

PILOO MODY

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June 12, 1974

In a/c

My dear Minoo,

I received your letter of June 6 with great dismay, which was further compounded by your no-show in Delhi. Just when I needed your support the most, just when we all needed you to reason and argue the case you deserted us, and instead, sent a letter which was profusely quoted by those who had come to the meeting with their minds closed to the idea of the new Party.

There is a basic difference between previous attempts and the current one. While in the past we were seeking "like-minded" partners to augment our strength, in the present effort we are trying to eliminate all non-Congress, non-Communist and non-Marxist parties to create a new party. It is in this context that I find it difficult to answer some of the posers raised in your letter.

1) Will there be homogeneity in the new Party?

Obviously the question of homogeneity will always remain. It has existed in our own party, in alliances we have sought, in any new combination of "like-minded" parties, as indeed, it will remain in the New Party. It must be dealt with.

2) Will the new party present a credible image?

My opinion is that it will not be worse, on the contrary, it will create some hope in the people at large that at last a reverse tread has started. If on the other hand all parties were to get together, would that not create its own hope and credibility. In that case would we be seeking character references of the people concerned? Do the Democrats and Republicans or the Conservatives and Labour Parties compete with each other on purity? What about the despicable Enoch Powell ("If you want a nigger for a neighbour, vote Labour")? Credibility is a function of media control, from which we will suffer for quite some time to come.

3) Would the new "combo" reduce the specific appeal of each?

It might; the final appeal may not be the same total of each party, added together. But it will certainly be much larger than the individual appeal of one of the parties.

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4) Whether a new party now would inhibit a larger formulation later on?

The chances are certainly greater. The present inhibitions in the Cong (O) and the Jan Sangh are all personal (like in our party) and no amount of argument can dispel them. As explained earlier, a two-party system just cannot accomodate those considerations. A man who wishes to be in politics, must join the Congress or the National Alternative or retire. There should be no other parking place. If Indian politics is to be cleansed, it will have to be done by society at large through elections or by education or even by social ostasization.

Now to deal with the last point, leading out of the fourth one - a period of trial, either based on a federal party as recommended by Tamil Nadu and Cong (O) or "a common programme for Unity in Action" as suggested by you. After having gone through all your files of the last 5 years, I am surprised that you can still suggest such action. Anything short of burning your boats, leads to infinite quarrels dissipating 95 per cent of your time in squabbles instead of doing constructive work, a constant tug-of-war over seats and an effort to build ones own party at the expense of the partners. These arrangements combine weaknesses instead of strengths. We have to demonstrate in the new party that this "combo" will work together if we wish to take a step forward from the past.

In the light of these remarks, please reconsider your views and join the fray. Time and Events wait for no one.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Piloo Mody

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