

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
SWATANTRA PARTY, BOMBAY REGION, HELD ON WEDNESDAY the 11th
November 1970.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of Swatantra Party, Bombay Region, was held at the Party office, on Wednesday the 11th November, 1970, when the following members were present :

1. Shri Lalchand Hirachand (Chairman)
2. Shri Parmanand Kejriwal
3. Smt. Sarla Datar
4. Shri P. S. Koppiker
5. Shri S. Ramchandran
6. Shri Shashikant Gavaskar
7. Shri J. Venkiteswaran
8. Shri Pramod K. Tejookaya
9. Shri Yrajlal M. Astik
10. Shri Adi Narain.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Shafi Thanawala, Mr. Madhu Mehta, Mrs. Sharayu Daftary and Mr. P. M. Shah.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st October, 1970 were confirmed.

2. Arising out of the minutes, the General Secretary placed before the meeting a letter received from Mr. P. M. Shah wherein he has appreciated the educative part of the Shibir which was well done but regretted that we could not discuss the organisational matters. Mr. J. Venkiteswaran wanted that the workers also should be given time to participate in the discussions and this should be looked into at the future shibirs. Shri Lalchand Hirachand felt that the same old faces were to be seen and he desired that attempts should be made to bring in new people to our Party fold. Mr. J. Venkiteswaran wanted that sympathisers of the Party should also be invited to participate in the shibir. Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal suggested that the shibir should be held only for half a day, so that time and money for food could be avoided and outsiders too permitted to attend. Some members felt that the shibir should be held for two days outside the city so that there would be a feeling of comradeship between the workers and leaders. Regarding the reaction of the workers, the General Secretary reported that most of the workers were disappointed as most of the All India Leaders and Members of Parliament could not participate in the shibir. However, it was decided to note down all these points for future guidance.

3. Regarding the progress of work of the National Convention, the General Secretary reported that members have been informed of the appointment of various sub-committees and the work is progressing. Regarding the Finance Sub-Committee, the General Secretary reported that the cards for the 'Convention Committee Members' and receipt books for small collections are ready and work has been started in right earnest. Letters are being sent and follow up action is being taken to enrol members for the Convention Committee.

b) Regarding the Accommodation Sub-Committee, the General Secretary reported that a survey has already been made out by them and Shri Ramchandran, Convenor of the Accommodation Sub-Committee has submitted a budget of Rs.9,000/- for providing free accommodation for 700 delegates, and he wanted that a sum of Rs.2,000/- should be sanctioned immediately to book the Ahobali Mut Hall at Chembur. The original estimate for the free accommodation of delegates was Rs.3,000/- having in view of the various Dharmashalas in Bombay. Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal said that he would enquire with the various Dharmashalas in Kalbadevi area and if possible arrange to book the same. Mr. Adi Narain also said that he would enquire with the various lodging houses around Matunga-Dadar area where some delegates could be accommodated. However,

it was decided to book the Ahobali Mut Hall at Chembur and side by side to make enquiries for Dharmashalas and other halls and take a decision before the next meeting. In order to meet other expenses of the Convention it was decided to transfer a sum of Rs.10,000/- from the general account as loan towards the Convention Account and then recover the same as soon as convention money was collected.

3. Regarding the various suggestions and resolutions that might be received from the various units, it was decided to forward the same directly to the Central office for necessary action.

4. Regarding the General Secretary's note on party organisation and steps to be taken to revitalise the units, the General Secretary was asked to discuss this matter with Shri Parmanand Kejriwal and do the needful in the matter.

5. Mrs. Datar placed before the meeting a letter of resignation received from Mr. Shantilal Thar from Treasurership due to illness. She also reported that she had discussed this matter with Dr. R.C. Cooper and Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal. Mr. Kejriwal was requested to meet Mr. Shantilal Thar and persuade Mr. Thar not to press his resignation.

6. Shri Pramod Tejookaya wanted that Mr. K. H. Subramanian who has been elected as President of Matunga Unit should be given representation either on the Regional Council or Executive in the vacancy either of Shri Sharadchandra Dhamankar or Shri Indukumar Thakkar. The General Secretary informed that the vacancy could be filled up by the Regional Council and this matter would be taken up at the meeting of the Regional Council.

7. Regarding the renovation of the office, in view of the National Convention of the Party, the Chairman appreciated the efforts of Mr. Adi Narain for having collected the paint free of charge. In this connection, Mr. Adi Narain informed that he was contemplating collecting more funds or material but had not yet collected the same. However, since the work had to be done, it was decided to bear the minimum expenses that would be incurred in this connection.

8. At this juncture, the General Secretary also discussed with the Chairman, the reduction of space, due to the cabin that has been put up, which is not available for our use and the Chairman replied that he would discuss this matter when Dr. Cooper also would be present.

