

3188

V. T. SREENIVASAN
ACCOUNTANT GENERAL (RETIRED)
FINANCIAL MANAGER
INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES LTD. (RETIRED)

Phone : 23677

" AVANTI "
90, South End Road,
Basavangudi P. O.
BANGALORE-4

Confidential

3.2.'72

My Dear Raju,

Subject:- Your letter dated 14.1.'72 with which you sent me the allegations regarding "handing-over" made by Mr. Ghorpade in his letter addressed to Mr. H.M. Patel, President, All-India Party.

1. At the outset, I must deplore the fact that both Mr. H.M. Patel and I have to waste our time to wade through numerous false, frivolous and irrelevant allegations against me and my respected colleague, B.V. Narayana Reddy, by a man seized with megalomania and who is obsessed with the idea that he has been specially deputed by God Almighty to sit in judgment on the party Administration in the State ever since the Party was founded in the year 1959. The principal reason why he is running amok is undoubtedly the fact that, on two occasions, I had to draw the attention of the President to his failure to remit to the State Office hundreds of rupees collected by him from Life Workers and ordinary workers. In sheer spite, he brought forward a resolution in the month of April 1971 at a meeting of the State Executive Committee that I should retire from the post of General Secretary and that he should succeed me. The State President (who is a perfect ignoramus in regard to the Party Constitution) admitted the resolution! I had to point out that it was only the State Council that was vested with the power to appoint or change Office-Bearers and not the Executive Committee. I pointed out that, after 12 years, I had not the slightest intention of continuing as General Secretary and that the new State Council can elect Mr. Ghorpade as General Secretary. As a matter of fact, I myself proposed his name at the new State Council meeting held on 5.9.'71.

2. I had no idea at the time that I was handing over to a mean and petty minded person. I offered to be an ordinary member of the new Executive Committee so as to act as a link between the old and the new and be in a position to clear doubts and difficulties that may be felt by the new Office-Bearers. My offer was contemptuously spurned not only by R.Y.G. but also by N.K.G. The latter also deliberately excluded me from the new General Council

of which I had been a member for 12 years. It was clear that he had surrendered his judgment to R.Y.G. and his boon companions. Why R.Y.G. did not want me even in the new Executive Committee became clear to me when I read the proceedings of the first meeting of the new Executive Committee held on 19.9.'71. At this meeting, N.K.G. himself, quite unnecessarily, gave a handle to R.Y.G. and his friends to cast unwarranted and false aspersions on me and Narayana Reddy in regard to the administration of Party Funds. Obviously, if I had been present in that meeting, they could not have talked in that irresponsible and insulting manner. In these so-called "democratic" days, one is familiar with such talk in "elected" bodies in which there are more cads than gentlemen. But it is not usual to put all such scurrilous, abuse in the proceedings and circulate them to all and sundry. This is exactly what N.K.G. and R.Y.G. did in order to assassinate the character of myself and Narayana Reddy. A lawyer friend told me that Narayana Reddy and I can sue N.K.G. and R.Y.G. for defamation in view of the aspersions cast on us and circulated throughout the State.

3. A second motive for R.Y.G. to cast aspersions on me and the previous Office-Bearers is the fact that he has been prevented from operating on the amount invested in the Educational Trust. He wished to hand-over a big slice to his boon companion, B.S. Gopalakrishna, to run a weekly paper in Mercara (It is since learnt that B.S.G. has resigned from the Party and sold his paper and press to Congress (R)!).

4. I enclose for the confidential perusal of Mr. H.M. Patel the correspondence exchanged between me and Mr. M.R. Masani in August 1971. In my letters to Mr. Masani, I had given my assessment of the way the party was getting into bad hands due to imbecile leadership. My fears have come true. These papers may be returned after perusal by Mr. H.M. Patel.

