

PUNJAB ENQUIRY REPORT

The Enquiry Committee appointed by the General Council of the Party to investigate into repression in the Punjab submitted its report to the President of the Party. The Report is signed by the Chairman of the Committee Mr. K. M. Munshi, Mr. N. C. Chatterjee, Sardar Kartar Singh Cambellpuri and Mr. C. B. Agarwala. Sardar Kartar Singh while agreeing generally with the Report has also appended a note of dissent on certain specific points.

The Report was released for publication on October 19 and has been widely reported in the newspapers of that day.

RAJAJI'S TOUR OF KERALA

Despite a very high percentage of literacy or perhaps because of it, Kerala has been the problem State of India. A succession of parties have tried their hand at administering this small State from the Congress to the Communists. The present Government is supported by a coalition of the Congress, Praja Socialist and the Muslim League. Our Party stayed formation of a unit in this State until after the dust of the last election had settled. As has already been reported in our previous Newsletters, we now have a functioning Provisional Organising Committee in Kerala.

To give a fillip to our organisational campaign in the State and to carry the message of Swatantra to the highly literate and intelligent people of Kerala, Rajaji undertook this month an eight-day tour of the State. He was received very well everywhere. Many in the ruling circles however were in two minds as to how to receive him. For instance the Municipality of Tellicherry at first voted not to present him with an address and just two days before he was scheduled to arrive in Trivandrum reversed its stand and voted to present him an Address of Welcome. But the public at large received him well everywhere and with all the honour due to a person of his eminence.

The moment he landed at Trivandrum airport Rajaji explained to pressmen present there that he had come not to "disturb the Government that is functioning in Kerala now, but to disturb the complacency of the

people." When asked whether he was confident of disturbing the complacency of the people, Rajaji said that during the tour he would be addressing six public meetings and fifteen other meetings after which he would see whether he could have "any confidence or not."

Rajaji was in Trivandrum on October 8. In Kerala's capital he was the guest of H.H. the Maharaja of Travancore. He met our Party workers at the Vellayambalam palace that morning. In the afternoon he addressed students of the Law College and the students of Trivandrum University. He advised students to concentrate more on their studies and less on politics. He said that whenever he went to an educational institution, he always faced a dilemma because he firmly held the view that those engaged in studies should devote themselves wholeheartedly to that business.

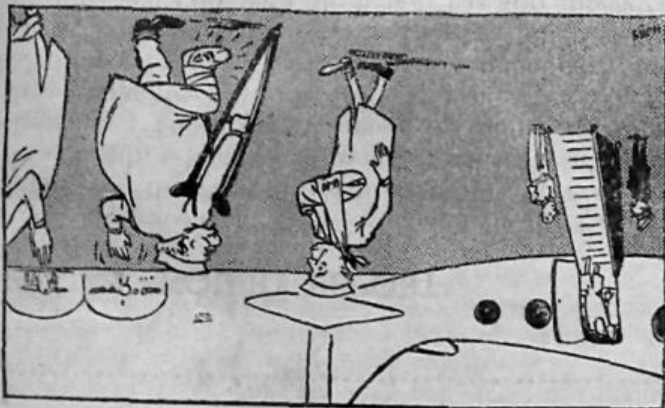
He added that the basic philosophy of the Swatantra Party was that there must be less and less power with the Government and more and more with the people. He said that the Swatantra Party wanted a strong opposition against the Government.

After a darshan at Shri Padmanabha Swami Temple, Rajaji was presented with Poornakumbham en route. He later proceeded to address a public meeting at Trivandrum. At this public meeting, which was very well attended, Rajaji again attacked the Congress Party and the Congress Government and said that today people had been "hypnotized" into a state of fear. Once upon a time they were afraid of the British but today they were afraid of their own government. He accused the Congress Party of exercising authority as the Government and at the same time dealing in business and trade and quarrelling among themselves on that account like the old East India Company. Rajaji's own prescription for remedying the state of affairs was that "power should be transferred to the people. Then there will be no lucrative occupation for those who belong to the ruling party and there will be no quarrel. Nobody need be sent to make mediation among these people."

He stressed the need for an opposition Party and said that if there was no opposition the Government would become autocratic and was likely to make many mistakes. He added that he had come to

that "if Mr. Eisenhower and Mr. Khrushchev had been left to themselves they would have probably met by this time even though Mr. Eisenhower's term is due to expire very shortly."

