

CENTRAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE COPTIONS

The following have been coopted to membership of the Central Organising Committee of the Party:

Mr. N. C. Chatterjee,
H.H. Maharaja Laxman Singh of Dungarpur
H.H. Raja Anandchand of Bilaspur,
Mr. G. Latchanna,
Raja Mansingh of Bharatpur.

The strength of the Central Organising Committee is now 25.

Shri S. K. D. Paliwal, President of the Party in Uttar Pradesh and a member of the Central Organising Committee, has been nominated a Vice-President of the Party, in addition to Mr. K. M. Munshi and Raja Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh.

PARLIAMENTARY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Central Organising Committee has set up a Parliamentary Sub-Committee to plan the procedure and details in regard to the selection of candidates and other aspects of the Party's election campaign consisting of the following:

Prof. N. G. Ranga,
Shri C. Rajagopalachari
Shri K. M. Munshi,

Raja Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh,
Shri S. K. D. Paliwal, and
Mr. M. R. Masani.

PROF. RANGA ON THE DETENTION OF THE BASTAR MAHARAJA

Prof. Ranga has issued the following statement on the recent arrest of the Raja of Bastar:

"By arresting the Maharaja of Bastar, the Government has made the worst possible use of the Preventive Detention Act. It is yet too early to visualise the possible long term consequence of this act of Government, not only in the realm of tribal peoples but also among the ex-princes. What is worse is the assumption by the Government of arbitrary rights over such questions as succession, marriage and dignities associated with a family, forgetting the vital fact that with the integration of the State, the justification for the paramountcy arrogated by British imperialism has gone. It is the courts alone which can decide such vital points concerning the intimate relations between members of a family and I wonder when and how the ex-princes have delegated to the Government their family rights over properties and dignities. It is neither right nor wise for party Governments to forget or ignore the civic rights of these ex-princes merely because they dare enter political parties which are opposed to the ruling Party."

NEWS FROM STATE PARTIES

ANDHRA

Sustained Party activity continued in the month of January. Throughout the various districts, Party meetings, workers' conferences and smaller group meetings were the order of the day.

Shri Latchanna undertook an extensive tour of the villages of Kaviti, Pragadaputtugu, Jagathi, Bejjaputtugu, Borivenka, Varakha, and Kusumpuram to propagate the Party's principles and to help in the formation of constituency committees. He was accompanied among others by Shri Ramanna Sharma, President of the Panchayat Board of Rajapuram, Shri Rajanala Ramarao, one of its members, Shri Keshavrao, Shri Bendalam Lathsiah and Shri Bendalam Ramakrishna.

In the district of Vishakhapatnam, a joint meeting of the district Committee and the Chodavaram Taluq committee was held on January 8 with Shri Bapu

Naidu presiding. Sri Besetti Apparao, M.L.A., Secretary of the district unit addressed the meeting. Several resolutions were passed on the difficulties and problems faced by peasants. The meeting also decided to hold a conference of the Party at Yelamanchili taluq.

Reports from Guntur district indicate an increase in membership. The Taluq Committees of Satyanapalli and Chinalingayapalem in the Baptla taluq, Idupulapadu and Tenali have taken on active Party work and have commenced a campaign to warn the peasantry against the dangerous consequences that would follow the present policies of the ruling Party. Mr. P. Bapathiah, President of the Baptla taluq, who addressed a meeting, condemned State Trading and cooperative farming as policies which would be ruinous to the interests of the peasants.

Mr. J. Chandramowli, M. L. A., President of the district Committee of Guntur, performed the flag hoisting ceremony on January 26 and addressed a

meeting of over 2000 people. In the course of his speech he explained how the policies of the ruling Party would pauperize the country.

The Chittoor district Committee met at Chittoor on January 4 with Shri N. D. Reddy presiding. The meeting resolved to convene the district Party Convention later this month and to invite leaders from other parts of the country to participate in the proceedings. A large gathering was addressed by Mr. G. Latchanna at Tirupathi on 24th January. The speaker denounced cooperative farming and told the people that the Swatantra Party alone could stem this threat.

