

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee meeting of Swatantra Party, Bombay Region held on Wednesday, 15th July, 1970

A meeting of the Executive Committee of Swatantra Party, Bombay Region, was held at the Party Office on Wednesday the 15th July, when the following members were present :

1. Shri Lalchand Hirachand (Chairman)
2. Shri Parmanand Kejriwal
3. Shri Madhu Mehta
4. Shri P.S.Koppiker
5. Shri Shashikant Gavaskar
6. Shri S.Ramachandran
7. Shri Mehmood Omer
8. Shri Shantilal Thar
9. Smt. Sarla Datar
10. Shri Pramod Tejookaya
11. Shri Hiren Shah
12. Shri J.Venkiteswaran
13. Shri Ramesh Dave
14. Shri Nana Chudasama
15. Shri Adi Narain
16. Dr. R.C.Cooper.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd July, were confirmed.

2. Regarding the suggestions of Mrs. Sharayu Daftary, on the conduct of future election campaigns, it was decided to discuss the matter at a later date when Mrs. Sharayu Daftary would be present.

3. Regarding holding of the National Convention in Bombay, Mr. Madhu Mehta placed before the meeting a note giving therein the sources of finance for the Convention and probable expenditure for the Convention. He also explained that the estimate of expenses have been drawn with an idea that the Convention could be held in a Hall or in an open place.

The following is a copy of the note circulated to members :

Sources of Finance :

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| a) Forming of a Reception Committee headed by the President, Swatantra Party, Bombay Region. The committee will consist of 200 people who will either contribute Rs.1000/- or get a donation of Rs.1000/- | Rs. 200000-00 |
| b) Delegates fee of Rs.5/- per delegate approximate about 500 delegates                                                                                                                                   | 3000-00       |
| c) Sale of visitors tickets. Every Primary Unit should be asked to sell tickets worth about Rs.2000/- and we can safely expect                                                                            | 20000-00      |
| d) Subscription dinner at the rate of Rs.50/- net collection.                                                                                                                                             | 15000-00      |
| e) Box collection at the open session as well as various public meetings.                                                                                                                                 | 1000-00       |

- f) Publication of a Souvenir or a Presentation of a Purse to Rajaji.

( Usually, the National Headquarters comes out with a Souvenir and collects money through advertisements. We can try and come to some sort of an arrangement with the National Headquarters the whatever the advertisements the Bombay Region can bring from outside the sources tapped by the National Headquarters, at least 50 to 60% of it should be given to the Bombay Regional Unit.

OR.

We may collect funds for this purpose with the kind consent of Rajaji and Bombay Unit should be allowed to keep a major portion of these funds.

1,00,000-00

3,39,000-00

EXPENDITURE :

The expenditure for holding this Convention should not exceed Rs.70,000/- which should be divided under the following heads of expenditure :

|                                                                                                                                                             |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a) Hiring of a Hall or building up a Pandal with loudspeaker arrangements, for National Executive, General Council meeting, Close Session and Open Session. | 12,000-00           |
| b) Expenditure on construction of stage decoration etc.                                                                                                     | 3,000-00            |
| c) Publicity by means of posters, banners leaflets, badges, flags, cinema slides                                                                            | 7,000-00            |
| d) <u>Public meetings.</u>                                                                                                                                  |                     |
| On large public meeting at Chowpatty                                                                                                                        | Rs. 2,500-00        |
| Fice District P. Meetings.                                                                                                                                  | Rs. <u>3,000-00</u> |
|                                                                                                                                                             | 5,500-00            |
| e) Transport, hiring of buses, lorries taxies, private cars, petrol, driver expenses.                                                                       | 10,000-00           |
| f) Wages for setting up a temporary Secretariat with three typists and three clerks for two months                                                          | 3,000.00            |
| g) Printing charges of invitations and postages for sending invitations                                                                                     | 5,000.00            |
| h) Press relations                                                                                                                                          | 3,000.00            |
| i) Hiring of wadies and Dharmashalas for free accommodation of at least 500 delegates                                                                       | 3,000.00            |
| j) Food arrangement and snacks for 1500 people for two days including delegates, Party workers , workmen etc.                                               | 10,000.00           |
| k) Miscellaneous expenses                                                                                                                                   | <u>8,500.00</u>     |
|                                                                                                                                                             | <u>70,000.00</u>    |

Regarding the collection of Rs.2,00,000/- from the Reception Committee members at Rs.1,000/- each, Mr.Madhu Mehta, Mr.Shantilal Thar, Mr.Nana Chudasama and Mr.Parmanand Kejriwal agreed to collect

Rs.20,000/- each. Thus a sum of Rs.1,80,000/- was promised and for the remaining amount of Rs.1,20,000/- it was agreed that Shri Lalchand Hirachand, Dr.R.C.Cooper, Mr.Madhu Mehta Mr.Shantilal Thar, Mrs.Sarla Datar, Mr.Parmar and Kejriwal Mr.Nana Chudasama would sit and prepare a list of persons to be approached. Regarding financial arrangement with the National Headquarters, Shri Lalchand Hirachand assured that he would see that Bombay and Maharashtra Regional Swatantra Parties get a share and their interests would be looked into. The members were asked to submit a list of persons whom they were likely to approach to Shri Lalchand Hirachand to avoid duplication and clash of interests.

