

3790

SWATANTRA PARTY

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, AT 3.30 P.M. AT THE RESIDENCE OF
DR. K. M. MUNSHI IN BOMBAY.

The newly elected National Executive of the Party met for the first time at Dr. K. M. Munshi's residence on Sunday, February 14, at 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Prof. N. G. Ranga	(in the Chair).
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari	
Mr. K. M. Munshi	
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy	
Smt. Gayatri Devi	
Sir H. P. Mody	
Mr. Lakshman Singh	
Mr. Dahyabhai Patel	
Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh	
Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddy	
Mr. G. Latchanna	
Mr. P. K. Deo	
Mr. Harihara Das	
Sardar Basant Singh	
Mr. G. K. Sundaram	
Mr. Ram Singh	
Mr. Mandhata Singh	
Mr. C. Rai	
Mr. Jaideepsingh	
Mr. J. M. Lobo Prabhu	
Mrs. Shantabai G. Deshi	
Dr. R. C. Cooper	
Mr. M. R. Masani	

The President moved the following resolution from the Chair:

"That a Central Parliamentary Board be constituted consisting of the following:"

1. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
2. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo
3. Mr. Lakshman Singh
4. Mr. Jaideepsingh
5. Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh
6. Mr. Latchanna

EX-OFFICIO:

- 7. The President
- 8-11 Four Vice-Presidents
- 12. Senior Treasurer
- 13. The General Secretary

Leaders of the group in both Houses of Parliament and of State Legislature groups not in the Parliamentary Board should be invited when matters concerning their House or nominations of candidates to it are discussed."

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari supported the proposal, which was unanimously accepted.

Council

The General Secretary, referring to the resolution of the General/ the previous day asking the National Executive to take steps to implement the proposals contained in the Statement on Organisation endorsed by the Council, mentioned that a circular would soon be issued by the Central Office spelling out the plan of work and requesting the cooperation of State units in various ways. Meanwhile, he requested members of the National Executive to send in their individual suggestions in regard to any names they might care to commend of persons who could be attached to the National Headquarters with such aspects of work as youth women, peasants, volunteer organisation, training camps, publicity and press relations. The Central Office would also appreciate receiving the names of persons who, whether on an honorary basis or a remunerative basis, could help with translating the Party's literature into the various Indian languages.

A Resolution proposed by Mr. P. K. Deo and Mr. Karunakara Das in regard to the procedure followed with reference to charges preferred against the Chief Minister and others in Orissa and referred to the National Executive by the General Council was taken up for consideration. After considerable discussion, the following resolution was adopted and directed to be released to the Press:

"The National Executive of the Swatantra Party deplores the procedure adopted by the Government of India in regard to the various charges preferred against the present Chief Minister of Orissa, his predecessor in office and other Ministers of the State Government. The action taken by the Government of India has created a general impression that the enquiry had resulted in a positive finding against the Ministers in respect of grave matters, but the report of the Central Bureau of Investigation has not so far been published, so as to enable the public to see and appraise the gravity of the charges. The Committee calls for the publication of the C.B.I. Report in order to remove the impression that matters are kept from public knowledge in the interest of party prestige."

It was further decided that Dr. K. M. Munshi should be requested to examine the papers and briefs that would be forwarded to him in connection with charges against Ministers by the State unit of Orissa and Rajasthan and to make this report to the next Meeting of the National Executive.

The General Secretary reported on a friendly and informal discussion earlier that day, among various members of the Party who were in Bombay in regard to the recent developments in South India arising out of the language controversy and mentioned the wide area of agreement which appeared to exist among them. After discussion, it was decided that the Party should not depart from its stand of abstaining from adopting any policy in matters of this nature, leaving it to individual members to express themselves as they have been doing till now.

The meeting then terminated.