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C. Rajagopalachari

Crack

60, Bazlullah Road
Tyagarayanagar, Madras-17
11th November 1961

My dear Masani,

I am much impressed by Maksoodpore's letter
to you. As you know my intuitive prejudice against Janki
Nandan persists.

Yours sincerely,

C. Rajagopalachari

Sri M.R. Masani
Bombay

MR. M. R. MASANI, M.P.
17/11/61
RECEIVED

60, Hazilish Road
Tyreraynagar, Madras-17
11th November 1961

G. Rajagopalachari

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Yours sincerely,

211 M.R. Masani
Bombay

पहला मोड़ First fold



इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न लिखें

NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED



भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :- Sender's name and address :-

G.M.L.
24

तीसरा मोड़ Third fold



अन्तर्देशीय पत्र
INLAND LETTER



Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.,

7, Alta Mount Road
~~Bombay-26~~ Cochin

दूसरा मोड़ Second fold



MAKSUDPUR RAJ HOUSE
GAYA

9th Nov.1961.

*For each
copy to be*

My dear Mr. Masani,

I am writing to you with a very heavy heart. The Munshi Award has completely shaken the foundations of the Swatantra Party in Bihar. I take it that it was administered as a shock treatment but I am afraid that the dose has been so big that the medicine had an adverse effect on the body politic of the Swatantra Party. The Directives given by the Central Parliamentary Committee at Bangalore on the Munshi Award have confused matters very greatly and have further set back the prospects of the Swatantra Party in the forthcoming General Elections.

Amphibious

I am addressing this letter to you in my personal capacity and as one who is a great admirer of your qualities of head and heart. Since my very first meeting with you I have held you in high esteem and have always felt that the Swatantra Party needs a leader of your calibre. I hope, you will not mind a free and frank expression of my views on the recent development in the party for I feel that it is my duty to place before you the full facts as they stand to day in the State of Bihar.

N.

I am grieved to place before you that Shri Janki Nandan Singh is trying to disrupt the party has poisoned the ears of some members of the C.O.C. against Raja Bahadur ~~Shri Janki Nandan Singh~~



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No Kamakhya Narain Singh, President of the Bihar State Swatantra Party which has brought incalculable harm to the Party inasmuch as that the 25 endorsed Units have been reduced to 15. Perhaps you know that the Raja Bahadur has always been trying for a greater number of endorsed seats and this is only through disgust at Baroda that he said that the number of endorsed Units may be reduced to 15 if the Centre is not feeling happy with the number at 25.

I have no personal animus against Sri Janki Nandan Singh. We are not rivals of each other. He comes from Darbhanga and I come from Gaya. We ~~are~~ also belong to different castes, While he is a Maithil I am a Bhumihar Brahmin. In no sphere therefore there is a danger of any clash between us. My analysis of the recent unfortunate developments is therefore entirely objective.

7/10 You are perhaps aware that caste consideration has been basically the most dominant factor in Bihar politics. And although you and I hate it, we can not ignore it. Bhumihar Brahmins, Rajputs, Mohammadans and the Depressed Classes are among the important communities in the State out of which the Bhumihar Brahmins and the Rajputs have always been playing the most important role in shaping important events in the political life of Bihar. But it appears that while finally endorsing Lok Sabha seats, this factor escaped the notice of



the Central Parliamentary Committee inasmuch as not one seat has been allotted to Bhumihar Brahmins though the State Parliamentary Board had recommended 1. Sri Chandra Bhusan Singh a Bhumihar Brahmin of Gaya who had been a very popular Chairman of the Gaya District Board for a very long time for the Jehanabad Parliamentary seat and 2. Sri Ramashray Chowdhury, another Bhumihar Brahmin for the Samastipore Parliamentary seat in the Darbhanga District. This Gentleman is very well known to you as he acted ~~xxx~~ as your host during the first Bihar State Convention at Dalsingsarai. To make the Convention a success he spent thousands of rupees from his pocket and was bold enough to hold the Convention at Dalsingsarai, a Thana Head quarter while Sri Janki Nandan Singh felt very nervous in holding the Convention even at Darbhanga ~~ix~~ or in his home Sub-Division Madhubani.

Another distressing feature of the decision is the exclusion of influential and respectable Muslims in preference to Mr. Gaffoor who is an insignificant candidate for Jai Nagar in the Darbhanga District and who has been set up only to facilitate the victory of one Sri Bhogendra Jha a Communist Maithil. The State Parliamentary Board of Bihar had strongly recommended 1. Raja Nasiruddin Hyder Khan of Persouni for Pupri Parliamentary Unit,



2. Dr. M.A. Rahman for the Motihari seat and 3. Mr. Izharul Hasan for the Kishanganj Seat.

These unfortunate omissions will result in the Party becoming unpopular both with the Mohammedans and the Bhumihar Brahmins and it is very likely that the Congress and the other contesting Parties will brand the Swatantra Party as anti-Muslim and ~~anti~~ anti-Bhumihar Brahmin and will finally damage the Election Prospects of the Party.

It is also noticed that out of the 10 endorsed seats 4 have been allotted to Kayasthas, a caste which is in utter minority in the State. I have nothing against this Community but as you know we have to face a caste ridden electorate and therefore we can ignore this factor only at our great peril.