Another meeting was held at Gadiveluma in the Kurnool district on 15th January which was presided over by Shri P. M. Sastry. Over 5000 people attended this meeting which was convened by Mr. N. Sankara Reddy who also spoke on the occasion.

Mr. Sankara Reddy, who is Convenor for the Kurnool district Party, and Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu, Deputy Leader of the Party in the State Assembly, accompanied by Shri Kussainappa Naidu toured the villages of Atmakur, Gadwal, Alampur, and a few others on January 24 and 25. It is reported that villages in the areas they visited evinced keen interest in our Party's principles.

In Elections to four Panchayats in the district of Medak, independent candidates who are members of the Party have succeeded in large numbers.

The Darsi taluq committee in the district of Nellore organised a public meeting at Mundlamuru, a remote village on the borders of Guntur. Many people from all over the taluq and from adjoining taluqs assembled. In the presence of 5000 people, Shri P. V. Krishna Reddy, M.L.C., and President of the district Committee, unveiled the statue of Professor Ranga. President of the State Party Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddy, and Mr. P. Koteswara Rao spoke on the present day administration, excessive taxation and cooperative farming. At this meeting Shri Mahananda Choudhury, a former member of the Legislative Assembly and an influential person in the area, joined the Party, which news was received with acclamation.

The extensive tours of the President of the Party accompanied by Mr. N. Sankar Reddy, a member of the General Council, through the districts of Guntur, Krishna, Chittoor, Kurnool, Nalgonda, Kuddappa and Mahaboob Nagar has considerably helped in awakening the consciousness of the people in these areas to the presence of the Party. Wherever Prof. Ranga went, he was given a rousing reception. In his tour of various taluqs he was accompanied by taluq Presidents. In the course of his many speeches, Prof. Ranga was critical of Government policies and explained to the people how the current Plans of the ruling Party were fundamentally opposed to the concept of economic development as enunciated by Gandhiji and the extent of damage caused by these Plans. He also said at these meetings that the economic policies of the ruling Party had resulted in self-employed peasants, merchants, artisans and others being reduced to slavery. He therefore called upon them to vote for the Swatantra Party in the Elections if they wanted to preserve their freedom and bring prosperity to the country.

At Nellore, which he visited, resolutions were passed demanding the sanction by Government of the Somasila project and adequate provision of funds for the Kaveli and Kamipur canals as also the immediate implementation of schemes for the flood and draught affected areas.

In Yellatalli, at a public meeting, Shri Y. Venkatrao, Shri T. Krishnamma, State General Secretary and Shri Chandramowli who had accompanied Professor Ranga in a procession also addressed the gathering.

Prof. Ranga also toured numerous areas of Telangana and addressed many public meetings, which were all uniformly well-attended. At Nalgonda, Professor Ranga vehemently criticised the policies of the Government with regard to planning, deficit financing and foreign aid. Mr. K. Ranga Reddy, Mr. T. Krishnamma and others also addressed many of the meetings along with Rangaji.

The meetings at Kosgi, Kodangal, Warrangal, Maktal and Mahaboob Nagar were all well attended. The people showed great enthusiasm for the Party. On January 29, Professor Ranga visited Medchal in the district of Hyderabad and helped in forming the Medchal constituency committee. He inaugurated a political school at Nizamabad. State President, Shri B. Ramachandra Reddy presided over this meeting.

ASSAM

The villagers in the interior areas of Assam are gradually becoming aware of the Swatantra Party and its message. Our spokesmen in that State unit are fully alive to the fact that the message of Swatantra has a special appeal to the peasantry and are therefore undertaking frequent visits into the rural areas. For instance, on January 14, in the interior village of Pongkunga a meeting was held in the market place and attended by numerous villagers. They listened with rapt attention to the speakers who, while criticising Congress policies, detailed what the Swatantra Party would do for them. Many requests were received by our party-men to visit their villages.

