



5427.

swatantra party

national headquarters

sassoon building, 14-3, mahatma gandhi road, bombay 1.

phone: 251424
grams: surajyam

Ho Guler 7/5
April 30, 1973

General Secretary's Letter No. 302

Dear Friend,

You are all aware of the blatant manner in which three Senior Judges of the Supreme Court were superceded and Mr. Ajit Nath Ray appointed as Chief Justice. You must have also read the very angry comments of the Retired Chief Justice, Mr. Sikri labelling the appointment as political.

While I have already conveyed the Party's displeasure to the Press, I think we ought to do more. One such method available to us is a massive signature campaign. I therefore suggest that we undertake a campaign on the following lines:

1. Outside Courts of Law and also in prominent places in the city, you should set up counters to collect signatures of various sections of the intelligentsia including Lawyers and send them to us. We in turn will forward them to the President from time to time.
2. Another way to collect signatures is to arrange processions to go round cities/towns/villages collecting signatures every hundred yards or so.
3. In any event, the Swatantra Party should not rest content with a mere Press Statement. We alone of all the Parties in the country have stood by the total right of the Judiciary to interpret the law and to protect the Constitution and particularly Fundamental Rights. This is a mission all the more sacred because in the last few months of his life, nothing worried Rajaji more than this and we are sure it would have gladdened his heart if the Swatantra Party were to mount a massive campaign of the nature mentioned above. The very first lot of signatures (in the form attached) must be received by us on or about the 24th of May. You can keep on sending us the signatures as and when they are collected.

Yours sincerely,

Madhu Mehta

(Madhu Mehta)
General Secretary

Mr. V.V. Giri,
President of India,
Rashtrapathi Bhavan
New Delhi

Sir,

We, Citizens of India are absolutely horrified at the blatant manner in which the Government of India has interfered with the working of an independent Judiciary by appointing its own nominee as Chief Justice of India in supercession of three very senior and competent judges.

We cannot but infer that the step taken by the Government of India so closely following the recent judgement on the Constitution Amendment Case, represents a deliberate attempt by the Government to pack the Court with so-called Committed Judges which put in plain language means judges who will toe the policy of the Ruling Party. This, we submit, is a total perversion of the judicial process in a democratic society.

We are even more sorry that you as the President of India should have seen fit to give your approval to an action which is a serious blow to the functioning of democracy.

(Name of) City/Town/Village

(-----) State

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Signature</u>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			