

5885

4th September 1967.

Dear Rameshwardagali,

Please refer to your letter No:374 of August 26th inviting me to contribute a couple of articles for the Symposium you intend to publish on the occasion of the inaugural Convention of the Bharatiya Kranti Dal.

I regret very much that I must ask to be excused as I am just at present under very heavy pressure of work and will shortly be going into a Nursing Home for an operation. I am sorry.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L.B.

Shri R.M. Totala,
Bharatiya Kranti Dal
National Convention,
200, Tilak Path (Krishnapura),
INDORE-2. (Madhya Pradesh).

President
Mahamaya Prasad Sinha
(Chief Minister, Bihar) PATNA

President Madhya Pradesh Unit
Takhtmal
BHOPAL

Chairman, Souvenir Sub-Committee
M. S. Oberai M. P.
Imperial Hotel, New Delhi

Chairman, Reception Committee
Rameshwardayal M. Totala
INDORE

Bhartiya Kranti Dal

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Reception Committee Office:
200, Tilak Path (Krishnapura)
INDORE-2

S.M. 374 Dated August 26, 1967

My dear Sri Dandekar, Vandematram,

In our Souvenir to be published on the occasion of the inaugural Convention of the Bhartiya Kranti Dal, we are arranging a Symposium in which eminent men from all walks of life will participate.

The theme of the Symposium is: Future of Political Parties in India. Will Democracy survive? Whether the cause of Democracy can be helped?

Although the Symposium will be published in a party Souvenir, we wish hundred flowers to bloom in its pages. Each shade of opinion will be represented, and leaders of most political parties, from the CPI (Marxist) to the Jansangh have been invited to air their views. To provide ballast against these strong winds, independent non-partisan intellectuals have been asked to join too.

We invite you to contribute your opinion on the above topic. If you have not time enough to write a detailed diagnosis, we shall be content with about 500 words. As the Convention will take place on October 1st, we shall be grateful to receive your article latest by the second week of September.

I hope your opinions will help in analysing the post-election crucible that is India, and predict the chemistry of its future.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

R. M. Totala

(Rameshwardayal M. Totala)

Shri N. Dandekar, MP
177 South Lanes
Upper Colaba, Bombay 5

PURI/

P.S. We want an article on "Foreign policy under Congress rule." also from you. So please be good enough to give us two articles. You might remember - I was in the delegation of M.B. State Govt. on Integration of federal finances. Rent

President

Mahamaya Prasad Sinha

(Chief Minister, Bihar) PATNA

President Madhya Pradesh Unit

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INDORE-2

No. 288/6)

Dated August 22, 1967.

My dear Sri Dandekarji,

Vandematram,

The Bhartiya Kranti Dal is having its first National Convention at Indore on October 1st and 2nd 1967. It has been decided to bring out a Souvenir on this occasion with a view to put the present problems besetting this country in proper perspective.

The country has suffered heavily under the Congress steamroller administrations for the last two decades.

It was primarily an abject failure of the leadership at the top with the people willing to cooperate, suffer, sacrifice, and deny themselves many things that was their due, looking for the brighter and better days ahead. Our object is to collect a series of articles dealing with politics, political philosophy, political parties, administrative practices, economic and industrial and fiscal policies to underline the ideals and ideas in the minds of those struggling to stem the rot and lift the nation from stagnation and decay.

As a party emerging on the national scene we feel that we could acquire and assimilate the best from the current political and economic thought. We do not adhere to any dogma but want to keep an open mind on problems and difficulties facing the country and the people. A person of your eminence would certainly be able to put the focus right. We wonder if you could spare some time for us for an article on the following subject so that your ideas serve as a laboratory of thought. However it is not our desire to confine you to the above subject; we leave it to your discretion to choose any other topic. We beg to be excused for encroaching on your time and hope that you would oblige us with the article as early as possible so that we could utilise it for our Souvenir.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

R. M. Totala

(Rameshwardayal M. Totala)

Subject; FOREIGN POLICY UNDER CONGRESS RULE

Sri N. Dandekar, MP

Ysp
839. I think I have
already replied (separately)
today. 2/2
49

✓
Draft

Mr. Raju 31-1
On further reflection,
No action
The Future of Democracy *2/3*
7x

~~As everyone knows,~~ the General Elections that concluded earlier this year has nailed for all time to come the myth of Congress invincibility.

