

Swatantra Party

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When replying, please quote our Reference No.

29th May, 1967

GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER No.153

Dear friend,

The Sub-Committee appointed by the National Executive to go into the question of forming a Youth Wing of the Party submitted its report, a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

Since the proposals had been received only on the day of the meeting, the National Executive while agreeing in principle with the proposals desired that these should be finalised by the Central Office in consultation with Prof. Ruthnaswamy.

Before we do so we wish to invite your comments on the scheme as submitted by the Sub-Committee consisting of Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy, Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao and Mr. Rajgopal Naidu. Could you kindly have this scheme discussed at the next meeting of your State Executive and let us have your considered views and comments on the proposals.

Since we would like to proceed as expeditiously as possible in the development of a Youth Wing your early attention to this matter would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

(N. Dandekar)

Actg. General Secretary

YOUTH WING OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY

(REPORT OF THE SUB COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF THE FORMATION OF A YOUTH WING OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON)

Youth is on the march in the political arena. From Indonesia in Asia to Latin America and even in conservative Europe, youth have taken in recent years an active and some times as in Indonesia last year a revolutionary and violent part in political movements. Here also in India, ever since Mahatma Gandhi invited them to take part in the movement for freedom and independence, youth have taken part in politics whether in organised political parties or on their own account. In the recent general elections in Madras, they played a decisive part in bringing about the downfall of the Congress Party and Government. The Swatantra Party cannot afford to refuse Swatantra-minded youth participation in the activities of the Swatantra Party. It cannot afford to do without the enthusiasm, the single-mindedness and the energy of youth. Only this participation must take into account the peculiar position of youth and the interest of the party.

Their special position as citizens in the making places certain obligations on them and the interest of the party require that the activity of the youth in the party should promote the prospects of the party. The first consideration imposes a requirement of age and maturity. They must be no longer in statu pupillari, in which state their first obligation is a whole-hearted and whole time devotion to their vocation as students namely their studies at school or college or university. They must therefore have finished their first degree course or their school final course if they do not go upto a university or they should be in employment earning a living. This requirement indicates the age of admission to the youth organisation at 18 to 21 the outer age limit would be 30 years.

After admission, comes the question what kind of organisation should they be fitted into. One alternative is to admit them as ordinary workers at the constituency and district levels and let them take part in the work of the constituency or district units with provision for their representation in the governing bodies of the constituency and district units in proportion to their numbers. But this absorption in the general body of members of the party will not bring out the full enthusiasm and energy and activity of youth. They would put their best foot forward only in an organisation of their own which allows for self-regulation, self-discipline and self-government. Even the Conservative party of England has had to let their youth have and work in the organisation of their own. Lord Woolton who was summoned by Winston Churchill to organise the Conservative Party after their humiliating defeat in 1945 had to reckon with this attitude of the young Conservatives. In his memoirs, he acknowledges "they wanted to remain apart from the main organisation, to have their own officers, their own week-end schools, their own magazine, their own social functions". This isolation of the young conservatives, Lord Woolton admitted did not affect their work in the Constituency,

Starting from these considerations, the Sub-Committee would recommend the following organisation for the youth wing of the Swatantra Party;

1. This organisation shall be called the Swatantra Youth
2. Admission - Youth of both sexes who have left school or College after the first degree, between the ages of 18 and 30 shall be eligible for admission.
3. Subscription - They shall pay an annual subscription of Re.1/-
4. Organisation for the first year:

Till enough members are enrolled at the constituency and district levels, say 10 in each constituency and 100 in each district, the work of the Swatantra Party will be organised by

- 1) A State organiser
- 2) A National organiser
- 3) These shall be appointed by the General Secretary of the to whom they will be responsible for work and money collected,

- 4) The State organiser shall have the duty of
 - i) enrolling members at the constituency and district levels
 - ii) appointing organisers in the district and constituency whose first duty will be to enroll members and elect leaders as and when sufficient members have been enrolled.
 - iii) acting as liaison between the Swatantra youth of the State and the Swatantra Party organisation. * State
- 5) The National Organiser shall have the duty of
 - i) of stimulating and co-ordinating the work of the State organiser and the first units of the State.
 - ii) acting as liaison officer between Swatantra youth and the General Secretary and the National Executive of the Party.

6) Whole time work for the National and State Organisers - As the work for the National and State Organisers will be whole-time at least in the first year or two, they will have to be paid a salary and allowances - State Organisers Rs. 150 salary plus Rs. 150 T.A. per month; the National Organiser Rs. 250 salary plus Rs. 250 T.A. per month.

