

Swatantra Party

UTTAR PRADESH

Phone : 22578

Grams : SWATANTRA

Ref. No. _____



537

STATE OFFICE :
KAISER BAGH,
LUCKNOW.

Dated 26th June, 1968.

My dear Mr. Dandekar,

Thank you for your kind letter No.SPC-UP-1-1246 dated 12th.June,1968, enclosing a bank draft for Rs.1,000/- only and a copy of the note of discussion with Ch.Charan Singh.

I have noted your advice regarding choice of constituencies and candidates. Wherever in special cases, I feel there is need for any deviation from the general rule, I will discuss the matter with you before making any commitment.

While I appreciate that ^{Sri} Girdi Raj Saran Singh will be doing intensive work for the party in western districts of the State, I hope, I am not debarred from visiting those districts. One reason why I am keen to visit a few of the western districts is that by the time Sri Girdi Raj Saran Singh starts his tour, it may be too late because all other parties have now become very active.

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 let ^d 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 Rajaji ^{neither} nor yourself 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 HKD. 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 can not afford to antagonise those who prefer to call themselves Gandhian Socialists. We have ourselves affirmed faith in the Gandhian concept of trustee-ship, 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 can not object to Gandhian Socialism;

' The Party adheres to the principle of trustee-ship adumbrated by Gandhi Ji '

' The Party shall in all matters keep before itself the cardinal teachings of Gandhi Ji '

Raja Ji ^{has} himself advocated Gandhian Socialism in the last issue of Swarajya (June 22, 1968). Writing under the caption GET THE GANDHIAN BLESSING Raja Ji 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 Raja Ji.

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 next meeting to accept Ch. Charan Singh's proposal.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bhanu Pratap Singh)