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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board
held at 10 a.m. on Friday June 4, ¹⁹⁶⁵ at Kalki Bldgs., Madras.

PRESENT

1. Prof. N. G. Ranga (in the Chair)
 2. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
 3. Smt. Gayatri Devi,
 4. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo,
 5. Mr. B. P. Singh,
 6. Mr. G. Latchanna,
 7. Mr. Jaideepsinh of Baria,
 8. Mr. M. R. Masani,
 9. Mr. N. Dandekar
 10. Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel
- } by special invitation

The Minutes of the last meeting held in New Delhi on March 14, 1965, were confirmed.

2. Arising out of the Minutes, the General Secretary reported on his visit to Jaipur and the discussions he had with members of the State Committee on the Panchayat elections in Rajasthan and the reasons which led to the Party's unsatisfactory performance. Smt. Gayatri Devi also gave the Board her own views in regard to this.

3. The Board then went on to review the progress made by the Party's prospective candidates in all such constituencies where a minimum of three months had been completed since nomination. The Board noted that some of the candidates in question had not submitted their quarterly Reports and Statement of Accounts. Those concerned should be informed of the importance of prompt and adequate reporting, in the absence of which it might be difficult to carry on arrangements made to assist in the nursing of the Constituencies in question.

4. A suggestion that an amendment should be made in the Party's Constitution replacing "District Committees" by "Parliamentary Constituency Committees" was found acceptable and it was decided that such an amendment

should be tabled at the next meeting of the General Council.

5. The Board took note of the fact that most of the State Units had not yet submitted the list of their Parliamentary Constituencies in order of priority as decided by the Parliamentary Board at its last meeting on 14th March, 1965, and in the manner prescribed in General Secretary's Letter No:97 of March 23. State Parliamentary Boards should be asked to submit these lists immediately to facilitate the work of the Central Parliamentary Board. In the meantime, the Board nominated the following as the Party's prospective candidates:

<u>Andhra</u>	-	Tirupathi (SC) Parliamentary Constituency - Mr. C. V. Siddaiah Murthy
	-	Anakapalle Parliamentary Constituency - Mr. V. V. Ramanna
<u>Rajasthan</u>	-	Dausa Parliamentary Constituency - Mr. C. Rai.

The Board further decided that, as a special case, the Srikakulam Parliamentary Constituency in Andhra and the Panchmahals Parliamentary Constituency in Gujarat should be nursed from now on without any prospective candidate being nominated. The Board would give its directions in regard to these two constituencies nearer the General Elections.

6. The General Secretary then reported on the correspondence and discussions he had had with the General Secretary of the SSP and with the General Secretary of the Republican Party. He was asked to continue these discussions with a view to arriving at suitable electoral understandings. Arising out of the discussions on the subject, it was decided that the attention of the State Parliamentary Boards should be invited to the desirability of giving further thought to this matter and they should be asked to report on the progress made with discussions at State level with democratic Opposition Parties, including dissident groups of Congressmen.

7. The letter of resignation submitted by the three Sikh members of the Parliamentary Group was then taken up for consideration. The background of the Party's relationship with the Akali Dal since 1962 was also reviewed. It was decided to invite those of the three MP's who were in Madras to join the discussions that afternoon.

8. The Board then took up for consideration the letter of resignation submitted by Mr. Narendra Singh Mahida, MP, both from the Party and the Parliamentary Group. The Board ruled out Mr. Mahida's being considered as prospective candidate from Anand Parliamentary Constituency. Prof. Ranga was requested to invite Mr. Mahida and Mr. Jaideepsinh of Baria, the General Secretary of the Gujarat Unit, for a discussion at which Mr. Mahida should be offered the opportunity to be the Party's prospective candidate from the Dabhoi Parliamentary Constituency. In the event of Mr. Mahida not accepting this offer, his resignation should be accepted.

9. The reported "feelers" put out by certain members of the Party's Parliamentary Group from Bihar about rejoining the Group as Associate Members were discussed. In this connection, the opinion of the Advisory Committee of the Party in Bihar expressed at its meeting in Patna on May 8, 1965 was reported to the Board. It was decided that there could be no question of readmitting the persons concerned to the Party or its Parliamentary Group in the absence of an apology which should be published in the Bihar Press and that, unless the members concerned wrote to the Party to that effect, the matter should be regarded as closed.

The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

10. The adjourned meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board met again at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT

1. Prof. N. G. Ranga (in the Chair)
2. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
3. Smt. Gayatri Devi
4. Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke

5. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo
6. Mr. B. P. Singh
7. Mr. G. Latchanna
8. Mr. Jaideepsinh of Baria
9. Mr. M. R. Masani
10. Mr. N. Dandekar) by special invitation
11. Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel)

11. The Mahboobnagar Parliamentary by-election, in which a member of the Party, Mr. K. Narasimha Reddy, flouted the decision of the Party by setting himself up as a candidate against another independent candidate supported by the Party, was considered. Having considered the show-cause notice dated 7th May, 1965 served on Mr. Narsimha Reddy by the State Unit and Mr. Reddy's reply dated 19th May, 1965, it was decided to suspend Mr. Reddy from membership of the Party for a period of three years.

