

PARLIAMENTARY AND ORGANISATION SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The Parliamentary and Organisation Sub-Committee of the Party met in Madras on 19th and 20th April. Among those who attended the two-day session were Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh, Shri S. K. D. Paliwal and Mr. M. R. Masani. Prof. Ranga presided.

The sub-committee passed the following resolution in regard to the mid-term elections in Orissa.

"Having considered the situation arising as a result of the forcing of mid-term elections in Orissa by the ruling party and having heard the spokesmen of the Orissa unit, the Parliamentary sub-committee of the Swatantra Party resolves that the Party should not interest itself in the mid-term elections in view of lack of time for facing the contest on a State-wise scale. The two members of the Party who are members of the present Orissa Legislative Assembly are, however, free to stand from their present seats or other seats of their choice.

No member of the Orissa unit shall intervene as a candidate or otherwise in these elections to the prejudice of the Ganatantra Parishad and thus give an advantage to the ruling Party."

The Organisation Sub-committee of the Party nominated Mr. Hari Hara Das as the new President of the Orissa Unit of the Party and that he should be requested, after consultations, to recommend a new list of office bearers and members of the State executive of the Orissa unit as soon as possible.

The Sub-Committee also decided that Her Highness Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur and Shri Himmat Singh of Cutch should be nominated to the General Council of the Party.

In response to the request of the Uttar Pradesh Party, the dates of the next National Convention at Agra were postponed by a week and the following programme was finalised:

Central Organising Committee Meetings:	Wednesday, November 22 and Thursday, November 23, 1961.
General Council Meetings:	Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24, 1961.
National Convention:	Saturday, November 25 and Sunday, November 26, 1961.

GENERAL SECRETARY ON ELECTION OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

Mr. M. R. Masani, who was in Patna on May 12 and 13 to participate in the deliberations of the State Executive Committee, addressing a press conference just prior to his departure from Patna, set out the objectives of the Party in the 1962 elections. He has described them as being the emergence of the Party as the National Opposition in Parliament and the formation of a Swatantra Government in Bihar. Discounting as premature and unrealistic press reports of the number of seats the Bihar Party would contest, he disclosed that the State Party had been asked to send to the Central Organising Committee their recommendations by June 13.

For this purpose an Election Committee of the following ten members had been nominated to the State Executive Committee:

- (1) Raja Bahadur Kamakhya Narain Singh
- (2) Ram Binod Singh
- (3) Jaleshwar Prasad
- (4) Rajasaheb Jagatkishore Narain Singh
- (5) Janki Nandan Singh
- (6) Chandra Mauli Deo
- (7) Imam Ali
- (8) N. Bakshi
- (9) Keshav Prasad
- (10) Dr. Basant Narain Singh

Mr. M. R. Masani hoped that the Press would appreciate the contrast between this smooth and unanimous nomination and the way in which the rival Congress Party in Bihar had been split wide open while engaged in the same process.

In answer to questions about the Party's attitude to electoral alliances, Mr. M. R. Masani answered that there would be no alliances and said "We will fight the elections on our own platform and manifesto and under our own flag." At the same time, the Party appreciated the need to avoid a situation in which the multiplicity of opposition candidates helped the Congress to secure a majority with a minority of votes. This would be facilitated if each opposition party set up candidates from constituencies where they had a sporting chance of winning. The Swatantra Party would be agreeable to 'reciprocal courtesy' by way of an understanding in this regard with all opposition parties except the Communist Party.

Replying to a question about the proposed move by the Congress Party to ban "communal" parties, Mr. M. R. Masani said that it was his personal view that the suggestion was not sound. Such a ban might infringe the Fundamental Right of free association.

Licensing of parties was a feature of totalitarian dictatorships. The way to fight communalism was by education and political propaganda and not by a legal ban. If at all any party deserved to be banned, it was the Communist Party which was not a political party but a Fifth Column of foreign dictatorships.

Asked why Swatantra Party leaders had remained silent in regard to recent communal riots in Jabal-pore, Mr. M. R. Masani explained that the absence of any statement on the subject did not mean that the Party was not concerned about it. It was partly due to the fact that the Swatantra Party did not have any unit in Jabal-pore. The Party deplored the ugly incidents there and stood for full protection of minorities.

RAJAJI ON NON-INTERVENTION IN THE NUCLEAR AGE

In a letter to the *New York Times*, Rajaji declares that "the weaker nations have been completely orphaned by the atom." He said that in the days gone by victims of injustice and tyranny could find material support from abroad in their unequal struggle against oppressors entrenched in power. Explaining the changed circumstances in an age where "weapons of mass destruction have altered the perspective for all powerful nations," Rajaji states: "Tyrants and usurpers are now free to deal with their victims without any fear of external indignation. The usurper or dictator has converted the majority of the people into debased slaves and no dissenter has any chance."

"The world order envisaged by lovers of peace has a definite and permanent saving clause against any intervention in the internal affairs of a *de facto* regime which has established itself anywhere by brute strength or fraud or otherwise. The world executive, to be brought into existence under proposals for world Government cannot intervene in what has been comprehensively and cruelly called the "domestic" affairs of any State.

"Here then, we are, British statesmen and the British Press, Mr. Nehru in India, and every intellectual everywhere taking for granted that Cuban affairs must be left to Fidel Castro and it is not for America to intervene.

