

K. C. Zacharias

ADVOCATE
GENERAL SECRETARY

KERALA STATE SWATANTRA PARTY

5055

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BADAGARA

May 25, '68.

My dear Wasant,

It was with a heavy heart that I read your letter of May 15 and Mr. Vamsi's letter of May 21. I condemn the conduct of Bhagwanjibhai Patel who worked against you at the 1967 elections.

However, I oppose the strict discipline for which you stand - because it is impossible. We are opposed to regimentation. And your standard of discipline goes very near to regimentation. When a person accepts our 21 principles, he becomes our comrade and not a pupil or slave and he must be treated as such. Too much of discipline will only break up the party. Ours is not a military organisation. Central-State relationship can only be like a father-son relationship. After all at Kottayam in Dec. 1964 you said a new member has been born into the Swatantra Family, when the Kerala unit of the party was formed. That is the correct approach.

Just because we oppose your iron discipline, you might think we are opposed to you. It is not at all so. Virtually all of us love you and admire you. When we elected the new National Executive in Nov. 1967, we gave more than 100 votes only to Rajaji and yourself. You must be content with this amount of affection.

As far as possible majority decisions of state units must be respected, especially since only the centre can deny work-card to an applicant. I would even suggest that people are even allowed to apply to centre directly and also and get work-cards. But it is no good and no use distrusting and distrusting state units in the name of fair elections and fair enrolements.

We thought that by expelling the Raja of Mangal the party will be strengthened in Behar. But as against 50 seats in 62, we got only 3 seats in 67. We have to compromise between principle and expediency and between quality and quantity. What is the use of principle and quality if we don't have a party with mass support? In this world where good people like Christ was only crucified, it is unwise to stand by principles and be annihilated because our party can serve the people only if it comes to power. Though I value principle and quality, we have to sacrifice them to that extent necessary to capture power. Or else principle becomes selfdefeating as we will never be able to serve the people.

Coming to the Gujarat episode, I 100% agree with your resignation to stimulate the conscience of the party. Let us not expel and punish the culprit. Let us find them guilty and pardon them. And as Christ was sacrificed for the sin of mankind, let a few people here and there sacrifice themselves (keeping behind sufficient number of good people to run the party) to atone for the sin of erring party men. Supporting your stand on the Gt. episode, I am today resigning and announcing to the press all the offices I hold in the party including the Gt. Secretaryship of the Kerala unit. Now-

ever tolerant I am, I fully feel that the Gujarat unit of the party should have kept the promise given to Mr. Vaidya. Otherwise how can the public have faith in our party.

Any-way we will retain our primary membership in the party and always work for it without holding an office in the party. Only the resigning of the primary membership of the party will weaken the organisation. Our object is not to weaken it but to purify it. For the maintenance of the party here, I have been contributing every month a sum of Rs.25/- to the state committee, Rs.10 to the Calicut district committee and Rs.10 to the Badagara constituency committee. As a token of my continuing attachment~~ment~~ for the party, in the future also I shall be continuing to make these payments.

With regards,

Copy to: Bajaji
Mr. V. N. Jamshi
central office ✓ and
state office.