

1) P. RENGASWAMI

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Estate, Madhavaram,
Madras - 600 060.

24-9-74.

(80)

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your reply dt. 14th
August, 1974, to my previous letter. I am
grateful to you for giving me the pleasure and
honour of receiving a letter from you. You have
displayed a great sense of magnanimity in
considering my suggestion and conveying your
opinions.

I happened to meet Mr. P. T. Mody on
25-8-74, when he had been to Madras. I had
a frank talk and a sharp argument with
him over the Swatantra dissolution and merger
issue. He was good enough to listen to me
patiently and explain his own viewpoints.

I must confess, that, after talking to
him I was able to appreciate that what he
was pursuing was only "politics of (what he
sincerely believes as) pragmatism", and not the
"politics of frustration" as ^{was} originally imagined
by me.

Though I still had some reservations,
I found myself in agreement with most of his
points.

It is not my intention here to ^{reproduce} ~~repeat~~
our exchanges but I would like to give you
the gist. In short, if we accept politics to
be what it is today in our country, the B.S.
could ~~offer~~ ^{be} the only alternative. This is the
basis of Mr. Mody's "Garbage Theory" which
proceeds on the assumption that politics is garbage
and the first step to create an alternative to

3) the Congress' heap of garbage is to collect and heap the scattered opposition garbage.

You would have noticed that the BLD had virtually accepted the Swatantra policies in essence. A slight change here and there should not matter. Anyway, is this not better than a coalition of opposition parties coming together under a common programme, which at present, though remote, is the only ~~the~~ way of replacing the Congress? I wish the party well.

The Tamil Nadu unit of the party had resolved to retain its identity and make efforts to revive the organisation at the all India level. I believe that this is a desperate move and is bound to fail. Unfortunately, these people have failed to think of strengthening the party all these days. Even if the T. N. Swatantra can continue for sometime, I don't visualise any possibility of the party being revived at the national level.

I can understand your opposition to the BLD, which is on moral grounds. You have always expected a strict sense of discipline and morality from the party. Hence, ~~as~~ I can very well understand your considering the party's alliance with people like Patnaik as something blasphemous. I wonder, what you would have done, if you were the party president now, with R. N. Singh also being found guilty of misusing his power by the Putter Commission.

I am sad to find that you are slowly walking into the background of Indian politics. I have always regarded you as the most intelligent and the most honest politician.

3) of India. And hence, I would naturally expect that you should have been assigned a greater role in our country.

But people get the leaders they deserve. Recently, there was a contest in a popular Tamil Weekly on a short profile ~~about~~ under the title "Here is my leader!" I wrote up about you and sent it. I was expecting at least a consolation prize, because I was very much satisfied about the thing. But the weekly in keeping up to its "standard" awarded the prize to 4 essays, one each on Kamaraj, Mrs. Gandhi, Karunanidhi and MGR.

So, such is the state of affairs. I find stupidity, lack of interest in things that should concern us most, sycophancy and above all hypocrisy everywhere. I am very often thinking about our country and its future.

I feel that you shouldn't allow yourself isolated from active life. I wish you contest the next elections as an independent and return to the Parliament.

The Asst. Secretary of the Indian Liberal Group, Madras was telling me recently that ~~the~~ they were trying to get you for the next meeting. I hope you would come and I would get a chance of meeting you and exchanging news.

I am sorry for having taken so much of your time. You may find this

letter incoherent and full of stray things.
I thought of writing about so many things to
you and while writing this letter, I couldn't
recall and reproduce coherently.

~~and~~ I am thankful to you for lending
me your time,

Yours sincerely,
Berghes.