

GENERAL COUNCIL TO MEET IN BOMBAY

The first meeting of the newly elected General Council of the Swatantra Party will be held in Bombay on February 13 and 14. The 170-man body will discuss the General Secretary's Report on organisation, review current developments and elect the Party's office-bearers and National Executive for the next two years.

The General Council was to have met in Jaipur on February 20 and 21, but the Rajasthan unit of the Party, in a communication to the Central Office, pointed out that the election of Jilla Pramukhs in as many as 12 districts including Jaipur had been fixed

for February 20 and 21, the very dates on which the General Council was scheduled to meet in Jaipur. The Rajasthan Unit therefore, with justification, pointed out that this would not only prevent members of the Council in Rajasthan from participating in the proceedings of the Council but also make it difficult for the State Unit to make adequate preparations for the meeting. They therefore asked for a postponement. Since a further postponement of the first meeting of the General Council, which was due to meet last December was undesirable, it was decided to shift the venue and dates of the meeting.

SWATANTRA TO FIELD 14 CANDIDATES IN KERALA

The Swatantra Party will contest 14 Assembly Constituencies in the forthcoming elections to the State Assembly in Kerala on March 4. This decision was taken at a meeting of the Sub-Committee authorised to decide on the Party's participation in the Kerala elections, on January 30 in Madras. The three-man sub-committee consists of Rajaji, Prof. Ranga, and Mr. Masani.

Earlier the General Secretary was in Cochin on January 28 and 29 to screen prospective candidates. His presence in Cochin was utilised to launch the election campaign of the Party with a public meeting in Ernakulam. The following are the candidates and their constituencies:

Mr. P. K. Musa — Perambara
Mr. V. Sreedharan Nair — Balussery
Mr. K. P. Ebrahim Kutty — Calicut II
Dr. N. Abdul — Kondotty
Mr. K. K. Mohamed Shafee — Perintalmanna
Mr. P. K. Krishnaswamy — Palghat
Mr. Pandiath Ramachandran — Malampuzha
Mr. P. Govindan Kutty Nair — Guruvayur
Mr. T. A. Paraman — Narakal or Kunnathunad (S.C.)
Mr. Mathew Verghese — Thodupuzha
Mr. P. O. Kunjacko — Kariamanoor
Mr. Kathirvel — Peermade (S.C.)
Mr. P. D. Thomman — Poonjar
Mr. Nanthancode Sukumaran — Kilimanoor

RAJAJI'S KERALA TOUR

Rajaji was in Kerala from December 12 to 20. After participating in the first State Convention at Kottayam on December 12 and 13, Rajaji toured Kanjirapalli, Palai, Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Ernakulam, Palghat, Malappuram, and Calicut. He addressed public meetings in all these towns. We give below extracts about various issues he referred to in his speeches during the tour.

QUILON — December 15, 1964

Rajaji said that the Congress had become a "caste" in India today and it was necessary to "break this caste".

He said the coming elections in Kerala should be

taken only as a "small headache". The 1967 elections were the "biggest surgical operation". That surgical operation, he said, must be successfully performed to remove the Congress from power."

TRIVANDRUM — December 15, 1964

(at a press conference)

"The situation here should be realised by all groups who disliked communist rule as well as the Congress administration. These groups should find ways and means to avoid mutual conflicts and come together successfully to fight both Communists and Congressmen."

"The dilemma in Kerala is that if any triangular fight intervenes the Congress Party may be put at a disadvantage in its contest against the Communists.

"If this dilemma continues to paralyse Kerala politics there can be no hope of a good economically based party replacing the State Congress Party or even sending in sufficient number of members to the legislature and to Parliament to contribute to a healthy and strong opposition."

ERNAKULAM — December 17, 1964

Rajaji accused the Congress of flourishing on "ambiguity and deception."

The Congress Party, he said, was doing its political campaign with the State flag slightly modified and with Gandhiji as its banner — head image.

"This is a grand ambiguity and fraud. Among the many frauds that can be pointed, this is a first-class fraud."

"IF I WERE FINANCE MINISTER!"

A large gathering heard the Party's General Secretary speak on the subject: "If I were Finance Minister!" at a meeting organised by the LYMA in Madras City on January 10.

In that case, Mr. Masani said; in the Central Budget, he would cut down the incidence of all taxation, both direct and indirect, by 50 per cent.

