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May I first of all thank you for your very warm welcome and words of good cheer which have made me happy. One of the main satisfactions of this election for me has been the pleasure it has given to a large number of people in Rajkot and a large number of people in Bombay and elsewhere.

The Chairman mentioned to you Mr. Manubhai Shah's challenge, his supreme confidence that the only issue in the election was the size of the Congress majority, own confidence that if he had not been going abroad he would also have made me forfeit my security deposit. He was not quite wrong. Everything would have justified this kind of supreme confidence on the 28th of April - four weeks before polling. Consider the background in three consecutive elections, the Congress Party had carried the Rajkot seat without any difficulty or challenge. In 1952, their vote was 61%, in 1957 their vote was 71%, and in 1962 it dropped to 55%, but even so their majority was 41,000. So it was not a kind of seat that the Congress need have worried about. Also, as Mr. Manubhai Shah told me, they could not afford to lose it because he described it as the fulcrum of Saurashtra. He said if you carry Rajkot we lose Saurashtra, and if we lose Saurashtra, we lose Gujarat. We simply can't afford that. I hope he is right. (laughter) In fact, such was the confidence of the Congress Party and the general feeling of invincibility that Mr. Vajubhai Shah, General Secretary of the Gujarat Provincial Congress Committee, said immediately after the declaration of the results: Never in my thirty years of public life have the voters so deceived me! (laughter) This is a very amusing charge to make. As I mentioned the following day, the deception was not the part of the voters but on the part of Mr. Vajubhai Shah. He had been deceiving himself, he had been blind, he had refused to see the signs that it was open for anyone to see. He could not make out when people had had enough of him. It is amazing how, in spite of clear manifestations of popular disapproval, the Secretary of the Gujarat Provincial Congress Committee had not been able to anticipate the trend of the voting.

In that context, a particular tribute needs to be paid to the leader of the Swatantra Party in Gujarat, Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel (applause). He is going to be 75 in a few days, but he is a robust optimist and he was convince before the campaign started, before even I agreed to stand, that we could carry Rajkot and nothing could shake him. I don't mind



saying today that if it had not been for his very instant invitation to stand, I would not have stood and we would not have been able to carry Rajkot. So the real victory in a way is Bhailalbhai Patel's and I would like to pay my tribute to him (applause).

Before I discuss the reasons for this tremendous change in outlook in thirty days, I would like to share one or two impressions with you about Rajkot. I discovered that Bombay and Rajkot were rather close, that hundred and hundreds of business people here had their agents or their friends in Rajkot and that there was very close communication both ways between Bombay and Rajkot. In fact, the telephone connection between Bombay and Rajkot is very good. Many business firms have six or eight or ten telephone lines directly connected with Bombay and there is a constant coming and going of messages and thoughts. I think one of the reasons why we were able to do well in Rajkot was that hundreds of good people in Bombay started writing and telephoning to their friends and relations there asking them to help. When I went out in the Bazaars people often said that Mr. So-and-so had written to them about me and they were already on our side. This was a great shot in the arm.

Rajkot is a pleasant city and a relatively clean city. What is very important is that the whole district has excellent main roads. This is something quite unusual, and something for which a candidate must be grateful.

The second thing about Rajkot is not so pleasant - the people are very poor. It is not as prosperous as Bombay or Ahmedabad. The villages are particularly poor. What is shocking is that there is no water, not enough water to drink or wash with. Most of the villages suffer from the scarcity of water supply. There is draught at present: there is no grass for the cattle. Grass has to be brought in from outside and distributed in order to keep the cattle going. Poor as they are, the people are very hospitable. I think the Saurashtra people are difficult to beat for hospitality. Every one of them asks you to come in to their home. You must eat or drink something, even if it is only a glass of water. Most of the time you are offered milk or tea or a cold drink or something to eat. The desire to share their little food and drink with you is extremely touching and something for which one has to be grateful. Even in the bazaars, the shop keepers insist you stop and have a soda water or a cold drink with them.



They are a very friendly people too. Right from the day that my colleagues from Bombay and I arrived we were never made to feel outsiders. We found a friendly population waiting for us. They were very generous about my Gujarati ! I spoke in Hindi on the first occasion or two but, when I found that they were very indulgent and generous, I shifted to Gujarati and they listened to me with patience and tolerance. The attempt made by one Congress spokesman to describe me as a Parsi boomeranged so badly that he promptly had to withdraw his statement saying first that he was sorry and later that he had never made it ! That shows the cosmopolitan outlook which was very refreshing in that remote area.