WELCOME!



—Hindustan Standard

From Trivandrum Rajaji proceeded to Tiruvilla and on to Peermade. The next day morning Rajaji left for Kottayam where he addressed a Press Conference. At this conference he declared that he had come to Kerala to initiate a liberation movement against Congress corruption.

That evening he addressed businessmen at the Y.M.C.A. Hall. Later he addressed another public meeting at the Mammen Mappilai Hall. He was the guest of honour that night at the Rotary Club.

On the 11th, Rajaji moved to Alleppey by motor launch. En route he was honoured with receptions at a number of places. That afternoon at Alleppey he met members of the Travancore Chamber of Commerce and other Trade Associations. Leaving Alleppey by car Rajaji arrived at Ernakulam in time to address a public meeting at the Kerala Fine Arts Hall. Earlier he addressed students of the Law College in Ernakulam.

PROF. RANGA IN MADHYA PRADESH

Professor Ranga, President, toured important cities and towns of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during September. Prof. Ranga's crowded itinerary was as follows: Kotah 9th September, Bundi 10th, Ajmer 11th, Bharatpur 13th, Morena and Gwalior 14th, Dalia, Indore Ujjain and Dhar 17th, Bhopal 18th, Jabalpur 19th, Katni 20th, Bilaspur 21st and Raipur 22nd September.

At Gwalior addressing a press conference he stated that the Swatantra Party wanted the appointment

Kerala to appeal to the people to support the new Party. The Congress, the Communist and the Socialist Parties wanted to have more power for the Government and less freedom for the people, whereas the Swatantra Party wanted to reduce the power of the Government and give more freedom to the people. "Today", Rajaji said, "the Government is doing all that it can possibly do so that it may continue in power and make it impossible for another party to take its place... I tell you that the monster will grow so strong that we will never be able to change it."

Bitterly criticising Government's taxation and financial policies, Rajaji stated "the Government collected taxes and loans and spend the money. But when money was not enough they printed notes and increased the currency and prices went up." "Don't imagine," he told the people of Kerala, "that notes are wealth. Notes are only receipts and promissory bonds, and if they print too many promissory bonds we will suffer. If we had authorised the Palai Bank to print its own currency, the Bank would have no difficulties now. The Palai Bank has been liquidated. But there is more reason to liquidate the Government of India than the Palai Bank. There was the Reserve Bank to liquidate the Palai Bank, but there was no Reserve Bank to liquidate the Government of India." He added, "I want to tell the people of India and Kerala in particular that you are the Reserve Bank to liquidate the Government of India."

Referring to the enormous expenditure that is sought to be incurred for various schemes in the Third Plan, Rajaji said that the state of the Third Plan is worse than the State of the Palai Bank. "If you take into account the deficit in the Palai Bank, you will find it is a flea bite in the face of the deficit in the Government of India account. The only difference is that the Government of India is not ashamed of its deficit. The Palai Bank is ashamed. They (Government) print their deficit boldly and shamelessly on paper and put the signature of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. And we take those documents and call them currency notes. Not only that, the Government of India is borrowing money from all over the country, all over the world, from all parties in the world. The Finance Minister's principal occupation is to borrow money from abroad. Our non-alignment policy serves us to borrow from both parties. All this I tell you to explain that the Government of India is in a state deserving liquidation procedure," said Rajaji.

He concluded by saying that "what the present Government is doing, if it goes on without being stopped, will land the country in insolvency. If the country is to be saved from insolvency you must change the Government. It is necessary to do so, to remove all the corruption that is now going on."

On the morning of the 9th Rajaji addressed a press conference. Among the questions asked was whether he would like to comment on Mr. Nehru's role in the United Nations General Assembly. Rajaji replied

of an independent commission composed of men of high integrity and social status of a High Court Judge rank, to recommend and distribute Government grants and subsidies to non-official agencies and private public institutions. This Commission should be autonomous and its powers should be like those of the University Commission. Later that evening Prof. Ranga addressed a public meeting at Jayaji Chowk.

Arriving in Indore, Professor Ranga addressed a meeting of Party workers. He called on the people to protest against "ministerial interference" in the work of village panchayats, cooperative societies and social welfare organisations. He repeated his suggestion for the appointment of a Commission.

At Bhopal he addressed a press conference and later addressed members of the Cosmopolitan Club.

