

1708
SWATANTRA PARTY

Organising Committee for Greater Bombay

A meeting of the Organising Committee was held on Thursday, 24th September at 6 p.m., in the Party Office.

PRESENT:

Sir H. P. Mody (in the Chair).
Mr. A. D. Shroff.
Col. L. Sawhny.
Mr. P. H. Mody.
Mr. N. H. Mapara.
Mr. F. K. Karaka.
Mr. G. P. Hutheesing.
Mr. R. V. Murthy.
Dr. R. C. Cooper.
Mrs. C. F. Lynn.
Mr. F. S. Mulla (invitee).
Mr. B. R. Mohandas (observer).

The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were signed,

The Chairman called for further efforts to keep the Party in the public eye and to enrol more members. Statements circulated showed the number of members known to be enrolled at the Office to date was 859. Membership books outstanding stood at 259, i.e. a further potential of 5,760 members. 35,000 membership forms had been sent to Gujarat, 30,000 to Delhi, 10,000 to Rajasthan and 2,000 to Patiala.

Mr. Hutheesing felt that two things were necessary to win more public support: regular statements on live public issues, and a strong cadre working from, and through, the Party Office, consisting of a hard core of about a hundred workers who could give more time to Party work.

It was agreed that the Convenors should keep in the closest possible liaison with the Honorary Secretaries, and all the records of their activities should be maintained in the Central Office.

The Chairman requested that the Membership Drive be intensified by the early appointment of a full-time paid executive, and the forming of a Ladies' Committee. With regard to the latter suggestion Sir Homi was authorised to form the Committee and to take all necessary steps to ensure its active functioning.

FINANCE

Dr. Cooper's statement appended. The balance at

Bank is Rs. 52,437 and Cash in hand Rs. 56/-.

MEETINGS

Mr. Mapara's report appended. Three meetings have been planned for the month ahead.

Mr. Shroff suggested a fourth meeting in the Fort area - "The Economic Policies of Government" was considered an appropriate topic for discussion.

Mr. Murthy reported that arrangements were being ~~made~~ made for an open-air meeting in North Bombay for Gandhi Jayanti.

Mr. Hutheesing reported that two Citizen's Meetings would shortly be held in Bombay to condemn Chinese aggression, and leaders of the various Parties were asked to associate on the platform in support. Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan will be the main speaker at these meetings. Rs. 300/- was sanctioned as the Swatantra Party's share of expenses in this connection.

It was agreed that statements be issued regularly on live issues. A draft might be made by any member qualified to do so and circulated to members of a Committee, consisting of Sir E. P. Mody, Mr. A. E. Shroff and one of the Honorary Secretaries, for approval before publication.

Mr. Hutheesing was asked to draft a statement on Government's Sugar Policy, and Mr. Hasham Premji to be invited to give a draft on the Food situation.

Date of next meeting - Friday, 9th October.