5. I enclose for perusal and return some correspondence relating to this "handing over". I wonder whether (1) when Mr. Dandekar took over from Mr. Masani (2) when Dr. Cooper took over from Mr. Dandekar, (3) when Mr. Madhu Mehta took over from Dr. Cooper each of the Relievers insisted on an Inventory of everything in the office of the General Secretary to be prepared for being signed by both the persons. I am referring to this in order to draw attention to the Cantankerous manner in which R.Y.G. has been shouting from the house tops that he is unable to carry on as General Secretary due to some unavoidable delay in the preparation of the Inventories

and because some old proceedings are not immediately traceable in the concerned files. That he has not cared to go through the Inventories even after they were prepared is proved by his silly assertion that I handed over the Cash Books "without a single supporting voucher". On page 2 of the list of files, items 40, 41, 41A and 41B (marked by me in red ink) are nothing but files containing vouchers for all payments by cheques. Similarly items 63A and 63B are files containing vouchers for cash payments made from Imprest (marked by me red ink). Before making such a serious and damaging accusation, should he not have had the elementary common sense to go through the 15 pages of Inventories to which he attached so much importance to make sure that the "missing" vouchers were not listed there? From this single but significant instance, I have no doubt Mr. H.M. Patel will know the value to be attached to this disgusting rant of a megalomaniac.

6. There is another incident connected with R.Y.G. which stinks to high heaven. I had handed over two Cash Books (the current and the previous one) when I handed over the Imprest of Rs. 200/- on 30.9.'71. I have referred to this also in one of my letters to R.Y.G. and he has not contradicted it. However, after I got back from the Office a private steel trunk (which I had lent to Basavaraju to keep the Convention records), R.Y.G. went to K.H. Srinivasan and told him a deliberate lie that the first Cash Book had been surreptitiously put among the office records by me when I went to get back my trunk! After this incident, I knew that the new General Secretary is an unscrupulous liar and will stoop to any low level in order to wreck my reputation.

7. R.Y.G. writes that he has handed over the Cash Books "to a Chartered Accountant to get them audited for the last 12 years". It is not that I or Narayana Reddy is against an audit of Party accounts if, the same is considered necessary. But who the HELL is R.Y.G. to arrogate to himself the responsibility of getting the Party accounts audited by a Chartered Accountant for the last 12 years? I can challenge any Chartered Accountant to find one paisa discrepancy in the accounts maintained by me. At the same time, I must state now alone that, due to the malice that he has shown against me and Narayana Reddy, he may deliberately concoct some discrepancy or other in order to defame us further. If we get any reference from him on this subject, it will go straight into the W.P.B.

8. He makes an insolent insinuation that Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- were collected at the State Convention held in October 1970 and that the accounts had not been approved by the then Finance Sub-Committee. I personally prepared the Abstract of Receipts and Payments and this was approved by the President N.K.G. R.Y.G. wanted the surplus of Rs. 25,000/- to be handed over to his boon companion, B.S. Gopalakrishna to run his weekly paper. The members of the Finance Sub-Committee did not agree and invested this amount in the Educational Trust. So, he wants to sling some more mud on me to vent his spleen.

9. A very sincere Life Worker, Kavali Laxminarayanappa, had sent 6 cheques for very small amounts being the sale proceeds of Election Fund Tickets sold by him. Some of them had to be returned to him for attestation of corrections. When he returned them, the Office was in a turmoil in connection with the 1967 General Elections. By a regrettable oversight, they got mislaid and were traced now when the Inventories were prepared. I have informed the General Secretary that I hold myself personally responsible to make good the aggregate of those cheques to the Party as the Party should not lose that amount due to some neglect in the office when I was in charge. He has not replied to my letter till now (It may be noted that all these 12 years I was myself the Cashier and Accountant to save extra cost in office establishment).

10. Let us assume for the sake of argument that some old proceedings have been mislaid or misfiled or even lost or missing. In what way does this circumstance (which I regret) come in the way of R.Y.G. dealing with the present and future administration of the State Office? How is he handicapped in getting on with the day to day administration and concentrating his attention on the coming Assembly Elections? His letter is nothing but a peevish and contemptible diatribe against me just because I exposed his temporary misuse of Life Workers' and Ordinary workers subscriptions on two occasions. The sooner this pinchbeck Hitler is cut down to size the better for the peace of mind of all concerned.

- 5 -

The enclosures received with your letter are returned. They stink in my nostrils. The other enclosures may be returned in due course after perusal by Mr. H.M. Patel.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

V.T. Sreenivasan
(V.T. Sreenivasan)

To

Sri. S.V. Raju,
L.9.72 Tilak Nagar,
Bombay-89.