

31st March 1968

My dear Dandeker,

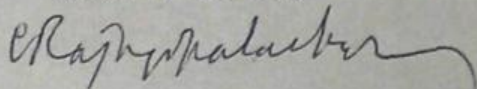
Masani writes to me explaining his resignations and adding that you approved of his action.

I write to ask you not so easily to give your approval to the self-purificatory relinquishments Masani proposes. I fear there is a lurking fatigue behind these renunciatory gestures which deceives us to over-estimate the spiritual effects of such gestures and underestimate the calls of duty and manhood. Kindly read the copy of my letter to Masani herein enclosed. We may promise things to friends not in our party to get done by our party members but they should know we do not believe in coercion, nor can we hope without power or office to get people to do what we want in all matters. They should take our promises with this limitation of power read into them.

I feel you should condemn what the Gujarat party men have done but get Masani's renunciation of offices withdrawn and restore our party's keel to balance.

Yours sincerely,

encl:1



Sri N. Dandeker, M.P.,
General Secretary
Swatantra Party
18, Ferozshah Road
New Delhi - 1

31st March 1968

My dear Masani,

I have your letter of March 29.

I understand your feelings and you have I think done well. But I do not want you to carry out your plan of resignation. The Party Board should record its strong censure and insist on your withdrawing your resignations. This would exculpate you from the charge of 'letting down' and of allowing a breach of promise. My own academical view is that promises to vote one way or another should not be treated as things that could be carried out with a pistol. If we allow freedom of opinion on points not covered by our fundamental principles, how can we compel people to vote for A or B against their will. I am afraid my view is that we should not demand this kind of discipline to be accepted in our party as in the Congress and other parties.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M.R.Masani, M.P.,
2, Tughlak Road
New Delhi - 11