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SIXTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD Minocher (Minocher Rustom) Masani, who has resigned as Chairman of the Swatantra party because of its poor showing in the recent general election, was in 1934 a founder-member of the Congress Socialist party.

He was the joint secretary of the party for five years. At the time, he was a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation, and remained one up to 1945. He was Bombay's Mayor in 1945-46. By 1945 Mr Masani's political canvas had widened, and for two years he was a member of the Indian Legislative Assembly. In 1947 he was inducted into the Constituent Assembly.

For a brief period he was India's ambassador in Brazil, but soon reverted to politics. He was a Member of Parliament from 1949 to 1952, and again from 1957 onwards. He was for two years' chairman of the U.N. Sub-Committee on Discrimination and Minorities.

Among Mr Masani's publications, the most well-known is *Our India*. In the early fifties it was at one time bracketed by the New York Times Book section with Nehru's *Autobiography* as the most telling portrayal of India as it was and might be. Other publications by him include *A Plea for Mixed Economy*, and *The Communist Party of India—A Short History*.

been designated President of the International Foundry Congress to be held in Philadelphia next year.

Forty-five-year-old Mr Jasdanwalla graduated from Bombay and took a natural sciences tripos from Cambridge University. He

Agency and is on this tour conducting seminars on U.S. Space Exploration in the seventies, among other topics. He also aims to discuss the many benefits to man on earth as a fall-out of the space programmes and space research.

Mr Froehlich, who has covered most of the Apollo flights, served in 1970 as editor of President Nixon's First Annual Report on Environmental Quality. He is currently writing the text of three major publications for NASA. He has won numerous awards and is active in a number of space and journalistic organisations.

Pine And Rosin

THE entire Himalayan forest belt covering an area of eight million hectares is endowed with forests of which pine accounts for at least a million hectares.

A seminar on the role of pine resin in the economic and industrial development of India is being organised in Delhi later this month by producers and processors of rosin and turpentine, which are used in a variety of consumer-oriented industries.

Oleo gum, which pine trees exude, provides employment to over 200,000 persons. When processed it forms two constituents. Rosin is a

poem over the telephone, keeping away from the noisy and rush metropolitan world by dialling a number. The service was inaugurated recently with a poem by Cecil Day Lewis, the Poet Laureate.

Inexpensive to run, dial-a-poem provides poets with a useful outlet for their work, and poetry-lovers with a regular source of pleasure.

In London, one can already dial for a precise time check, a weather forecast, a cookery recipe or a list of the day's main events.

Friends of Austria

Varahamihira has just received a surprise letter from Vienna sent to him by the President of the "Friends of Austria."

The letter states that Varahamihira's name was supplied to his association as a "Friend of Austria" who might like to know more about that country. "Circle of Friends of Austria" consists of a group of people connected with the Austrian economy and with science and culture in Austria. The object of the society is to correspond occasionally with "Friends of Austria" abroad and to send them at regular intervals an information bulletin on Austria—the country, its people, its economy, politics and culture. The



was the youngest member (33) ever to be elected Western Region Chairman of the Indian Engineering Association in 1959.

Mr Jasdanwalla was the first