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RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY HELD IN NEW DELHI ON APRIL THE 6TH & 7TH, 1974

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1. The State of the Nation

(1994)

The very existence of India as a civilised and democratic nation is at stake. Rising prices, spreading unemployment, massive corruption, acute shortages, and universal injustice - economic, social and political - have put an excruciating burden on the poor man, yet the only concern of the Congress leadership is to absolve itself of any responsibilities and shift the blame for the present situation on some opposition parties and foreign agencies that, according to them, have combined for political motivation.

The greater the failure of the Government, the more frantic becomes its search for scapegoats with the result that the Ruling Party has been paralysed into inactivity, lethargy and even inertia.

The present crisis has created untold confusion in the minds of the intelligentsia and brought unprecedented hardships on the common man, whose condition is steadily deteriorating and his temper is likely to erupt in any number of violent ways.

The recent events in Gujarat and Bihar bear eloquent testimony of the rising anger of the people against Government's ineptitude to tackle even the simplest problems.

Another reason for these violent eruptions is the near impossibility of registering any institutional complaint, the ineffectiveness of opposition parties and the deprivation of legitimate rights of protest either through demonstration or through the ballot box.

The entire electoral process has been vitiated by mal-practices which begin with gerrymandering of constituencies, playing the communal equations, creating and fanning religious hostilities, injecting massive amounts of money on which the Ruling Party has a monopoly, and projecting its propaganda through state-owned or controlled media, the intimidation of the electorate and when all else fails, the stuffing of ballot boxes. In spite of this the Ruling Party could not have secured even the meagre success it had in UP and Orissa, if it had not resorted to the ultimate electoral fraud of actually miscounting the votes and/or the substituting of ballot papers carried out through coincidental contrived electricity failures during the counting at the appropriate moment.

It is only when the natural anger of the people cannot find its way through the ballot box, that the student community have to come forward and show us the way to political emancipation.

Having lost their natural safety valve by which the people could ventilate their grievances at the polls, the electoral process having been divorced and insulated from all other activities, it becomes incumbent on all decent and law abiding Indians to deprive the Congress of its right to rule.

Today the Congress is like a rudderless ship, devoid of ideology, devoid of principle and devoid of policies. Even its recent backtrack on taxation, takeover of the wheat trade and the relaxation of import policy does not arise out of conviction that they are striking a new path which is right and proper, but out of fear of having done something that just could not work, and therefore, something else had to be tried. Because had they realised the magnitude of the situation and admitted the monumental follies of the past, they could have taken certain bold and fearless decisions in re-orienting the economy.

It is quite evident from the above that the Congress has been working under pressures: the external pressure of the Soviet Union, the opposition pressure of the CPI and the internal pressures created by Communist infiltrations creating internal dissensions within the Congress Party.

Such a Party cannot last, much less govern for long, and the Swatantra Party must prepare itself whole-heartedly to present an alternative to the country.

2. Programmes of Action

- a) To do so, the Party must build its cadres in every village and city of India through programmes to motivate the people and particularly the youth into the nation building activities and constructive thought based on the sound and integrated principles, policies and programmes of the Swatantra Party.
- b) At the same time the Party must continue to educate the Government and other authorities into accepting pragmatic postures, discarding dogma, and into mobilising the necessary energy and wisdom to administer efficiently and to root out corruption.
- c) The Party will continue to explore all possibilities to bring about a two-party system in India with a view to remove the chaos prevailing in our political life and the confusion created in the minds of the electorate. In this connection the Swatantra Party urges all political parties and politicians to cooperate in this endeavour and to work for the common good.
- d) The Swatantra Party accuses the Congress Party for having defrauded the electorate from exercising its freedom of choice by vitiating the electoral process and resolves to try by all means available to it to ensure fair and free elections. There is also a need for basic electoral reform which will bring the Indian electoral system into greater harmony with the Indian reality.
- e) In case the Government and the Congress Party fails to respond to our efforts to restore free and fair elections, the Swatantra Party must start thinking in terms of finding new methods to prevent the breakdown of constitutional and democratic processes and appeals to the youth of India to strengthen its hands through non-violent movements.

3. Resolution on Economic Recovery

The Swatantra Party warns the people that our present economic crisis can never be resolved by the present economic policies.

Rising prices, uncontrolled unemployment, blatant corruption, acute shortages and cynical injustice are all man-made phenomena induced by following faulty imported economic ideas.

The only way we can break through this vicious situation or crisis is by a drastic surgical operation on the economy, which requires:

- a) Making the Public Sector perform efficiently on commercial lines within a stipulated time, and if it fails to do so, dispossess the unit and save the tax payer from carrying this unbearable burden;
- b) A drastic reduction in taxes, both direct and indirect, to curb tax evasion, to bring prices down and to stimulate production and therefore employment;
- c) Delicensing of the economy to stimulate growth, speed up economic recovery and eliminate institutionalised corruption;
- d) Float the Rupee and allow it to find its international economic value to eliminate smuggling and remove the distortions arising out of the partiality inherent in foreign exchange control and the economic distortions it creates;
- e) Invest all available resources in the rural economy with a view to restoring economic viability in the rural areas through a vigorous programme of infra-structure activities like roads, railways, afforestation, agro-industries, rural electrification, and minor irrigation, contouring, bunding, terracing, drainage and water conservation;
- f) A complete revamping of our educational system, making it more meaningful, more job-oriented and more on the basis of science and technology available in the country at any particular time.

4. Resolution on Gujarat and Bihar Affairs

The Swatantra Party congratulates the youth of Gujarat for their heroic efforts and sacrifice to fight corruption and rising prices. Their sincerity and dedication which won for them the silent support of all sections of the people and finally enabled them to secure the resignation of the corrupt government and the dissolution of the Gujarat State Assembly.

The Swatantra Party extends its full support and expresses its solidarity with the youth of Bihar who have pledged themselves to fight the cancer of corruption in the Government. It welcomes the statement of Jaiprakash Narain, giving his whole-hearted approval of this movement and trusts that his inspiring leadership will enable the students to achieve their objective speedily.

The Swatantra Party strongly condemns the destruction and burning of the office of 'Searchlight' and its press, reportedly by anti-social elements encouraged and backed by the Congress and the Communists. The Swatantra Party would advise the Government of India to have the entire series of events connected with the incident inquired into by a judicial commission.

The Swatantra Party unreservedly deplores and condemns the action of the Government of Bihar in deporting Raj Narain and Biju Patnaik from the State of Bihar on a specious plea of maintenance of law and order. The Swatantra Party would urge the Government of Bihar to cancel their deportation orders forthwith.

5. Resolution on Impending Railway Strike

The Swatantra Party sympathises with the demands of the Railway employees and condemns the Government for the endless procrastination in fulfilling their legitimate demands and calls upon the Government to arrive at an understanding to avert the strike.

In this connection the Swatantra Party will recall to the Government its appeal voiced in Parliament asking the Government to create a special machinery to deal with problems connected with the staff of essential services expeditiously.

Government have no moral right to talk about the disastrous effect of a railway strike having themselves pushed the railwaymen to a position where they are left with no alternative to go on a strike. In such a situation and having regard to the great consequences of a national railway strike, the Swatantra Party considers that it is the duty of the Government to take the initiative and to do everything possible to avert the strike in the larger interest of the nation.