Mr. L. Sah, Joint Secretary of the Party, visited Nowgong to help in the formation of a Committee for the district. It is reported that very soon a Committee would be formed which will include many prominent persons in the area, lawyers and even some Congressmen sick of the policies of their Party.

The village Headman of the area surrounding Mairang requested the Joint Secretary to visit the area after they themselves had enrolled as Party members.

On the invitation of local leaders of Jowri in the Jaintia Hills, our Party's General Secretary in Shillong and others visited the area and helped in the formation of an eight-man committee. Party work is proceeding briskly.

An unmistakable impression has been made by our Party on the minds of the villagers that it alone can help them out in their numerous problems.

BIHAR

With over 32,000 members already on its rolls, our State Party is exerting every effort to reach the target of a lakh as soon as possible.

In the meanwhile the tireless President of the State Unit and Vice-President of the all-India Party Shri. Kamakhya Narain Singh continued his tours of rural Bihar. He also called on Acharya Vinobha Bhave.

Shri Ram Binod Singh, M.L.A., vice-President of the Bihar Party, toured the Palamau District addressing largely attended gatherings to whom he explained the programme of the Party. He addressed over a dozen such meetings in the district. Shri Janki Nandan Singh M.L.C. toured the district of Darbhanga and addressed public meetings at Dalsing-Sarai, Samastipur and other important centres in the district.

Preparations are afoot to hold the first State Convention at Dalsing-Sarai on the 11th and 12th of March.

BOMBAY

Republic Day was observed by the various local units throughout the City. The Bandra unit held a very successful function. Mr. M. R. Masani hoisted the national flag and addressed assembled party members and sympathisers.

Mr. Masani expressed the opinion that two factors were responsible for the widespread disillusionment and cynicism among the people, viz., the absence of an adequate 'public philosophy' to hold the nation together and the gulf between profession and practice of the Government leaders.

Answering the question asked by some cynical people how the Swatantra Party could be trusted not to get corrupted by power in the same manner as the Congress Party, Mr. Masani said he made no claim to superior virtue for members of his Party. Unlike all other parties in India, however, the Swatantra Party recognised this danger and hence believed in limited government. They were opposed to economic power being combined with political power. They would restore the economic power usurped by the Nehru government to the people. They agreed with Gandhiji that "that government is best which governs least."

At the Party office, the flag was hoisted by local General Secretary, Shri R. V. Murthy. A similar function was held at the Party's office in Malad.

A luncheon was held at the Gita Mandir Hall where over 200 party members participated.

A very successful meeting was held at Malad on the 4th of February. Those on the speakers' rostrum included Shri K. M. Munshi, Shri Bhailalbhai Patel, President of the Gujarat Party and member of the Central Organising Committee, and Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel, M.P. The essentially middle-class audience listened to the venerated leader from Gujarat in hushed silence as he recounted Congress misdeeds and warned that more was to come. He particularly referred to the land ceilings bill and the attempt at introducing co-operative farming. The latter, he opined, meant the murder of the small independent peasant. Shri

Dahyabhai Patel spoke briefly but with enthusiasm and evoked applause from the audience. Referring to the good old days when the Congress before independence had called upon the people to accept offers of a free lift, money and such other inducements by rival parties in times of elections, Shri Patel in a humorous vein suggested that people could do the same tasks and then vote for the Swatantra Party. Mr. K. M. Munshi drew the attention of the audience to the fact that, after thirteen years of independence, the country was in a much worse state, in spite of their much-flaunted Five Year Plans. The meeting ended with a series of questions from the audience which were answered with telling effect.

A passing mention must be made here of the very good work put in by Mr. C. R. Nerurkar, Mr. S. M. Baxi, Mr. Ceewad, and Mr. Madhu N. Mehta, to ensure the success of this meeting.

Efforts to step up Party activity in Dharavi, Parel and Lalbaug are under way.