"The enemies of individual freedom are comple-

tely free to do what they like and the rights of national sovereignty accrue to every tyrant whatever the origin of his *de facto* authority may be.

"Truly, again, one may cry that the days of chivalry are gone. There is no room for international chivalry, now that the monstrous fear of nuclear weapons has been enthroned as the guiding principle of all international politics.

"Most private cruelty is done within family walls and most public wrongs within State frontiers. And if these frontiers and walls are sacrosanct, then oppression gets a free charter in the nuclear age," concluded Rajaji.

DANGERS OF CHINESE EXPANSIONISM

Mr. N. C. Chatterjee, President of the West Bengal unit of the Party and member of the Central Organising Committee participated in a symposium held in New Delhi on April 29 on the "Wider Implications of the India-China Dispute." The other participants were Mr. B. G. Verghese and the Head of the South East Asia Department of the Indian School of International Studies.

Mr. Chatterjee said that the Indian Government's policy towards China had been weak and vacillating and it was time that a more realistic approach was adopted. India, he thought, was placing too much reliance on its friendship with the USSR in the dispute with China. If and when the final showdown came, it was unlikely that the USSR would side with India.

India, he felt, must build up its military strength in a quiet and systematic way to deal with any attempt to grab more of its border areas. A military threat could only be met with military strength. An equally grave danger, he said, was that China would attempt to infiltrate into the border areas and wean Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal away from India. The Indian Government must not allow this to happen. India's case in Tibet had gone by default. The Government had not exposed the Chinese onslaught, which included genocide on a weak and defenceless country like Tibet. Many South East Asian countries did not appreciate the Indian viewpoint on Tibet. This, he pointed out, was a serious diplomatic lapse on the part of India.

NEWS FROM STATE PARTIES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Several farmers led by Sri Ch. Parasuram Naidu, M.L.C. leader of the Swatantra group in the State legislative Council, Shri V. V. Ramanna M.P. and Shri Beesetti Apparao, M.L.A. tendered evidence before the Select Committee appointed to collect evidence from sugarcane growers and farmers when the Committee visited Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam.

The Party unit in Yellamanchili Taluq organised a public meeting on April 12 at Somalingapalem. Shri

Gunturu Srihari (Vakil) presided. Among those who spoke were Shri Beesetti Apparao, District Party Secretary Shri D. V. Seetharamamurthi and Shri N. A. Narasimha Murthy. An area unit was formed with Shri Kotina Apparao as Convenor.

At Anakapalli in Vishakhapatnam a public meeting held on April 16 was well attended. Shri K. Rosayya Secretary of the Guntur District Merchants' Association presided. Shri B. Apparao spoke on the occasion. The speakers pointed out that even though Government had sustained heavy losses in its own undertakings, it persisted in introducing State Trading and

that such a measure would ruin traders and harass the people.

State Vice-President G. Latchanna toured East Godavari District, visiting a number of important places viz. Aamalapuram, Razole, Rajahmundry and several other villages. He established contacts with numerous villagers, held group meetings and gave pep talks to our party workers in the areas he visited. His meetings at Rajahmundry, Velangi and Tuni were well attended.

A meeting of party workers and sympathisers was held at Gudlavalleru in the Krishna District on April 9. Shri G. Gopalakrishnamurthy presided. The meeting decided to form Committees at the rate of one for every five villages. For a beginning Shri K. Purnachandrarao was nominated President of the Gudlavalleru Firka Committee and was authorised to coopt members to the Committee.

Members and sympathisers of the Party who met on April 10 at Guntupalli decided on Shri Cherukuri Sivaramayya as the President of the Village Committee.

At Masulipatam local party workers were met by District Committee President Shri Gulapalli Gopalakrishnamurthy, Shri G. V. Subayya, Shri Nadella B. Sankar General Secretary of the Divi Constituency and others. They discussed methods of accelerating the membership drive and collecting funds for the Party. Visiting the Kanchikacherala Constituency area these party leaders discussed with local party-men the forthcoming Krishna District Convention and ensuring its success.

Similar was the mission of State General Secretary Shri T. Krishnamma and Shri B. V. Siviah, Secretary of the Guntur District unit of the Party who visited Bapatla taluq in Guntur district. Visiting Kankatapalem in the Taluk the visiting leaders along with Shri Pulla Rathia Joint Secretary of the District Committee and Shri Seshagirirao addressed a well attended public meeting. A public meeting was held at Jammupalem which was presided over by Shri Seshagirirao. Shri J. Chandramowli, Shri T. Krishnamma, Shri B. V. Siviah and Shri P. Kotiswararao were among those who addressed the gathering.

Over a hundred and fifty workers of Guntur taluq met at the District Committee office on April 6 under the chairmanship of Shri Ginpalli Bapayya, M.L.A. Guntur district Party President J. Chandramowli, Shri V. Venkateswararao and others attended. Resolutions condemning the Government's taxation policy in respect of commercial crops like Tobacco, Chillies etc. were adopted. Committees were set up for each Firka to encourage membership drive.

At the Rythanga Vidyalayam in Nidubrolu a workers' meeting was held on April 9. Tenali taluq president Shri Yadlapati Venkatarao was in the Chair. Vice-President of the State Committee Smt. Bharathi Devi Ranga M.L.C. and Shri P. Kotiswararao, State Joint Secretary spoke on the benefits that would result with a Swatantra Government in the saddle. They called upon party workers to put forth their best efforts to achieve this end.

