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S W A T A N T R A P A R T Y
Organising Committee for Greater Bombay

A meeting of the Organising Committee was held on Friday, 21st August 1959 at the Swatantra Party Office, 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road:-

Present: Mr. M.R. Masani, (in the chair)
 Sir H.P. Mody,
 Mr. K.M. Munshi,
 " B.K. Mistry,
 " J.M. Patel,
 " F.K. Karaka,
 " P. Mody,
 " M.K. Tata,
 " V. Paranjoti,
 " N. Mapara,
 " G.P. Hutheesing,
 Dr. R.C. Cooper,
 Mr. R.V. Murthy,
 Mrs. C.F. Lynn.

 Mr. S.R. Mohan Das (observer)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. A.D. Shroff and Mr. F.S. Mulla.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed.

The Committee recorded its appreciation of Mr. J.M. Patel's gift of 10,000 Membership Forms, printed at less than twenty-four hours' notice, and thanked Mr. Patel.

After a short discussion as to what would be required of a full-time paid Executive Secretary at higher level, with experience of organisation, administration and publicity, it was decided to appoint a sub-committee to select a suitable candidate. Sir H.P. Mody, Mr. K.M. Munshi and Mr. A.D. Shroff were requested to join the Chairmen in serving on this Committee. Candidates for the post would be required to send in written applications, stating their qualification and experience.

Regarding Membership Forms, the Chairmen reported that Mr. Rajagopalachari had advised regions to go ahead with their own printing to avoid further delay. Bombay would print forms in English/Hindi, English/Gujerati and English/Marathi for Bombay, and would also print forms for Gujarat if Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel approved.

CONVENORS' REPORTS

- 1) Constituency Organisation and Enrolment: Eighty volunteers, were allotted, constituency-wise, to six zones, and were invited to meet on 24th, 25th, 26th and 28th August, to talk over the procedure to be adopted, and to set-up Enrolment Centres.

The suggestion that the 600 remaining signatories should be invited, two hundred at a time, to meetings, with tea, similar to the meeting of 13th August, was approved.

A further suggestion that a commission of 10% be allowed as an incentive to enrollers was not approved, but it was agreed that some of the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by them might, at the discretion of the Hon. Secretaries, be re-imbursed.

It was also agreed that the Membership Fee should be held to Re.1/- only, and that any additional sums collected should be treated as donations and accounted for separately.

2) Meetings: Mr. Mepara reported that a meeting was arranged at 26, Hira Baug on Wednesday 26th August, 6 p.m. and two or three similar meetings would be called every month. Mr. Munshi asked that young men and women, lawyers, etc. should be encouraged to speak at such meetings. Sir H.P. Mody emphasized that the Party Platform could be given to new speakers only after some kind of training in what the Party stands for, and suggested the calling together of 20 to 30 persons, at a time, to be given talking-points and briefing.

3) Fund Raising Activities: Mr. Paranjoti reported that plans had been discussed and would be finalised on Friday, 21st August.

4) Press & Publicity: Mr. Mody reported that the Handbook of the Convention would be ready by the middle of September.

Two lakhs of Membership Forms would be printed in the four languages, English/Hindi, English/Gujerati, English/Marathi, for Bombay and for Gujerat if Mr. Bheilalbhai Patel agreed to the latter. The Statement of Principles is also being printed in Gujerati, Hindi and Marathi at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

It was agreed that a Labour Section be established to attract working-class support. Mr. F.K. Karaka was appointed Convenor, and was asked to associate Mr. Mohan Das and Mr. P.C. Cherian with him in this work.

Financial Statement: The Hon. Treasurer reported that the balance in the Bank was Rs.85,000/- subject to a deduction of about Rs.8,000/- for cheques issued, but not cashed.

Mr. Hutheesing reported that he had talks with Prof. A.D. Desai of Bhavan's College, who had suggested a Students' Seminar, and that plans for this would be put before the next meeting of this Committee.

Mrs. Lynn reported that Wednesday mornings were set apart for informal weekly meetings of office-bearers and convenors, at 10-30 a.m. at the Swatantra Party Office.

The suggestion that week-end Seminars and discussions should be held as part of a training programme for organisers and volunteers was approved.

Mrs. Lynn reported that the Bombay Building Workers' Union,

the Fort Nagarik Samaj and the Bihar State Cane-Growers Cooperative Association Ltd., had asked how they could be affiliated to the Swatantra Party. It was agreed that they should be courteously informed that there is no affiliation of Unions or Groups as such, but that members of these, were always welcome to join the Party, as individual members.

Gandhi Jayanti, October 2, 1959: After some discussion as to the form the celebrations should take, it was agreed that a symposium be held on the "Life and Teachings of Gandhiji", and that Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan be approached to be Chairman or one of the principal speakers on the occasion.