GUJARAT

Shri Bhailalbhai Patel accompanied by Shri Navin Patel toured the district of Panchmahal accompanied by the district President. They covered most of the talukas and helped in forming new taluka units. Taluka workers have been provided by the State Party with five cycles to facilitate mobility of movement.

Shri Dadubhai Amin toured Ahmedabad district. He will be convening a district Convention of the Khedut Sangh which is to be held in shortly.

Shri Dahyabhai Patel attended a Khedut Sammelan at Jamjodhpur in Saurashtra. He also addressed a public meeting at Rajkot. Accompanying Bhailalbhai Patel he toured Kaira District addressing meetings at Sevalia and Dakorumreth Taluka.

On the initiative of Shri Bhailalbhai Patel and Shri Navin Patel, a permanent body of experts has been set up to make suggestions for the development of industries, ports and agriculture. A Conference convened for this purpose was addressed among others by Shri Bhailalbhai and Mr. R. K. Trivedi. Mr. K. M. Munshi presided over this conference.

Accompanied by Shri Bhailalbhai and Shri Dahyabhai Patel, Mr. K. M. Munshi toured Surat, Broach and Nadiad.

MADHYA PRADESH

Steady progress has been reported in the districts of Dewas, Dhar, Indore, Jhabua, Mandsaur, Nimar, Rajgarh and Ujjain in the Indore Division, where the organisers of the Party have been devoting considerable time and energy to build up a sound party organisation.

The Jhabua unit held a meeting which was attended among others by Mr. Rege, Mr. Hirve, Thakur Naharsinh, Shri Parulekar and the Rajkumar of Kaluhera.

Ujjain is planning to have its first District Convention later this month.

MADRAS

The Madras unit has had the good fortune of having Rajaji with them through the major portion of the year. He has been continuously touring various districts of Madras helping in boosting the morale of our Party organisers in the remote villages of the State. In January Rajaji undertook an extensive tour of Coimbatore district. In Coimbatore city he addressed meetings.

On the eve of the Pongal festival, Rajaji addressed a meeting at Chintadripet in the city of Madras where he called upon the people to defeat the Congress and return the Swatantra Party to power in the next General Elections just like people changing to a new shop when the old shopkeeper started supplying them with bad goods taking undue advantage of the continued patronage of the customer. He criticised governmental policies of direct and indirect heavy taxation and likened indirect taxation to picking one's pockets and direct taxation to begging.

On January 22, he addressed the fifth Anniversary Celebrations of the Makkal Podunala Mandram at St. Thomas Mount. Also on the same platform was Mr. Asai Thambi, M.L.A., member of the D.M.K. who said that while the D.M.K. had ideological differences with the Swatantra Party, it was one with it in its aim of defeating the Congress Government.

On 23rd January, Rajaji addressed a meeting at Purusakkam held by the Purusakkam Merchants' Association in connection with their Fifth Anniversary. On the platform with him was D.M.K. leader Shri P.V.K. Sampath, M.P. To the merchants Rajaji said that the system of State Trading was like a "noose" round their necks and that if the Congress Party were returned to power in the next General Elections, the noose would be tightened and the merchants would be strangled.

Rajaji then proceeded to Karur to commence his seven-day tour of Coimbatore district. On the way he called on Shri U. Muthuramalinga Thevar M.P., who is ailing. Rajaji addressed a meeting of over 40,000 at the Kamla Nehru Ghat on the banks of the Amaravati.

This meeting was presided over by Mr. N. R. Ramaswamy Konar. On behalf of the Karur Swatantra Party, Mr. P. Muniappa Chettiar presented Rajaji with a purse of Rs. 4,000. Shri Saw Ganesan, President of the State Party, and Dr. R. Kalamegam addressed the meeting.

On 31st Rajaji entered Erode taluk in the district of Coimbatore. At Avalur village Rajaji and Saw Ganesan were welcomed on behalf of the D.M.K. Replying to his welcome, Rajaji said, that in spite of the fact that they had not talked about any alliance, he appreciated the welcome given to him by the D.M.K.