At Bilaspur he addressed a workers' meeting and a meeting of Merchants as well as a public meeting that same night.

From Raipur, Professor Ranga went on to Nagpur in Maharashtra State where he spoke at a function organised by the Andhra Students Association. He also inaugurated a Vidarbha Convention before proceeding to Vijayawada in Andhra.

P.S.P. WORKERS JOIN SWATANTRA PARTY

At Khajauli in the district of Darbhanga in Bihar, Shri Krishna Shankar Singh, a prominent worker of the Praja Socialist Party, severed his relations with the Party with 75 follower-members and joined the Swatantra Party.

Shri Singh's resignation followed his differences with the Praja Socialist Party on the question of the recent Central Government employees' strike and the language riots in Assam.

NEWS FROM STATE PARTIES

ANDHRA

A Joint Constituency Committee of the Party in Secunderabad was inaugurated on September 4. The President of the Committee, Shri Damodaran Gupta, presided over the function which was inaugurated by State President, Shri B. Ramachandra Reddi. The function, which started with a prayer and the hoisting of the Party flag, was addressed by a number of other speakers who dwelt on the reasons why the Party was formed. Mr. Damodaran Gupta, who delivered a welcome address in Telugu, gave reasons why he resigned from the Congress and joined the Swatantra Party. Mr. Ramachandra Reddi similarly explained the reasons that led to the formation of the Party. Shri D. Padma Rao, a Councillor of the Corporation of Hyderabad and the General Secretary of the Joint Constituency Committee, proposed a vote of thanks.

The same evening a public meeting was held at Secunderabad. The President of the Organising Committee for the Greater Hyderabad region who presided on the occasion, affirmed that the Party was gaining in strength from day to day. Mr. D. Kondiah, M.L.A., addressed the gathering in Telugu. Mr. Shankariah also spoke.

Mr. Ramachandra Reddi said that the Congress organisation was becoming more and more corrupt. He made particular reference to the Swatantra Party's

Labour policy and showed how it would benefit labour and the poorer sections of the population.

Anti-Inflation Day was observed by the East Godavari branch of the Swatantra Party at a public meeting held at Rajahmundry on September 18 when speakers including Mr. M. V. Sastri, M.L.C., President of the unit, Mr. M. B. B. S. R. Sharma, Secretary of the town branch, Mr. Y. Sheshagiri Rao, District Secretary and others criticised Government's economic policies and held them responsible for the inflationary trends in the country. The Swatantra Party at Nizamabad issued a handout in which it spotlighted attention on the gradual stranglehold that the Congress Party was getting on the life of the country.

ASSAM

With the abatement of the turbulence of recent events in Assam, our Party has been able to continue its organisational work. For instance on 26th September the Chairman and the Secretary of the Shillong branch of the Party accompanied by five others visited Mawngop in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills where after a meeting a decision was taken to form a Constituency Committee.

On September 28, the Secretary of the Party accompanied by a member of the Committee, visited Jowai, the headquarters of the Jaintia Hills sub-division.

On September 30, a public meeting was held at Pynursla, also on the Jaintia Hills and an important station on the East Pakistan border. The meeting, which was well attended in spite of heavy rains, was addressed by several officials of the Shillong branch of the Party. Soon after the meeting, arrangements were made for the formation of an *ad hoc* committee for the Constituency in this area.

Anti-Inflation Day was observed in Shillong by printing of leaflets in Khasi and English explaining to the people the reasons which led to the increase in prices and calling upon them to dislodge the Party in power.

BOMBAY

The Bombay party celebrated Gandhi Jayanti on October 2nd with a public meeting held at the Cama Library Hall. Mr. M. R. Masani, General Secretary of the Party who was the principal speaker spoke on the Theory of Trusteeship. Mr. Murarji Vaidya, Chairman of the Bombay Party and Mr. Pande an active worker also addressed the meeting. Mr. R.V. Murthy secretary of the unit presided and Mr. B. K. Mistry secretary proposed a vote of thanks. The meeting which was well-attended was also given wide coverage in the Press.

From the organisational point of view the Bombay Party reports several schemes that are in the offing. One such programme of action which is being implemented is a door-to-door campaign in Matunga.