Mr. Masani said that people might regard the budget he proposed as revolutionary and would ask how then he would be able to finance the country's development and defence. If by chance, he said, the day after tomorrow, the Swatantra Party were to come to power it would effect three changes.

The first change would be to declare "a holiday from planning", let the Third Five Year Plan continue for two years more — thus making it a seven-year plan — so that some at least of its targets may be fulfilled.

The second change was to effect Decontrol. A mass of controls were crippling the country today, and these had to be cut and the people freed. "We will remove all zonal restrictions" he said.

The third change the Swatantra Party would bring about would be to place reliance on a policy of Inter-dependence in regard to the Defence of the country, thus lifting a heavy load from the taxpayers' shoulders.

Explaining the effect of these proposals, Mr.

Referring to the constant interference by "Congress bosses" in the administration, Rajaji observed that the Swatantra Party would not interfere in the day-to-day administration, nor would they interfere with any official in his work. Any Party member so interfering would be expelled from the Party.

CALICUT — December 19

Rajaji appealed to the people of the State to defeat the Congress at the coming elections in the State. He appealed to the people not to elect Communist candidates as it would be against the interests of the nation to do so.

On his way from Palghat to Calicut, Rajaji was accorded receptions at about half a dozen places. At one such place, Kondotty, Rajaji said: "Congress is dead and I have come to perform its funeral rites respectfully and effectively."

Masani explained that with a holiday from planning, routine administration would be carried on, and with economy. Money would remain in the pockets of the people and be put to proper use through investment in corporate enterprise.

With a slash in taxation, there would be a tremendous spurt in productive activity and foreign capital would also pour into the country.

It was not as if the Congress leaders now in power did not know all these things, said Mr. Masani, but then, he said they were the "prisoners of their past." He asserted that the country had the misfortune to be ruled in the past fifteen years by a "half-baked Marxist". After Durgapur, it seemed there was no hope of the Congress leaders breaking out of the prison of that legacy and the only way out was for the people to liberate themselves by throwing them out of office at the next elections.

Rajaji, who was to have spoken next, said he endorsed every word of Masani's and would not make any speech as he wanted the audience to go home and give thought to what had been said.

Prof. Ranga, who presided, said at the outset that there was "subterranean, unspoken corruption" in the country in various spheres. After destroying the trade of the goldsmiths, the Congress administration proposed to spend Rs. 16 crores towards relief to these suffering people. It was a waste.

COMMENTS ON THE FOURTH PLAN

PROF. N. G. RANGA

In the course of his speech at a public meeting in Madras on January 10, Prof. Ranga said that the proposed Rs. 21,000 crore Fourth Plan would lead to greater inflation and higher prices. "It would ultimately result in national insolvency", he added.

MR. M. R. MASANI

In a reference to Mr. Kamaraj's caution in his presi-

dential address at Durgapur against the size of the Fourth Plan, Mr. Masani, addressing a press conference in Madras on January 10, welcomed it as the beginning of an awareness of realities in Congress leadership. Mr. Masani was, however, not sure if "reason and sanity" would prevail. Prime Minister Shastri had made similar remarks some months ago and yet the "disastrous" outline of the Fourth Plan had been published, he said.

NUCLEAR SHIELD AND NON-ALIGNMENT

RAJAJI

Interviewed by a pressman at Coimbatore on December 20, Rajaji observed that it was "a funny notion for India to ask for a nuclear shield, to be provided jointly by the United Kingdom and Russia."

He said that if the shield was intended to protect the nation against the Chinese bomb or the blackmail based on Chinese nuclear power, the notion was ridiculous. He said; "There cannot be any hope of Russia going against China in any real conflict. Russia will protect itself against China, but Russia cannot be expected to attack China under any conditions." Rajaji pointed out that the Communist bloc hold the whole world as its enemy and it could not afford any internal rifts.

K. M. MUNSHI

Participating in a symposium organised by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan on December 27, Mr. K. M. Munshi who presided, said non-alignment where there were only two major power blocs was understandable but in its present day context it was a doctrine without meaning and divorced from all realities.

In the present complex world situation, non-alignment had resulted in vague amiability rather than reliable friendship. What India needed above all things was to be militarily on a par with China in order to maintain army and civilian morale and win the respect of Afro-Asians."

