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Personal

December 3, 1973

My dear Gopalkrishna,

Thanks for your long-hand-written letter of the 28th.

Nothing that you write surprises me. If I may be pardoned for saying so, V.T. Sreenivasan had sized up all these gentlemen who are now facing inquiry, very correctly. K.N.V. Rao, V.T. Sreenivasan used to say, is a good worker provided you keep him a mile away from money. Money to Rao is like water to a buffalo! The information you give that he lives on his wife's earnings, explains the matter.

Take my advice and get the State Executive to recommend their expulsion from the Party. The outgoing National Executive is meeting in Lucknow but let this be done after the General Council meeting. In other words, let the expulsion matter come up before the new National Executive some time in January.

I can understand your feeling of disgust, partly exasperation and a sense of non-achievement -- all of which are feelings that I share with you after 14 years of working in the service of the Party.

As I wrote to you some time earlier, I am quitting my job on the 31st of this month. I am doing so not merely because I want to give my family a better deal (politics is a fickle mistress) but a growing feeling that my ~~current~~ ideas of discipline, principles and the conviction that if Swatantra dilutes its basic objectives, it is Swatantra no longer. Intense loyalty to the cause, a tremendous regard and affection for the two fathers of the Party - Rajaji and Masani, and a feeling that I was contributing even if it be in a very miniscule manner towards a worthwhile objective, kept me going all these years. That feeling disappeared a year ago and I have been mechanically fulfilling my functions since then.

have become out of date

Nevertheless, not only shall I continue to be a member of the Party but I intend to use my new-born freedom to put on record my views every time those who are at the helm of the Party say or do something which is at variance with our fundamentals.

Even today, at the top level, I think that Mr. Masani alone represents the true voice of Swatantra. His anguish and sense of loss can easily be gauged even in a five minute conversation. As a matter of fact, I am joining his firm Personnel & Productivity Services as a consultant.

I am glad that you have decided to continue as the Joint Secretary and to remain in charge of the office. That is very important. In fact, a number of my friends having come to know that I am leaving, pleaded with me to permit them to also step down. I have been dissuading them from taking such a step in the hope that the long night of our Party will end and may be we will emerge again in some kind of new form which would once again give hope to our people.

With kind regards,

Mr. G.M. Gopalkrishna,
2 Hall Road, Richards Town,
Bangalore 5.

Yours, sincerely,

(S. V. Raju)