During the recent festival at the Mount of St. Mary's the Bandra unit of the Party made itself felt throughout the period of the festival by publishing and printing hand-bills which were distributed to the thousands of visitors who came to the fair. The Party reports that this unit has also been doing good work and that weekly meetings are being organised by them and a lively interest is being shown by Party workers.

DELHI

Mr. M.R. Masani General Secretary of the Party, addressed a meeting of Party workers on September 4 where he elucidated several issues in regard to the Party's policies.

Anti-Inflation Day was observed in the Capital with a public meeting at Baratuti, a buzzing business centre. Among those who addressed the meeting were Sardar Lal Singh, the President, Mrs. Man Sehgal, Mr. V. R. Oak, Mr. P. N. Joshi, Secretaries, and Col. Pasricha, the Treasurer.

GUJARAT

Shri Bhailalbhai Patel, President of the Gujarat State Party, again visited Cutch on September 1. The proposed Land Legislation in the State has

caused considerable agitation in the minds of farmers. For instance, in Cutch, Rajputs numbering over a lac and forty-five thousand, are reported to be looking to our Party for guidance on how to oppose the Government's Land Legislation. On his way back from Cutch, Shri Bhailalbhai Patel visited Rajkot where he addressed meetings of the Rotary Club, Commerce College and a public meeting. He was instrumental in the formation of an *ad hoc* committee for Rajkot.

On behalf of the Gujarat Khedut Sangh, of which Shri Bhailalbhai is the President, he prepared a memorandum on the Land Ceilings Bill. A huge rally of peasants was held on September 14 at Ahmedabad and a procession over a mile long proceeded to the Assembly Hall to present the memorandum. Earlier a largely attended public meeting was held at Sabarmati which was the place from where Gandhiji issued his call for freedom. Addressing the gathering, Shri Bhailalbhai Patel asked the peasants to be ready for a struggle to oppose this unfair legislation. Mr. Dadubhai Amin, M.L.A., Vice-President of the Gujarat Party, and Shri Khushalbhai Patel, a member of the Working Committee, also addressed the meeting.

The Party reports that the Anti-Inflation Day meeting held at Lal Darwaja at Ahmedabad has caused considerable consternation in Congress Circles owing to the large-scale attendance and enthusiasm that was evident in the ranks of Party members and the public who attended the meeting.

At Jamnagar and Bhavnagar, public meetings were held on September 18 to observe Anti-Inflation Day. Leaflets criticising Government's economic policies were distributed to those present and in the nearby villages. The Jamnagar meeting was presided over by Mr. Bhagwandas Sheth, President of the local unit and was addressed by Mr. Maganlal Joshi, Convenor for Saurashtra Division. At Bhavnagar, a meeting was addressed among others by Shri Harshad Mehta.

The Gujarat State Convention will be held on November 20 at Nadiad. The function will be inaugurated by Rajaji. Currently Party workers are busy touring the villages making arrangements to ensure the success of the Convention.

MADHYA PRADESH

The highlight of the Party's activity in September was a tour of the State by Party President, Professor Ranga. Prof. Ranga addressed over 15 public meetings at Morena, Gwalior, Dalia, Bhopal, Dhar, Badnaur, Ujjain, Jabalpur, Bilaspur, Raipur and Bhatapara. At all these places the meetings were well-attended and the audience showed much enthusiasm. He also addressed Rotary Club meetings in Mhou and Raipur and met Party workers in Katni, Indore and Shahdol. A more detailed coverage of his tour has been reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

A businessman of Jabalpur, Mr. Vimalchand Jain, has donated a sum of Rs. 5000 to the Party for starting a Party newspaper. Two weeklies are proposed to be started soon at Raipur and Bilaspur respectively.

Shri Maloji Narsingh Shitole, M.L.A., as well as Mrs. Gulabbai Agnibhoj, M.L.A., wife of our Convenor, have joined the Swatantra Party. The Party reports that a number of advocates, doctors, businessmen and other professional men are joining the Party.

The Convenor, Mr. R. Agnibhoj who accompanied Professor Ranga during his tour, also visited Drug, Raipur, Bilaspur, Surguja, Sahdol, Jabalpur and Hoshangabad districts organising Party activity.

Anti-Inflation Day was observed in most of the big towns of the State where public meetings were held, reports the Madhya Pradesh Party Office.

