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Extracts from Mr. B. P. Singh's Letter of June 26
to Mr. Dandekar

" As regards the Swatantra-BKD merger proposal, I am sorry to say, that I feel, fair consideration has not been given to Ch. Charan Singh's proposal. I am particularly unhappy, because I led Ch. Charan Singh to believe, that leaders of the Swatantra Party were willing to consider his proposal favourably. But, if I may say so, he has simply been asked to surrender to the Swatantra Party, unconditionally. In talks with Rajaji and yourself on the subject, I got the impression, that if there was no difference of opinion on principles, policies and manifesto, the Party would not hesitate to accept the merger proposal. At least neither Rajaji nor yourself ever indicated to me that you were not interested at all in the merger of the two Parties; and that you only wanted absorption of the BKD. From your note on the subject, it is clear, that there was no difference of opinion on the fundamentals. So long as Ch. Charan Singh accepts the content of the Swatantra ideology, we should not object to what he calls 'Gandhian Socialism'. Socialism is a very vague word, while Marxism is not. Therefore, while we should have nothing to do with the Marxists, we cannot afford to antagonise those, who prefer to call themselves Gandhian Socialists. We have ourselves affirmed faith in the Gandhian concept of trusteeship, which is what, some people call Gandhian Socialism. So long as we stand by our Statement of Principles, from which I quote a few lines below, we cannot object to Gandhian Socialism :

"The Party adheres to the principle of trusteeship adumbrated by Gandhiji"

"The Party shall in all matters keep before itself the cardinal teachings of Gandhiji"

Rajaji himself has advocated Gandhian Socialism in the last issue of Swarajya (June 22, 1968) Writing under the caption 'Get the Gandhian Blessing' Rajaji says,

" The profits made by the firm should be looked upon as the prosperity fund belonging to the whole family of employers and workers. Gandhian Socialism should not be a mere phrase but become a felt reality !

Can we object to Ch. Charan Singh's Gandhian Socialism while we are prepared to accept it from Rajaji ?

Moreover, I do not think, that Ch. Charan Singh will require us to expressly accept 'socialism' as our basic philosophy.

Therefore, in view of what I have stated above, kindly reconsider your stand on the merger issue and allow me to plead with the National Executive of the Party at its meeting, to accept Ch. Charan Singh's proposal. "

Mr. Dandekar's Comments

1. Mr. Charan Singh may be content with Gandhian Socialism, but not so the other leaders of the B.K.D. They all prefer (ostensibly) to espouse Democratic Socialism in one form or another.
 2. The 'merger' which he (Mr. Dandekar) had in mind, when Mr. B. P. Singh mentioned the possibility, was a close working together, including the merger of the B.K. D. into Swatantra. But the "merger" which Charan Singh advocated involved the merger of the two Parties to form a third Party, necessarily involving the winding up of the Swatantra Party as such.
 3. Certainly there can be no objection to discussing the whole subject at the next meeting of the National Executive.
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