Repalle taluq had the occasion to receive State Vice-President Shri G. Latchanna who was on a tour

of the area. He was given rousing receptions throughout the countryside he visited and was able to spread the message of Swatantra to the remote villages.

Shri Latchanna also addressed public meetings at Sajjavaripalem, Dhulipudi, Mantripalem, Vellaturu, Gudavalli, Nadimpalli and Cherukupalli. Shri Latchanna during his tour saw for himself the visible signs of dissatisfaction of villagers with the policies of the ruling party.

The President and Secretary of the Ponnur Constituency Committee Shri M. Venkataramanarao and Shri R. Venkiah Chowdhury respectively, toured their constituency visiting Thotlapalem, Sreerangapuram, Penugudurupadu, Yadlapalli and a few other villages. They met influential villagers and discussed with them the programme of our Party.

Public meetings were held at Pandillapalle and Bhatiprolu in Guntur district on the 22nd and 23rd April respectively. Addressing the latter meeting Dr. N. V. Krishnarao, Treasurer of the Repalle Taluq Committee, said that, as a result of Congress rule, the villages which were once a seat of peaceful living had now become seats of unrest and chaos. Shri K. Rosayya said that as the Congress had adopted Communism, the Swatantra Party had to be started and called upon the audience to support the Party.

The Ponnur Constituency Committee which met in session on April 24 arrived at an interesting decision. It resolved that every member of the Party in the Constituency should put up the Party Flag on his house. The Committee resolved to expedite the work of forming committees in every village of the Constituency.

The Kandukur Taluq unit held its first Convention on April 2. State President B. Ramachandra Reddi presided over the deliberations. Over 750 workers and delegates from all the Firkas and villages of the taluq attended the Conference. Shri G. Latchanna inaugurated the proceedings. Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu hoisted the Party flag. Secretary of the Nellore district unit Shri D. Konrayya organised this convention with the assistance of the taluq ad-hoc Committee. A number of resolutions dealing with local and State problems were adopted unanimously. The Convention was followed by a public meeting that evening presided over by Shri Rajagopala Naidu, M.L.A. The principal speakers were Shri B. Ramachandra Reddi, Shri G. Latchanna, M.L.A. Leader of the Party in the State assembly, Mr. N. Virachari and Vijaya Rajakumar.

The month began for Chittor district with a largely attended public meeting at Thokkivakkam. Shri A. Easwara Reddi was in the Chair. Shri N. Ranga Reddi State Party Vice-President spoke for almost an hour criticising the policies of the ruling party and what the Swatantra Party could do in the circumstances.

President of the all-India Party, Prof. N. G. Ranga M.P., and State President Shri B. Ramachandra Reddi addressed a workers' meeting at Pakala on April 21. On behalf of the Jaggery Producers and Dealers in the District a spokesman of the Marketing Society represented to Prof. Ranga the slump that had come over the jaggery produced in the district due to fur-

ther depression. Prof. Ranga deplored the fact that the Andhra Government had not yet thought it fit to protect the jaggery producers from uneconomic prices. He pleaded for a basic minimum floor prices for jaggery to be fixed by Government whenever a slump overtook this produce. The Hides and Skins Merchants of Chittor District made representations to the visiting Party leaders regarding the levy of Sales-tax by both the Andhra and Madras Governments on the export of their 'cured' skins and hides.

On behalf of the Party, Prof. Ranga assured all support to the Kunkumma families of Chittor district. The Kunkumma families who are noted for the manufacture of delicately ornamented necklaces, pleaded for sale facilities for their products at all Exhibitions and depots organised by the Cottage Industries Commission.

Later Prof. Ranga and Shri Ramachandra Reddi addressed a party-workers rally at Pulicherla under the presidentship of Shri V. Raghunadhareddi. The two leaders also addressed a public meeting at Tirupati on April 21. Continuing their tour they visited villages in the Vayalpad taluq. After meeting peasants at Kalikiri they addressed a meeting of party workers organised by Shri Sankar Reddi. At the next meeting in Tarigonda Prof. Ranga in his speech characterised the Congress regime in the country as 'Chit Raj' because the government of the country was through the issue of licences, chits, controls and favours. At Kalicherla they were present at a meeting when Mr. K. Narasimha Reddi a prominent peasant of the Thamballapalle Panchayat Samiti now under supercession announced his decision to join the Party.

The Chittor District unit's Executive Committee met at Kalicherla village on April 22 with Shri N. Venkatanarayana Reddi in the Chair. Referring to Government's decision to do away with Village officers, the Committee in the course of a resolution expressed th opinion that the Government would not be right in creating chaos in administration by disturbing the present set up at village levels which was efficient and economic. The Committee felt that the hereditary system by which village officers were appointed was the best.

State President Shri B. Ramachandra Reddi and General Secretary Shri T. Krishnamma visited Hyderabad on the 11th and 16th of April respectively. They had discussions with the President of the Organising Committee of Greater Hyderabad, Shri Italia, State Vice-President S. N. Reddi and others on the intensification of party work in the Telengana area.

ASSAM

In spite of heavy rains our Party workers valiantly tried to pursue party activity in the interior areas. In the Jowai subdivision the Secretary and other members of the Committee visited many villages and it is reported that in their very first attempt they enrolled 73 villagers.