MADRAS

Rajaji visited Tiruvallore in the district of Chingleput where he opened a Constituency office and addressed a very largely attended public meeting. He observed on the occasion that the Congress Party had made it a fine art of frightening the rich and extorting money from them and at the same time deceiving the poor and getting their votes. Others who addressed the meeting were Dr. M. Santhosham, President of the Madras District Party and Mr. Audikesavalu, Secretary. The meeting was presided over by Mr. N. Govindaswamy Naidu, President of the Constituency Committee.

From 9th to 13th September, the State President Sri Sa Ganesan toured the district of Coimbatore addressing public meetings at Palladam, Ganapathy and Erode. From 14th to 17th, he visited Ramnad District and addressed public meetings at Rameswaram, Kilakarai and Ramnad. On September 18, he was in Cuddalore where he addressed an Anti-Inflation Day meeting. He continued his tour to Salem district returning again to Ramnad, where he addressed a meeting at Ilayangudi on September 27.

The State Party's General Secretary, Mr. S. S. Mariswamy, toured Trichy, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Salem and Kanyakumari Districts from 13th to 20th attending to organisational work. He participated in the Anti-Inflation Day meeting in Madurai on 18th September and on the 19th at Salem. Mr. Mariswamy also attended a Seminar organised by the All India Agriculturists Federation at Bangalore on the 24th and 25th and addressed public meetings under the auspices of the Bangalore City Swatantra Party for the benefit of the Tamilian residents in the city.

State Vice-President, Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy, toured Tirunelveli district from 8th to 10th and addressed meetings of Christians. At Tuticorin, where he addressed one such meeting, he was welcomed at Adaikalapuram by Rev. Fr. Devasagaya Fernandez. On the 9th Prof. Ruthnaswamy addressed a Party workers meeting at Rajaji Mandapam in Tiruchendur. Later

that evening he addressed a public meeting at Vadakkankulam village. On the 10th he spoke at another public meeting at Palencottah which was presided over by Shri Raja E. S. Thomas. Prof. Ruthnaswamy later presided over the Seminar of the All India Agriculturists Federation in Bangalore on 24th and 25th.

A public meeting was held on the 17th September in the 25th Ward of Trichy Town which was presided over by Janab Sahul Hameed. Soon after the meeting, an Area Committee was formed with Janab S. Hanifa as President and Mr. Jeevaratnam as Secretary. A taluk committee has been formed at Arkonam with Sri K. M. Kuppuswamy Reddiar as President.

Similarly in the district of Chingleput, the Meenjur Firka Committee was formed with Shri P. Venkata-subba Reddiar as President. A public meeting was held the same evening when the Chingleput district Secretary, Mr. R. Shanmughasundaram, and the Madras District Secretary Mr. Audikesavalu, addressed the gathering.

More reports have come in of the widespread observance of Anti-Inflation Day in the State. Public meetings were held in the South Arcot district at Cuddalore and Tindivanam; in the Madurai District in Madurai Town; in the Coimbatore district in Coimbatore town, Pollachi Taluk, Sennimalai, Bhavani and Tiruppur; in the district of Salem in Salem town, Komarapalayam and Mettur Dam; in the Tirunelveli district in Tirunelveli town, Vallivur, Koilpatti; in Trichy district in Trichy town; in Ramnad district in Rajapalayam town, Srivalliputhur and Mamsapuram; in the North Arcot district in Arkonam and in the Tanjore district at Mayuram and Kumbakonam.

Members of the Chingleput district Party, being in close proximity to Madras, joined the Anti-Inflation Day procession in the city which culminated in a meeting at the Marina Beach, details of which have already been reported in our last Newsletter.

Most of these meetings were presided over by Party leaders and officials. The theme of the speeches was generally to explain to the audience the real reasons which had led to the increase in prices of essential commodities and to affirm that the only way in which things could be put right would be for the ruling party to be thrown out. In some districts processions were taken out as in Tirunelveli and Vallivur and in Arkonam in the North Arcot district.

An interesting side-light to the meeting held at Trichy was that in spite of the fact that eight other public meetings were being held that day in the town including one addressed by Madras Minister, Mr. Kakkan, and another meeting held by the Dravida Kazhagam to celebrate the birthday of its leader, over 2,000 people attended our Party's meeting to observe Anti-Inflation Day. This meeting was addressed among others by Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy.

Thousands of leaflets on Inflation were distributed throughout the State.

