

HINDUSTAN TRACTORS LIMITED

CONSTRUCTION HOUSE, BALLARD ESTATE,
BOMBAY.

4528

Cross Jhr

May 29, 1968

Dear Minoo,

I am enclosing here a page from this morning's Loksatta, the most popular paper in Gujarat which is simultaneously published in Baroda, Surat and Ahmedabad. You will see that the paper has featured my interview with a full page headline on the title page. In the interview I have simply endorsed your stand and Mr. Munshi's about the Gujarat leadership. I have stated that if necessary I am prepared not only to resign my membership of the Swatantra Party but also of the Parliament. I have also said in the interview that a little while back, Swatantra members of Parliament had asked me to go and persuade Bhailalbhai to have Dahyabhai elected as President of the Gujarat Unit, but Bhailalbhai had brushed aside this suggestion.

In an interview (Loksatta) on Sunday, Bhailalbhai has said that just as Mr. Ashok Mehta had defected to the Congress and decimated the Socialist Party, you have made a secret deal with the Congress as a result of which you have been nominated Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. He says you are a spy of the Congress! That is why you have been nominated out of turn. I enclose a copy of the paper herewith.

Bhailalbhai says he has retired from active public life and passed on his various offices to H.M. Patel who is now the President of the Gujarat Unit, leader of the opposition in the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha and also President of Vallabh Vidyanagar.

All these posts have been vacated by Mr. Bhailalbhai because he says he is now old and cannot cope with the work. And in the same breath he has published his programme for activating the Gujarat Khedut Sangh!

As discussed with you, I am going to write to Rajaji

that I am ready to resign both from the Party and from
Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Pashalbhaji Patel

Encl: a.s.

Mr. M.R. Masani
Swatantra Party
Bombay.