The President of the State Party, Shri Saw Ganesan, toured the district of Ramnad from 4th to 7th January, Tanjore district from 7th to 11th and Salem from 24th to 25th. From the 28th he accompanied Rajaji on his tour of Coimbatore district.

On January 8, he addressed over eight meetings in the taluk of Sirkali. In Salem district, he addressed meetings at Salem and other places. On the 13th Party

members enacted a drama called "Where is Freedom?" at Pappanaickenpalayam taluka in Coimbatore.

A district Committee has been formed at Kanyakumari.

Although a little late in the day a meeting was convened by the Triplicane branch of the Party in connection with Rajaji's birthday celebrations. The meeting was presided over by Mr. V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliar and was addressed among others by Messrs. A.V.P. Peria Bala Guruvareddi, V. Subbayya and Tanjore district unit President Swamithurai Thevar.

Madras was recently the venue of a meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Central Organising Committee (already reported in the January issue of our Newsletter). Taking advantage of the presence of Party leaders from other States, a public meeting was held at Gokhale Hall under the presidentship of Rajaji. Prof. Ranga, Mr. S. K. D. Paliwal and Mr. M. R. Masani addressed the meeting.

Prof. Ranga drew attention to the fact that the country was getting more and more indebted to foreign nations. Mr. Paliwal informed the gathering that in U.P. alone over a lakh of members had been enrolled and the Party's chances during the next General Elections were bright.

Mr. Masani in his address discussed the rationale of the Swatantra Party. He said that no single Party should be allowed to wield power for a long period. For, for an effective functioning of democracy there should be an alternative Government. The Swatantra Party would provide that alternative Government for which the people should vote in the next General Elections.

In his presidential remarks Rajaji asked the audience to ponder over what Mr. Masani had said and to enrol members for the Party in order to end the present system of Government which was based on collection of money and on the strength of permits and licences.

Before leaving Madras, Mr. Masani addressed a press conference where he explained that while the Party would not enter into an alliance with any other party, it might come to an "understanding" to avoid three cornered or multi-cornered contests. He, however, added that there would be no such understanding with the Communist Party. Rajaji added that if in a particular constituency the communists or the D.M.K. were clearly dominant, the Swatantra Party would not like to waste its strength and resources and would leave it to the Party dominating the place. This should not be taken in any way as obliging the Party concerned.

MAHARASHTRA

State Party Convenor Shri K.R. Koshti visited Nasik, Ahmednagar and Sholapur where he held discussions with Party leaders.

Treasurer of the Party Shri B. B. Walvekar and Joint Secretary Shri B. V. Marathe visited Saswad in the district of Poona where the Party is held very much in esteem. Later they undertook an 8-day tour of Vidarbha which took them, among other places, to Nagpur. After meeting members of the district

Committee certain decisions were taken on the functioning of the Party in Nagpur.

Shri K. R. Deshmukh has been making strenuous efforts in the Sholapur and Satara districts for the proposed Workers' Training Camp which will be held as soon as arrangements are complete.

The Maharashtra unit of the Party is taking up the question of the proposed "Land Ceilings bill" and the amendments to the Shops and Establishment Act which are before the State Assembly.

MYSORE

The State Party reports that so far three independent members of the Mysore legislative Assembly have joined the Party. They are:

1. Sardar Dr. B. K. Nagur (Representing Bijapur)
2. Sri. G. E. Hoover (Representing a Constituency in the Bangalore City Corporation Area) and
3. Sri S. B. Padaki (Representing Parasgod Constituency in Belgaum district).

During the recent elections to Taluka Development Boards in Mysore district, several Party members contested the elections as independents. Hand-bills describing the dangers of cooperative farming were freely distributed in the villages, speeches were delivered warning the farmers against the ruinous consequences of inflation, state trading and nationalisation. Out of 150 to 155 seats, candidates who were either Party members or sympathisers won as many as 40 seats. This election enabled the Party to carry its message throughout the villages of the district.