"LEFT" OR "RIGHT" — BIRDS OF THE SAME FEATHER

The Party's President, Prof. N. G. Ranga, has annoyed the "Right" Communists viz. that section of Communists who take their orders from Moscow in contrast to the "Left" Communists whose mentors live in Peking.

New Age, organ of the "Right" Communists in its issue of January 16, directs its fire at Prof. Ranga because the Swatantra Party President told a press conference at Hyderabad on January 8 that it was 'high time the government banned both the Right and the Left Communist Parties'. Prof. Ranga saw no reason to treat Dange and his men any differently from Namboodiripad and his comrades.

Says the *New Age* among other things: "Ranga's

statement is part of the new right reactionary campaign, which follows the large scale arrests of the leaders of the rival Communist Party. No one need be surprised that the sharper edge of the attack is against the Communist Party of India and not against the arrested leaders.

"It is the same with the rest of the reactionary chorus: they know who their most dangerous enemies are." The *New Age* comment shorn of its semantics, could not have been more right, for it is true that while the Peking brand of Reds have by their proclamation been identified as anti-national, those professing the Moscow variety are infinitely more dangerous with their propensity for internal subversion while proclaiming their "patriotism".

THE DEFENCE OF MALAYSIA AND SOUTH VIET-NAM

Writing in the January 23 issue of *Swarajya*, Rajaji has suggested the raising of a 1,000 strong guerilla squad in India for the defence of Malaysia and South Viet Nam.

This should consist of "hard young volunteers, 500 from North India and 500 from South India, to be trained in guerilla warfare and pledged to go to Malaysia and South Viet Nam to aid in the defence of those countries against Indonesia and the North Viet Nam Communists." He wanted a fund of Rs. 30

lakhs raised to provide for the families of members of the squad in case of death or disablement. Rajaji said: "It looks as if the resistance in South Viet Nam is about to fade away and that certainly will be a decisive gain for Chinese hegemony. India must do something to change the atmosphere."

Malaysia's Defence Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, speaking to reporters at Kuala Lumpur on January 21 welcomed Rajaji's suggestion.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Mr. C. Venkatusami, M.L.A. (Independent) has joined the Swatantra Party. This was revealed by Mr. Saw Ganesan, President of the Tamil Nad Unit of the Party, to pressmen of December 21.

Thakore Jashwantsinhji of Amod in Gujarat has joined the Swatantra Party as an active worker. There are no departures to report this time.

NEWS FROM STATE UNITS

ANDHRA

The State Executive Committee of the Andhra Unit of the Party met in Hyderabad on December 14 and 15. The meeting discussed organisational matters and considered various problems, particularly the food question and the policies of the State Government.

In a resolution on Planning the Executive said that the Government should take a "holiday from planning."

The resolution observed that Planning was not realistic. The suggested "holiday from Planning" should be for five years.

A resolution on the Food situation said that the Government's handling of the food problem was all wrong and pointed that distribution of foodgrains must be in the hands of the people. The Central and State Governments should do away with control on the movement of foodgrains and give freedom to private trade.

A Parliamentary Board for the State was constituted consisting of Mr. G. Latchanna, Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddy, Mr. J. Chandramouli and Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao.

The President of the State Unit, Mr. G. Latchanna M.L.A., toured the Kotturu Assembly Constituency to intensify party activity. On the occasion of his visit, a Constituency committee was set up. Mr. Latchanna, who was accompanied by Mr. Simma Jagannadham M.L.A. and Mr. K. Harikrishna Chowdhary, President and Vice President respectively of the Srikakulam District Unit, addressed meetings of workers and public meetings.

He later visited Parvathipuram, Bobbili and Salur. The intensive tour by the State President and his colleagues is part of an effort to organise the Party in areas where enrolment has so far been poor and to interest local people in the philosophy of the Swatantra Party.

BOMBAY

The office of the Bombay branch of the Party was for a week last January converted into a vaccination centre. The Unit cooperated with the Bombay Municipal Corporation's health department in providing facilities for the City's citizens to inoculate themselves, in the context of a suspected epidemic of small-pox. Over 2,000 persons, mostly office-goers, were inoculated. The Bombay unit is justly proud of the fact that it alone among all other political parties in the city participated in this humanitarian activity.

