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Pallav
Uchharang Nagar,
Rajkot-2.
Dt. 30-4-1968. 3

Revered Rajaji,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you.

I was the Swatantra Party Official Candidate of Rajya Sabha from Gujarat and I have been beaten, although the party has a strength of fifty-seven in Gujarat Assembly.

I am not interested in post-mortem, but I take you as an apostle of truth and a fighter against untruth, and hence I put the following facts before you.

(1) You know we - four friends wrote a letter to you before last general-election and requested you that Mr. Masani [- and not Mr. Dahyabhai Patel -] should contest for the parliamentary seat of Rajkot. We promised all-out help to Mr. Masani and acquitted ourselves to the best of our abilities, although a member of Gujarat - Swatantra Party Parliamentary Board - Mr. Bhagwanji Patel [- was working against Mr. Masani.

(2) Mr. Bhailalbhai D. Patel and Mr. H.M. Patel were somehow against Mr. Masani and they were not very happy with my efforts. I feel they harboured an ill-will towards me from this day.

(3) I had another trouble also with Mr. Bhailalbhai but I considered the chapter closed. The subsequent events show Mr. Bhailalbhai did not pardon me for being straightforward.

(4) When Gujarat Swatantra Party Council meeting gathered for deciding their Candidate for Rajya Sabha, in the presence of Mr. Dandekar, Mr. H.M. Patel engineered an opposition against me in the party and a number of members vomited venom against me and I was never given a chance to explain.

(5) The Central Parliamentary Board of Swatantra Party stood firm on its past promise and selected me as the Party Candidate for Rajya Sabha. This should have clinched the issue and Mr. Bhailalbhai and Mr. H.M. Patel should have started to work for me in all earnestness.

(6) I am sorry to say Mr. H.M.Patel and Mr. Bhailalbhai did not reconcile themselves to the decision of the Central Committee and maintained an attitude of non-co-operation with me. I requested Mr. H.M.Patel to propose my name. But he quietly passed it on to Mr. Bhailalbhai. Even Mr. Bhailalbhai did not sign my nomination form. Finally Yuvraj Shree Digvijaysinhji of Wankaner signed my nomination form. No Office-bearer of Gujarat Assembly Swatantra Party signed my nomination form and thereby suggested to the rebels that they can go on in their activities without any fear of disciplinary action. This was a subtle move, but any one with common sense can understand it.

(7) A meeting of the Gujarat State Assembly Swatantra Party Members was held and I was also invited to attend it. But when I went to that meeting Mr. Bhailalbhai quietly told me to go out and wait. I waited and waited, but I was never called. I was never given the opportunity - inspite of my repeated requests - to address the Swatantra Party Assembly Members.

(8) Even during the personal contacts no member of Swatantra Party - except Yuvraj Shree Digvijaysinhji - accompanied me. And when I moved about with non-Swatantra M.L.As. they made it a point of complaint against me.

(9) Only when Baria Maharaja Jaideepsinhji came to Ahmedabad I saw some propaganda going on in my favour, but it was too late then. Mr. Bhailalbhai's whip was also too weak. Mr. Pravinsinh - the State Party Secretary - came all the way from Delhi as if to assure the rebels that they need fear no disciplinary action. He never even cared to come and see me.

(10) Mr. Bhailalbhai's resignation on 28th March was a pre-determined thing. The only person in Gujarat to have resigned in protest against my betrayal is Maharaja Jaideepsinhji. Mr. H.M.Patel cleverly asked the Swatantra Party M.L.A's. "Do you want me to resign? The answer was loud 'no', and the matter rested at that.

(11) Political parties are built up on healthy traditions. [Swatantra Party of Gujarat is immersed in filthy activities.] I am not a member of Swatantra Party and nor do I intend to be one, but any honest man in Swatantra Party will vouchsafe for the fact that I in company with

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friends went all out to help Swatantra Party. We tried our level best to avoid triangular contests and the results were encouraging. But the leaders of Gujarat Swatantra Party, in their prejudices, have blurred out this image and it would be very difficult to re-establish it. People have felt that they cannot put their faith in Swatantra Party. Mr. H.M. Patel and Mr. Bhailalbhai have not realised the grave harm they have done to public life. Public life can never be built ^{on} intrigues and falsehoods. Gujarat Swatantra Party leaders have their antagonism against Mr. Masani, for reasons best known to them (I have found Mr. Masani an honest man and that is just the reason why these intriguers can not get on with him) and they have wreaked their vengeance on me as Mr. Masani's man.

Revered Rajaji! If this is the party you created for ousting the rotten Congress, I think - so far as Gujarat is concerned - you will have to face greater disappointments still. Swatantra Party of Gujarat needs large scale amputations more than the Congress. People are fed up with the Congress, but where is the alternative? Certainly not in the Swatantra Party in Gujarat. I would be happy to know your reactions.

Yours truly,

Babubhai P. Vaidya

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C.C. to :-

Shri N.G.Ranga,
President, Swatantra Party.

Shri Dandekar,
Secretary, Swatantra Party.

Shri M.R.Masani.

Pallav
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