On the other hand, the people are timid. They are somewhat frightened people, and they had cause to be frightened because they had a rather unfortunate background of vindictiveness and the arbitrary use of authority from which they suffer over the last decade. Coming to an analysis of the election, what are the factors that led to the victory of the Swatantra Party and defeat of the Congress ? I would say that, above all, the biggest factor was that the people of Rajkot, both in the town and the villages, are fed up with the Congress government. The common phrase used while putting their hand to their head was 'Ahiyya Tak Avigayu chhe, Have nahi Khamatu' (laughter). This was said even by members of the Congress Party. The discontent with the Congress administration is something that has to be seen to be believed. Until I got to Rajkot, I was not aware of the intense antagonism towards the Congress government of the common people of all classes -- businessmen, peasants, shopkeepers, workers. This antagonism is referred to by describing the opponent as the 'Dholi topiwala'. 'Dholi topiwala' is a class of people who are now disliked and resented because they had misused their authority. It is very interesting that Mahatma Gandhi had anticipated this phenomenon. At a prayer meeting not long before his death, he had said: It took a great deal of selfless sacrifice and service for the Congress to win the confidence of the people. But if Congressmen betray the people and instead of serving them become their masters, then whether I live or not I can from my long experience warn them that the country would be aflame in revolt against the wearers of the white cap ? (Hear, have from the audience and applause).

So far as Rajkot is concerned, I can assure you that Gandhiji's forecast and warning has come true. The man with a white cap, provided he



is a Congressman, is now looked upon with intense resentment and antagonism. When people are asked: Why are the princes so popular, why it is possible for the Yuvaraj of Jasdan to come forward and convert that deficit area into a 7000 surplus area for Masani, the answer is that, compared with the unpopularity of the Congress Rajas, the old regime look benevolent because the new regime has proved to be much worse than the old regime. Now what are the elements that make the Congress Party unpopular ?

The first cause is their policies, and the three policies on which it was easy to get a response, to get a walk over, was high taxes and prices, the Gold Control Order, and the criminal neglect of the country's defences against Communist China. Those are the three thing that even the meanest intelligence and even the poorest the most illiterate man found no difficulty in understanding . But more than the policies, it was the practice. The policies were disliked because the results had been bad, because the way they had been implemented had been lacking in honesty of purpose. So the anger was against the policies because of the way they had been implemented and practiced or, to put it in another way, it was the misuse of power, the lack of honesty in purpose, and the gulf between the profession and <sup>the</sup> practice of the Congressmen in office that had made those policies unpopular. If socialism and non-alignment have become dirty words, which lose rather than gain votes, it is not because the people object in theory to socialism and non-alignment but because the way they see them implemented stink. So, when people applauded and mobbed me ~~and wanted to shake my hand and listen to me with rapt attention~~ ~~from all sides and they had~~ listened to me with rapt attention and wanted to shake hands I used to say that this had little to do with me personally but a lot with to do with their discontent, their pain, their anger, of which I had become a symbol and a mouth piece.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Another factor in our victory was the unanimous support of all parties and elements, except the Congress and the Communist Party. Let me just list them. First the political parties - The Praja Socialist Party, The Jan Sangh, and the Hindu ~~XXXXXX~~ Mahasabha. Then class groups like Khedut Sangh and the Western Railway Workers.. Then, the two Independent M.L.As sitting in the Gujarat Assembly - Mr. Babubhai Vaid, a very fine and honest representative, of Rajkot City, and the Yuvaraj of Rajkot, who represents the Rajkot rural area. Both of them were also helping us. Then there was a new entrant, the Yuvaraj of



Jasdan who had never even appeared on a platform or made a speech in his life. We appealed to him to help us and explained to him the issues, the need for an opposition, the need for clean government. After two days of thinking it over, he called us and said: 'I am on your side' and he came out, became a hero to his people, who never expected a member of the ruling family to stand up to Authority in the way the Yuvaraj of Jasdan did. Today he is one of the most popular men.

Then there were disillusioned Congressmen, particularly in Upleta, Congressmen who had broken away from the Congress, who had quarrelled with the official Congress Party and came on our side. Finally there is a unique institution in Rajkot. It is not a political party, but it is almost powerful as one, and that is the leading daily newspaper of Saurashtra JAIHIND (applause). The Editor of Jaihind, Mr. Narottam Shah, is a power in himself, and the way he pushed into the campaign and became our standard-bearer, the transmitter of our message and ideas -- certainly a large part of the credit for the election goes to him.