MAHARASHTRA

A district unit of the Party was inaugurated at Satara on Gandhi Jayanti. A public meeting was held the same evening under the chairmanship of Shri K. R. Deshmukh who announced that he and his colleagues had resigned from the Congress and joined the Swatantra Party. Among others who addressed the meeting was the Treasurer of the Maharashtra unit, Mr. B. B. Walvekar, and Mr. H. Bhandare. Satara, it may be of interest to note, is the home town of Maharashtra's Chief Minister, Shri Y. B. Chavan.

Elsewhere we have reported Prof. Ranga's visit to Nagpur.

The Nasik branch of the Swatantra Party observed Anti-Inflation Day on September 18. This day was preceded by an intensive signature campaign where signatures were collected on a representation to be submitted to President Rajendra Prasad. A public meeting held at Nasik that same evening was well-attended. The principal speaker was Prof. S. R. Kulkarni of the H.P.T. College of Nasik who spoke for over an hour criticising the economic policies of the Government which had resulted in inflation. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. R. D. Kulkarni, President of the Nasik branch of the Party. Dr. G. T. Tolani an active member of the Party, was in the chair.

MYSORE

Anti-Inflation Day was observed in various parts of Mysore State. At Bangalore the Anti-Inflation Day meeting called by the State Party was addressed by five speakers of whom two were from our Party, namely, Mr. V. P. Menon and Mr. B. V. Narayana Reddy. Another speaker was Mr. M. A. Venkata Rao, President of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh of Mysore State. The fourth speaker was Shrimati Vallabham Kalyanasundaram, a Member of the Mader Tamil Sangham who spoke in Tamil. Mr. M. P. L. Sastry, an independent member of the Mysore Legislative Council who was also a speaker at the meeting was frequently applauded for the points that he made in his speech criticising the Government. In spite of inclement weather more than 600 citizens attended the meeting. Similarly a public meeting was held at Dharwar, presided over by Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil, Chairman of the Mysore State Party.

A meeting held at Belgaum under the auspices of our Party to protest against Inflation was addressed not only by our Party leaders but also leaders from the Jan Sangh and the Praja Socialist Party. All speakers expressed their grave concern with the "short-sighted and complacent policy" adopted by the Government both at the Centre and in the States in tackling the problems of foodgrain prices and currency.

In Mangalore, Mr. Lobo Prabhu, President of the District Swatantra Party, presided over an Anti-Inflation Day meeting.

At Mercara in Coorg a public meeting was held on 18th September. A resolution was passed expressing "grave concern" at the inflationary tendencies in the country and registered the Party's emphatic protest against the policy of the Government which was responsible for such a situation.

Prominent Party leaders congregated in Bangalore from the 24th September to participate in a two-day Seminar on land reforms. Professor Ruthnaswamy, who inaugurated the Seminar, called on the Congress Party to halt forthwith their programme of land reform in order that gains in the food production drive could be consolidated. Mr. K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, a member of the Central Organising Committee of the Party and General Secretary of the All-India Agriculturists Federation, welcomed the gathering and explained the purpose of the Seminar. Due to Mr. Lobo Prabhu's inability to participate in the Seminar, his speech was read out by Mr. Hegde. Mr. Lobo Prabhu in his speech laid stress on the need for increasing foodgrains output. He said that Grow More Food campaigns of the First and Second Plans had miserably failed. Among other Party leaders who participated in the Seminar were Sardar Lal Singh, President of the Delhi Swatantra Party and a member of the C.O.C., and Mr. S. S. Mariswamy, General Secretary of the Madras Swatantra Party.

ORISSA

Heavy floods in Orissa have caused great damage to crops, houses, land, men and cattle. Party work consequently could not proceed as everyone was concerned with fighting this great calamity. In spite of this, however, two Committees have been formed at the Constituency level. One is at Athagarh with Mr. Chakradhar Patanaik as Secretary and the other at Naupara.

Mr. Ghasiram Majhi, M.L.A., has resigned from the Congress and joined the Swatantra Party.

A public meeting was convened by our Party at Cuttack to criticise Government's inaction and inadequate measures in tackling the situation caused by floods in Orissa. A resolution was passed at this meeting demanding the formation of a new Government in Orissa to deal with the flood situation, with the help of all parties. Among those who addressed the meeting were Mr. G. Jena, General Secretary, and Mr. Nabakishore Das.

