

from 57 Lodi Estate,
New Delhi 11.

February 21, 1964

4715

My dear Rajaji,

(If this report should be true, which we need not assume)

This morning Dandekar brought a report that Mr. Shanti Prasad Jain, the "hero" of the Vivin Bose Report, is likely to be Ramgarh's nominee as our Party's candidate for election to the Rajya Sabha next month. Since it is more than likely that Ramgarh will not send ~~the~~ *any* name within the prescribed time and will face us with an accomplished fact, I think it is necessary that we should inform him that this nomination will not be acceptable to us in view of the fact that, perhaps of all the business names in India, S.P. Jain's is probably the worst and the effect on the Party of his being elected with our votes would be nothing short of disastrous. In fact, Dandekar quite rightly feels that he would not like to remain a member of the Party if Jain is elected to Parliament with out support. You will recall that, when Shriyans Prasad Jain, the offender's brother, had refused to resign as President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, good industrialists like Tatas and Bafatlals and Dharamsey Khatau felt compelled to resign from the Federation and refused to attend its sessions on the ground that they could not associate themselves with such a party without damaging the cause of free enterprise.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly let me have a cryptic telegram in reply saying whether you agree, so that I will be in a position to write to Ramgarh conveying the view which Ranga and Munshi share with me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
60 Bazlullah Road,
MADRAS 17.

M. R. Masani
(M. R. MASANI)