Now, what brought all these people together? Of the things that brought them together was to see somebody standing up to some bully and putting him in his place. I think this was the feeling of the small boy who cheers another who comes and puts the school bully in his place. Here the village bully was intimidating the people and making everybody's life a misery. There was no hope to be seen. Then somebody came along and said 'Come along, and help me to defeat him', they felt a tremendous sense of hope that perhaps this would work out, perhaps the bully would be put in his place. That was, I think, one of the biggest factors.

The other was the desire to strengthen the opposition in the Lok Sabha. Never mind to what party he belongs, let the opposition in the Lok Sabha be strengthened by people who can talk, by people who can think, by people who can stand up and be counted.

The third thing was a great desire for a change. People are tired of the Congress Government. They want a change and, unless there is a strong opposition, how can there be a change? So the desire for a strong opposition as the first step to the building of an alternative government which can replace the Congress in 1967. These, I think were the motives for the coming together of every kind of people who disagreed with one another.

There was one exception, of course, the Communist Party. The Communist Party had a very difficult time. I felt very sorry for them during those thirty days. ~~They~~ They naturally did not want to support



me. That is understandable. I didn't want their support. On the other hand they could not support the Congress either. You may ask why? That was the Party line. The Communist Party of India has now for many months laid it down to that they support the Congress ~~against the~~ ~~reactionaries~~ against the "reactionaries". Then why didn't they support the Congress ~~from~~ from the start? The answer is that the Congress was so unpopular that even the Communists did not dare to support them. Their people wouldn't have listened to them. If they had come out openly and support the Congress they would have been chased out by their own supporters. So in the beginning, they were in a dilemma, and they found a way out to this dilemma by putting up a so called 'independent' candidate who was a Communist. A gentleman by name Mr. Bhalodi from the rural areas of Gondal was put up, so that they would waste their votes by giving them to Mr. Bhalodi and thus be saved from this horrible choice of either supporting the Congress which would make them unpopular or supporting Masani, which would make them popular but which was revolting to their own ideological instincts. So they put up Mr. Bhalodi in the hope that a few thousand votes would be wasted on him, and they could save their conscience and keep their neutrality. But, as the election progressed and they began to fear that Masani might win, their ideological prejudices overcame their caution. They decided to risk becoming unpopular, but to stop Masani from winning. So, a few days before the election, they withdrew Mr. Bhalodi, their candidate, and came out publicly with an appeal, including one by Mr. Bhalodi himself, that they should vote for the Congress to defeat the reactionary Swatantra Party candidate. So, in the end a week before the election, the Communist party of Rajkot came into line with the Communist Party of India, dropped their opportunism and came out in their true colours. Even so, the election results show that the Communists were not able to divert their entire vote into the Congress ballot box. In Upleta and Dhoraji, the feeling against the Congress was so strong, that their own followers, & even known fellow travellers defied them and said: 'we are going to vote for the Swatantra Party, we don't care what you say'. And so I had the unusual privilege of seeing several hundred well-known fellow travellers voting for me against the Congress candidate (applause).

Now, I have given two reasons for our victory -- the hatred of the Congress and the United Front on our side. A third reason is the Campaign.



The way in which the campaign went -- there was a contrast between their campaign and ours. Our campaign was purely political and ideological. We posed the Swatantra Party criticism and the programme against the programme of the Congress Party and government. We set up a organisation very quickly. We adopted every modern techniques that we knew. Our meetings were a great success. People came to listen and we gave them serious political stuff which they had never had before. There had never been a political debate in Rajkot till we got there and put our point of view. This was the first political education or entertainment if you like that the people of Rajkot had been given, and so our meetings were a great success. I was glad that the Statesmen correspondent from Delhi, who covered the election during the last week or ten days, wrote in one of his despatches that what was remarkable at Masani's meetings was that young people were predominant, whereas at Congress meetings only old people were there. Now this is largely true and I myself was very pleased at the number of young faces at every meeting in town and outside that I addressed. The youths of Rajkot were with us.

Here may I thank for their hard work and the responsible work they took a few people notwithstanding Mr. Danekar's advice not to make distinctions. I would like to thank some of our very senior and esteemed colleagues from Gujarat Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel of course worked (applause) until he fell ill in the last few days. Mr. Bayabhai Patel, leader of our Party in the Rajya Sabha, the Rajasahb of Baria, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Gujarat, Maharajkumar Himatsinghji of Cutah, member of Parliament, and many many others whom I can't name because that would take too much time. I would also like to thank our Chairman for coming in twice and becoming my Election Agent on the last two or three days when I was so fagged that I could not trust my own judgement any more. It was a great confort to have him next to me with all his experience, background and knowledge (applause).