Translated versions of the Party's principles and a leaflet in English on the rising cost of living were distributed in many areas of Garo Hills.

A welcome development has been the increasing interest shown by the people of Cachar in our Party. The Shillong office reports that very shortly this district will have its own committee.

BOMBAY

The Bombay unit of the party ventured into a new field of political activity namely projecting the Party's philosophy by staging programmes. The Bandra unit of the Party arranged a very successful programme of Music and Drama on the occasion of Maharashtra Day. A number of Powadas (folk songs) were sung on the occasion highlighting the party's faith in the common people and pointing out to the ills of the ruling party's policies. A drama was also staged on the occasion. With hundreds of Party flags all over the ground the whole function had a festive spirit. It is reported that about 2000 people were present at this function.

Members of the Bombay Organising Committee, Mr. Piloo Mody, Vice-Chairman and Shri Madhu N. Mehta, Joint Hon. Secretary attended a party workers' meeting at East Bandra and discussed with workers problems facing our organisation in that area.

The Malad unit of the party will shortly observe a Swatantra Week. The idea behind this move is to have meetings daily for seven days when every aspect of the party's philosophy will be discussed and efforts made to enthuse the local population with the Swatantra way of life.

Another programme in the offing, is a Party Workers' Camp on the 4th of June. Prominent leaders of the Party in Bombay are expected to participate along with party workers in this Camp.

GUJARAT

The highlight of party activity in April was a week-long tour of the State by Prof. N. G. Ranga. His tour was chiefly taken up with addressing Khedut Parishads and party meetings. On the 1st and 2nd April he presided over the Open Session of the Ahmedabad District Khedut Parishad at Jetalsar. On the occasion he also addressed a largely attended Public meeting at Nadiad. Again on the 3rd of April Prof. Ranga presided over the Khaira district Khedut Parishad at Karamsad, and followed it up with a Public meeting at Anand that evening. At Bhavnagar he addressed another public meeting on the 4th. This time he was accompanied by State President Bhailalbhai Patel. The State office reports that the best meeting he addressed was at Jamnagar. It is reported that over ten thousand people attended. His concluding programme in Gujarat was a workers' meeting at Rajkot on 6th April.

It is obvious that the Gujarat Party has seriously settled down to its work, judging by the numerous public meetings that were addressed and the almost continuous tours of the State by the State President. Public meetings were addressed by him at Anand on 12th April, at Petlad on 14th, at Bhavnagar on the 16th, at Botad on the 17th and Limbadi on the 18th.

Later in the month he visited Baroda and Lunavda in the district of Panchmahal as also Godhra. Touring Khaira district he visited Umreth and Nadiad. The primary purpose in all these visits was to activate the party from the lower levels and to give encouragement to local workers.

Meanwhile Shri Shantilal Dave toured Nisarya, Ankulva Kosindra and other villages in the Borsad Taluka between the 15th and 19th of April.

At Borsada taluka Committee was formed recently and a decision taken to convene a Taluka Conference at Borsad later this month. The General Secretary of the State party Mr. Manmohandas Desai and Shri Shantilal Dave were present at this meeting.

MADHYA PRADESH

The Indore division of Madhya Pradesh can legitimately have a sense of satisfaction with its work. Systematically, month by month, District conventions are successfully organised in the various districts of the division, the latest being the Dhar District convention held on the 29th and 30th of April. The Secretary of the divisional party affirms that Dhar has an excellent team of workers and asserts that it will definitely bring credit to the party. Mr. Harishanker Dwivedi presided over the Convention. Sardar M. N. Shitole, State President, was present.

Jhabua was the venue of the next district convention held on the 30th April and 1st May presided over by Shri M. N. Shitole.

Meanwhile Kakasahib Parulekar has undertaken an almost continuous tour of the various districts of the division. The Divisional unit reports that as a result of his tours enthusiasm has manifested itself in many areas where party activity was hitherto negligible. In Dewas the Party reports that following on Kakasahib Parulekar's some members belonging to the Congress P.S.P. and the Hindu Mahasabha have resigned to join our party. He also toured the district of Mandsour, Neemuch, Manasa, Rampura, Bhanpura and Garoth. He also paid a visit to Indore City. Nimar, Ratlam and Ujjain also report satisfactory progress.

The State President Sardar Shitole toured the Indore Region. As reported earlier, he attended the Dhar Convention and presided over the Jhabua convention. He also visited the district of Rajgarh. A number of Committees were appointed to carry on Party work. Sardar Shitole was accompanied by Maharajkumar Udaisingh of Kaluhera.

The Gwalior regional unit also reports activity. Under the auspices of the Party the Khatka Kisan Conference was held under the Presidentship of Mr. H. S. Dwivedi, Convenor of the Gwalior Regional Party. The Conference, which was addressed among others by Shri Koksingh and Shri Narayanprasad, was reported to have been attended by over 2000 people. In Morena Constituency, a Conference was held on the 9th April addressed by Shri A. B. Misra and Shri Dwivedi. Shri V. R. Jain and Shri Ramjilal also spoke. In the course of a tour of Porsa in Morena Shri Dwivedi addressed a public meeting on the

16th of April. District organiser Shri Gorelal and Shri Ram Swarup Panda spoke at this meeting. Similarly a meeting was held at Ambah on April 23rd. While on a visit to Pohri on the 26th of April, Shri Dwivedi attended a meeting organised by local workers chiefly comprising of Scheduled tribes people.

