

2133

RESOLUTION ON THE FORMATION OF THE NEW PARTY

The National Executive of the B.L.D. considered the General Secy.'s report, and JP's announcement regarding the formation of the new party. While the Committee welcomes the appeal made by JP, and is keen to expedite the founding of the new party, it cannot, but express its concern, at the manner in which the new party is sought to be established. First of all, it should have been ensured, that the four parties would dissolve themselves and join the new party. Congress (O) and Socialist parties have not yet taken any decision. Even Jan Sangh resolution is vague and not final. The very purpose of forming the new party would be defeated, if even one of the parties remains out, in which case, the BLD may ^{reconsider its} ~~not~~ ^{decision to} ~~new~~ join the ~~party~~.

Before the Conference to inaugurate the new party meets in Bombay, questions relating to its name, policy, constitution and composition etc. should be thoroughly discussed, and settled amongst the top-most leaders of the parties (and other elements) which decide to join the new party. It was decided in the meeting held in Bombay on 23rd May, that an Organising Committee of the new party would be announced simultaneously with the announcement of the party, which would go into these questions, and come up with agreed solutions. But the same has not been done. Instead all these delicate questions are now to be placed before the large gathering of 200, which is to meet in Bombay towards the end of June. Who these 200 will be? What are their credentials etc. has not been made clear.

The BID reiterates its earlier stand, that the policy and programme of the new party should be clearly distinct from that of the ruling party, be rural-oriented, and based on Gandhian ideology. The draft policy statement of the new party, even after modifications, is not acceptable to the BID, and requires further consideration.

P.T.O.

Without prior agreement between the topmost leaders of the merging parties on important issues, the large gathering to be called in Bombay, is likely to end in a fiasco. The National Executive of the BLD therefore, urges upon JP to appoint an Organising Committee to thrash out all the issues which if left unresolved, are likely to prove stumbling blocks ' later on. This Organising Committee should meet in Delhi before the Bombay Conference, but after the other three parties have decided whether or not they would merge in the new party.