

Shri R.D.Patel,
36, Gomtiwas,
Vallabh Vidyanagar.
Via. Anand.
Date 23-7-1974.

(256)

Respected Sir Masaniji,

I received the copy of the letter which ^{you} have written to Shri
Piloo Mody.

I am sorry for I could not find myself to be able to know why
you are opposing the dissolution of swatantra party for the formation
of a National Alternative. When the Swatantra Party was formed you had
never thought about providing any justification. A small group of few
persons had left the Congress and approached Rajaji, then formed the
Swatantra Party. Do'nt you think that it was a puny affair with which
Shri Rajaji, Shri K.M.Munshi, Prof. N.G.Ranga and yourself were associ-
-ated ? You also had an opportunity to enlarge the party from a puny
affair to a big and strong opposition party. In the new party also
if you are prepared to join ^{work} as you had worked in Swatantra Party
in the past, it can be stronger one, which may provide credible image
to the aspirations of the people. We should not try to forget that
when the Swatantra Party was formed, it was a small group only, while
in National Alternative there are many groups to be merged.

We can say that it is much more better if DMK and Akalis join us
in the new party, but it is not advisable today to associate with
Jansangh and Congress (O). You know that all the seven or Ten parties
are non-Congress, Non-Communist and Non-Marxist. Positively we can
have no objection in joining with them in a one party with new name,
new flag and new symbol. You also know that the policies, programme
and economic philosophy of congress (O) are the same as that of Congress
(R) . We can say that as both the parties believe in control, quotas,
permits, Licences, socialism, Co-op. & collective farming and ceiling
on properties, they are fully communist and party Marxist. Jansangh
is good but it is well-known as a communalist party and it believes in
getting the justice in the streets as in case of Marxist party, and
hence it is not in the interest of real democratic philosophy of the
new party to get any of them today. If they are prepared today to

join in the new party, they shall try to introduce their statist (socialist) -policies diluting the original philosophy and principles of Swatantra Party. You ~~may~~ must have read in the news papers about the opinions of Ashok Mehta, Hitendra Desai and Babubhai Jashbhai etc. on the Swatantra Party and the new party. They say that they cannot sit with Swatantra Party and cannot join the new party because both of them do not believe in socialism.

If this is the real position today, then why are you trying to put unnecessary hindrances in the beginning of the way of honest and sincere efforts made by Shri Piloo Mody to bring about two party system in India, which is more essential today than it was in the past.

The statement of the policies of a new party with which you have agreed covers almost all the policies of Swatantra Party, with few nominal exceptions. Why are you afraid of the press statement issued by SPP ? If all the leaders of Swatantra Party join in the new party and fully support the statement of policies, good solutions can be found out, and the facts can be well-explained before the leaders of other parties in the cases of difficulties.

You do not prefer the company of Biju Patnaik, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Mr. Raj Narain and Mr. Charansingh in the new party. In India, you will rarely find any politician who is scrupulous, honest and sincere. If we want to provide credible image to the people and have a stronger party we will have to rely upon such persons, ofcourse to a limited extent. Even today, you will find such leaders in Congress (O) also, with whom you want to associate. It seems from the last letter of Shri Piloo Mody that yourself and Rajaji were prepared to join Swatantra with BKD and SSP under the new name, new flag and new symbol, during the years of about 1971, and you had allowed the Orissa Swatantra Party to form a coalition Govt. with Biju Patnaik. Then why today you are opposing? It is only because of Shri Piloo Mody ? I also remember your press statement regarding the dissolution of the Swatantra Party. You should not forget that the Congress (O) peoples are more responsible than any other groups or party for today's crisis.

I hope we all shall try to suit ourselves with the resolution passed by our National Executive on 7th April, 1974 in order to ...

remove the chaos prevailing in our political life in the confusion created in the minds of the electorate.

You cannot say, for the sake of making wider publicity, that there is wide-spread opposition to the new party's proposal and many of the members will not accept? I think the matter which you have collected seems to have been swisted. Only Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Delhi have opposed,. From Gujarat, our Gemnal Secretary had given his personal opinion which cannot be treated as the opinion of State Council.

You are not aware of the fact that why Tamil Nadu is opposing. On 9th June, 1974 after the meeting of National Council was over, Mr. Devnathan of Tamil Nadu had expressed his views in the presence of Myself, our G.S. & Girish Dholabhai Patel as under:-

"We do not mind if the party is dissolved and a new party is formed, but we oppose only because Mr. Lachchanna supports Shri Piloo Mody. On the second day Shri C.R.Narsinham were heard saying that it is better the party is dissolved and we be absorbed in congress (O). Mr. Girish Munshi from Maharashtra had opposed but he had also said that he is not against merger. Lt. Col. H.R.Pasricha from Delhi has opposed, but the reasons he has given in his letter and at the meeting at New Delhi, are absolutely baseless. I think his approach is negative.