MADRAS

A highly successful district conference was held at Cuddalore in the district of South Arcot on the 16th of April. Many prominent luminaries of the party participated and those who could not attend sent messages of greetings. The Pandal was named after the late Shri Govind Vallabh Pant. Shri B. Ramchandra Reddi, President of the Andhra Party, presided over the conference which was inaugurated by Prof Ranga. There were over 7,000 visitors and delegates. Among those who attended this Conference were Shri V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, M.L.A., Shri G. K. Sundaram, Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy, Shri Saw. Ganesan and Shri S.S. Mariswamy. The Conference arrangements were in the hands of Shri Ramaswamy Padayachi M.L.A. Among those who sent messages and good wishes were the Maharani of Jaipur, Shri M. R. Masani, Shri S. K. D. Paliwal and the former Chief Minister of Madras State, Shri Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar. In his Welcome address, Shri M. Venketaswamy Reddiar paid tributes to Shri Rajaji's sagacity in forming this party. He also thanked Shri K. S. Venketakrishna Reddiar, the former State President, for his his hard work in nursing the Party during its teething days.

Inaugurating the Conference, Prof. Ranga pointed to the evils of Co-operative farming and the social and economic degeneration of the country as a result of Congress misrule.

In the course of an illuminating Presidential address, Shri Ramchandra Reddi traced the reasons which had led to the unfortunate situation in which the country found itself today. Charging the ruling party with maladministration and dogmatism, Shri Reddi said "I am unable to resist" the temptation to say that what has been abandoned in other countries is being adopted in India by the Congress administrators who have no experience of their own, but have chosen to emulate other countries with exploded theories and wasteful disappointments." Before concluding, he asserted "these are days of despair to the Indian National Congress. They want to cling desperately to power. The other political parties except the Communist Party are desperately fighting for liberty and democracy. Whether the other political parties join or not in this struggle for the preservation of freedom, the Swatantra Party has decided to go ahead."

After other leaders had addressed the Conference, Rajaji was presented with a purse of Rs. 1,001. Addressing the delegates, Rajaji explained in detail how the present Government had infused a sort of fear in the minds of people in all walks of life. That night, a mass meeting was attended by over 50,000 people.

Once again, Rajaji was on tour, this time covering

the districts of Salem and Nilgiri. Wherever he went, he was received enthusiastically and affectionately. The State party reports that between the 24th and 30th April, he visited 20 villages, addressed eight public meetings, besides numerous other functions in Salem district. An interesting public meeting was held at Krishnagiri on the 24th of April. While the speakers were Rajaji and Prof. Ranga, the meeting was presided over by the Krishnagiri Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Secretary, Shri R. Venkatachalam. Rajaji affirmed at this meeting that the Swatantra Party and the D.M.K. would work together in the next general elections to throw the Congress out of power in Tamilnad.

A Swatantra Youth Front was inaugurated by Shri Rajaji on the 1st of May at Coimbatore. A number of enthusiastic young friends joined this front. Rajaji also attended the Nilgiri District Conference held under the able leadership of the District President Shri M. S. Linga Gowder.

Other State leaders were also engaged in tours. State President Shri Saw Ganesan toured the districts of Ramnad, Trichy and Coimbatore between the 1st and 21st April. Similarly State General Secretary Mr. Mariswamy toured the districts of Trichy, Madurai Ramnad, Tirunelvely and Tanjore between the 17th and 26th of April when he addressed 10 public meetings.

Meanwhile the various districts of the State continued to show activity. In Madras district a public meeting was held on the 1st of April under the Presidentship of Shri A. M. Bijapuri. Rajaji addressed the gathering. He said that in the name of socialism and under the pretext of regulating the various trades and professions the Government is interfering in the life of every individual. He wanted a mass movement to dislodge the party in power.

On the following day Rajaji inaugurated a Social and Cultural Forum with Mr. R. V. Krishna Iyer in the Chair. Referring to Foreign Policy, Rajaji said that to meet the threat of Chinese aggression the Government of India had purchased aircraft from Russia, a close friend of China. The Indian pilots had to be trained in the use of these planes by the Russians. "Look at the cleverness and wisdom of our Government," he said, and asked whether there were no other friendly nations in the world from who they could have got such planes. The Soviet pilots would go back and disclose to the Chinese information about the strategic points on our border and the method of operation by Indian pilots. This would be dangerous, he added.

On April 4, Rajaji addressed a public meeting under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. Institute of Public Speaking, where he explained the Party's principles.

At Pushpanagar in Nungambakkam, 47 Congress members resigned and joined our Party. The reason they gave for their resignation was the wrong policy pursued by the State Government with regard to Slum Clearance.

In the District of Chingelpet, Rajaji addressed a public meeting at Mathurantakam on 7th April 1961. Mr. K. Muthulinga Reddiar presided over this meeting which was addressed by Shri V. K. Ramaswamy Mu-

daliar M.L.A., Shri S. S. Mariswamy, Dr. M. Santhosham and others. Shri Ramulu Reddiar presented a purse of Rs. 1,001/- to Shri Rajaji on behalf of the Taluka Unit.

