

3922

For favour of publication

Bombay, November 2. 1967

Mr. M. R. Masani, who has been General Secretary of the Swatantra Party for the last seven years, has expressed his desire to be relieved of that position when his term of office expires on 25th November this year. In a letter addressed to members of the General Council of the Party which is meeting on that day in Delhi to elect new office-bearers for the next two years, Mr. Masani observes: "Rajaji and we have been arguing correctly that it is not good for the country or for Parliamentary Democracy to have the same government in office for too long a time. The same considerations appear to me to apply broadly to the administration of a Party's affairs. It is for similar reasons that enlightened circles in industrial management throughout the world practise what is described as 'job rotation' in their enterprises."

Arguing with those members of the Party who have remonstrated with him against this step, Mr. Masani points out that the idea that only the Party's office-bearers should do almost all the work while other members remain passive is not a sound one and that what the Swatantra Party needs is a cadre of disciplined and dedicated workers who need not hold office in the Party. He has assured members of the General Council that he will continue to serve the Party in Parliament and outside and to spread its principles, whether by the spoken or the written word.

Mr. Masani has recommended that Mr. N. Landeker, who has been officiating in his place while he has been on leave during the last six months by reason of his preoccupation as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, should be elected General Secretary.

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November 1, 1967

Dear Friend,

My felicitations on your election to our Party's General Council which will meet shortly in Delhi.

As you are probably aware, one of the items on the agenda of that meeting is the election of the Party's office-bearers for the coming two years. I thought I would share with you some thoughts of mine in that connection.

It is now seven years since I was elected the Party's General Secretary and I have been at the helm of the organisation through two General Elections and in between. I think it is time for a change.

Rajaji and we have been arguing correctly that it is not good for the country or for Parliamentary democracy to have the same government in office for too long a time. The same considerations appear to me to apply broadly to the administration of a Party's affairs. It is for similar reasons that enlightened circles in Industrial Management throughout the world practice what is described as "job rotation" in their enterprises. I have, therefore, requested our President and Rajaji not to insist on my continuing as General Secretary of the Party.

My decision has been made easier by the fact that, during the last six months while I have been on leave due to my duties as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Dandekar has officiated as General Secretary in my place. My advice to the Party is to nominate him General Secretary for the next two years.

I am writing to explain this as certain colleagues have remonstrated with me against stepping aside at a time when the Party needs to redouble its efforts to grow and to serve the country better in its present dire plight. I not only share our awareness of the perils that face our country but also the need to develop the Party's activities and to strengthen its organisation. I have tried to do my best in that direction within the limitations of our human and material resources and of the cooperation which was forthcoming and I shall continue to do so. It is not a sound idea, though it is somewhat widely prevalent, that only the Party's office-bearers should do almost all the work while others remain passive. The Party needs above all a large cadre of devoted and disciplined workers who may not hold office at any level. I should like to help with such a development to the extent that is possible and to serve the party in Parliament and outside, whether by the spoken or the written word, to spread its principles. I hope therefore you will kindly accept this wish of mine without further argument.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the kind cooperation you have extended to me as General Secretary and to express my hope that you will show my successor the same consideration?

Wishing you a Happy Divali,

Yours truly,

Sd —

(M. R. Masani)