According to the decision of the Central Parliamentary Committee Bihar is to get 15 endorsed Units. 10 have already been endorsed 5 yet remain to be endorsed. You can say that these ~~em~~ omissions can be rectified in making the allotments in the remaining 5 Units. But I am afraid that this may not be possible as out of these 5, 3 seats are bound to be allotted to Hazaribagh District. The fourth is to go to Shahabad where the Party proposes to contest with success Sri Jagjiwan Ram, thus leaving only one seat where the



deficiency pointed out by me above can not be rectified. Under the circumstances I feel that it is imperative that the number of 25 Endorsed Seats be left as before or in the alternative the list already approved by the Central Parliamentary Committee should be revised. I hope, you will agree with me that if we want to capture the greatest number of seats we make a rational allotment of the seats.

I would also like to invite your pointed attention to the fact that 3 Units each have been endorsed in the Districts of Darbhanga and Saran out of the 15 Units endorsed in the whole of the State while Muzaffarpore, Monghyr, Saharsa, Purnea and Patna the most politically conscious Districts have been completely left out. In these Districts there are many seats which have far greater possibilities of success than any one of those endorsed in Saran and Darbhanga. In this connection this argument of endorsing 3 Units of Hazaribagh will not hold good as these are already the Swatantra Seats and also can be counted as positively winning seats. Without wounding the sentiments of Sri Janki Nandan Singh I would request further that Gaya District be allotted at least two endorsed Units instead of one as otherwise it will not be possible for me to conduct the Election Campaign in Gaya as its District President. If



this is not conceded I am afraid, no success can be expected even in Aurangabad because the people will say that being a Bhumihar Brahmin I have managed to concentrate all the Party guns only in Aurangabad, a Rajput belt leaving alone the Bhumihar Brahmin belts of Gaya for the Congress Group of Sri Mahesh Prasad Singh who also is a Bhumihar Brahmin.

In this connection even at the risk of incurring your displeasure at making the letter lengthy I want to bring to your notice certain episodes of the Gaya District. In the bye-election in the wake of the death of Sri Anugrah Narain Singh the Congress candidate was routed only on one speech of Sri Maha Maya Prasad Sinha who told the people that Dr. Shrikrishna Singh, the then Bhumihar Chief Minister of Bihar was coming as Akbar with Sri Dip Narain Singh, a Rajput Minister as Man Singh to conquer Chittorgarh though the ashes of the Rana (Sri Anugrah Narain Singh) had not yet died down. And in the bye-election for the Aurangabad Parliamentary seat the P.S.P. candidate was winning but the casteist moves and speeches of Sri Basawan Singh, the Bhumihar Chairman of the Bihar P.S.P. the P.S.P. candidate was routed ~~xxx~~ overnight. In these circumstances unless the allotment of endorsed seats is properly balanced between the Rajputs and the Bhumihar Brahmins it will not



be possible for me to successfully conduct the election campaign in the Gaya District.

No | Before I conclude I would like to submit that on account of mis-representation of facts of Sri Janki Nandan Singh, the prestige of the Raja has been much maligned by the C.O.C. and the Raja today stands absolutely dejected and morose. It is a well known fact that the Raja is the life blood of the Party in Bihar and though he may be having certain draw backs he is nevertheless the undisputed leader of the masses and it is only by patting the back of the Raja that the C.O.C. can expect to achieve remarkable results in the forthcoming General Elections in Bihar. It is well known to you that the Raja has sacrificed every thing to further the interest of the Swatantra Party in the State and it would not be an unwise policy if at this juncture all of us gave our backing and support to him.

? | As about Sri Janki Nandan Singh I write with reluctance that he has had a very shady past. He has changing Parties not for his convictions but for obtaining his selfish ends and owed allegiance to different group leaders according to his convenience. Even as a Chairman of the Darbhanga District Board his record has



been very unclean. Although he styles himself as Mithila Keshari he is so very unpopular in his own home District that he lost twice in Assembly Elections there at the hands of a Bhymihar Brahmin in one case and at the hands of a young man of 25 in the other. To give credence to the statement of such a man against the President and the vast majority of Party men in the whole State on the eve of the General Elections in my humble opinion would not be a wise policy and I would request you to kindly reconsider the entire question in the higher interest of the Swatantra Party.

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I realise that my letter might annoy you. My heart has been wounded and I feel that a great injustice has been done to the prospects of the Party. I, who was largely instrumental in influencing the Raja Bahadur of Ramgarh in merging his Janata Party with the Swatantra Party feel quite frustrated today on account of the evil machinations of Sri Janki Nandan Singh which have blighted my hopes and ambitions of seeing the Raja Bahadur as the Chief Minister of Bihar and yourself as the leader of the National opposition against Prime Minister Nehru in the Indian Parliament. I am a finished man today. It was ~~not~~ on my suggestion that Sri Janki Nandan Singh was made another General Secretary of the Party. And today because of his manouverings and unscrupulous activities not

NO



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only I lost my General Secretaryship but also have fallen in your estimation.

However I have brought these facts to your notice for such steps as you deem proper. I would request you to send your emissary confidentially to the State to enquire into the activities of Sri Janki Nandan Singh and I am sure that you will come to know that his entire move in discrediting the President and in wrecking the Party on the eve of the General Elections is aimed at clearing the field for his old friends and leader Sri K.B. Sahay.

I have opened my heart to you and you alone. I am not sending copies of this letter to any member of the C.O.C. except Revered Rajaji for whom I have the greatest respect and I hope and trust to God that something good might come out of it.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,

RA JA OF MAKSOODPORE:

Shri M.R. Masani, M.P.,
General Secretary, All India Swatantra Party,
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay-1.