

Express Delivery

4525

Madras, 2nd 3rd June, 1968

Confidential

My dear Pashabhai,

I got back to Bombay only a couple of hours back from Madras and am hastening to drop you this line.

Thank you for your letter of May 29 and the enclosed press clipping. You will have seen from today's and yesterday's Times of India what happened in Madras. Thanks to Rajaji throwing his weight on the ~~other~~ side, the majority of the Council, who were for our stand, swung over to support the Executive's position. I have described it in my speech as the cult of personality.

You will have also seen ^{from the Times of India} what line I have taken in my talk with the press. This is broadly that I shall try and arouse the rank and file of the Party who I believe are still imbued with idealism to try and work for a reversal of these demoralising tendencies. This effort may or may not succeed but I think an attempt deserves to be made before we write off this effort which we described in 1959 as "the last hope of democracy in India".

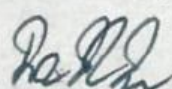
In the light of this, I would request you to drop the thought of resigning either from Parliament or from the Party. I hope you will take this advice and, in any event, do nothing until you come to Bombay and have a talk with me, if this should be necessary.

I may ^{mention} maintain that Dahyabhai maintained a peculiar and total silence throughout the discussion which was in marked contrast with your frank and downright stand. I do not know why he did not speak up.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Pashabhai Patel,
c/o Hindustan Tractors Ltd.,
BARODA 1.


(M. R. MASANI)