Mr. K. H. Sreenivasan, one of the Vice-Presidents of the State Party, accompanied by a few members of the State Committee visited the headquarters of Mandya district. A meeting of sympathisers was held at the residence of Shri Lakshminarayana Rao, President of the Mandya Bar Association. A Mandya district Committee was formed with Mr. Lakshminarayana Rao as President, Mr. M. C. Linge Gowda as Vice-president, Mr. G. T. Krishnappa as General Secretary, Mr. Rudrappa as Joint Secretary and Mr. K. S. Gundurrao as Treasurer.

The South Kanara district Committee held its annual meeting on 31st December under the Presidentship of Mr. J. M. Lobo Prabhu.

ORISSA

At a meeting of the State Council held on 29th December, it was decided that a Sub-committee consisting of Shri Harihar Das, M.L.A. Shri Ghasiram Majhi, M.L.A., Shri Nabakishore Das, Shri Humayun Kader Baig and Shri P. K. Rath should tour Orissa to organise Party work.

Mr. H. Kanoongo, State President, formally opened the Cuttack district Party office at Azamkhan Bazar in the town of Cuttack.

On the occasion of Makar Sankranti day on 14th January, a big mela was held at Jagatsingpur in the district of Cuttack. The Party set up a stall there and with the help of a loud-speaker spread the message

of the Party for three consecutive days. Leaflets were distributed on a large scale. District Secretary Balamukund Das and State Committee member Nabakishore Das toured Jagatsingpur and Balakuda during this occasion.

A Puri district Committee was formed on 27th January under the Presidentship of Pandit Ragunath Misra. The Committee, which consists of twelve members, has Mr. Lingaraj Misra as Secretary. A meeting was held on the 13th in the district of Balasore and was addressed by Mr. S. Mahapatra and Mr. Karunakar Das. On the 18th a similar meeting was held at Balanga P. S. Soro. Shri Baikunthnath Mahapatra and Shri. Janardhan Dixit addressed the meeting. Similar meetings were held at Salampur and Bati.

Mention must be made of the good work being done in the area by Shri Ghasiram Majhi, M.L.A., Paresha Chandra Pattanaik, Krushnaballava Padhi, Kailash Chandra Panigrahi, Bharat Ram Sahu, Omkar Singh and Jinatram Patel.

Satyanarayan Jena, President of Phulabani district Committee, toured different areas from 4th to 13th January and inspected Party Panchayat offices.

PUNJAB

The Punjab unit of the Party launched an intensive educational drive to enlighten the peasants on the real role of the Panchayats and warning against their improper use by the ruling party to perpetuate its rule. The result of this activity has been the passing of resolutions by several Panchayats condemning government action in levying a surcharge to the tune of 50% of the existing Land Revenue and demanding its immediate withdrawal.

Many candidates sympathetic to Swatantra principles were elected in the third round of Civic elections in 51 Municipal towns which took place recently. The Congress which had put up 300 candidates for the 473 seats was able to secure only 103 seats. As a matter of fact the Congress secured majorities in only three out of fifty-one Municipalities.

During the month, numerous public meetings were held at various places. At Nur Mahal in the district of Jullunder a public meeting was organised by Pandit Tara Kesh of Samrai on January 8. State President Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke presided over the meeting which was addressed by Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, M.P., Sardar Basant Singh, Joint Secretary, Shri Surendra Nath Khosla and Dr. Mehar Singh, Convenor of the Amritsar (Urban) Unit of the Party. Incidentally Nur Mahal lies in the home Constituency of State Congress President Shri Darbara Singh.

On the occasion of the 'Lohi' festival a conference was convened at Ghumaon in the district of Gurdaspur on January 13 under the presidentship of Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke. Among those who addressed the conference were Jathedar Gurmej Singh, Sardar Natha Singh and other party spokesmen. The speakers explained to the people the principles of the Party and the evil effects of the ruling Party's economic policy and the enhancement of taxes.