The Trichy District Unit of the Party organised a public meeting on April 9, to celebrate the birth centenary of the late Pandit Motilal Nehru and the 80th birth day of Shri V. V. S. Iyer. Shri A. Viswanatha Iyer, Vice-President of the District Unit, presided. Over 5,000 people attended this meeting. Among others who spoke, were Mr. Kalamegam and Shri M. Subbiah Chettiar, M.L.C. and Shri Ramdoss Bharati of Kulithalai. Mr. Saw. Ganesan called upon the people to emulate the selfless sacrifice of the two departed leaders.

At Lalgudi another public meeting was organised with the President of the Lalgudi Constituency Committee Shri Thangavelu Angarayar presiding.

The Coimbatore District Committee met on 7th April in the presence of Shri Saw Ganesan. Steps to intensify Party work and help in achieving the target of the One Crore Fund were discussed. Later that night a public meeting was held at Avinashi. Two other meetings were held in the district one at Udumalpet and the other at Kanniyur in which Shri Saw. Ganesan, Shri G. K. Sundaram and others participated.

In the district of Tirunelvely, the Vikramasingapuram Town Committee was formed. A District Committee meeting was held in this town under the Chairmanship of District President, Shri Ramaswami Konar.

MAHARASHTRA

In the first weeks of February, State Treasurer Shri B. B. Walvekar and Joint-Secretary B. V. Marathe visited Nagpur. Their trip resulted in infusing vigour into Party workers in the region. A new entrant into the Party and a forceful speaker Yogiraj Balwantsingh toured Vidharbha districts and assisted in the formation of Party units in Nagpur city, Katol, Bhandara, Tumsar and Gondia. In Nagpur city a committee was formed in block No. 3 under the presidentship of Shri L. G. Khule. A Dhoby unit under the presidentship of Shri Nathuji Sripatre was similarly formed in Ward No. 9 Shukrawari. At Katol in the District of Nagpur a taluka Committee was established with Shri M. G. Deshmukh as President. A city Committee with Shri Madhavrao Wankhede as President was also formed. Shri Yogiraj also visited Chanda, Hinganghat, Wardha and Bhandara.

In the district of Bhandara, Committees have been similarly constituted at Tumsar and Gondia under the presidentship of Shri K. N. Rao and Shri Jamipal-singh respectively. Shri Sopan Babar was nominated president of the newly constituted Digras Committee in the Yeotmal district.

At Barsi in the district of Sholapur, Pandit Janardhan Kulkarni has assumed the Presidentship of the Committee which was recently set up.

In the Poona District public meetings were held at Saswad and Hadapsar which were addressed by

Messrs. K. R. Koshti, B. B. Walwelkar, R. V. Waval and Prof. N. K. Gharpure.

Shri Walwekar and Shri Marathe visited Karad, the home town of Chief Minister Chavan, and held consultations with Shri K. R. Deshmukh, who is carrying out the difficult task of securing a strong base for the party in the area.

Similarly Shri R. D. Kulkarni, Convenor of the Nasik unit of the Party, and Shri Mahajan toured the district visiting Rawalgaon, Manmad, Malegaon, Chandwad and Yeola in the district of Nasik. On April 23rd a public meeting was held at Yeola under the Presidentship of Mr. R. Nagdekar, which was addressed by Shri K. R. Koshti and Shri Kulkarni.

Some of our Party members in Kolhapur especially Shri V. K. Potdar and Sardar Deshmukh are busy organising a non-political front known as the Janata Aghadi for contesting the Sholapur Municipal election in which 30 of our members are likely to contest as Independents, supported by the Aghadi. Shri D. Patale Joint Secretary of the State Unit is also engaged in this work.

The State Adhoc Committee met in Poona on 30th April and appointed a parliamentary committee. Later that evening a Public meeting was held at the Shanwarwada grounds with State convenor, Shri K. R. Koshti, presiding.

Raja Fatehlal Shah, Rajasaheb of Palasgad in the district of Chanda, Yogiraj Balwantsingh, Messrs. Chingale and Auti from Karad and Prof. N. K. Gharpure addressed the meeting.

In the meantime, the Party has actively taken up the cause of the farmers in the Maval taluka of Poona district. The Government is constructing a dam on the River Pauna. The water is meant for an industrial township to be set up at Pimpri. While the motives may be laudable the callous manner in which the Government treated the local peasants whose lands will now be under water clearly exposes Congress hypocrisy and the hollowness of its Socialistic pattern. While following the forms of legality, the Government took no steps to inform villagers whose lands go under about the fact of the construction of the Dam. 28 villages will be affected when the scheme is complete. The Government has tried to exploit the ignorance of the farmers by paying them paltry sums as compensation. The farmers want either adequate compensation or resettlement in Government lands. Many farmers in the area approached the Central office of our Party. The Maharashtra Party then took up the case and the joint Secretary, Mr. Marathe, paid a number of visits to the villages of Fagne, Shivti and Mazgaon. The agitation is continuing and in collaboration with other Parties, the Maharashtra unit hopes to justify the Party's faith in Freedom, Farm and Family.

MYSORE

Mr. V. P. Menon, member of the Central Organising Committee, inaugurated an "Emergency Conference" of the Mysore State Village Officers in Bangalore on April 17. Mr. M. P. L. Sastry M.L.C. presided. The object of the conference was to lodge a public

protest against the Village Officers Abolition Bill which was being rushed through the legislature by the Mysore State Government. When Rajaji was asked by the Village Officers Organisation to indicate his reaction to the Bill, he had replied:

"It is absurd to think of abolishing the hereditary system of the Village Officers. The efficiency of the hereditary cadre can never be equalled by men recruited on miserable salaries from other families."

