

June 19, 1959.

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My dear Shri Rajaji,

We know each other very well as I am one of the oldest Congressmen who worked and suffered for the Independence of ^{the} country since October 1905 i.e. after the advent of Swadeshi Movement. It is no use giving the details of my sufferings because they are embodied in the Pictorial Record of my life and work, edited by my dear friend Dr. Lanka Sundaram, M.A., Ph. D. (Lond.), Editor of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi, who was also a member of Parliament for five years. Among the members of the accountancy profession in India, I am the only one, who attained international position on account of my work, learning and knowledge and am mainly responsible for the political awakening of the sikhs as a founder of Sikh League.

After partition, I migrated from Lahore to this place and has held and am still holding important position in the Public Life of the country and this you will observe from the Photographs in the said book. You also appear as Governor General of India and Governor of Bengal in Photos on pages 17, 49, 82, 87 and 89.

As a student of economics, I played an important part in the solution of the food problem of Punjab and in the organisation of Co-operative Societies in Punjab during the time of British Rule. I was also a member of the Price Control Board and to a great extent the problem was solved by Late Sir J.P. Srivastva in the time of British Rule and Late Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai in our own regime solved this problem with my consultation. Now Shri Ajit Prasad Jain who was an ordinary legal practitioner at Saharanpur got into the Cabinet, as he belonged to Rafi Ahmed Kidwai's Party and has proved an utter failure as a Food Minister, but Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru is enamoured of him that he does not dismiss him for his inefficiency. It may be due to the fact that he is playing an instrument for

his communist ideology of 'Co-operative Farming and of 'Food Grains Corporation'.

I am against co-operative farming as being a member of the agricultural tribe and therefore I fully realise the implications of this scheme which will create an anarchy in the country. But Jawahar Lal on account of the present congress majority in legislatures has become an autocrat and dictator, although he harps on democracy. He has the audacity of telling the congressmen, who do not agree with his views, to resign. It means that everyone should blindly follow him. I enclose herewith two draft copies of my notes on Food Problem and co-operative farming so that you may know my views.

Not enclosed with this letter.

I may mention, I was the first man in India, who wrote the paper on Economic Planning of India which I read at the session of the Indian Economic Conference held at Patna University in December 1934 under the presidency of Late Sir Manohar Lal, a great economist and then Finance Minister of Punjab. I also wrote amongst many others paper on the Economic Development of Punjab at the instance of Late Sir Sik²ander Hayat Khan and read the same before a gathering of Economists and Government Officials at the meeting held at the Y.M.C.A. in 1939 under the presidency of Dr. B.K.Madan, now Economic Advisor to the Reserve Bank of India. Under the present regime of Pt. Nehru, my knowledge has become stale and Pt. Nehru who has no idea of the actual working of the Co-operative Farming is propounding the theory because he is led by certain class of people who wish to gain position by introducing this stunt like the stunt of Public Sector in which crores of borrowed money

has been lost through mismanagement.

You are aware of this fact that businessmen and industrialists of India have been contributing liberally to the Congress Exchequer for fighting against the British Imperialism and now those very industrialists have become a thorn in his eyes. Why? In my opinion this is due to the fact that Officers of the Government of India wanted to find out cushy jobs for themselves in these concerns, after or on the eve of retirement. Large number of these officers who have no business experience have got appointments in the companies of Public Sector. These companies are now being mismanaged by these officers for want of experience, such as the Hindustan Steel Company and the National Coal Development Corporation and some other companies.

Recently the Government of India have started an Oil Company and Mr. Feroz Gandhi, son-in-law of Jawahar Lal, been appointed as Chairman, whereas Mr. Shrinegash, I.C.S. from Punjab is the Managing Director. I do not know, what both these persons and the other directors of the company know about the drilling of oil and the financial system maintained in such an undertakings. In 1938, I was connected with an American Company prospecting oil in Afganistan and I know the intricacy of financial system in such undertakings but here the persons who have no idea of the working, have been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director. Similarly in other companies there has been a loss of crores of rupees due to mismanagement as it was in the papers a few years ago, but Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru on account of the power he has attained, has become blind to see things as they exist and deaf to hear against them.

Recently at Nainital, he has asked the Congressmen to resign, if they do not agree with his views. This

is how he is dealing with his intelligent colleagues.

X I was one of those who was a great admirer of Pt. Jawahar Lal and wrote a booklet, "Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru - World's Great Statesman" ~~copied~~ and my article also appear in the Nehru Abhinandan Granth which I was asked to contribute as he joined politics on my representation to Pt. Moti Lal Nehru, when my uncle and cousin were arrested in Martial Law in 1919 on a fictitious charge of burning the King's effigy, I collected the Martial Law notifications at a great risk and placed before him and Jawahar Lal was also present and consequently he advised his father to accept the Chairmanship of the Martial Law Inquiry Committee appointed by the Congress. In December, 1920 he advised his father to join the non-cooperative movement at Nagpur when I was also present as a member of All India Congress Committee.

I do not wish to narrate anything further but to congratulate you for the formation of the 'Swatantra Party' ^{Swatantra Party} alongwith Mr. Massani and Prof: Ranga, M.P. I am prepared to co-operate with you for the organisation of this Society.

In March, 1956 at the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, I advised the delegates to form a similar organisation as you have done now, but subsequently I found that these industrialists were afraid of Pt. Nehru and will not contribute anything for the formation of the Party though inwardly they were feeling that such an organisation was essential. Mr. Tulsidas Kilachand also lost his seat and also Sir Homi Modi, former Governor of U.P., could not get himself elected to the Parliament. I had a talk on the subject with Shri Tulsidas Kilachand also before the start of elections and I gathered that these Industrialists were imbeciles and were prepared

to join provided I take effective steps to collect funds for the organisation of this party. As without funds we cannot have effective propaganda. As far as I understand that at the last elections, industrialists contributed about 7 to 8 crores of rupees to the Congress Fund in order to get death warrant for themselves as they belong to private sector. You will agree with me that this was a queer position.

I hope to hear from you soon and kindly ask Mr. Massani or Prof: Ranga to contact with me in Delhi so that we may be able to chalk out an effective programme to fight out the present actions of the Congress. From last two years I have not become a primary member of the Congress although I feel for my this action as I was connected with the Congress since 1914. I opposed Lucknow Pact in 1916 at Lucknow and in 1917 at Lahore as I considered at that time that this pact was a thin end of the peg in the Indian Nationalism and subsequently it proved a fact by vivisection of India in which we Punjabees, have greatly suffered. The Punjabees were the defenders of India from foreign invasion vide my speech and photographs on page 22, 23 and 26. I as an old soldier, presented a sword to General K.M.Cariappa, First Commander-in-chief of Independent India's Army.

Inspite of my heavy losses, I did not loose my heart and I am still living as a displaced person without any assistance from the Nehru's benign Government, which is only meant for Jholichuks (i.e. sycophants).

With my kindest regards and Jai Bharat,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- P. S. Sodhbans.

Shri C. Rajgopalachari,
Ex. Governor General of India,
MADRAS.