

2814

60, Bazillulah Road,
T'Nagar,
Madras 17

March 26, 1962

Dear and revered Sri Aney,

Your letter of March 17. I note that you have advised a different venue for the Swatantra Party Convention as Nagpur is not suitable. I understand the difficulty and appreciate your advice.

About your joining the Swatantra Party, I regret we acted on your last very clear letter and feel embarrassed by your present hesitation.

The Swatantra Party did not as a Party give any support to the Akalis for the formation of a Punjabi Suba. I personally expressed the view that the claim was just. But throughout and up to date the Party is not committed to that view and this has been made clear.

It is also wrong to suppose that the Party identified itself with the ~~EMK~~ claim. The Party has never done or said anything to encourage that claim. We tried to get some adjustments of seats to be contested in Madras so as to avoid triangular contests which may lead to unearned advantage to the Congress candidates. But this attempt failed, and we opposed one another in many places. On this point you may rest completely satisfied.

On the Nag-Vidarbha question, you know the Swatantra Party has so far not expressed any opinion one way or the other. It is open to you to convince our Party in course of time to take a positive attitude. We are of course not against it and we would permit individual members to hold and express opinion and take any legitimate steps for promoting it.

It appears to me that taking all things into account and especially in view of the publicity given already to your joining us, it would be a misfortune if you now withdraw. I

We had thought of asking our Lok Sabha Group to nominate you as its Leader, if you joined the Party outright. Even if you don't do so, please join the Parliamentary Group at least as an Associate member.

Yours sincerely,

(C. Rajagopalachari)

Dr. M.S. Aney, M.P.
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