

9 June 1969.

Dear Sri Naik,

We missed your presence in last two meetings of the National Executive greatly. I hope you are in good health.

I understand that you are somewhat piqued over our talks with the Jan Sangh. But you will remember that you were a party to the resolution that was passed in this connection on March 23.

The Jan Sangh and, for the matter of that, every other party which agreed to merge its identity into a new party, would most obviously cease to be its former self. With the emergence of a new party, aims and principles of all the merging units would also have undergone the necessary change.

The situation of the country is fast deteriorating. It bears no relation to what it was in 1967. Therefore, it behoves all parties which believe in democracy and put the interest of our own land above that of every other, to come together in order that a strong alternative both to Congress and to Communism was available to the people. But it seems we have learnt no lessons from history and are not able to rise above our petty interests and petty loyalties in order that the larger loyalty to, and the larger interest of, the country is better served. So, the talks with the Jan Sangh are virtually at an end.

I understand that because of our talks with the Jan Sangh, the negotiations you were carrying on with the Peasant and Workers' Party of your State have received a jolt. I do not understand why they should. If we examine the election manifestoes of the various democratic parties a bit critically, we will find there is not much difference on questions that really matter.

I hope, therefore, you will please continue your talks with the friends of the Peasant and Workers' Party or, if they have been dropped, to resume them. If you deem it expedient, Sri Prakashvir Ji Shastri alone or along with Sri Takhatmal Ji Jain can make it convenient to reach Poona. Two copies of the pamphlet entitled 'Aims and Principles' which constituted our manifesto, are enclosed for your convenience.

With regards,

I am,  
Yours



Sri Sri Narayan Naik,  
53/11 'Indira' Eranivan,  
POONA-4.

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9th June 1969.

Dear Prof. Ranga,

You know our reactions when on second day of the talks in Delhi the friends of the Jan Sangh made it clear beyond doubt that merger of the three parties was not just on their agenda and, at best, it could come about as a result of joint working in the Parliament after some time. They had thrown a hint to that effect on the previous day also. Your and Masani's reactions were similar to ours.

As is clear from our resolution and also as I made it clear during all the preceding talks we had with one another, merger — and nothing short of it — was the aim that we had in view. Otherwise, no efforts of the kind that we made, were at all necessary. According to my reading, the situation is far different from what it was in 1967 and is deteriorating at a very, very fast speed. If we are not able to provide an alternative to the decadent Congress and to Communism at a very early date, people are likely to lose their faith in democracy altogether.

It seems, however, that we, who claim to represent the people, are unable to rise above our petty loyalties and petty interests and the country is as unfortunate as it was in mid-18th century when the British gradually began to spread their net and ultimately, swallowed the entire country within a century. There is, however, one difference. The result of our criminal negligence this time is going to be far bitter than what we experienced previously. In some respects, even the British rule is likely to appear as a blessing as compared with the communist nightmare that is likely to engulf the country this time.

Not to digress further: my friends had warned me against the Jan Sangh but I over-ruled their wishes. Now they have been proved to be right. The question of BKS dissolving itself in order to found a new party along with your party alone or, for the matter of that, any other single party, was discussed in our Executive, but we could not arrive at a definite decision.

You had invited me to the meeting of your National Executive scheduled to be held in Madras, perhaps on June 23. We know each other's mind already but if you think it will serve any purpose, our Vice-President, Sri Takhatal Ji Jain and General Secretary, Sri Prakash Vir Ji Ghastri, would be flying to Madras after we had heard from you.

With respectful regards for Rajaji and warm regards for yourself,

I am,  
Yours

Prof. M. Ranga, MP,  
4, Sanshri Bagh, Road,  
NEW DELHI.

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