We did one or two things that appealed particularly to the people of Rajkot. I gave an assurance that we would make no personal attacks. I gave an assurance at my first meeting at Rajkot that there would be no personal attack by me on Mr. Jathalal Joshi. He was a good man, so far as we were concerned, we would say nothing against him. That assurance we kept. Right through the thirty days I never referred to him except in respectful and friendly terms and I am glad to say that personally, but I can't say that about some of his colleagues, he responded and rescriprocated.



I made another offer on the very first day. I invited Mr. Joshi to come on our platform and address meeting along with me so that we could put our respective points of view and enter into a friendly debate. I am sorry that he didn't accept my invitation. Perhaps if he had, he might have benefitted by addressing our audiences and having his own point of view put before them. The offer was appreciated by the general public. Finally, after my election, when I addressed a victory meeting, a very crowded meeting a day after the result was declared, I announced that from now on I represented all the voters of Rajkot -- those who have voted for me as well as those who voted against me. (applause) and that in being of service to people I would make no distinction between my supporters and my former opponents. That is the spirit in which we fought our campaign the people of Rajkot were intelligent enough and decent enough to appreciate the kind of lead we gave. On the other hand, the Congress campaign has been described by Mr. Dandekar and I don't want to comment on it at this stage. During the first eight or ten days they took us as a joke. They thought this a big joke and we should not be taken seriously. They could just sit back and win the election. This mood continued till it was too late. I think by the time they realised ~~that~~ that we had got down to the villages, that we have been pouncing on their preserves, it was too late. As far as I could make out, the wonderful machinery that was rusting only came into action with great fury during the last 8 or 10 days. By that time it was too late. They could not reverse the trend that we had set in motion.

Then, ofcourse, there were friends from outside who came to help us. Rajaji came. Gayatri Devi came along. Professor Ranga came along. Atal Bihari Vajpayee of the Jansangh, a beautiful orator, came along, and they all gave their support. Acharya Kripalani, the most noble person (applause). When I read or heard about his election on the Radio I sent him a telegram of congratulation and then, rather shyly, I added that if he was well enough then and if it was not too much of a strain, would he consider coming and helping me in Rajkot. Before my telegram could reach, he had sent a telegram immediately after the declaration of the polls saying 'he had just been elected and would I like him to come and help me?' ~~my~~ (applause). Acharya Kripalani's first thought was: "I have won, let me help my friend." I think it was a very noble gesture and I appreciated it very deeply (applause).

Then there is another person whom I also thank for coming and helping me - Mrs. Indira Gandhi (applause). She was of great help and I am sure



she got me some votes in Gondal and Rajkot, because her attitude to her audiences was such that it turned public opinion against her candidate and therefore fortunately in my favour. What made the people turned against her was the somewhat a contentious and arrogance attitude she employed towards the audience at the meetings because they insisted on putting questions to speakers and interrupting them.

Then, again Mr. Dhebar helped me a great deal too. He helped in two ways. He helped first by creating a vacancy (applause) and then by coming and campaigning against us. But by coming and campaigning, in contravention of the code of the Sarva Seva Sangh, as the President of the Khadi Board, he in a way double crossed himself. Either he should not have resigned or, he resigned, he should have kept out of the campaign. One of these acts could have been right, but both could not be right. The people of Rajkot again were able to see this. They felt he had deserted them and having deserted them, he wanted his nominee to be appointed in his place like a proxy. His conduct was in contrast to that of Mr. V.L.Mehta, his predecessor who is ~~immensely~~ universally respected.

Another man who helped me was Mr. Rasiklal Parikh, the Home Minister of Gujarat. On 26th May, I told the press in Rajkot that I had a message from Dhoraji that such and such a thing had happened. I told them what was alleged to have happened and said that if this report was true, it was shocking. On the 30th May, Mr. Rasiklal Parikh issued a contradiction in which he tried to wake on that what I had said was not true and ended up by saying he hoped Mr. Masani would withdraw the allegation. He also said he was sure Mr. Masani did not mind his meeting talking ~~and~~ to and requesting people to vote for the Congress.