9. Regarding a separate bank account for the Public Assistance Bureau, the following resolution was passed:

"RESOLVED that a Separate Bank Account be opened for Public Assistance Bureau with the Andhra Bank Ltd., Bombay and the same be called 'Swatantra Party (Public Assistance Bureau)' and be operated by any two of the following office-bearers:

Shri Lalchand Hirachand	- President, Swatantra Party, Bombay.
Dr. R. C. Cooper	- Chairman, Public Assistance Bureau.
Mr. P. S. Koppiker	- General Secretary, Swatantra Party, Bombay.
Mr. Adi Narain	- Secretary, Public Assistance Bureau.

In this connection, Mr. Adi Narain informed that the sanction of Rs.125/- for a part time stenographer for Public Assistance Bureau made by Shri Lalchand Hirachand and Dr. R.C. Cooper has been used by him for one and a half month and that he finds it difficult to cope up with the work without a full time stenographer

specially for the Public Assistance Bureau, and he wanted that till such time he collects sufficient funds the provision of Rs.250/- for a full time stenographer should be borne by the Party. The Chairman said that this is not possible, but the Party would pay the salary of a full time stenographer for Public Assistance Bureau as a loan and this amount should be paid back to the Party by the Bureau, and this was agreed to by Shri Adi Narain. The General Secretary also reported as per decision taken earlier, the services of the parttime worker will be discontinued with effect from 15.11.70 and instead a whole timer on Rs.160/- has been employed from 9.11.70.

10. Regarding the various pending bills the Chairman authorised Shri Parmanand Kejriwal to sit with Smt. Sarla Datar and the General Secretary and to sanction all the legitimate payments.

11. Regarding the request of Mr. S. Ramachandran, to bear the rental of Rs.30/- per month of his telephone which he got as a social worker and using for Party work, Mr. Ramachandran was asked to put it up to the Executive at its next meeting.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

CHAIRMAN.

November 16, 1970

General Secretary's Letter No. 248

Dear Friend:

From reports in the newspapers in the last few days, I am sure you will have come to the conclusion that the hope of a Grand Alliance has receded to such an extent that it is now extremely unlikely to materialise. It is ironical that the Congress(0), which had adopted a very fine Resolution at a meeting of its AICC on June 28, to which we, the Jan Sangh and the BKD had responded, find themselves unable to implement their own Resolution due to internal contradictions and cleavages within their ranks. At a meeting of the National Executive on November 8, the President reported in detail on the efforts he had made through correspondence and personal meetings with the leaders of the Congress(0), the BKD and the Jan Sangh. The attached Resolution was adopted unanimously.

2. You will have noticed from Press Reports that the Working Committee of the Congress(0) at its meeting in New Delhi on November 12 and 13 has practically scuttled the proposal not only for a bloc in Parliament but also for an electoral pact at the national level. In the light of these unfortunate developments, it would appear that, whether we like it or not, we may be driven to fighting the elections on our own. We shall, of course, keep the door open but we cannot delay any longer waiting for people who do not appear to be able to make up their minds.

3. Then again, there is the possibility of a dissolution of Parliament early in the New Year followed by General Elections to the Lok Sabha.

4. The need for us to go full steam ahead with our preparations, particularly with the choice of constituencies and candidates thus becomes urgent. The Central Parliamentary Board has nominated seven sitting MPs and one other candidate from Himachal Pradesh who lost narrowly in the last General Elections. The Central Parliamentary Board is likely to meet in Madras on December 19. It is necessary that, at that time, we nominate as many Parliamentary candidates as possible, particularly in respect of constituencies carried by us in 1967.

5. I am writing all this with a view to impress upon you the need for you to take this matter seriously and to let us have, on or before the 5th of December, the recommendations of your Parliamentary Board at least in respect of candidatures from constituencies carried by us in 1967.

6. Your Board should also consider other constituencies in which, though we did not win, our performance was creditable and let us have your recommendations in regard to such constituencies as well, giving us full details as to why your Board feels that we should contest that particular constituency, the background of the candidate and the steps taken to ascertain the candidate's acceptability to the constituency.

7. Looking forward to receiving your recommendations well in advance of the date set out above,

Yours truly,

R. C. Cooper
(R. C. Cooper)
General Secretary

Encl: *

November 16, 1970

General Secretary's Letter No. 247

Dear Friend :

Subject: Sixth National Convention

This is in continuation of General Secretary's Letter No. 243 of September 17 informing you that the next National Convention will be held in Bombay on January 30 and 31, 1971.