In his inaugural address, Mr. V. P. Menon expressed the view that apart from the injustice which will be caused by abolishing the hereditary system, the provision in the Bill not to pay any compensation to the Village Officers even after abolition appeared to him perfectly preposterous. He hoped that the united struggle of the Village Officers to get justice in this respect will meet with success.

Mr. M. P. L. Sastry in his presidential address pointed out that by substituting the Village Officers by paid Government staff at the ruling rates of pay, the amount that will have to be spent by Government will almost equal the land revenue collection of the State. He therefore made the suggestion to the ruling Party that it would be much more profitable to them from the point of view of the coming General Elections to abolish the land revenue altogether as the cost of collection will swallow the entire revenue collected.

A welcome decision is the resolve by the State Committee to have meetings every Tuesday with a view to take stock of the progress made by the Party and decide the future course of action to popularise the Party with the people in all walks of life.

PUNJAB

Early in March, Rajaji who was in Delhi to attend a meeting of the Central Organising Committee undertook a lighting tour of certain areas of Punjab viz. Yamnanagar, Ambala and Panipat. Wherever he went, he was enthusiastically received and his tour proved of considerable value for the State Party. Mention must be made here of the following Party officials whose efforts were responsible for the success of Rajaji's visit: Chaudhury Dharam Singh Rathi, M.L.A. State General Secretary, Major Karan Singh Malik, Panipat, Chaudhury Vijay Singh, Karnal district convenor, Shri Chaman Lal Narang, General Secretary of the Ambala District unit and Shri Durga Dass Singh of Yamnanagar.

Throughout April, a series of District Conferences were organised in furtherance of a State Committee decision.

On April 7, a rural conference was held in the village of Harchowal in Gurdaspur district. State President Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke who presided, addressed the gathering on the evil effects of Cooperative farming, excessive and irrational taxation policies and other policies of the ruling party. Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman M.P. Sardar Teja Singh Akkarpur, Jathedar Gurmej Singh, Sardar Uttam Singh and S. Natha Singh also spoke in the Conference. The

last two mentioned are the President and General Secretary respectively of the district unit.

That same day another conference took place in the Payal Constituency of Patiala District. Organised by the Harijans of this constituency, the conference was presided over by Raja Maheshindra Singh M.L.A. Among others who spoke at the conference were Sardar Basant Singh, State Joint Secretary, Shri S. N. Khosla, Dr. Kali Charan Sharma, and two Harijan leaders, Sarvashri Gurdev Singh Sidhu and Bir Singh 'Bir'. It was a well attended conference which attracted the notice of a large number of Harijans in the surrounding areas. The speakers generally dwelt on the methods by which the Party would alleviate the miseries of the Harijans.

Bhawani, in the district of Hissar, was the venue of the next district conference held on the 8th of April. Shri Ram Chand Rawat M.A., LL.B. of Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh presided. Shri Krishen Lal Chander, district Organiser of the Party and Mehta Ram Lal addressed the 2,000 strong gathering. On the 23rd another Conference was held here with much success.



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Sangrur district followed with a conference at Dhuri on April 10th again presided over Raja Maheshindra Singh M.L.A. Brigadier Pritam Singh, Sangrur district unit convenor and Sardar Basant Singh spoke at this conference.

On the occasion of the annual Baisakhi mela a conference was arranged by Chudhury Karam Singh, Jullundur district convenor at the historic Kartarpur Gurdwara in the district on April 13th. Besides local Party leaders, Chaudhury Karam Singh and Sardar Gurcharan Singh, the Conference was also addressed by Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke.

A similar conference was organised the same day at "Damdamma Sahib" in the Bhatinda district which drew a capacity gathering. Shri Gupta the local party unit convenor presided over the deliberations which was attended among others by Raja Maheshindra Singh, Sardar Gubinder Singh of Bhuchu, Shri K. K. Goel, Secretary of the district unit, Sardar Basant Singh and Shri S. N. Khosla from Patiala.

Recently the district committee of Bhatinda was reorganised. On April 23rd this reconstituted committee convened a conference at Bhatinda presided over by Shri Chiranji Lal, a senior advocate of the district. General Secretary of the State Party Chaudhuri Dharam Singh Rathi, who addressed the gathering, dwelt at length on the numerous problems of the common man in the State. The conference, reports our State Party, was eminently successful. The State President, the Treasurer of the District Party Shri Chhaju Ram, Raja Maheshindra Singh, Sardar Basant Singh, Sardar Gubinder Singh and other local office-bearers and workers including Shri Goel, Secretary of the district unit, participated in the proceedings.

Hissar district was the venue of a third conference held at Fatehwal on April 25. Sardar Harnam Singh a district party leader of the Party, presided over the conference which was addressed by Sardar Surjit Singh, Shri Krishnan Lal Chander and Shri Nand Lal.

Kesari Bagh in Amritsar was the venue of a mass meeting on April 9. It is reported that a large number of people representing all sections of society were present at the meeting to hear an exposition of the Swatantra philosophy by State President Jathedar Nagoke, Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, M.P. Sardar Gurwaryam Singh, M.L.A. Dr. Kali Charan of Ludhiana, Dr. Mehar Singh, Convenor, Amritsar (Urban) unit, and Sardar Gurdip Singh Bhullar.