12. The result of the Vemuru by-election, in which the Party's candidate lost very narrowly, was also reported to the Board.

13. The nomination of Mr. Karunakaran Pradhan by the Orissa State Unit with the approval of the Central Office, as the Party's candidate in the forthcoming by-election, to the Orissa State Assembly from the Koonjhur Assembly Constituency was ratified as a special case, in view of the absence of time to consult the Board.

14. The Board was informed of the steps that it had been proposed to take in connection with the by-election to Parliament from the Chikaballapur Constituency in Mysore which, for reasons given to the Board, did not materialise. In this connection, it was decided that the application for membership received from the person who had offered to stand as the Party's candidate should not be accepted and that the subscription tendered by him should be returned.

15. The resignation of four members of Rajasthan State Legislature Group was reported. The events relevant to the resignation of Mr. Raghunath Mishra from membership of the Orissa Legislative group of the Party were also noted.

16. A letter from the Secretary of the Gujarat Legislature Group in regard to the substantial arrears of subscription from members was placed before the Board, which expressed the hope that early steps would be taken by the State Unit to recover these dues and to pay off the arrears to the staff. An assurance to this effect was given by the Deputy Leader of the Party's Group in the State Assembly, Mr. Jaideepsinh of Baria.

17. At this stage, Sardar Kapur Singh and Sardar Buta Singh and the Secretary of the Punjab Unit of the Party, Sardar Basant Singh, were invited to join the discussion. The letter from the three Sikh MP's expressing a desire to sit separately in the Lok Sabha was considered. Sardar Kapur Singh stated the reasons which underlined their wish. After hearing them and at the instance of Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, further discussion was adjourned to the following morning.

18. The position that the Party should take on the Official Languages Bill when it comes up for discussion in the next Session of Parliament was discussed and the following decision was taken:

Individual members of the Party in Parliament should be left free to determine their attitude to the Official Languages Bill when introduced in Parliament in accordance with the well-determined policy of the Swatantra Party that the issue of the Official Language was not an appropriate subject for party decisions and whips of any Party.

The meeting then adjourned till the following morning.

19. The adjourned meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 5.

PRESENT :

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| 1. Prof. N. G. Ranga (in the Chair) | |
| 2. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari | |
| 3. Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke | |
| 4. Smt. Gayatri Devi | |
| 5. Mr. H. N. Singh Deo | |
| 6. Mr. B. P. Singh | |
| 7. Mr. G. Latchanna | |
| 8. Mr. Jaideepsinh of Baria | |
| 9. Mr. M. R. Masani | |
| 10. Mr. N. Dandekar | |
| 11. Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel | } Special invitation |

20. Sardar Kapur Singh, Sardar Buta Singh and Mr. Basant Singh were invited to join the meeting. Arising out of the discussion that then

took place with Sardar Kapur Singh and Sardar Buta Singh, the following statement was recorded:

"The Central Parliamentary Board at its meeting in Madras on June 4 & 5, in which Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke participated, discussed with Sardar Kapur Singh and Sardar Buta Singh, MP's, and Sardar Basant Singh, Secretary of the Punjab Unit of the Party, the letter dated April 1965 from Sardar Kapur Singh and his two colleagues expressing their wish to sit separately from the Parliamentary Group as from 16th August, 1965.

"In the light of the explanation given by Sardar Kapur Singh as to the reasons which prompted the letter and his assurance that even thereafter the Akali Group would continue to give the fullest co-operation to the Swatantra Group in Parliament, subject always to the requirements of the Manifesto of the Shiromani Akali Dal, the Board decided, with the approval of Sardar Kapur Singh and Sardar Buta Singh, that the President and General Secretary should contact Master Tara Singh and Sardar Gurnam Singh with a view to seeking their views and their guidance to the Party and to the MP's concerned for further action.

"Sardar Kapur Singh informed the Board that, in view of the discussions that had already taken place between the MP's and these gentlemen, there was no likelihood of any difference of opinion developing between them and the other two gentlemen.

"The Board decided that the Sub-Committee of the Central Parliamentary Board be authorised to receive the report of the office bearers and take necessary decisions.

"In the event of a solution not being reached in advance of the beginning of the next Session of Parliament, Sardar Kapur Singh and Sardar Buta Singh agreed, in response to the Board's request, to keep an open mind in regard to the desirability of delaying action till the commencement of the following session in November 1965."

The meeting then terminated.