

Minutes of the National Executive committee of the All India Swatantra Party
held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday the 9th ^{April 1975} ~~instant~~ at Local Library
Authority Building, Mount Road, Madras-- 2.

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MINUTES.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the All India Swatantra Party was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday the 9th instant at Local Library Authority Building, 150-A, Mount Road, Madras. 2. Mr. G.K. Sundaram presided. The following members were present:--

1. Sri G.K. Sundaram.
2. " Harihar Patel.
3. " Paramanand Kejriwal.
4. " A.S. Nagabhushana Rao
5. " V. Devanathan.
6. " V.S. Srikumar.
7. " Girish Munshi.
8. " H. Ajmal Khan.
9. " T.R. Sankaranarayanan.

Mr. B. Venkataswami, MLA, Secretary of the Tamilnad Swatantra party and leader of the Swatantra ~~party~~ legislature party attended by special invitation.

Request for leave of absence for the following members was recorded and granted:--

1. Lt. Col. H.R. Pasricha. 2. Sri N.A. Parasuraman 3. Sri V. Jagannathan
4. Sri Babu Joseph 5. Sri S.V. Raju.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the National Executive held at Bombay on 22-1-75 were read and confirmed. Certain matters arising out of the minutes were discussed.

The items in the agenda were taken up for consideration:
The letter from Sri Vijay Pal Singh Saxena dated 12-3-75 informing about the formation of the adhoc committee was read out. The State Council and the adhoc committee were approved. After some discussion it was decided that the Secretary should write a letter to him stating that Sri Girish Munshi, General Secretary and Sri Paramanand Kejriwalji, Vice President will be visiting U.P. in the near future and that ad hoc committee formed may be requested to carry on the party activities energetically in the meantime.

The Committee reviewed the work of the party units in several States-- especially the position in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa was considered in detail.

Sri Harihar Patel and Sri Girish Munshi explained the position in their respective States.

Sri Girish Munshi read out the correspondence he had with Mr. Bhargava and Kusum Ben Joshi. Mr. Bhargava's letter to Mr. S.V. Raju was also read out. It was decided that the General Secretary should write to Mr. Bhargava asking him about the present position of the party and also whether he would accept the

responsibility for re-organising the party by becoming a member of the National Executive.

Mr.G.K.Sundaram's appointment on the National Coordinating Committee of the People's struggle under the leadership of Sri J.P.Narayan was noted.

The Charter of Demands presented to Parliament by the National Coordinating Committee of the People's struggle under J.P.'s leadership on March 6th was considered. Some members and the President felt that there were a number of contradictions and that some of the demands were vague and capable of being interpreted in a different manner by different parties. But the Charter of demands has been presented and having received widest possible publicity the members felt that no useful purpose will be served by raising objections and that the President may seek certain clarifications during his next meeting with Sri Jayaprakash Narayanji and others concerned.

The proposal made by the Bharatiya Jan Sangh at its National conference was considered. Many members said that the Swatantra party was the first under Rajaji's leadership to make almost identical suggestions as early as 1969 & 1971 but unfortunately many of the political parties did not respond positively at that time. All the same it was the unanimous desire of the committee that Swatantra party should take a lead in forming a democratic front or combination as an alternative to the ruling congress by bringing together all the democratic opposition parties excepting communists and the ruling congress and their allies. It was also the unanimous opinion of the committee but as far as the elections were concerned the setting up of Janata candidates should be vigorously pursued and accepted by all cooperating democratic parties.

In respect of holding the party elections due during this year it was decided after detailed discussion that the next party elections should be held only after the general elections in 1976. In the meantime party units have to be requested to vigorously renew all the existing cards and to enrol new members on a large (ed scale.

The National Head Quarters was requested to print new enrolment forms and to distribute them to all the state units. It also permitted the State units to print the forms themselves if they can on the basis of the specimen form to be provided by the National Head quarters.

Subject to the approval of the General Council at its next meeting the Executive committee appointed Sri S.V.Raju of Bombay as one of the Joint Secretaries and authorised the National Head quarters to convey the information to Sri S.V.Raju.

