

25th April, 1974

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Mr. Piloo Mody,
2, Lodi Estate,
Cornwallis Road,
New Delhi-110003

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Dear Sir:

I am a member of the Swatantra Party from its inception. I do not however, believe personal attachments to Party, Flag or a Name etc. should stand in one's way, when some actions are to be taken in PUBLIC INTEREST.

It appears that the Party High Command has decided to merge their Party with other opposition parties in order to create a solid opposition without which the corruption riddled, powermad Congress - CPI coalition at centre and elsewhere cannot be got rid off.

The one and only criterion for making the decision is whether the parties you propose to join are people worthy of merit by their previous performances and actions and what will be the objective of the new organisation in the context of Swatantra Objectives.

I am one of the thousands who believe that all the parties mentioned in the papers are not worthy of association - a drop of poison is enough to spoil a tank of milk and so I believe the association with an indisciplined person like Raj Narain, a corrupt and notorious Patnaik.

All the problems arise because, you are trying to initiate actions without first doing the duty of educating the people. Education of people is a time consuming and tiresome work, perhaps thankless also. There can however be no short cut to success in this regard. I believe that the work done by us in parallel with the efforts of Forum of Free Enterprise has done a lot of good inasmuch as the people in power are beginning to initiate actions recommended by us, as a drowning person tries to catch a straw. The intelligentsia and students also realise the truth of our preachings. This fact can be recognised from the mob intellectual audience Mr. Palkhivala is getting nowadays wherever he goes. At this juncture, our Party should concentrate in publicising through leaflets, published literature and Meetings by eminent men all over the country and explain to people what Swatantra Party is standing for and how all we have been predicting have been coming true and how other countries which went down to the lowest levels got out e.g. Brazil.

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Sri Rajaji had repeatedly stated that "The Swatantra Party is not a group of people seeking office to displace the present rulers through success in elections. It is a party devoted to the education of the people in true liberalism with its emphasis on individual freedom and rejection of Statism." He wanted us to follow the Liberal International in this context.

Sri Rajaji affirmed that "As far as he is concerned he would definitely seek and advice the Party to work to educate the electorate rather run after the immediate pleasures of transient political power."

He also stated that "Swatantra Party is an educational mission, not a power aimed grouping. Responsibility and power may and should be taken when they come, but the shaping and working of the party should not be around the power-aim, but should be in conformity with the aim of the education of the people and other political groups to see the validity of the Party's economic and political principles."

He stated on 29th May, 1971 that "There is a great difference between a party devoted to educate the Government and the people in the right direction on matters relating to the economy of the nation and parties primarily seeking power, although they may have the public welfare as a secondary aim. The Swatantra Party's primary aim is to educate the electorate and governments whatever party they may be dominated by - - - Power obtained by parties working for it may be described as chaff. Power that comes unsought as a reward for dedicated work is a golden opportunity for further service."

Sri Rajaji also gave his clarion call in his Swarajya article of 8th April, 1972 entitled "No Capitulation" Our Slogan. "The Swatantra Party should stand firm and not extinguish itself. Let us realise our dignity and our importance to the nation as the corner stone of the temple. Outside the legislature we can, if we make up our minds, be more powerful than all the abettors of the drift to dictatorship."

Sri Rajaji expressed often his firm opinion that Swatantra Party can never become a mass based party and so it has to essentially confine itself to largely educative work.

All our problems are due to forgetting this basic purpose of the Party's mission and in working our efforts to somehow achieve parliamentary success quickly. People have not suffered enough to learn that much quickly!

Sri Rajaji has also given his thinking succinctly in his 24th April, 1971 article in Swarajya entitled "No Me-too-ism" on the efforts taken by Sri M.R. Masani to bring into existence a consolidated democratic opposition to the ruling power in Delhi.

On July 21st, 1970 in his address to the General Council at Madras, Sri Rajaji stated under another context that "By merging we may lose our party identity, but we do not lose our principles. We work for our principles right through, whatever our political affiliation may be. We have a common purpose now. Other things must be forgotten until the first battle is victoriously won."

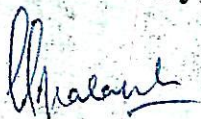
So if you opt for a joint front with a conglomeration of other parties, let us decide that:

1. We do not join hands with people, whose association will throw us into gutter.
2. Let us not forget the principles for which we stand.
3. Let the Party continue to give more emphasis for its educational work and the parliamentary effort be an auxilary work performed by the parliamentary wing of the Party.

Please remember the maximum that the sacrifice made by us should not be in vain. We should not lose what we have gained all these years by running after chimera.

Thanking you, with personall regards,

Yours sincerely,



S. GOPALAKRISHNAN

c.c.

✓ Mr. M.R. Masani
Mr. G.K. Sundaram
Mr. V. Srikumar