GUJARAT

The State Council of the Gujarat Unit at its meeting in Ahmedabad on January 18 resolved to submit a memorandum to the Gujarat Governor urging him

to dissolve the State Assembly which is expected to commence its budget session on February 15.

The demand to dissolve the Assembly was made "to make the Congress Government realise its duty in a democracy. Any Government wedded to democracy would have resigned for its utter failure to tackle the food crisis and provide relief to the people."

The meeting directed its district and taluka units in the State to organise processions and public meetings in their respective areas on February 7 and submit a memorandum to the Mamlatdar or Collector on February 8.

The resolution expressed dissatisfaction with the present food policy of the Union Government and warned that there would be "chaos" in the country if the policy was not changed.

Of 18 Districts in Gujarat, 12 have elected District Committees. All 12 have regular offices functioning in their respective District Headquarters. Out of 184 Talukas and Mahals in the State, 78 have elected Taluka committees. Thus more than half the State has come under the organisational influence of the Party. A report from the State Office in Ahmedabad which gives the above information adds that at this rate of growth it will be possible to cover the entire State by the year's end.

The District unit of Sabarkantha at a meeting on December 27 denounced the Government's food policy. In an interesting resolution the Sabarkantha District Committee referred to the rushing of food supplies to Kerala. Said the resolution among other things: "There is reason to believe that Congress party in power in the Government of India have taken this special care with a view to find favour with the electorate. This has given rise to an impression that the Congress Party Government are doing many things with only the elections in view. This action of the Government of India is tantamount to bribing the voters of Kerala State in favour of the Congress."

The Porbandar Taluka Unit of the Party conveyed the people's frustration with the poor quality of wheat supplied by the authorities for distribution through the Fair Price Shops, by sending a sample of the wheat to the President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. A covering letter forwarding the sample stated: "Your Honour will please observe that it is completely unfit for human consumption, but the public is compelled to buy this wheat."

KERALA

On the occasion of the first State Convention (see Newsletter No. 48 for December 1964), the Party's General Secretary, Mr. Masani, presided over the first meeting of the State Council for electing the Office Bearers and members of the State Executive

for Kerala. Mr. N. Gopala Menon was elected President and Mr. A. Madhava Warier General Secretary. The two Vice-Presidents are Messrs. K. K. Kuruvilla and K. C. Zacharias. Mr. S. Koder was elected Treasurer. Thirteen members were elected to the State Committee. All elections were unanimous.

The second meeting of the State Council was held at Ernakulam on January 3 with Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla in the Chair in the morning session and Mr. K. C. Zacharias presiding over the afternoon session. Convened essentially to discuss the Party's participation in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Kerala on March 4, the meeting appointed sub-committees to look into various aspects of the election campaign.)

In a reference to the arrests of "Left" Communists, the Council in a resolution stated: "This meeting.....views with grave concern the security conditions prevailing within the country as is disclosed by the need for arrests of Members of the Communist Party....The differences between the Communists of the left and right wings are ephemeral and apt to disappear with any change in the leadership in Peking or Moscow. This meeting therefore demands the banning of the Communist Party, both leftist and rightist, and their activities within the country for at least so long as the Chinese menace continues. Resolutions demanding the withdrawal of an order of the Forward Markets Commission; characterising as harmful the Government's order on the compulsory procurement of paddy; expressing profound sympathy with the victims of the Dhanushkodi Train Accident were unanimously adopted.

MADRAS

Over six thousand attended a public meeting organised by the Rajaji Mandram at Saidapet, Madras City on January 2. Rajaji, Mr. Saw Ganesan M.L.A. and Mr. S. S. Mariswamy M.P. were the principal speakers. Many young and rising speakers of the Party also spoke. Among them are Sri Kanchi Satagopan, Mr. T. S. Santhanam and Mr. Purisai Rajagopalan.

Rajaji analysed the misrule of the Congress. He characterised the Congress Party as a spider and warned the public to beware of its web. Party literature was sold at the meeting in good quantities.

Earlier at a meeting in Vadapalani, Rajaji attacked the need for rationing. Will food production go up in the country by the imposition of controls, asked Rajaji?

Mr. P. K. Mookiah Thevar MLA and others addressed the meeting.

MYSORE

A number of resolutions were adopted by the meet-

ings of the State Committee and State Council which met in Bangalore on December 25 and 26.

