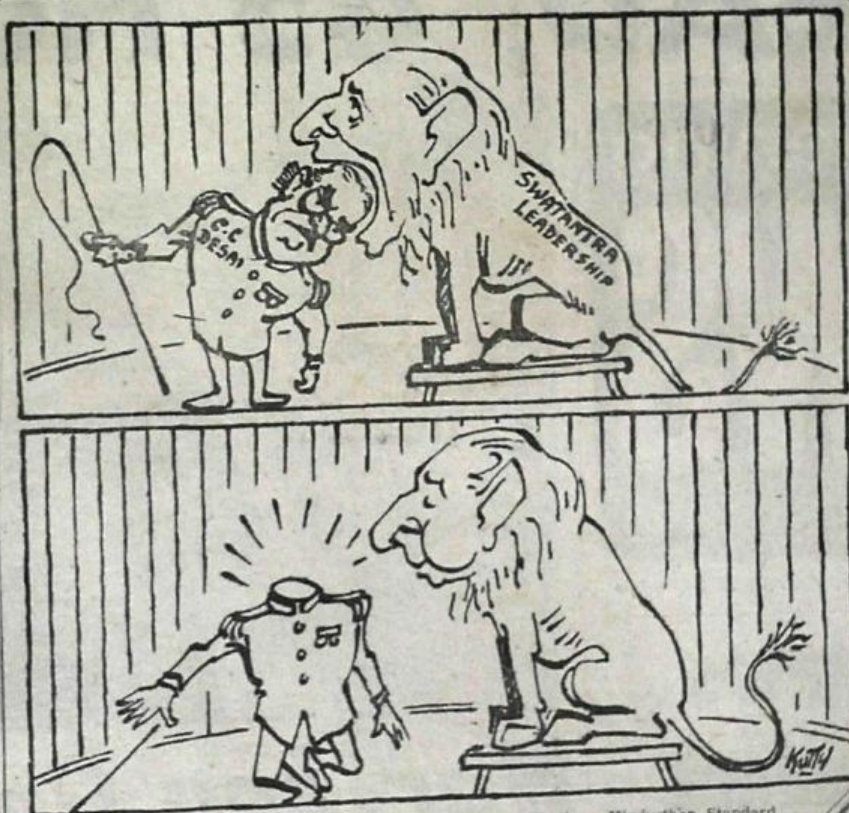


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*Hindustan Times Evening News*

The Evening News

13/4/70



By arrangement with the Hindusthan Standard

the Swatantra Party would be able to form a Government in Gujarat with the support of the Indicate. Mr. Desai also expressed the view that it should be left to the Gujarat Swatantra Vidhan Sabha Party to decide whether it should seek the support of either the Syndicate or the Indicate and that others, whatever may be their status in the Swatantra Party, should leave the Gujarat Party to its own judgement, thus challenging the competence of the authority of the National Executive of the Party.

(e) On March 10, 1970, Mr. Desai issued a Press statement which was the most indiscriminate and objectionable of the lot. The Gujarat Herald of Ahmedabad of March 10, and Jammabhoom of Bombay of 11th March published statements issued by him which inter alia read as follows :

"In a statement issued here (in New Delhi), Mr. Desai said that 'the voice of Gujarat was lamentably feeble today in the councils of Delhi. The reason, that Gujarat has a Government the leader of which is discredited in the eyes of the ruling Party in Delhi. There was no reason why the people of Gujarat should suffer or be penalised for the sins of an individual. The remedy lay in the replacing of the Government by another Government which would have the support of Mrs. Gandhi."

(Gujarat Herald, Ahmedabad, March 10)

"Mr. C.C. Desai goes on to say in his statement that Gujarat has no voice in Delhi. The reason for this is very clear. The leaders of Gujarat have fallen from the favour of the Ruling Congress at the Centre. Thus, why should the people of Gujarat suffer because of the deeds of such leaders? The solution is to change the Government. The new Government should be loyal to the Central Government."

(Jammabhoom, Bombay, March 11, 1970)

It will be seen that there is nothing in common between this attitude and that of the Party at both the National and State level that, while the Party should continue its effort to defeat the State Government, there was no question of a Swatantra Government being dependent on the support of the Prime Minister and her followers.

(f) Finally, on 16th March 1970, the Times of India reported Mr. C.C. Desai as having welcomed in Bombay what he described as the "statesman-like statement" made by Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the President of the Ruling Congress, in Ahmedabad on March 14, 1970.

The Central Parliamentary Board at its meeting in New Delhi on March 19 categorically denounced the machinations of Mr. Jagjivan Ram and the Ruling Congress in Gujarat which it felt "should invite the contempt of all lovers of clean public life and principled politics" and noted that there was no difference of opinion in the Gujarat Party regarding the National Executive's directive.

Thus Mr. C.C. Desai, by his repeated public statements, between November 1969 and March 1970, indulged in a sustained campaign of an anti-Party nature in furtherance of the interest of the Ruling Congress Party led by Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Jagjivan Ram whose Government in Delhi the Swatantra Party is pledged to oust.