The National Executive at its meeting in New Delhi on November 8, settled the following matters concerning the Convention :

(a) Programme of Convention

The following programme for the National Convention was approved:

Thursday, 28th January, 1971

10.00 a.m. .. Central Parliamentary Board
3.00 p.m. .. National Executive

Friday, 29th January, 1971

10.00 a.m. .. National Executive
4.00 p.m. .. Meeting of the Women's Wing

Saturday, 30th January, 1971

10.00 a.m. .. General Council
3.00 p.m. .. National Convention inaugural session (Open to the Press)
8.00 p.m. .. Subscription Dinner organised by the Bombay Regional Unit

Sunday, 31st January, 1971

10.00 a.m. .. National Convention Delegates Session (Closed to the Press)
3.00 p.m. .. National Convention Open Session Political Session (Open to the Press)

(b) Notices of Resolutions

The Executive decided that notices of resolutions that any delegate desired to move should reach the National Headquarters not later than Friday, January 15, 1971.

A Sub-Committee to sort out the resolutions was set up consisting of the following :

Mr. M.R. Masani
Prof. N.G. Ranga
Dr. R.C. Cooper
Mr. N. Dandekar

(c) Notices Re: Amendments to Party Constitution

Notices of amendments to the Constitution should however reach the National Headquarters on or before Thursday, December 31, 1970.

(d) Quota of Delegates

The following quota of delegates to the National Convention was approved:

One delegate for 10 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members subject to a maximum of 200 per State/Region.

The quota of delegates is based on the last available verified figures of enrolment viz., 31st August, 1969.

In the attached list we indicate the number of delegates each State/Regional Unit is entitled to send to the National Convention in accordance with the above quota. You are kindly requested to note the number of delegates allotted to your State.

(e) Eligibility of Delegates

Workers, Life Workers and Life Members whose membership is valid for the year 1970 shall be eligible to be delegates. As usual there shall be a delegate's fee of Rs.5/- payable to the National Headquarters before the commencement of the Session.

(f) Selection of delegates

It is important that the delegates from State/Regional units should be decided in good time so that those who are to participate in the Convention may have adequate notice and make their travel plans in time.

May I therefore request you to convene an early meeting of your State/Regional Executive and make arrangements for the nomination of delegates to the Convention.

A list of delegates from your State/Region should reach the National Headquarters on or before Tuesday, January 5, 1971.

Another detailed circular concerning reception arrangements, hotel accommodation, etc. will be issued shortly.

Yours sincerely,

R.E.E.

(R.C. Cooper)
General Secretary

Encl: *

P.S. While nominating your delegates, it is necessary for you to try and ensure that Women and Youth are adequately represented among the delegates from your State.

Swatantra Party
Sixth National Convention
Bombay, January 30 & 31, 1971

DELEGATES' QUOTA

State	Enrolment as on 31st August 1969 (Total of Workers, Life Workers & Life Members)	Delegates' Quota
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Andhra	9713	200
Assam	*	-
Bihar	*	-
Bombay	1300	130
Delhi	698	67
Gujarat	9674	200
Haryana	*	-
Himachal Pradesh	1404	140
Kashmir	810	81
Kerala	3017	200
Madhya Pradesh	*	-
Maharashtra	513	51
Mysore	1504	150
Orissa	6395	200
Punjab	1301	130
Rajasthan	7306	200
Tamil Nadu	5678	200
Uttar Pradesh	2610	200
West Bengal	*	-

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* Bihar	25 delegates	..	to be designated by the Ad hoc Committee
Assam	10	"	.. to be designated by Mr. Harihar Patel
Bengal	10	"	.. to be designated by Mr. Harihar Patel
Haryana	10	"	.. to be designated by Mr. H.P. Nanda
Madhya Pradesh	20	"	.. to be designated by Mr. N.C. Zamindar

Text of Resolutions Adopted by the National Executive at New Delhi
on 8th November, 1970

CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONALIST & DEMOCRATIC FORCES

Having received a report from the President of the Party on his discussions and correspondence with the Presidents of the Congress(0), Jan Sangh and B.K.D., the National Executive recorded its disappointment at the absence of any progress and the failure to bring into existence a bloc of nationalist and democratic parties and groups in Parliament in time for the session commencing on the 9th November, 1970.

While approving the initiative taken by the Party's President, the Executive felt that the ball was squarely in the court of the Congress(0) which, having adopted its AICC Resolution of June 28, was failing to cooperate in its implementation.

The Executive reiterated the Party's well-known opposition to the resort to heterogeneous, hotch-potch and opportunistic combinations and once again reaffirmed its willingness to cooperate with all those parties and groups which were prepared to go ahead on the basis of the AICC Resolution of June 28 as a provisional programme of agreed action.

The need for such coming together becomes all the more urgent in view of the possibility of an early dissolution of Parliament.
