

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

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When replying, please quote our Reference No.

SP-M-2-409



2743

SASSOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

7th November 1967.

Dear Rajaji,

COPY

SP Centre file

I have given considerable thought to your letter of 30th October concerning our future Party leadership and the Parliamentary leadership. I have of course also very much in mind Shri K.M. Munshi's views (in his letter to you of 15th October) about the need to continue to combine the two offices in the person of Prof. Ranga.

It seems to me that we have a choice here between two good alternatives: either to continue Prof. Ranga both as the Parliamentary Leader and as the Party President, or to continue him only in the former capacity while having Masani as the Party President. In any event, I take it you share my view that we need not consider any third alternative, -- such as having Prof. Ranga as Parliamentary Leader and some other person (not Masani) as the Party President, -- as that would certainly be less desirable than either of the other two.

In choosing between the only two alternatives we thus have, I am inclined to prefer the second, which will be good in practice, rather than the first, which may seem better in theory. I feel, for instance, that we should ^{not} overstress the need to present the right public "image" of the Party at the expense of the more urgent need for massive organisational work that has still to be done at the ground level and which, speaking candidly, Ranga cannot do as well as Masani. And surely, so long as Ranga occupies the one office or the other (but not necessarily both), a great deal of what Shri Munshi desires in sub-para (c) & (d) of his letter, -- with much of which I agree, -- will also be achieved. For the next three or four years it is as important that we should have a tremendous organisational drive as that we should present the right image to the masses. If this is agreed, the two pieces seem to me to fall into their proper places if Prof. Ranga, for very many reasons, were to continue as the Parliamentary Leader and if Masani became the Party President.

However, I do not propose to make an issue of it and shall be content to know that you have considered my views even if, after doing so, you were to re-iterate yours.

I trust your health continues to improve and that we can count on your attending the meetings at Delhi.

With warmest regards,

Yours sincerely,

C. Rajagopalachari, Esq.,
MADRAS.

Copy to: Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P., Bombay-1

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