WORK FOR THE SWATANTRA YOUTH:

- 1) To place themselves at the service of the party organisation at the several levels.
- 2) To help in the arrangement of meetings, keep order etc. towards the success of the meeting.
- 3) To help in the enrolment of the members of the party at several levels.
- 4) To work for the party by helping in the registration of voters canvassing votes at Panchayat, Zilla Parishad, State and National elections.
- 5) To do propaganda for the party.
- 6)
- 7) And to do such other work as may be allotted to them by the party organisation at the several levels

THE CHARACTER OF THE SWATANTRA YOUTH ORGANISATION:

This scheme as well as its successor, the Permanent scheme which will be submitted later has for its object the Organisation of the Swatantra Youth as an auxiliary force of the Swatantra party. Like the auxiliary force of an army, it will, while working in its own formation with its own discipline and officers, it will be called upon to help, supplement and strengthen the work of the main Swatantra Party, as directed by the Supreme command of the party at its several levels. It will do the work allotted to it by the party organisation at the constituency, district, State and National levels. The Character and particulars and directions of that work will be determined by the committee of the party at the several levels. These directions should not however be in the form of dictation. Swatantra youth like all youth will be self-conscious, sensitive, apt to take offence at any attitude of superiority or dictation. They will have to be handled tactfully. But treated with confidence, trust and tact they can be expected to render great service to the party. The organisation, temporary and permanent, sketched in this report is intended to give them that feeling of self-respect and self-confidence and self-reliance.

PERMANENT ORGANISATION:

1. At the constituency, district and State levels, - Swatantra youth at each of these levels shall be represented in the Committees of and at the respective units of the party at the rate of
 - one representative on the constituency committee
 - two representatives in the district committees
 - three representatives in the State committee
 - one representative from each state having more than 1,000 Swatantra youth in the National Executive.

All elections by Swatantra youth of their representatives in the party committees will be by post, except at the constituency level.

2. At any of these levels, Swatantra youth will have an organisation of their own consisting of a leader at each of these levels elected by the Swatantra youth at each of these levels; the duty of the leader will be to keep the Swatantra youth at his level together, organise the work they have to do for the unit at their level, and lead them in study clubs, training camps and in their work generally. The leader at each level shall be subordinate to the leader at the higher level.

3. There shall be a State Secretary of the Swatantra youth, elected by the Swatantra youth of the State by means of postal voting. He will act as an administrative officer of the Swatantra youth of the State and as a liaison officer between the Swatantra youth and the executive of the State party - and in general he will act as the leader of the Swatantra youth in the State.

4. The National Secretary

- i) Shall be elected by an electoral college consisting of the representatives of Swatantra youth in Party's/State/Executive Committees.
- ii) he will be a member of the National Executive of the party in addition to the representative of the State Swatantra Youth.
- iii) his work will be to inspect and supervise the work of all State Swatantra youth organisations and report on that work to the National Executive of the party and in general act as the National leader of Swatantra youth in the country.
- iv) he will act as liaison officer between Swatantra Youth and the National Executive and National Council of the Swatantra Party of each of which bodies he will be a member.

AN APPEAL TO THE YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY:

An appeal should be drafted and published broadcast to the youth of the country, showing why they should join and help the Swatantra Party. The following points might be made in that appeal:

1. The Swatantra Party appeals to the idealism, enthusiasm and adventurous spirit of youth
2. For it stands for the free activity, initiative and enterprise of individual free men and women.
3. It would free the individual from the Dependence on the State and Government for which the Congress and other Socialist parties stand - a dependence that would make the individual citizen spoon-fed, flabby and feeble looking like beggars and dependents always to the state and Government for the necessities of life.
4. It looks to the State and Government only for removing the obstacles to the progress and prosperity of the self-made citizen like illiteracy, slums, insanitary villages, inadequate housing, insufficient communications, laws and policies that stand in the way of economic progress, a lopsided system of education which leads only to large scale of unemployment and desperate frustration.
5. On the positive side it will provide for technical and commercial training at the middle school and high school stages that will lead to much better paid employment than a mere literary education even if it is of the B.A. standard.
6. It will provide for relief from the burden of indirect taxation which presses hard upon the poor and lower income groups.
7. It provides a foreign and defence policy which will call for aid and alliance from freedom loving countries against the nearby threats of Communism and incidentally release funds now locked up in heavy defence expenditure for generous expenditure on schemes of social welfare.
8. It stands not for socialism which would pull the State into business and the industry for which the State with its bureaucracy and bureaucratic methods of management is not fit but for the social welfare of the people - it will tolerate State Activity only in public utilities like the railways, irrigation, hydro-electric works.
9. The State under Swatantra is a director and controller and watchman of private business and it can best do that only when it can act as an umpire and it can act as umpire only when it stands out of business and industry.
10. Youth's love of adventure will be especially satisfied by the call of the Swatantra party to dislodge from power this Goliath of the Congress party and Government which has lain so hard and heavy on the lives and activities of the poor people of India.