

2027

from 57 Lodi Estate,
New Delhi 11.

February 20, 1964

My dear Narasimha Reddi,

Knowing the good work you are doing as our Chief Whip and your devotion to the task, it is with considerable reluctance that I feel I should draw your attention to the unfortunate implications of what happened yesterday when our Party mustered only three votes in a division! Thinking the matter over, it is quite obvious that there were three mistakes: one not to have raised the matter at the Executive Committee meeting yesterday morning when a decision could have been taken whether or not to challenge a division. Secondly, for you not to have issued a whip to all Party Members present in Delhi. I for one was doing my Swatantra Party office work at home and could surely have come over to the House given half an hour's warning on the telephone. Thirdly, calling for a division without making any of these preparations.

While I appreciate that all of us are responsible for this muddle, you will appreciate that the initiative in raising the matter in time yesterday morning at the meeting of the Executive Committee or with the Leader and contacting members and ensuring their presence was yours as our Chief Whip.

I am mentioning this so that we may now have a settled procedure. Before any major issue ~~is~~ raised by us such as an amendment to the President's Address or Bill comes up for voting, you should kindly secure a decision by the Party Executive and, where this is not possible, by the Leader or Deputy Leader who is present and immediately issue a written whip or, where time does not permit one in writing, on the telephone to all members present in Delhi. Where this is not done, ~~our Party should not ask for~~ a division in view of the adverse effect the figures announced, like the one yesterday, would have on the Party's prestige.

*You should
advise
our floor
leader*

Mr. C. L. Narasimha Reddi, M.P.
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Yours sincerely,

M. R. Masani
(M. R. MASANI)

c.c. Professor N.G.Ranga .. for information