

2nd November, 1971

2208

My dear H.N.,

I have carefully gone through the draft election Manifesto which has been circulated to members of the General Council of the Party. While I appreciate the effort that has gone into the preparation of this document and like the first two or three paragraphs by way of introduction, I find that some problems face one when one tries to understand what exactly the purpose of this document could be.

On the one hand, if it is really a Manifesto of the Party, then I fear it is open to the criticism that fundamental aspects of the Party's thinking are missing altogether from the document. Such, for instance, are our repeated stress on priorities for the needs of the Common Man, the stress on the Consumer, our opposition to the lowering of ceilings, our opposition to monopoly, our opposition to the compulsory procurement of foodgrains and our rejection of the centralized and comprehensive planning of the Soviet pattern as also our adherence to the Mixed Economy and our belief in the more widespread ownership of industry and workers' association with management and our support for the protection of Minorities. When certain fundamental principles are set out in the Manifesto, how can the omission of other important ones be justified?

If, on the other hand, this is not a Manifesto of the Party but a preamble to the Manifesto that State Parties will prepare, which I understand is the intention, then this draft appears to be too long and theoretical a document because it has little to say on the topics or controversies of the day. I would imagine that a short preamble somewhat like what we did in Part I of our 1971 Manifesto dealing only with current topics such as the attacks on Fundamental Rights and the Press, the Indo-Soviet Treaty, Bengal Besh, the continuing inflation and growing unemployment would suffice, along with a general statement on the lines already included in paragraphs 19 and 20 which would state that the Party reaffirms its faith in its principles and policies which have been proved correct by the developments of the last decade.

I do not know whether it is too late for us to avoid falling between two stools by either having a complete manifesto or having only a brief preamble which would be a fraction of the size of the present draft.

Meanwhile, since the draft has been circulated, I would like to place before you and our colleagues for your consideration some draft amendments to the actual text as it is at present. These are appended to this letter and, as you will see, the amendments relate to paras 14, 15 and 16 of the draft and to para 20(viii).

encl.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. H.N. Patel,
President,
Swatantra Party.

c.c. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. N. Dandekar
Dr. R.C. Cooper

(H. R. NAZARI)

What to Left Out

Rejection of unskilled & comprehensive
Planning - Padua 12-13, 1962 p11 ~~29/60~~
1967 p13 & 34-6.

Priority for needs of
Common man

Padua p13-14, 1962 p14 ~~29~~
1967 p7

Opposition to lowering of
ceilings

Padua p18-9
Confuse resolutions?

Relief in mixed economy
Padua p20.

Opposition to Monopoly
Padua 21, 1962 p10, 1962/12
1971 p5-

Wider ownership of Industry
& Workers' Association

1962 p 8 & 29

Consumer is King

1967 p 8

Opposition to Compulsory
Procurement

1967 p 9 & 20

Measures for Creating
Employment

1971 p 2 & 3
Protection of Minors

1971 p 5-6

~~Policy for Population Control~~