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Camp: "SUDHARMA",
Edward Elliotts Road,
Mylapore,
Madras-4.

15th October, 1967.

My dear Rajaji,

I have given deep thought to the problem that we discussed the other day.

As things are today, I am of the view that the leadership of the Party in Parliament and the Presidency of the Party should vest in the same person. My reasons are as under:

- a) Our Party is not so strong and powerful as to require the splitting up of the two offices at present;
- b) Our strength lies amongst the intellectuals, the upper middle-class and a section of the middle class, i.e. sections of the people whose attitude is parliament-oriented; Depriving ~~xx~~ the President of the prestige and authority he derives by combination of the two offices would be detrimental to our Party interests.
- c) Our President has to function principally in the Parliament. Bifurcation of the leadership would lead to conflict. As you know, even in the Congress, there has been conflict, for the last two decades, between the Congress President and the leader of the Party in Parliament.
- d) The other reasons are purely personal. Nobody can point an accusing finger at Rangaji for favouring vested interests. Besides, he is the only one amongst ^(Kose) available, who can be said to be a mass leader. With the growing importance now being given to agriculture by all the parties and public, Rangaji, who has been a kisan leader all his life, would be a great asset to our Party inside and outside the Parliament.

With kindest regards,

Yours affectionately,

sd/-

(K. M. Munshi)

Sri C. Rajagopalachari,
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(copy)