforts for holding a national level preparatory meeting to formally revive Swatantra Party.

The finest hour in Rajaji's life was not when he was the Governor-General of India, but when he launched Swatantra Party against heavy odds at the age of 80 in response to the call of his conscience. On our part let us try to prove worthy of our Master in taking up this challenging task in prayerful humility hoping that the cause will find the leadership it deserves.

We earnestly request you to participate in the meeting without fail and make it a success. Before that please write to us what you feel in this regard along with your suggestions and ideas.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Mishra

Bro. A. B. B. B.

J. Ramabhadran
J. RAMABHADRAN