Some draft resolutions prepared by Sri V.S.Srikumar, Joint Secretary, were discussed in detail and the enclosed resolutions were adopted unanimously.

The above minutes are circulated after President's approval and instructions.

(contd..p.3.)

V. S. Srikumar
(V.S.Srikumar)
Jt. Secretary.

Resolutions passed by the National Executive of the Swatantra Party at its
meeting at Local Library Authority Hall, Madras on
9-4-1973.

Resolution No.1.

This meeting of the National Executive of the Swatantra party extends its full support to the objects ^{achieve} to which Sri Morarji Desai has embarked on an indefinite fast. This meeting demands the immediate revocation of the state of emergency throughout the country and holding of the long overdue elections to the Gujarat Assembly.

Resolution No.2.

This meeting of the National Executive ~~condemns~~ the CPI-Ruling Congress combine's goondalism in forcibly preventing Sri J.P.Narayan from addressing the students gathering at the University Institute Hall at Calcutta. Still more deplorable is the attitude of the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Home Minister of the Government of India who have reacted very light-heartedly to the deplorable incidents and sought to justify the attack on Sri J.P. and his car. The West Bengal Minister who instigated the goondas deserves nothing less than dismissal.

Resolution No.3.

The National Executive of the Swatantra Party notes that the Prime Minister and Mr.Shaik Abdulla have effected reconciliation in their points of view regarding the position of each other about Kashmir. It strongly denounces the undemocratic method adopted for placing Mr.Abdulla in power and notes with dismay that imposition of outsiders as leaders of duly elected representatives of the people has become a matter of routine with the ruling congress party. The meeting hopes that duly elected representatives of the people will not be deprived of their just rights to elect leaders of their own choice and that the ruling congress party will observe one of the essential principles of parliamentary democracy.

The Swatantra party is strongly of the view that the retention of Art.370 of the Constitution and the continuance of special status to Kashmir is against the interests of the country in the long run though it may be a temporary expedient measure.

Resolution No.4.

This meeting of the National Executive considered the political situation in depth and decided to extend all possible support to the activities of the National Coordinating Committee of the People's struggle under the leadership of Sri.J.P.in which this party is also represented by its President,Mr.G.K.Sundaram.

The Swatantra party welcomes the cooperation of all democratic,non-congress and non-communist opposition parties inside and outside legislatures with a view to set up common candidates in the forthcoming elections under a common symbol and a mutually agreed election platform.

Resolution No.5.

Both politically and economically our country is at the cross roads. Our accepted mixed economy which provides all facilities for greater production is the only sensible long term policy for the economic regeneration.

Spurred by CPI, the ruling congress party is deliberately but gradually trying to usher in totalitarian economy along with totalitarian policy. This committee is of the opinion that the dishonest politicians have joined with dishonest business men to create controls, shortages and black money and political and other corruption that are subverting in the process both the economy and policy.

Democracy cannot co-exist with totalitarian economy. Hence the committee decides to educate the people on the dangers of the policy pursued by the government and make them accept pragmatic policy of mixed economy which alone will help to remove poverty.

The meeting notes that the financial position of the Government of India does not permit payment of instalments of D.A. due to its employees. Similarly the industries are facing extreme financial stringency due to defective policies adopted by the government. At this rate the mixed economy is bound to fail paving the way for totalitarian economy.

Resolution No.6.

The imposition of paddy^X levy rates on farmers and policies of procurement pursued otherwise for prices fixed arbitrarily much lower than the cost of production are not ^{only} undemocratic but also economically unsound. It virtually amounts to robbing the farmers to fill in other pockets and will be grave disincentives to farmers for increased production. In many countries policies are pursued so as to help the farmers in getting adequately by way of higher prices for further investments in agriculture from various quarters. The policies pursued in the reverse now in our country will only ruin the peasantry and rend it entirely ~~finished~~. The National Executive, therefore, urges upon the Government of India as well as the state governments to revise their procurement policy suitably to encourage the farmers for increased production.