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Patriot

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COMMENT

Swatantra crisis

EVEN Rajaji may find it difficult to resolve the inner-party crisis that has broken out in the Swatantra Party. In Gujarat, where the Swatantra once hoped to rule, the party unit has almost disintegrated. While over a score of Swatantra members have successfully been seduced by the Congress to defy their party's whip in the Rajya Sabha poll, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Swatantra legislature party, Mr Bhailalbhai Patel and Mr Jaldeep Singh of Baria, have resigned in protest against the "breach of faith" committed by their colleagues. To make matters worse, the "grey eminence" of the party, Mr M. R. Masani, has turned the Gujarat dispute into an all-India controversy by demonstratively quitting the Swatantra's National Executive and Central Parliamentary Board as "an atonement to those who have been let down by this breach of faith." The details of the Gujarat dispute are, of course, of not much interest to the people outside the party. What is significant is that the Swatantra is rapidly losing the capacity to function even as a pressure lobby. Apart from its general opposition to all progressive causes the Swatantra never had much political coherence. To make room within its ranks for all kinds of vested interests—feudal capitalist and comprador—the Swatantra had deliberately refrained from imposing any uniform policy on its State units. The main effort was to build an election machine and a pressure lobby. The frequent disputes among such all-India leaders of the party as Mr Masani, Mr Dandekar, Mr Ranga and Mr Dahyabhai Patel have defeated even this limited effort.

SWATANTRA PARTY

List of Office Bearers and members of the newly elected
National Executive for the period 1967-69

PRESIDENT:	Prof. N.G.Ranga
VICE PRESIDENTS:	Dr. K.M.Munshi Prof. M.Buthnaswamy Smt. Gayatri Devi Mr. R.N.Singh Deo Mr. Bhailalbbhai Patel
GENERAL SECRETARY:	Mr. N.Dandekar
JOINT SECRETARIES:	Mr. Charanjit Rai Mr. Sundermani Patel Mr. T.Krishnamma Mr. C.R.Irani
TREASURERS:	Dr. R.C.Cooper Mr. H.P.Nanda
MEMBERS:	Mr. C.Rajagopalachari Mr. M.R.Masani Mr. G.Latchanna Sardar Basant Singh Mr. P.K.Deo Mr. Lakshman Singh of Durgapur Mr. S.S.Mariswamy Mr. K.K.Kuruvilla Mr. J.Mohammed Imam Mr. H.M.Patel Sardar Ram Singh Mr. K.Sundaram Mr. B.P.Singh Mr. G.Harimanthia Rao Mr. Dahyabhai Patel Mr. Martin Narayan Majaw Mrs. Kailash Rekhi Mr. J.M.Lobo Prabhu Mr. C.C.Desai Mr. Loknath Misra