The Punjab Unity Convention met in Patiala on April 30. Sponsored by our Party, the Conference was a resounding success. The proceedings were widely reported in newspapers throughout the country. The Hindu Mahasabha, Akali Dal, the Praja Socialist Party and the Republican Party were the co-sponsors. Over ten thousand delegates representing the cream of the Punjabi intelligentsia participated in the deliberations which had the following terms of reference:

- i. Curtailment of Civil Liberties,
- ii. Growing economic and general distress as a direct result of the crippling taxation policy of Government,
- iii. The alarming widespread corruption in all branches of governmental machinery.

The Convention was presided over by Pandit

Brijnarain Brajesh, M. P., Organising Secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha and was addressed by as many as 20 speakers from the participating political parties. The Convention constituted a Board to implement a resolution passed by it consisting of the following:

1. Master Tara Singh, President, Shiromani Akali Dal,
2. Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, President, Punjab Swatantra Party.
3. Sardar Harbhajan Singh, Chairman, Praja Socialist Party, Punjab Branch,
4. Shri Chanan Ram, President, Republic Party, Punjab, and
5. A nominee of the Punjab Hindu Mahasabha.

Among other things the resolution adopted at this Convention stated that the Convention had met to ponder over the chaotic conditions prevailing in the State due to the suppression of civil liberties, economic and general distress as a result of government's policies and widespread corruption in the administration. The Convention, while admitting that similar evils existed in other States of the Union, stated that the "Punjab State has no parallel in the matter of their severity and recklessness of pursuit."

The Convention unanimously resolved that, in order to set things right, all sections of society should join hands to mobilise public resentment against such repressive measures and speak with one voice demanding:

- i. Safeguarding the sanctity of human rights,
- ii. A thorough re-appraisal of the present taxation policy to bring it in line with the economic conditions of the affected people, and
- iii. Eradication of corruption as expeditiously as possible.

The Convention adopted the Slogan: "Restoration of Constitutional Rights, Clean Administration and Abolition of excessive and irrational Taxes."

RAJASTHAN

In our March Newsletter we had reported that our Party in the State had done well in the recently concluded Panchayat elections in the State. We have more definite news now. In the Udaipur and Dungarpur districts our Party candidates who contested as independents came through with flying colours. Out of five samiti areas the Congress Party was routed in four. In Aspur, out of 35, our Party secured 32 seats of Sarpanchas; in Dungarpur 22 out of 31 seats, in Simalwara 33 out of 42 and in Bichhiwara 23 of the 33 seats. We had also reported earlier the foul methods adopted by the ruling party at the time of cooption of members to the Panchayat Samitis. For instance, at the time of electing the Pradhan and coopting members to the Panchayat Samiti at Simalwara, the Congress stooped so low as to kidnap our Sarpanchas and succeeded in their designs. But in the three other circles they were unsuccessful. Our Rajasthan Party reports that Chief Minister Sukhadia himself guided district Congressmen and supervised the election campaign chiefly with a view to check the increasing

popularity of our Party. The Irrigation Minister, Shri Bhikhabhai devoted two full months to propaganda work on behalf of the ruling party during this election. He was always seen moving in a State jeep—on many occasions displaying the National Flag on the bonnet—in an effort to influence or intimidate the electorate. Much of the credit for the success goes to the intensive tour undertaken by State President, Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur.

The State Party reports that its President, Maharawal Laxmana Singh, has been almost continuously touring the various areas of the State since November. During April, the State President addressed over 12 public meetings, workers meetings and press conferences. Beginning on April 1, with a public meeting at Amratia in Dungarpur district, he went on to address meetings at Nimaj in Pali district, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Kerap, Ladhu, Kuchaman and Pambatsar, the mammoth meeting at Jaipur, which was addressed by Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur and Mr. M. R. Masani, the Party's General Secretary (already reported in detail in our April Newsletter), Chikhli and Mala Khodia in Dungarpur District and Salambar and Samari in the district of Udaipur.

UTTAR PRADESH

Party organisers at the local level are touring the U. P. countryside. Shri Gajaraj Singh Dixit, a worker of the Party, for instance, toured 10 villages of the Sitapur district with Shri Tribhuvan Nath Singh 'Saroj', President of the Biswan Tehsil unit of the Party. Speaking to the villagers, the two visiting partymen explained the Swatantra philosophy and warned them against the dangers of cooperative farming and the evils that would arise as a result of Government's land ceilings measures.

Another party organiser, Shri Ratan Lal Joshi of

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Central office of the Swatantra Party
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1.

State General Secretary, Choudhury Layaq Singh, M.L.A., visited Kanpur, Mainpuri and Agra in connection with preparations for holding the second National Convention of the Party. Arrangements have been made by him for the establishment of a special Convention office at Agra.

The Party has published and widely distributed a pamphlet in Urdu entitled: "*It is your duty to support the Swatantra Party.*" Many important articles of Rajaji are translated into Urdu and published in the Party's Urdu fortnightly, *Swatantra Raj*.

To popularise the Party's policies and philosophy, the State Party has opened subscriptions for all Bar libraries in all important cities and towns of U.P. with *Swarajya* of Madras.

(For Private Circulation)