In the course of a detailed resolution on the Food crisis, the Mysore Unit expressed the view that the "Congress Party is more keen in giving effect to the 1959 Nagpur Congress resolution, moved by the present Food Minister himself...than an honest attempt to get over a small deficit in food production in this country."

Criticising the unrealistic prices fixed by Government as unremunerative to producers, the resolution said the Food Control Order and their faulty administration has resulted in:

- a. Creation of regional zones consisting of surplus and deficit states seriously interfering in the commercial movement of Foodgrains
- b. Restrictions on Rice Mills and wholesale dealers seriously interfering with the supply of paddy to the mills, their conversion and consequently supply of rice to the consumers
- c. Loss in storage which is criminal in the circumstances and which, in the past, admittedly resulted in a huge loss of Rs. 34 Crores in the year 1963-64 and accentuating the deficit.
- d. Illegal procurement and restriction on free movement even within the State and District and inadequate rationing on family card system.

Among the remedial measures suggested by the resolution were:

"...halt to acquisition of agricultural land for industrial or other non-agricultural purposes' and the taking of steps to "subsidise the supply of chemical manures, agricultural implements, and pesticides" and the "undertaking of small scale irrigation projects."

Another resolution strongly protested against the Government's decision to acquire 1,500 acres of agricultural land for the purpose of setting up of Industrial Estates near the Mangalore Harbour Project. Giving reasons for the Party's opposition the resolution said: "On the land proposed for acquisition three crops of paddy are being raised per year. The proposed industrial project will deprive more than 1,000 families of their homes, farms and their livelihood. In view of the fact that there are more than 3,000 acres of waste land within one mile of this area, the proposal of the Government is perverse", concluded the resolution.

A third resolution opposed "the abolition of existing Village Offices which have stood the test of time and provided sound and efficient administration." The Party was of the opinion "that the transferring of the functions of Village Offices to the Village Panchayats will be disastrous."

A fourth opposed a proposal to increase Land Revenue in Mysore State and called upon agriculturists to vigorously oppose the proposals. It reaffirmed

the Party's stand that Land Revenue should be totally abolished "all the more so when incentives are required to increase agricultural production."

The last resolution drew the attention of the Mysore Government to "the scandalous disappearance of large quantities of foodgrain during transit from Avadi to Mysore State" and reiterated its "demand for urgent and thorough enquiries into this scandal."

A "Divisional Swatantra Convention" for the Districts of Gulbarga, Raichur and Bidar, was held at Gulbarga from December 20 to 22. Speaking to newsmen after the Convention, State Unit President Mr. Jinaraja Hegde said that the Swatantra Party was

opposed to the summary trial of the foodgrain traders. He observed the legislation would be used as a tool by the Ruling Party to keep the traders under their thumb and make use of them in the elections. The legislation, he said, was a travesty of freedom and justice.

The Convention has taken decisions to organise Swatantra Units at the taluk level in the districts of Gulbarga, Raichur and Bidar.

An ad-hoc Committee for the Gulbarga District was formed with Mr. Mahant Swamy M.L.A. as President, Messrs Abdul Wahab and Kumara Naik as Vice Presidents and Mr. K. Shyam Sunder Rao as General Secretary.

Swatantra Party Is The People's Party

1. The Swatantra Party has all along represented the consumers, although interested parties are misrepresenting it as a party of the rich.
2. The basic principle of Free Enterprise supports competition among rich producers for the benefit of the vast body of poor consumers.
3. In opposing controls, it opposes monopoly which, in a closed market, is responsible for the current increase in prices.
4. The Swatantra Party's opposition to the extension of State activity and State enterprise is to save consumers from the burden of taxes and public debts on the one hand and official corruption and arrogance, on the other.
5. The party's foreign policy aims at reducing the burden of Defence expenditure on the one hand and of increasing assistance for development from democratic countries, on the other.
6. The party's agrarian policy assures permanent tenure and fair rents without the cost and corruption of State ownership.
7. It is the *only party* which has pressed for the *abolition of land taxes*.
8. Its labour policy is to create more employment by encouraging enterprise on every side.
9. It respects individual rights, subject to the protection of the weak, through *tried* democratic laws.
10. It will serve the consumer by increasing the national product, and not by destroying the distributive system.

Courtesy: *Swarajya*

P. H. SESHAGIRI RAO

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