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June 26, 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 Shri Giri 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, Shri Giri 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 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 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 cannot object to Gandhian Socialism :

'The Party adheres to the principle of trustee-ship 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 next meeting, to accept Ch. Charan Singh's proposal.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

Sd/-

(Bhanu Pratap Singh)