Anti-Inflation Day was observed on the 18th September by our Party at Cuttack where a procession wended its way through the streets of Cuttack town, distributing leaflets in English and Oriya explaining the evils of Inflation. A public meeting held that evening and addressed by Mr. Kanoongo, the State President, Mr. G. Jena, Mr. Gopinath Mohanty and others explained to the gathering how the ill-conceived plans of the Congress Government had contributed to the inflationary situation in the country.

PUNJAB

A rural conference was held at Karnal during August in which Mr. Masani, the General Secretary of the Party, participated. Villagers from a large number of outlying villages attended the conference where leaders of the Party explained to the audience the Swatantra Party's policy and objective.

On the occasion of the historic "Baba's Fair" on 29th August, a successful conference was held at Batala in Gurdaspur district. The conference was attended by over thirty to forty thousand visitors, reports our Punjab Party. It was addressed by State President Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, M.P., Jathedar Teja Singh Akkarpur, ex-M.P., Sardar Gurdip Singh, Sardar Uttam Singh and others. Subjects ranging from the evils of cooperative farming to State Trading and water logging were discussed at this conference.

As reported in our last Newsletter, Party's Vice-President Dr. K. M. Munshi, Dr. N. C. Chatterjee, Mr. C. B. Agarwala and Sardar Kartar Singh Cambellpuri, toured the State in connection with the Enquiry into repression in the Punjab.

Besides his duties relating to the Enquiry, Mr. Munshi addressed members of the Bar at Ludhiana and Jullundur and was entertained to tea and dinner by the Party unit at Ludhiana. Among his other engagements was a lunch in his honour by the staff of the daily *Tribune* at Ambala.

Meetings were held on the occasion of Anti-Inflation Day in almost all the districts of the Punjab according to reports that have arrived at State headquarters in Patiala. For instance the Ludhiana unit of the Party held a meeting under the Presidentship of Mr. Lal Chand Sondhi, a former President of the Ludhiana Municipal Committee. At this meeting a resolution was passed criticising the policy of the Congress Government which had resulted in inflation and the consequent rise in the cost of the necessities of life.

On September 9, a rural conference was held at Khandur Sahib in the district of Amritsar in connection with Anti-Inflation Day. The meeting was addressed by Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke and others who in simple words tried to explain to the audience of peasants the evils of inflation. Khandur Sahib is the constituency of the Punjab Chief Minister, Mr. Kairon. In fact on the day when our Party was holding its meeting, Mr. Kairon himself addressed another meeting which was very poorly attended in contrast to the large attendance at our Party conference.

On September 25, Mr. Munshi inaugurated the Hissar district Conference of the Swatantra Party. In his address Mr. Munshi dwelt on the need for the people of the Punjab to take a sober view of the Punjabi Suba demand. Mr. Munshi welcomed the outcome of the Indo-Pakistan negotiations which, he said had opened a new chapter of understanding

between the two countries. He also criticised the Five Year Plans and said that they had been prepared "in complete disregard of our lack of trained personnel and efficient administrative machinery and lack of power to stimulate production in an adequate manner." Mr. Munshi also attended the last monthly meeting of the State Executive and State Consultative Council. A public meeting was held the same evening which was addressed by Mr. Munshi.

Dr. Kali Charan of Ludhiana, a prominent individual from that area who also addressed the meeting, announced his decision to join the Swatantra Party.

In order to ensure that other constituency units in the State enrolled sufficient members to entitle them to the formation of committees in accordance with the Party's Constitution, the Punjab unit has divided the State into three groups, each under a group leader who would go about in his respective area to ensure that units are formed in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution. Thus Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke and Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, M.P., have been entrusted the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, and Jullundur, while Raja Maheshindra Singh and Sardar Basant Singh have undertaken to superintend the formation of such units in Ludhiana, Ferozepur, Bhatinda, Sangrur, Patiala and Kangra. The districts lying in the Haryana region have been entrusted to Chaudhri Dharam Singh Rathee, the General Secretary of the Punjab Party.

Party leaders continued to tour the State. Raja Maheshindra Singh, M.L.A. toured the Bhatinda and Hissar districts from 17th to 20th September. He met leaders at Bhatinda and Babbwali reaching Sirsa on the 18th. He addressed a public meeting arranged by the Hissar District Committee. This meeting was also addressed by Chaudhri Dharam Singh Rathi and by Major Karan Singh. A similar public meeting was held on September 19 at Dabbwali.