Now, I have looked further into this matter. I visited Dhoraji myself and talked to the people concerned and even after my return to Bombay I have been probing into it and trying to get every detail right. I am sorry I cannot oblige Mr. Parikh by withdrawing my allegation. On the contrary, I am going to repeat it today with full sense of responsibility (applause). ~~Am~~ I went wrong in detail in my first report which came to me slightly inaccurate. But except for one detail, the whole story is true and I have now in my possession evidence which could prove it to be true before any tribunal in this country.



Subsequent investigation shows that really happened was that at about 2'clock in the early hours of 26th May, the day of polling, a police jamadar named Purshottambhai knocked at the door of a leading Muslim merchant in Dhoraji who was working for me and said that the Foujdar wanted to see him. Being on friendly terms with the Sub-inspector and having dealt with him in a friendly way, this citizen went out thinking that he was going to be taken to the Foujdar. He was put in a car and decoyed elsewhere on false pretenses. He was taken not to the police station, but to another place where Mr. Rasiklal Parikh was camping that night. In the first report that had come to me, I had said that he was taken to the Police Station where Mr. Rasiklal Parikh met him. That was wrong and I stand corrected on that one detail. But the fact remains that the gentleman was taken from his home on false pretenses and he was decoyed to a place to which he had not been told he was being taken. He was told that he was being taken to the Police station but actually found himself in the home of a local pleader where Mr. Rasiklal Parikh was waiting for him. Mr. Parikh then tried to persuade him not only to vote for the Congress, but to stand at the polling booth in Phulwara and to tell every Muslim as he came to vote for the Congress. This gentleman declined to do so on the ground that he had already made his choice. At the end of the argument, when he refused to yield, the Home Minister said to him: "it is your duty" (Thamare faraj chhe) to support the Congress and if you do not perform this duty, no good will come to you". It was a threat coming from the Home Minister at 2'o clock in the morning. It was a threat. Things are not going to be good for you, it is going to be very difficult for you to be in Dhoraji. (Shame Shame"). There are timid people. Muslims in Dhoraji feel more timid than others. The gentleman felt he was being threatened. His family and his home were in danger his very existence in Dhoraji was in danger. So he went home in a panic and send out messengers



to his friends. When his friends reached there at three in the morning, he told them the whole story of what had happened to him. He asked them to excuse him. He would stay at home that day. He could not risk his family's well being. His friends persuaded him that nothing would happen and this is what we call 'sathi dati'. But he was too intimidated and said 'No, I am going to lock myself at home and I am not going to come out till the polling finishes', and that is what he actually did. He stayed at home till 5 o'clock that evening. But the moment the polling finished, he rushed to his friends. I am happy to say that when I visited Dhoraji on 28th May, he was the first man to farland me at a public meeting at Dhoraji (applause).

Now Mr. Rasiklal Parikh thought that he had a right to contradict my statement. All that he contradicted was the defect about the police station. But everything else alleged against him is true -- that he send a policeman with a message to a man at 2 o'clock in the morning, that he was fetched out of home on false pretenses, and then threatened if he didnt do his duty. How is that it is his duty ? How is it the duty of any citizen to vote for the Congress, to support the Congress ? It is his duty only if his conscience tells him but not otherwise. A Home Minister cannot say what is his duty and how he shall vote. Mr. Rasiklal Parikh seem have peculiar ideas when he says that he hopes Mr. Masani does not mind his meeting, talking x to and requesting people to vote for the Congress. So that is idea of requesting, talking xnt to and meeting people ?

This incident has proved, what we always felt to be correct the motive of the British practice that during a by-election, a Cabinet Minister must stay out. The British have not invented this convention for fun. They have done it out of a knowledge of human nature and of what goes on. The British Convention that Cabinet Ministers must keep out of.



By elections is based precisely on the fear that this kind of pressure and undue influence would take place if they intervened (applause).

There are two other charges. Mr. Dandekar has referred to the Home Minister going round a Jasdian and Padahri with armed policemen and trying to "persuade" people, as he calls, in the presence of police guards either to vote for the Congress or not to vote for us. Now, what should be done about these charges is a matter which requires consideration. But I would certainly like to give Mr. Parikh the advice that he should stand by the high standards of British public life, put in his resignation immediately and ask for an investigation (applause).

You remember two or three months ago there was the Vassal case of Soviet espionage in the British Admiralty, and a junior Minister, Mr. Galbraith, was involved in certain suspicions. He promptly put in his resignation without any proof against him. Mr. Macmillan thanked him and accepted his resignation and an investigation took place. Later on Mr. Galbraith was proved innocent and restored to office. This is the way an investigation should take place. You cannot expect a fair investigation when the Home Minister who is accused still remains the Home Minister of the State. Therefore, the first thing to do before any one goes into these charges in a fair and unbiased manner is for Mr. Rasiklal Parikh to stop being Home Minister of Gujarat until these things are gone into and a decision taken (applause).