5. Regarding the Youth Wing of the Party, the General Secretary reported that Shri Nana Chudasama who had large experience in organising the youth, was asked to head this organisation and Shri Nana Chudasama agreed to head the Youth Wing. At this juncture Mr.Nana Chudasama said that various political parties by and large were approaching the youth to join them, but the youths of Bombay were not interested in any party. However, he assured he would soon form the organisation.

6. Regarding the Fundamental Rights Fronts Dr.Cooper said a front has been set up to protect Fundamental Rights, on an All India basis, and former Chief Justice of India, Mr.K.Subba Rao as Chairman. The front is strictly non-partisan and open to all those who subscribe the sanctity of Fundamental Rights. But for administrative convenience, the entire activities would be coordinated through the National Headquarters of the Party in Bombay. In this connection, he wanted that the college students and other young people who are not Party members should be roped in this committee. Mr. Madhu Mehta informed that there were several young people like Mr.Gowrang Mehta, Prof.Sanghvi, Shri Mahendrabhai Thakkar who could be approached for this purpose. In this connection, Shri Nana Chudasama was appointed as the Chief Convenor for Bombay and he was asked to organise various sub-Convenors for take charge of the Committee's work among.

- |                                      |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Students and Youth                | 2. Women                                         |
| 3. Industrial Labour                 | 4. Peasants                                      |
| 5. Artisans and Shopkeepers          | 6. Entrepreneurs, Industrialist and businessmen. |
| 7. Lawyers, Doctors and professions. |                                                  |

7. A discussion was also held about the necessity for Volunteer Corps, for executing the work in the city and for organising demonstrations etc. In this connection Mr.Nana Chudasama said it was better to activate the Units and the volunteer corps should be organised at unit level.

8. A discussion was also held regarding the take over of Cotton Trade by the Government and the need for the party to educate the peasants, traders about its implications. Mr.H.H. Shah placed before the meeting a letter addressed by the Jan Sangh to the traders and he suggested the Party to take up this issue. In this connection, it was decided to print leaflets in large numbers to be distributed among the cotton traders in Bombay as well as among the peasants in Maharashtra with the help of the Maharashtra Regional Party. Mr.Madhu Mehta was asked to get the materials from the National Headquarters and prepare a leaflets.

9. A discussion was also held about organising the Shopkeepers in Bombay, but no final decision was taken in the matter.

10. Dr.Cooper said that several women's organisations have asked the Government to remove rationing in the city of Bombay, and he wanted that the Party should do something in the matter. Shri Lalchand Hirachand wanted that the Party should now start organising public meetings in various districts and half a dozen people should be entrusted to address meetings. In this connection Mr.Hiren Shah wanted that at least half a dozen workers should be given training for Public Speaking. In this connection, Dr.Cooper agreed to finance training for six workers, organised by Indo American Society.

11. Regarding Training under Leslie Sawhny Training Programme it was decided to have the same in November. In the meanwhile it was decided to organise Shibit for 2 days to give training for our workers either in Bombay or outside.

12. Regarding Rationing, Mr.Madhu Mehta wanted that we must do something which would attract people to participate in the thing and he was given the authority to do the same.

13. Regarding the visit of Madam Binh of South Vietnam, it was decided to organise a black flag demonstration and Mr.Madhu Mehta was entrusted with the job to do the same peacefully. He was also asked to get in touch with Jansangh and other democratic parties. In this connection, Mr.Adi Narain agreed to collect 40 workers from Santa Cruz on that day.

14. Regarding Party anniversary, it was decided to organise a public meeting on the eve of 1st August viz. 31st July, and office secretary was asked to proceed with the same.

15. The General Secretary announced that Worker's Meeting had been arranged on Thursday the 23rd July, when Mr.Masani will speak on 'Current Political Situation in India'.

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

Suggestions of Shri P.M.Shah for Party Organisation.

To widen and strengthen the Party base and particularly to attract the young intellectuals, I make bold to make a few suggestions:

- 1) Besides the Central Office at Sassoon Building, it may be desirable to open up three or four small offices - one in the Eastern Suburbs, the second in the Western Suburbs and the third in Central Bombay. These sub-Offices will help the Party to remain in touch with people.
- 2) Many engineers are unemployed. Government is prepared to give them financial aid to start some industry as a source of self employment. For want of experience, however, these young people keep groping in the dark. Fortunately, Swatantra Party comprises of many industrialists and business magnates. It should be possible for the Party to constitute one small Technical Committee of two or three engineers to advise the young unemployed engineers regarding the various aspects of the industry they wish to start. The Party should announce this scheme in newspapers. This may bring many young people to the Party office and may help to build up the Party image.
- 3) For all economic ills of omission and commission, people are being forced to look to Government for succour. It is necessary to break this vicious attitude, by teaching the people the virtues of industriousness and self reliance. One of the steps towards this could be for the Industrialists and businessmen (who are members of the party) to find out which of the articles could be produced by women in their homes or by association of women. This may attract many women's organisations to the Party office for help and guidance. Eventually benefits for the Party flow.
- 4) Our College going youth has lost the habit of reading and independent thinking. The Party may organize Essay or Story writing and debating competitions once or twice a year; give away small prizes to winners and publish in the 'White Star' the selected essays or short stories. This will surely attract the young collegians to the Party. At least the Party name and message could reach a wide section of the youth, who for want of proper alternative ideology are being engulfed by extremists.

Other Senior workers of the Party may have better suggestions to offer. Why not invite and encourage them to do so?

Sd. P.M.Shah.

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