

Exposure  
4247

June 4, 1964.

My dear Rajaji,

On returning to Bombay I find your two letters of May 25 to me and June 1 to Raju.

I am delighted to see the appreciation your efforts have evoked from such an unexpected quarter as G.D.B. Soon we shall have nobody left to fight!

As you have quite rightly guessed in your letter, I knew nothing about this canard published by the Madras Mail till I saw your own contradiction in the Delhi papers. Thereupon I issued my own contradiction which the P.T.I.U.N.I. put out and which I hope the Mail had the courtesy to carry. I also sent you a telegram from Delhi telling you that of course I knew nothing about it just to put your mind at rest.

How silly our Press is. There is so much genuine news that they could carry but they had to concoct it.

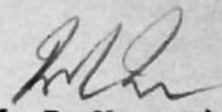
Yesterday Ranga, Dahyabhai, Ruthnaswamy and I called on the President. As usual he was very friendly. We urged him to withhold his assent to the 17th Amendment and I argued one or two of the main grounds. I asked for anything up to a month to prepare a memorandum but he has agreed to wait for it only till the 20th and to hold his hand meanwhile. I shall work on a draft and send it to you on Saturday afternoon so that you receive it on Monday morning. We shall have to settle it by about the 15th at the latest.

Meanwhile, two questions arise. The first is as to who should sign it. If you agree, my thought is that it should be signed by yourself and the four of us who called on the President yesterday, being Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Party in both Houses of Parliament. I doubt if getting a larger number of signatures would add to its weight. The other question is whether it would not add to the weight of our appeal if the memorandum were to be handed over personally to the President by yourself and if you were personally to hand over a copy to Lal Bahadur.

You will probably not feel like doing this but the thought occurs to me as a result of the fact that the President mentioned to us at least twice that you seem to be attaching great importance to this matter because you had written not less than three letters to him recently on the subject. This undoubtedly had impressed him. The thought that you should undertake a journey to Delhi in the heat of June for this purpose would make its impact. Lal Bahadur too is a man on whom a gesture like this on your part would make a great dent. Even if the President is ~~not~~ inclined to see our point, he will need the new Prime Minister's acquiescence.

If you do not rule out this idea altogether and I may mention that Ranga also thinks it would have some value, I would suggest your visiting Delhi on the way to Bombay for our meetings. Instead of reaching Bombay on the afternoon of Sunday, the 28th, you could leave Madras on the afternoon of Saturday, the 27th, reaching Delhi in the cool of the evening. The next day you could make your calls on the two dignitaries and then take the Boeing flight the same evening, i.e. the 28th to Bombay. You would thus be able to avoid moving about in the heat of the day. Actually Delhi is not too bad as yet. I shall be glad to join you in Delhi, if you feel like undertaking this journey, and to be with you ~~will~~ we fly to Bombay on the evening of the 28th. The Organisation Sub-Committee meeting that we had fixed late on the evening of the 28th could easily be fitted in some time during the next three days in Bombay so that no change in our programme of meetings would be involved. Do let me know whether this idea appeals to you.

Yours sincerely,

  
(M. R. Masani)

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,  
60 Bazlullah Road,  
T. Nagar,  
Madras 17.

P.S. Copy of my contradiction is attached herewith for your use in case the Mail has not carried it.