

15 APR 1973

Tide in favour of Swatantra: Piloo

"The Times of India" News Service

MADRAS, April 14.

THE president of the Swatantra Party, Mr. Piloo Mody, M.P., told his partymen here today that the tide had now turned in his party's favour and that "the halo of Mrs. Gandhi is all but shattered."

Swatantrites should now work aggressively to capitalise on the failure of the Prime Minister's "socialist slogans."

Addressing the sixth national convention of the party, Mr. Mody said: "We have a superior philosophy, superior policy and the only answer to India's gruelling poverty, chronic unemployment and unabating inflation."

He lashed out at the "Congress-CPI coalition" for accusing his party of being "the forces of right reaction under the inspiration of foreign powers unfriendly to India" and said that, on the other hand, the Congress had so completely intimidated the "so-called vested interests that it has been able to extort vast sums of money from business men."

As for aid from foreign powers, he said: "The Soviet Union has made a very profitable investment in Mrs. Gandhi and her party."

"DOUBLE STANDARDS"

Charging the Congress with using "constitutional double standards," Mr. Mody said Orissa was "the most blatant example" of employing such standards by the ruling party "with the connivance of its stooges institutionalised in the form of governors."

Mr. Mody painted a rosy picture

of his party and said there was no reason why it could not win the elections in U.P. and Orissa. "We have the capacity to form a good, strong and stable government."

He was hopeful that his party would win 300 seats in the 1976 parliamentary elections and form a government at the Centre.

He asked his followers to convince the people that the Swatantra Party and not the Congress would deliver the country from the grip of frustration and dejection and lead it to prosperity through freedom.

HUMAN WORTH

PTI adds: Mr. Mody said development was largely a matter of inspiring the "dynamics" of individuals and local communities, generating responsible initiative locally and multiplying human energies. The government could not create this but could only "stimulate or stifle" it.

It was through a proper appreciation of this phenomenon that the Swatantra Party had defined its policies, based on human worth, where the individual was the central figure around which society must be fashioned to permit every individual to grow to his maximum potential.

Inaugurating the convention, Mr. M. R. Masani, former president of the party, described the political, moral and economic scene in the country as "depressing." A "variety of threats" had been held out to the fundamental freedoms of the people, including academic freedom.

There had been a sharp decline in the standards of public morality and "a mood of cynicism" had spread during the last few years.

Mr. Masani said the party should show that it was more radical than the members of the socialist establishment. He asked his partymen to brush aside the "meaningless labels like right and left" and work with all those who have a genuine concern for the poor and a burning passion for social justice.

Swatantrites cheer surprise visitor

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MADRAS, April 14: The Congress (O) leader, Mr. K. Kamaraj, who was a special invitee to the Swatantra Party convention being held here, was greeted with cheers by the delegates and others as he made a surprise appearance in the huge pandal.

Mr. Piloo Mody shook hands with Mr. Kamaraj, and Mr. Minoo Masani prefaced his inaugural speech with a welcome to Mr. Kamaraj, who had come as a guest "although he is the leader of another political party."

Piloo