Now a few words about the significance of this election, and I have done. I would say that the first conclusion to draw from the Rajkot election is that this is not an accident. The result of the Rajkot election marks a definite trend. It marks a trend of public opinion in India as a whole. Look at the voting figures. A 40,000 majority for the Congress last year and a majority of 14,000 against them this year. You cannot explain away this shift in voting by any other reason than by saying that people are ~~ix~~ turning against the Congress. This is a decisive shift and



I think that the results in Dohad, in Amroha and in Farukabad show that it is not a local trend, it is a internal trend (applause).

If you had been there at midnight on the 26th, when a milling crowd of 25 to 30 thousand had gathered around at the place where the counting was proceeding, waiting there from 7, 8, 9 o'clock till after midnight when the result was declared, and you would have seen the tumultuous procession in which I was taken on top of a car, and made to stand on the top of the car with a few of my supporters around me, and paraded through the city till 2.30 a.m. Now that procession and the emotion, the madness of it, if you like, the frenzy of it, the young people doing snake dancing as in the streets of Tokyo, why were they all rejoicing like this ? Why did this mean so much to them ? Why all these garlands ? Why all these hand shake ? You would have thought that night that Rajkot had liberated from a hated foreign regime (applause). It was exactly like a national revolution. The whole city was rejoicing at the downfall of the tyrants. That was -- the feeling you got. It was a liberation people felt free. They felt that a load on their chest had been lifted. What they thought was impossible had happened. What they thought inevitable was no longer inevitable. I think Rajaji is quite right in saying that "the superstition of the inevitability of Congress success has been shaken". That is why the people were rejoicing. It can be done. It has been done, and it can be done again.

If you ask me the political significance of this, I would say that this is a grim and serious warning to the Congress Party and the Congress government. The people of Rajkot have said -- either mend your ways and change your policies, or go. This, I think, is what the people of Rajkot want me to express on their behalf. I don't think they have said: "Go". I think that would say: "Either mend your ways and change your policies or go. Now you and I may feel that the first alternative is platonic, that there is no hope of the Congress Party changing its policies or its ways,



and that therefore it is the second thing alternative - 'go' - that perform operative. I don't want to distart, I don't want to exaggerate what has happened in Rajkot. I want to be honest with the people of Rajkot and to represent them as accurately as I can, and therefore I would say they want to give the Congress one more change -- to put them on good behaviour, to put them on probation like an old offender out of prison. They are going to be watched and if the miracle does not happen and if the "dholi topiwalas" don't develop "dhola hearts" if they don't become servants instead of masters, and if they don't stop their misguided policies, stop taxing people stop inflationary policies, withdraw the gold control order, attend to the defence of the country and act honestly in public life, if all these things are not done, then I think they will have had it.

After all, only 45% of the people voted for the Congress last time. They never had a majority. But they got a majority in Parliament because of of the divisions among the democratic opposition parties. Now that I think, is the second significance of Rajkot, the way in which always every democratic party and element worked together for the defeat of the ruling party. I can only echo what Mr. Dandekar has said, and say how grateful we are to all those people belonging both to our Party and to other parties who worked for us so hard and so sincerely. They did not do it because they wanted to oblige the Swatantra Party. They did it because they were serving the country in their own way, because they realised the need for a strong opposition and that an alternative government was on the order of the day. Whether this United Front that has developed in Rajkot, Dohad and Amroha can be made permanent, whether it can be developed on a national basis is a question which I would not like at this late hour to enter into. I am glad that a healthy discussion is going on on this subject. Meanwhile the Swatantra Party has to go on in building itself up and here I think is a third significance of Rajkot, what it means to the Swatantra Party in Gujarat. The fact that in Dohad we carried our own seat with or threefold majority, that our majority went up from 4,000 to 14,000 within one year,



majority, that our majority went up from 4,000 to 14,000 within one year, and that in Rajkot we converted a 40,000 deficit into a 14,000 majority, & these show that the path is wide open for the Gujarat Swatantra Party to go and take power in 1967. They are one of our finest provincial units and I do hope that they will make the most of this opportunity and go forward from strength to strength until in 1967, whether or not have a Swatantra government in Delhi, at least we shall have a Swatantra government in Ahmedabad and Rajkot.