RAJASTHAN

Nagaur in Rajasthan reports that Anti-Inflation Day was observed in that area when a largely attended public meeting was held. This meeting was addressed by six Party leaders who provided the audience with facts and figures to prove the point that the Congress Government had by its economic and fiscal policies pushed the country towards economic ruin. This meeting was presided over by the Convenor of the Nagaur district Party, Col. Dhonkal Singh.

UTTAR PRADESH

Anti-Inflation Day was observed very widely in U.P. Meetings were held at Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Moradabad, Badli, Agra, Gonda, Azamgarh, Etawah, Aligarh, Rae-Bareilly, Bijnor, Shikohabad etc. In fact the Party reports that the list could continue for another page. At some places demonstrations were

held on that day. At all these meetings resolutions were passed demanding from the Government immediate measures to check inflation.

A novel experiment for the propagation of our Party's principles was tried out in the district of Mainpuri. Choudhury Layaq Singh, M.L.A., General Secretary of the U.P. Party, and Pandit Tika Ram Pujari, M.L.A., toured this district with a music party. Meetings at various villages began with popular folk songs. Thousands of people used to gather around. After the recital of these songs, poems describing the troubles of the people relating to Government's policies were sung. The poems served to increase the interest of the audience and soon after the General Secretary addressed the meeting and explained to the audience how the Swatantra Party, if put into power, would rid them of their miseries and troubles. At the conclusion of the speeches various slogans in support of the Party were raised and mass pledges taken to help in the Party's activities. The U.P. Party writes that the popularity of these meetings can be gauged from the fact that the average attendance at these meetings was anywhere between four to five thousand.

The General Secretary of the Party, Mr. M. R. Masani, visited Lucknow on 11th and 12th September. He met office-bearers of the Party and many Party workers, discussed with them problems of organisation and suggested various solutions for overcoming their difficulties. Mr. Masani addressed a public meeting when he explained to the audience the aims of the Party and discussed the inflationary trends that were threatening the country.

Party Organiser, Mr. Prayag Narain Srivastava, visited Hardoi, Rae-Bareilly, Lakhimpur, Farukhabad, Meerut and some towns in Lucknow Division organising Party units and investigating the possibilities of the formation of new units in the area.

Sardar Sant Singh, organiser of the Party in Rohilkhand Division, toured his area addressing numerous public meetings in an effort to stimulate the membership drive. He contacted important personalities and secured the support of people like Shri Karim-ur-raza Khan, a former M.L.A., and Thakur Lakhpatt Singh, a retired Commissioner of Rohilkhand Division, for the Party.

Our Party Organiser in Faizabad division, Shri Baldeo Singh, M.L.A., undertook a tour of the Gorakhpur and Deoria districts. At Tamkuhi, a Party camp coincided with the Dassera fair. A meeting of villagers which was held here was addressed by Shri Baldeo Singh. Later that night a torchlight procession was organised in which thousands of villagers participated shouting Party slogans.

State Party President, Shri Sri Krishna Datt Paliwal, addressed a big Anti-Inflation Day rally at Agra. Later he also led a big procession through the streets of Agra. *Shri Paliwal has secured for the Agra division the services of Shri Deodat Paliwal who has been appointed Party organiser.*

During the debate on the Third five-year plan in the U.P. Vidhan Sabha, the leader of our Party in the Assembly, Shri Paliwal delivered a scathing attack on the current pattern of planning and said that such planning was "anti-democratic" and that the draft of the Third plan was formulated without bestowing upon it proper thinking.

The Swatantra Party group in the Assembly put up stiff opposition to the imposition of Ceilings on land holdings during the Assembly debate and also opposed another bill which imposed "Haisiat" (status) which is a tax on all people living in rural areas whose monthly income is Rs. 50 or more.

WEST BENGAL

Anti-Inflation Day was observed by the West Bengal Swatantra Party on 18th September. A mass meeting was held at the base of the Ochterloney Monument. Shri P.N. Chatterjee, member, Working Committee of the West Bengal branch presided. The meeting was addressed by Shri Promode Ghoshal, Executive Secretary, Shri Probodh Chandra Sinha, Shri Badal Gangopadhyay and other members of the Working Committee who explained the significance of the day and the evils arising out of the inflationary economic policy of the Congress Government. The meeting was largely attended.

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