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Tamil Nadu
Swatantra Party
76, G. H. Chetty Road,
T. Nagar, MADRAS-17

Ref: 000/68:

C. S. Mariswamy

16th April, 1968.

Dear friend,

Revered Leader Rajaji heard my report of the Executive Committee and as a result he feels if the Madras venue is chosen in order to get his advice on the issues to be discussed, that he is not physically fit to participate as expected.

Secondly, he feels that the Madras Party is quite unable to bear any financial obligation if the General Council is held in Madras.

Thirdly, on the merits of issues involved in Gujarat affairs although you can see from the marked paragraphs of latest Swaraja (printed last night) (pages 29 and 30), he is not quite in tune with very drastic action on the basis of voting for a particular candidate. He thinks notice to these five is correct procedure to begin with. After reading their explanation he has no objection to the General Council being persuaded to wind up Gujarat Party altogether. He feels however, it is a difficult thing to do and the effect of the result will not be as good and constructive as Mr. Masani may hope but on the contrary may end in a melodramatic disruption. Best thing is to wait for the explanations from these five and think over it calmly.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(S.S. Mariswamy)

Gl. Secretary

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

SWARAJYA

April 20, 1968

We have got so used to the suppression of opinions and coercive whips in the name of discipline through these long twenty years that we have come to identify good behaviour with total subordination to Party decisions and extinction of freedom of opinion for the individual. I know that many loyal and good Swatantra Party members want the Swatantra Party also to become, like the others, a body of dumb driven cattle. The difference that characterizes the Swatantra Party and makes it a party different from the rest is forgotten, viz., that the spirit of freedom is as far as possible maintained, consistent with adherence to the fundamental principles of the party. We should not seek to shape the Swatantra Party into a blind clique. We should not be afraid of free speech or opinion as a menace to the coherence of our party.

Some things are easy and there are some other things which by their very nature are difficult. It is easy to whip up jealousy and anger, but it is difficult to restrain and educate. It is easy to spread falsehood; it is a difficult and slow process to unravel the tangled webs of fallacies and to spread truth. It is often pointed out that the Swatantra Party has not been successful in building up a body of effective 'field workers'. Who are these 'field workers' of other parties and what is the work they are successfully doing, the lack of which impedes the speedy march of the Swatantra Party in the political competitions? The field workers of other parties have only to spread anger and jealousy and class or communal antipathies. The opposite is, as I have said, difficult and calls for field workers of higher calibre and good equipment in economic and political affairs. The Swatantra Party's aim of winning the people to its side depends

on two things - one, on widespread economic education, and two, on the cultivation of broadmindedness towards all religions and communities, for which Gandhiji worked all his life. It is worth while working hard, and working patiently, even through failures and disappointments, to attain worthy goals. It is not worth while securing 'successes' that will ultimately be a deadweight against true national progress. Let us toil on the right road which we have taken. We want field educators and not mere field 'workers' as other parties command. Politics is a task of educating the people, not one whereby we create new castes and blind attachments.

ATTACHED

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