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8th March 1963.

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My dear Rajaji,

Thank you for your letter of 5th March. I am delighted that you are publishing a paragraph in your column in "Swarajya" to make the Appeal that you have. I shall put out a circular to our State Units calling on them to launch a campaign in the same direction.

I had a good meeting in Jaipur on the subject yesterday and we are addressing a public meeting in Matunga where Dandekar, I and others are speaking.

There is a widespread feeling from among businessmen and others that you are the only person around whom a nation-wide campaign against the budget can revolve, and that something like Gandhiji's Dandi March in regard to the sales tax on your part could be the beginning of a mass movement. While a no-tax campaign on a broad front may not be sustainable in view of the Defence of India Rules, it may be possible to focuss attention on these matters by pin pointing the attack on a particular aspect of these proposals. This is obviously a matter which must be left to your own opinion and judgment.

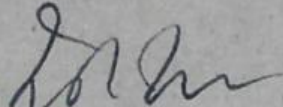
Meanwhile it is suggested that you make a public appeal ~~(which could be published in "Swarajya" and released in advance to the press) some time early next week.~~ The points that this appeal may cover are the following:-

- 1) As you have already stated, Government by its brute and artificial majority in Parliament may accept the budget, but the people must reject it.
- 2) Chambers of Commerce, Manufacturers Organisations and other Trade Associations should show some courage by speaking out and concerting measures to protect the rights and interests of their members.
- 3) Businessmen who are not affected personally by the Gold Control Order should demonstrate their solidarity with Goldsmiths, artisans and jewellers.
- 4) An offer on your part to visit a business centre like Bombay or Calcutta and place yourself as the head of mass demonstration or procession, provided the business community takes the initiative and invites you to do so.

By stopping the normal functioning of the Stock Exchange, the Government are preventing economic laws from functioning and demonstrating

immediately the calamitous effects of the budget, but among those who understand these implications there is great indignation and concern. I fear that the Swatantra Party organisation is too weak by itself to reflect these feelings and I agree that those who make them suggestion of your being projected personally as the symbol of resistance to this budget as something that would be valuable.

Yours sincerely,


(M.R. Masani)

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P.S.

Since this was written Sir Homi has drawn attention to an unfortunate PTI report copy of which I enclose. One or two people in Delhi also asked me about this. I hope you will publish an article pointing out that your sarcasam seems to have been lost on the report.

Encl:

