

4295

April 27, 1964.

My dear Piloo,

Re: Kashmir Issue

I am sorry your letter of 10th April has not been acknowledged earlier. Immediately on getting your letter, I consulted Rajaji and Prof. Ranga about the desirability of calling an early meeting of the Parliamentary Board or the Central Organising Committee for the purpose. Both of them took the view that this was now not necessary and that our present plan to have these meetings in Bombay on 14th and 15th June should not be changed. They felt that in the present circumstances and with the situation as fresh and fluid as it is, it would be undesirable to tie members of the Party down to any one decision in regard to Kashmir. They also felt the need to have an exchange of views within our own Party. This exchange, as you will have noticed from the Press, is at present proceeding. I cannot say that I myself feel that this position is altogether a happy one, but perhaps the other alternative might do more harm. I am sorry I have to send you this disappointing reply.

Yours sincerely,

(M. R. Masani)

Mr. Piloo Mody,
Swatantra Party-Bombay Office,
Bombay 1.

April 24 - '64

My dear Masani

Jm

I am putting in excerpts from your 17th inst speech in Parat in Gossia. What is one to do when the size of a journal compels amputation? The press does justice to you under compulsion. But no paper gives you full length even when it is the best speech in a debate. Oh our snobbery! They ~~spend~~ ^{spend} tons of linotype-lead over the dull repetitions of the P.M. & others and will not ^{give} ~~once~~ a year, two columns justly to you. I reprint also Jaga Prakash's Hind. Times article for it is ^{and his letter to the speaker which is an unmissable thing of beauty.} so good & I am child enough to feel pleased

^{and sadness} I feared you quoted my words in your speech and you chose well. I guess it must have gone home though they hide it - the pious hypocrites.

I read Munshi's statement about the Kashmir question. Which you sent me with your letter. I am

reading some old ~~good~~ books to get rid of my
 melancholy and I just ~~had~~ ^{today read} an apt case
~~to~~ to describe our flight. Marshall
 Villars took leave of Louis XIV and said
 "Defend me from my friends; I can defend
 myself against my enemies".

Munshi's 'patriotism' is incurable.
 He is so good & valuable in so many
 ways. But here is his special malady.
 India would have been a Paradise
 for him & so many others had
 the Hindus been brave and clear-
 headed from the outset and never
 permitted any Muslims or Christians
 or others to step in and confuse
 our nationality. But all our
 past lapses ^{in patriotism} are now taking shape
 in the form of follies fresh and
 furious. Imagine a Swatantra Party
 leader saying "Mullah should not
 have been released. It has happened."
 (our after)

P. S. R. K. K. K.