

Swatantra Party

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When replying, please quote our Reference No.

30th May, 1967

To the Leaders of the Swatantra Party's Legislature Groups:

Dear friend,

When the Central Parliamentary Board and the National Executive of the Party met in New Delhi on May 20 and 21, it considered various issues of current policy among which was the question of the Party's attitude of the formation of patchwork governments on the Punjab, Haryana and U.P. models, where a small number of Congressmen crossed the floor to bring down the Government and enabled non-Congress Coalitions to be formed.

Arrangements of this sort were considered unworkable in the long run and are therefore not to be encouraged. Both the Board and the National Executive felt that the likely failure of such arrangements to produce stable and stable Governments over any length of time would lead either to communists and extreme socialist elements entrenching themselves, or to the Congress being returned to power with added strength at the next opportunity or to the total failure of democratic institutions.

On the other hand, the Parliamentary Board and the National Executive favoured the possible getting together, at some suitable opportunity, of truly democratic parties along with large sections of like-minded Congressmen who might leave that party on ideological grounds, leading to the formation of more stable Governments of Democratic Unity. In the meanwhile, the Swatantra Party should vigorously propagate its own principles and thus project its own identity and image as the only democratic alternative to the Congress Party.

In this view of the matter, both the Board and the National Executive were unanimously of the opinion that under no circumstances should the Swatantra Party participate in the formation of any Government which included communists, with the possible (temporary) exception of U.P.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly convey the above to the members of our Group in your State Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

(N. Dandekar)

Officiating General Secretary