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Pallav
Uchharang Nagar,
Rajkot 2

31st March, 1968

My dear Masani,

I have, in consultation with Mr. Babubhai Shah - Jai Hind, written a letter to Rajaji and have sent its copies to Prof. Ranga, Mr. Dandekar and yourself, through Raju. I send another copy of the letter along with this.

A few weeks back Bhaikaka had told me to pay a sum of Rs. 3,000/- to the Party fund. If I could not afford it, he suggested that I should request you to pay up that sum on my behalf. I thought this to be a brainwave of Bhaikaka and paid no attention to it — to the extent that I did not even inform you about this incident. I wrote to only one person about this and that was Maharaja Kumar Shivabhadrasinhji of Bhavnagar. He advised me not to take this demand seriously. But after events have proved that Bhaikaka never pardoned me for this lapse.

Dhrol Thakore Sahab, Mr. Natvarsinhji Solanki along with a few others were working openly against me. The rest — rather most of the rest — had taken up an attitude of promising me everything, but doing nothing.

When I came to know that a secret propaganda was going on against me, I tried to get an opportunity to explain myself, but Mr. H.M. Patel and Bhaikaka gave me none. I told them to show me a single instance when I propagated against Swatantra Party, but they were not interested in truth. Mr. Bhagwanji Patel was at Ahmedabad during these days.

An allegation was made that I helped Mr. Masani and none else. Mr. H. M. Patel told me he refuted this allegation in the party. Mr. Bhagwan Patel of Adsang alleged that I worked for Mr. Navin Ravani (P.S.P.), forgetting all the while that Mr. Ravani was contesting against Shivabhadrasinhji. I was never given an opportunity to clear these doubts.

As for my being a Communist only one member, Mr. Chamibhai Patel — and that too on the last day, that is, 25th morning — put me a straight question and I at once denied it. I never got the opportunity of denying this in a meeting of Swatantra Party M.L.A.s, although I was at Ahmedabad continuously for nineteen days.

No office-bearer of the Party has directly helped me. Mr. H.M. Patel and Bhaikaka kept me at arms' length. Can you imagine a Party candidate not being given a chance to see his voters in a meeting even once? That is exactly what happened. Bhaikaka and Mr. H.M. Patel told me that there was opposition against me, but they never gave me the points on which the members were opposing me. This attitude makes me think that they were interested in not giving me a chance to refute the allegations.

Mr. Pravinsinhji Solanki was at Ahmedabad during these days for some

days, but he did not care to see me, nor did he do anything to help me. We casually met on the Assembly premises, but never exchanged any views. He hurriedly tried to avoid any talk with me. I have heard he helped Mr. U.N.Mahida. His father, Mr. Natvarsinhji Solanki told me on my face that he was working for Mr. U.N.Mahida.

Mr. Mahida had filed his nomination even before the decision of the Central Parliamentary Board. I drew Mr. H.M.Patel's attention to this. He said, "We shall take some action." But so far as I know, he took no action till the election day.

All this is nauseatingly sad.

Yours truly,

sl/ Babubhai Vaidya