As far back as May 21, 1947, Gandhiji prophesied in Patna :

"The Congress has gained the trust of the people on account of its many sacrifices and penances but if it were to let the people down by becoming their overlord instead of their servant and arrogate to itself a position of master, I venture to prophesy on the strength of my experience of long years that, though I may be alive or not, a revolution will sweep ^{over} the country and the people will bring out the white-capped ones individually and finish them."

The revolution did come in February 1967; with this difference - that it was a ballot box Revolution. That the anger of the people did not manifest itself in the extreme form prophesied by Gandhiji is a tribute to the ways of peace inculcated by the Father of the Nation in the people.

with His prophetic warning went unheeded by ^a the Congress. ^{which} ~~With~~ ^{had developed} twenty years of uninterrupted rule with a lust for power that transcended every canon of ethics and morality with the result that in nine states out of 16, it finds itself in the dust today, Every now and then making feeble attempts to return to power by the utilisation of the same unethical behaviour that characterised it when it was in power. Even at the Centre, it finds itself hanging on to power by a slender thread of 22 votes. This thread is bound to snap. In the meanwhile, there is no awareness on the

part of the Congress Party to learn from its mistakes. On the contrary, Congressmen, realising that time is running out, are in a mood to make hay while the sun shines, as the saying goes. At the same time, most Congressmen realising that time is running out, are making the best they can for themselves. In short, it is a case of each man for himself and the devil take the hindmost."

Before the last General Elections, I have heard people state with despair : " There is only one Party that can give this country a stable Government and that is the Congress Party. Where is that other Party that can replace the Congress - they ask ? The answer is that the days of the single Party rule in the country are over and I venture to forecast that never again will India have a single Party Government at the Centre. Multi-party Governments cannot to many, "political instability." This is not so. Instability arises in coalition governments only where such coalitions are based on the lure for power and have nothing to do with principles.

It is possible ^{for instance} ~~therefore~~, that Congressmen denied the plums of office at the Centre might well precipitate ^{or} ~~the~~ crisis by crossing the floor in the Lok Sabha so as to bring down their own Government in the hope that they might be in a position to lead ^{or} ~~the~~ United Front Government of Opposition Parties including the Communists. If this were to happen, what ^{should} ~~would~~ be the attitude of a democratic National Party which places the interests of the country before ~~the~~ Party ?

My own Party - the Swatantra Party - has without the slightest hesitation affirmed that it will not encourage the formation of a patch-work Government at the Centre on the West Bengal, Bihar or UP models since such a Government would, in the long run, be neither workable nor in the best interest of the country. Apart from being unstable, such ^{strange} ~~stray~~ coalitions

would merely provide an opportunity to communists and extreme socialists to entrench themselves in strategic positions and extend their grip over the country.

It is a question of ~~not~~ jumping from the frying pan of the Congress into the fire that is the Communists.

I have taken is probably

This position ~~I am sure~~ is not palatable to many in the Opposition, thirsting for office. But as I have mentioned earlier, a truly national democratic Party will always place the country first before the Party. [On the other hand, the future of Indian democracy would be safe if a kind of coalition Government based on the one functioning at present in Orissa were to come about. The difference between the Coalition Government in Orissa and the ones in Bengal, Bihar and UP is this : that while the Bengal, Bihar and UP Governments are post-election governments made possible by that post-election phenomenon known as floor-crossing, the coalition in Orissa is an arrangement that was entered into between two democratic Parties before the elections who agreed on a common minimum programme, went to the people with this programme and obtained their mandate to Government from the people.

This is not a short cut. ~~This will not bring to you power tomorrow.~~ This will not throw the Congress but tomorrow and bring the Opposition to power but this is a safer road - a road that will ensure that the future of democracy is safe. Impatience with the Congress misrule is one thing but it is quite another to ensure ^{an} ~~the~~ orderly transition so that the fabric of a democratic society does not get rent in the process.

Mr. Dandekar.

V

Here is an interesting letter from the B.T.K. Dal to MRM asking the latter to contribute an article to their Souvenir.

What we could do is to offer to them an article on the subject by yourself or Mr. K.M. Koushik who is reported to have made a good speech on Ford.

Raj

No action.

W.S.
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