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DAHAYASHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL

68 MARINE DRIVE
BOMBAY 1

New Delhi

21st April 1962

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My dear Masani,

Your letter of 19th was delivered to me this morning. I am glad that you have sent a telegram to Raja Sahab of Mankapur but as you say we have not in control over the candidate. In that case would it not be desirable for you as Secretary to advise our State Assemblies ^{members} to assemble and vote for Dr. Radha Krishnan? Many of the State Assemblies are not in the session.

As regards the election of the Deputy Speaker, while I agree in principle to the formation of a combined opposition and the selection of Shri Jaipal Singh, I am afraid the proposal, as it came up from the Communist ^{members} suggestion of Shri Yagnik's name and that of Shri Jaipal Singh thereafter did not encourage us to believe that this was really a move for combined opposition. Were ~~not~~ we not walking into a Communist plan? This was the Prof. Rangha's reaction independently. He happened to be in Delhi on that day and has advised our members to keep out of the election. I was inclined to agree with him. I met him before he sent a letter to our members through Shri Reddy. In fact the letter was written when I went to meet him. ^{advising our party members to keep out of this}

There is, however, something that worries me much more. Shri David Hunjni has

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declared himself an independent.' So also Sardar Buta Singh and Sardar Dhana Singh Gulshan. They have declared on the floor of the House that they did not belong to the Swatantra Party. This is serious and in the absence of anybody to take control of the situation in the House things are not looking nice. I hope Shri P.K. Deo will be able to come back next week when I propose to call all our members in to try to establish a little better cohesion in the Party.

As regards the Rajya Sabha if Shri Jaipal Singh helps Mrs. Jaipal Singh and Shri Oberoy could write to the Secretary to say that they will work with the Swatantra Party in the Rajya Sabha. So also a few others whom I am working on. Raja Man Singh Ji chooses to remain aloof, though he sits next to me, according to the advice that has been given to him by his former advisor Shri V.T. Krishnamachari who is now a member of our House. I am hoping to go to Bombay during the next week and will meet you if you are there.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dahyabhai V. Patel
Dahyabhai V. Patel

P.S. I have scribbled a note to reach you & sent it with a passenger on the afternoon plane, a piece of mine.