A well-attended and equally well represented conference was held at Raya in the district of Amritsar. This rural conference which was convened by the initiative of Shri Darshan Singh, M.P., on 21st January, was attended by the State President, Sardar Basant Singh and others. The President complimented the organisers for the successful meeting.

In the Haryana region of the State a district workers meeting was held at Karnal on 7th January which was addressed among others by Ch. Dharam Singh Rath, State General Secretary, Major Karam Singh Malik and Ch. Vijay Singh, Convenor of the district unit. Various decisions relating to the Party's activity were taken.

Accompanied by Mr. K. S. Malik and Ch. Vijay Singh, Ch. Dharam Singh Rath undertook a whirlwind tour of 40 villages in the Rohtak and Karnal districts. He addressed numerous meetings.

On 15th January, a public meeting was held at Gwalra in the district of Karnal which was largely attended. Resolutions condemning bills enacted by the Punjab Vidhan Sabha to increase land revenue and stamp duty were unanimously adopted. The Compulsory Service Bill was also severely criticised.

Justice Gurnam Singh, a former Judge of the High Court, Dr. Kali Charan Sharma, Shri Lalchand Sondhi district Convenor and Prof. Punjab Singh addressed a public meeting held by the Ludhiana unit of the Party on the occasion of Republic Day.

That the Punjab Government of Mr. Kairon continues on its role of suppressing civil liberties is confirmed by the fact that Lala Jagat Narain, M.L.A., Shri Virendra, M.L.C., and other prominent leaders of the Arya Samaj have been arrested on some pretext or the other. In this connection President of the State Party Jathedar Uddham Singh Nagoke issued a press statement on February 8 condemning the repressive policies of the Government. He called upon opposition Parties to realise that as long as the Congress remained in power, it would continue to play one Community against the other in order to continue its rule. He concluded by saying: "The sooner it is realized that the unity of the opposition means death to the Congress, the better it will be."

UTTAR PRADESH

Party activity in the State has stepped up over the last few weeks. More and more peasants are being

made aware of the Party and the fact that it is their only true friend. Minorities as well are looking upon the Party as a better friend than the present powers that be.

Shri S. K. D. Paliwal, State President, visited the town of Hapur an important food-grains centre in Meerut district at the invitation of the local Party unit. In his address to the meeting he emphasized the Party's policy in regard to trade and commerce and removed the doubts of many sceptics.

Shri Raghavendra Pratap Singh, M.L.A. Treasurer of the State Party, toured the Sultanpur district to intensify Party activity. Shri Vidyadhar Bajpai, former M.L.A. and Shri Tafazul Hussain Khan General Secretary of the Sultanpur district unit accompanied him. Shri Raghavendra Pratap Singh visited Jaffarganj Bhandwa, Thamaura, Sultanpur and several other villages where he addressed meetings of farmers. In his speeches he criticized the ruling Party's Land Policy and exhorted the audience to join the Swatantra Party. The response reported was very good, for many not only joined the Party but volunteered their services.

Later Shri Raghavendra Pratap Singh undertook a tour of the district of Basti. On this visit he was accompanied by Malauna Abdul Hamid Quadri, an old and venerable Muslim divine, who called upon Muslims in the rural areas of the district to join the Party.

The Raja Sahab continued his tour through Babhlan, Mahson and Sadanli. Wherever he went, thousands of farmers gathered to listen to the message of Swatantra. Basti district, which was once considered the citadel of Congress strength, is now thoroughly disillusioned with the ruling Party because of its policy of cooperative farming. The message of Swatantra assuring freedom to the individual peasants has found a special appeal in the hearts of the Basti farmers.

A farmers' conference was held in the town of Saurikh under the presidentship of Choudhury Layaq Singh, State General Secretary. The Conference was also addressed by Shri Brij Bhushan Jajela, President of the Farukhabad unit of the Party. Slogans denouncing cooperative farming were raised at this Conference.

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