

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

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When replying, please quote our Reference No.

September 13, 1969

Paul George
for Mr. Masani

Dear Prof. Ranga,

Sub : Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Bill

You will recall that at the last meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board in New Delhi on August 29, we discussed certain matters connected with the Monopolies and Trade Practices Bill.

I enclose the relevant extract from the Minutes of that meeting for your attention and action at the appropriate time.

With kind regards, Yours sincerely,
R. C. Cooper
(R. C. Cooper)
Acting General Secretary

Prof. N. G. Ranga, MP,
4 Sunheri Bagh Road
New Delhi.

Encl : *

CC : Mr. M. R. Masani, MP,
148 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay 1.

With reference to this letter of August 28, 1969

Minutes of the Central Parliamentary Board

held in New Delhi on August 29, 1969.

" Mr. Dandekar then referred to a letter he had received from Mr. M. R. Masani, Deputy Leader of the Party in Parliament, concerning certain developments relating to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Bill which was now before the Lok Sabha. Specifically, Mr. Masani drew the attention of the Board to the fact that Mr. C. C. Desai, who was one of the Party's nominees on the Select Committee of Parliament which considered this Bill, had gone on record as holding and expounding views which were diametrically opposed to those of the Party. From the published proceedings of the Select Committee it was evident, wrote Mr. Masani, from the way in which Mr. C. C. Desai had spoken that "it was not a matter of putting questions to witnesses for drawing them out, which would be the proper thing for a member of the Select Committee to do. These were flat statements of opinion put to the witnesses which could not and should not have come from a member of our Party". According to Mr. Masani, the effect of these questions (put by Mr. C.C.Desai) upon the members of the Committee and upon anyone who read the evidence would be extremely injurious to the Swatantra Party. Though Mr. Desai had at a later stage put in a Minute of Dissent which was broadly in line with Party's decision, that could not undo the mischief that had been done and which was on record. Mr. Masani's letter was noted. It was decided that, when the Bill came up for discussion in the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Party's Group should ensure the proper presentation of the Party's point of view by the Leader or the Deputy Leader or some other MP nominated by the Leader."