

**FIRST CONVENTION
ALL INDIA**



Swatantra Party



WELCOME ADDRESS

ASHOKA NAGAR

PATNA

1960

Welcome Address

by

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Chairman

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

ASHOK NAGAR
PATNA.

March 19, 1960.

Sradheya Raja Jee, President Ranga, Delegates and Friends,

Bihar feels honoured in welcoming you to the First Convention of the Swatantra Party of India at this historic city of Patna. Twenty-two centuries ago there flourished in this ancient city of Pataliputra Emperor Ashoka the Great, who won by his sword the mightiest empire in the East and in the hour of triumph in the field of battle, it was he who threw away his victorious sword and took up the mantle of the Apostle of peace to lead humanity to the path of virtue and righteousness for the lasting peace and prosperity of all. The world remembers Ashoka the Great, as the Angel of peace shining in the twilight of history who had illumined the course of civilisation as the Harbinger of the path of peace. The halo of that light kindled by him still shines as an eternal star to guide the destiny of mankind and to-day, when humanity is threatened with extinction, ironically by its own potentials and genius, the world in its anxiety looks up to that star for guidance.

I greet you all, the respected leaders and delegates of the Swatantra Party of India, in this Ashoka City. We meet here to-day at a juncture in the history of our nation. It is a strange coincidence of fate that no sooner freedom blossomed in our mother-land than ominous clouds have appeared on the horizon and the sky is overcast. The fruits of freedom could not flower to the fullest extent and the fragrance died out only too soon after the florescence. The State is out to destroy the finest and the best of our heritage and culture. The time-honoured traditions are being up-rooted with no respect for the past and the entire socio-economic structure of the land has been thrown into a melting pot. Instead of allowing the individual to flourish to the best by affording full opportunities, the State is only swallowing the individual like a boaconstrictor and the menace of Stateism in every sphere of life is being felt to-day. With the march of time the old order is fading away but we see nowhere signs of a new order which is supposed to be in the making. Chaos is being let loose in the name of change with the slogan of progress. The party in power is only fomenting class struggle amongst the people. With mouthful slogans of "Socialistic pattern of society" or "Democratic Socialism" or "Socialism of Nehru Brand", which are full of sound and fury but signify nothing at all, the Ruling Party is striving to usher in a new era with the ambition to establish a new form of civilisation where socialism will be the corner-stone. It is a conception without roots in the Indian soil and the very idea is foreign to our heart and our traditional heritage and culture. Before this type of socialism can take root the Congress Party with the Government machinery at its beck and call must end all private enterprises and kill the initiative of the individual which goes to create the national wealth. To steal a

march on the Communists, Capitalism must be obliterated by the Congress even though the State is powerless to sustain and feed a developing economy moving towards the 'take-off' stage and trying to become selfgenerating. The Congress must rule the roost externally though the writings on the Wall say that the Kuomintang fate awaits it in the end. While on the one hand by nationalisation of the private sector and progressive taxation it is distributing poverty, equalising misery and extinguishing the middle class in the land, on the other hand it is letting loose a reign of corruption, nepotism, casteism and jobbery to perpetuate its one-party rule and power. Like a cockerel on the dung hill the Congress is crying hoarse for propagation of its ideas. The country is being crushed in the Mill of white-caps and the brown bureaucracy. In refusing to allow the country a free economy and to let the private enterprise play its due role in the development of the national economy the incompetent Managerial Economics of the State is only developing un-employment and poverty on a mass scale. And now at last the ruling clique has fallen on land and agriculture, the very fundamentals of Indian Economy, and embarked on the most unjust legislation of ceilings with the bogey of joint co-operative farming. The events are marching in quick succession towards a catastrophe and no-one knows when one fine morning democracy will be scrapped and Dictator-ship will take command of our destiny.

