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June 22, 1974

My dear Girish,

I missed you at the Party Office. Some office work held me up and by the time I came across you had left.

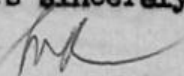
You must have seen Piloo's letter of June 16 to members of the General Council. The long rigmarole hides the basic fact that he has failed to live up to Rajaji's expectations. In his quest for power here and now he has finally decided to jettison the Party. What he has to say is nothing new so far as the need to provide a national alternative is concerned. Rajaji and Masani have been saying nothing else but that since the late sixties. But such a national alternative to be genuine must have the other major national democratic opposition parties in it. Piloo is a political lightweight (!) and he is being led up the garden path by Charan Singh. Those of us who have slogged for the Party cannot permit him to have his way.

What bothers me is that placed as he is as Party President there is the danger that he might commit the Party's assets to the new party. I must tell you that the monies and properties collected with considerable effort by the Party's old guard were for furthering the objectives of the Swatantra Party. It would be morally wrong for these assets to be swallowed up by the new party.

I wonder what your own views are in the matter. Perhaps we could meet to discuss these and other issues.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


(S. V. Raju)