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Forum of Free Enterprise

Tel. 26-5214

"Sohrab House", 235, Dr. Dadabhai Naoroji Road,
Post Box 48-A

BOMBAY-1 (BR)

June 4, 1968

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Shri Paripurnanand Varma
All India Crime Prevention Society
Behari Niwas
KANPUR

My dear Shri Varmaji:

Your letter of May 25th. I am forwarding
the clipping to Mr. M.R. Masani. Please note his
address is as follows:

Office

Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.
Personnel & Productivity
/Services
148, Mahatma Gandhi Road
BOMBAY-1

Residence

Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.
Breach Candy House, 2nd Flr
Warden Road
BOMBAY-26

With best regards,

Sincerely,

M.R. PAI
SECRETARY

cc: Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.
Personnel & Productivity
/Services
148, Mahatma Gandhi Road
BOMBAY-1

with clipping

"Free Enterprise was born with man and shall survive as long as man survives."

—A. D. Shroff
Founder-President

25.5.68

Masani's Dilemma

Natural
Herald

A wall of silence between leaders or between leaders and followers can be as harmful to a party as open quarrels between them. After the defeat of Mr. Babubhai Vaidya in the Rajya Sabha election from Gujarat, relations between the state unit of the Swatantra Party and the central leadership and those between Mr. Minoo Masani and certain central leaders have not been quite cordial. There have been signs of a growing rift at different levels. In these circumstances it is necessary for the concerned leaders to explain their respective stands. The circular, which Mr. Masani has sent to the members of the executive council, explains why he is disillusioned with a section of the leadership. On principle, he objected to certain actions of his colleagues. For instance, he says that the Gujarat Swatantra Party's participation in the Kutch agitation was "a major departure from the stand of the party in regard to the limits of freedom of expression permitted by the twenty-first principle". The twenty-first principle which applies only to individuals cannot be extended to state units or other organs of the organisation. The members of the Gujarat unit of the party, according to Mr. Masani, should not have dragged the party into the agitation. This is no doubt

a sensible view. The people of Gujarat have been most agitated over the Kutch Award and their concern is understandable, but where was the need for the party to get entangled in the agitation? It is not necessary that one should always carry with one's party label. One virtue of the Swatantra Party has been its stress on discipline, and a leader like Mr. Masani is justified in getting upset when other leaders take a lenient view of the violation of party directives by members. In the Vaidya episode no action was taken against those party men who had worked against him. The rebels were in fact given the impression that they need not fear any serious action against them. All these concern policies but there have been personal differences also. Mr. Masani, in his circular, recalls Mr. Ranga's remark that since he (Mr. Masani) was no longer the general secretary, he should not seek to impose his policies on the party. That was, indeed, an unkind remark. As a leader, Mr. Masani has every right not only to advise the party but to caution it when it deviates from its principles. Anyway, it will be good for the Swatantra Party if these differences are settled amicably, but if Mr. Masani is going to be ignored by his colleagues, he may have no course open but to leave the organisation.