I do not find these are the proper reasons to oppose the dissolution in favour of formation of a new party.

When all these local parties are prepared to get dissolved along with Swatantra Party, the National Alternative can be formed to provide a strong opposition against ruling party, which will be stronger than Jansangh and Congress (O). It seems that gradually some leaders and workers from Congress (O) and Jansangh may think to join the new party. We are trying to provide a common platform. This is just a beginning to bring out the potential and moral support from the public, and if no party takes the initiative, then who will do this? I can say that not only the leaders but each and every member of the Swatantra Party should be worried about ~~worried~~ about what is happening in this country because we are the real democrates.

I do not think that the suggestions given by you can be accepted by Majority of the members.

Your suggestion regarding the preparation of a genuine consolidation, maintaining the party's individual identity to our coming together with others on a common programme for 'Unity in Action', cannot be accepted.

I am sorry for we could not maintain unity in Action among the leaders of the Swatantra Party, while we are talking about common programme and unity in action with other parties?

Now remember our grand alliance of 1971 under your presidency. We being a little more stronger, had given wider opportunities to Jansangh and Congress (O) to contest on more seats. We could not bargain for more seats on the basis of 1967. We had rather more bitter experience in Gujarat!

And today when the Swatantra Party is as like as a dead body, shall we be prepared for the same alliance again? If today the grand alliance is made, Jansangh & Congress (O) will not allow us to contest even on a single seat in all the states excepting Rajasthan, Orissa, & Tamil Nadu. The result shall be that our individual entity will remain only on a piece of a paper, our policies and principles will have no place in Indian Politics and almost all the workers of our party will prefer to join in Jansangh and for Congress(O). Gradually our party shall be automatically dissolved without having a principled National Alternative as a strong opposition party.

We should not forget that our party is suffering from the difficulties relating to finance and other means. We had taken the note of our financial difficulties in our mid-term report of 1970, but we could not find out the solution. We could not do any thing in respect of the triple programme of activity as decided by the party (on page No. 31 of Mid-term Report), but gradually our leaders became idle & inactive, shifting the responsibilities on each other. You were keenly interested only during the better period of the party. You were actively interested till you were the member of Parliament. But after your grave defeat in Rajkot, you had immediately left the presidency of the party when you were really needed by the party. I am unable to find such a president in any of the political parties. Later on you remained completely inactive

which you were not expected to be, and today we all know the real condition of the party when our country is passing in a critical period and our democracy is at an end, and hence there is nothing wrong if the party is dissolved to form a new party with the same principles.

Partly, we are not loyal to the real policies of the party. I can say that our party had allowed Orissa Govt. to nationalize the Text-Books business, to put ceiling on land and our same Orissa Govt. could not allow the farmers to sell their Rice in the free market, while today we are talking about our policies and the farmers.

Your suggestion of converting the party into a service or constructive work organization also cannot be accepted. Your suggestion is better but today we are too late to decide and function accordingly. If constructive or educational or social work had been started by your good self probably between 1969 and 1971, though youth activities, today not you but we could have opposed the dissolution. But we did not care about the party, its organization, its youth activities and its financial and other resources, and we want to continue the party simply for barking, doing nothing in the interest of the democracy of our country.

You are giving the illustrations of Rajaji, Jaiprakash Narayan, Acharya Kripalani and Nani Palkhiwala. I hope you would be well aware of the fact that except Nani Palkhiwala all were well-known politicians in their times and were attached to various political parties for a longer period during their life and were able to make a good show during the political period. While today they (except Rajaji) having been related with constructive work, are unable to build up public image. No doubt, I also have great respect for them. Mr. Nani Palkhiwala is an expert in constitutional Laws and excellent brain, but is known to a very little percentage of educated class, while nobody knows him out of the wide-spread voters in the villages of India.

Our late Shri Bhaikaka had become well-known to the public during his political life than ever before, and his contribution to our democracy is also a unique one. Gujarat Khedut Samaj being a non-Political and stronger organization cannot function effectively, while Khedut Sangh, which was formed by Bhaikaka, as a political organ of Swatantra Party,

had got many decisions taken by Government in the interest of the farming community. The young students of Gujarat could ~~have~~ ^{only} because of political ~~be~~ support of various parties and other ~~hal~~ leaders.

I hope you will think again in the case.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



(R.D. Patel)