While there is a crisis in our socio-economic structure and body politic, the insipid and inconsequential foreign policy pursued by the Congress Government has been exposed nakedly by the fact of the Chinese Aggression. The Chinese "Bhai" has taken forcible possession of nearly 5,000 sq. miles of the territories of Sovereign India. By her aggression China has injured our sovereignty, cut across our integrity, endangered our security and threatened freedom itself. Eschewing the much-boosted principles of the Panch Sheel as mere verbosity, China has threatened our national sovereignty by her act of aggression and disturbed the quietude of our Himalayan Borders. The alarm is much deeper and widespread due to the existence of a well established Fifth Column element in our land consisting of the Red Jaichands and Mirjafars moving about in India finding favour with the Congress God and eliciting parises for their theories from him and his satellites. There is no way to stem this crisis in this hour of national emergency. The party in power is a house divided against itself. Many of its stalwarts have died or have parted company with it. It only cashes on its past records and demands allegiance from the people in the name of the Gandhian Congress. The Fatwas issued from Delhi make the Congress men bow in obeisance. The other opposition parties are unable or incompetent to stop this rot while the Praja Socialist Party is only a second line of defence for the Congress. The leftist element with a lip sympathy for the people but following the dictates of foreign countries at heart, are merely agitators without any constructive

approach. The Communalist parties are now things of old. In this state of affairs here existed a considerable vacuum in the structure of party organisations in the country.

In this background the emergence of the Swatantra Party in India is a momentous event. The very fate of parliamentary democracy in India has become uncertain. The country is moving headlong towards Anarchy and Totalitarianism. The afflicted conditions of our people with no proper guidance whatsoever from any of the existing political parties moved our revered leader Raja Jee to shake off his retired life, and come out at the ripe age of 80 in the true traditions of our saints and seers of the past to sound the clarion call of the Swatantra Party. The movement has fired the *imagination of the country and is gaining in momentum and volume from day to day*. It is taking wide and deep roots in the minds of the intelligentsia as well as the masses. This movement appears to have upset the mental equanimity of the Congress Satrap as manifest at their recent session at Bangalore, where they fretted and fumed over this momentous development in the History of India by the creation of the Swatantra Party.

The prospects of the Swatantra Party in regard to fulfilling its historic missions are bright. The journey towards the goal, nevertheless, is hard and arduous. Our struggle is for the attainment of the following principles viz. avoidance of over-Government, property-owning democracy, prosperity through freedom and restoration of individual freedom to the people. These tasks shall demand our undivided attention and devotion to achieve success. Our goals fit in with the true Indian conditions and the genius of the Indian people. They claim admiration from all lovers of democracy in the world and the recent victory of the Conservative Party in Britain constitutes a milestone in this direction.

Friends, on this solemn occasion of the First All India Convention of the Swatantra Party we have invited you all to assemble at Patna the seat of the State of Bihar. Our minds irresistibly travel through the centuries and catch glimpses of the glories that Bihar contributed to the History of India. This city of ours is the ancient city of the mightiest empires of India. It was in this city in the south of the Ganges and in the north of the Sonbhadra, where rose and flourished Great Empires. The Nandas, the Mauryas and the Guptas graced this city of Pataliputra with their seats and made it the capital of their far-flung Empires. Lord Buddha practised penance in the forest of Rajgir and Gaya and achieved enlightenment at Bodhgaya. From the Imperial Courts of Rajgir Lord Buddha preached his sermons and Buddhism not only became the State Religion under Ashoka the Great but even travelled far across the frontiers of India and spread over the entire East. Lord Mahavira also moved in Bihar and passed away a few miles off from Patna. Across the Ganges the Licchavi Republic was established in the ancient town of Vaishali at the hey-day of

Imperialism in India. In 1857 the Patna-Shahabad Belt under the leadership of Babu Kunwar Singh threw off the yoke and shook the British Imperialism to its roots. With the dawning of the Gandhian Age and India's launching of freedom struggle against British Imperialism the contribution of Bihar and Patna in particular are too living and bright to be repeated here. I hope and pray that God willing, this time also we shall not lag behind and achieve all-round success of the Swatantra Party in Bihar.

Friends, I welcome you again to this ancient city of ours. You have travelled far and wide to come here and make your contributions to the success of the Convention and the cause of the Swatantra Party. We are conscious of the many shortcomings in making your stay more comfortable which, I hope, you will kindly overlook. I thank you all and extend you our most cordial greetings.

“SWATANTRA PARTY ZINDABAD”
