

4/20

REPORT ON BENARES SEMINAR

1959

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While I have not yet received the minutes of the discussion, I think it would be worth while giving a brief report to the Central Organising Committee as a further meeting of the Seminar, in a somewhat enlarged manner, is being planned to take place in Delhi some time in March.

In so far as anything concrete is concerned, the effort to establish an area of agreement between political parties and Sarvodaya workers resulted in the following recommendations:

- (1) While direct elections to Parliament and State assemblies should continue, an attempt at non-party democracy should be made at the primary levels. Thus, at the level of the village panchayat, there should be no election at all, and the members of the panchayat should be selected by unanimity, or by nomination by a panel unanimously elected, or where these were not available, by lots.

From this upwards to the district, there should be indirect elections by proportional representation. Thus, members of the village panchayat would form an electoral college for selection of members of the panchayat samiti, and members of the panchayat samitis would form an electoral college for selection of members for the District council.

- (2) At the level of Parliament and State assemblies, by-elections should normally not be contested, the party whose member has vacated the seat being allowed to retain the seat.

In Parliament and assemblies, there should be a free vote on all issues outside the fundamental principles of the Party. The Committee

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Such a minimum programme of limiting Party strife should be sought to be implemented by agreement between leading parties who would accept such a self-denying ordinance. The problem of the Communist Party and the difficulty of accepting its assurances in the same way as those of democratic parties was discussed at length. While there was no answer forthcoming to this problem, the Sarvodaya workers' feeling was that the non-participation by the Communists in such an arrangement or their violation of such agreement would put them in the wrong with the people and deny them the gains that might otherwise be secured.

The position taken by me was that the Swatantra Party, by reason of point 21 of its Statement of Principles, had already taken the initiative in this direction and that, while I could not make any commitment on behalf of the Party, it would certainly go as far as any other party in agreeing to a self-denying ordinance of the nature outlined above, provided it was assured that other parties could be depended on to do likewise.

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- (2) At the level of Parliament and State assemblies, expenditure should normally not be controlled, the party chosen under the electoral law being allowed to recruit the best.

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- (4) At the level of Parliament and State assemblies, restrictions should generally not be accepted, the party alone should be trusted the post being allowed to obtain the seat.

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To Bombay

40, Canning Lane,
New Delhi 1.

14th December 1959.

Dear Mr. Dhadda,

Thank you for your letter No.10838 of the
9th instant.

This is to confirm my arrival by IAC plane
at 10.40 a.m. on the morning of Friday, 1st January.

Before your letter came, I had also asked
Trade Wings to write to Clark's Hotel and ask for
accommodation for me which they have done, as I do
not think it is fair that the Sarva Seva Sangh should
be burdened with our accommodation problems. If
there is any difficulty, however, in my getting accom-
modation at Clark's, I shall write and ask for your
assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Siddharaj Dhadda,
Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh,
Sadhana Kendra,
Rajghat,
Kashi.

M. R. Masani
(M. R. MASANI)

AKHIL BHARAT SARVA SEVA SANGH
Sadhana Kendra.

No. 10838

Rajghat
for Kashi

Rajghat,
Kashi
D/-9/12/59.

Dear Mr. Masani,

I am obliged to you for your letter of the 30th from Bombay. I am glad to note that you will be arriving here, on January 1, by Plane from Delhi. We are making arrangements for your stay here either in the Circuit House or at the Clark Hotel. The meeting will take place at the new premises of the Sarva Seva Sangh which is situated on the Grand Trunk Rd. just near the Kashi Railway Station. The meeting will begin on 1st. most probably in the afternoon. Some one of us will meet you at the Air-port and conduct you to the place of your stay.

Yours sincerely,

Siddharaj Dhadha
(Siddharaj Dhadha)

Shri M.R. Masani,
M.P.,
New Delhi.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र

इस पत्र के अन्तर कुछ न रलिये



Shri M. R. Hasane, M.P.,
40, Canning Lane,
New Delhi

AKHIL BHARAT SARVA SEVA SANGH
Pradhan, Loknaya
K. 3814, Golghat, Varanasi

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :-

पत्रों काट कर बेचिये ->

Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh

148 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay 1.

30th November, 1959.

Dear Mr. Dhadha,

Thank you for your letter No. 10121 of 23rd instant and the kind invitation to participate in a group discussion at Varanasi from January 1 to 7. As I mentioned to Jayaprekashji, I shall be very happy to join the discussion from January 1 to 3 but will have to leave then in order to keep certain commitments I have already made elsewhere from January 4.

I propose to arrive by plane from Delhi at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 1, and will be leaving for Delhi by plane on Sunday, January 3, at 2.40 p.m. I shall be obliged if you will kindly arrange for my accommodation during that time.

Will you please let me have a line mentioning where I shall be staying and the time and place of the meeting so that I may know where to proceed on arrival at the airport?

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Siddharaj Dhadha,
Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh,
(Sadhana Kendra),
Rajghat,
Kashi. (U.P.)

(M. R. MASANI)

MRM:RKA.

Tele { Gram : 'SARVASEVA' VARANASI
Phone ~~XXXXXX~~ 1285 Ext.

No 10/21 Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh

~~XXXXXX, Golghar, Varanasi~~
(SADHANA KENDRA)

Rajghat, Kashi.

Date-23/11/59.

Dear Mr. Masani,

I am sending by separate post a paper by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan on the "Reconstruction of Indian Polity".

Considering the importance of the subject, it is proposed to hold a small group discussion so that the various questions raised by Shri Jayaprakashji's proposals could be thrashed out. I am enclosing herewith a list of the invitees to the group discussion which will be held here, at Varanasi, from the 1st to the 7th January, 1960.

I request you, on behalf of the Sarva Seva Sangh, to kindly make it convenient to attend the discussion. I trust, it will be possible for you to stay here for the full time during which the discussion on various aspects of the subject will go on. Arrangements for your stay will be made here. It would be convenient to get down at Kashi Railway Station, which is situated between Mughalsarai and Varanasi Jn. All trains stop at this station.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly intimate to me the date, train and time of your arrival. I shall be awaiting an early reply from you.

Shri M. R. Masani
M. R.
40, Canning Lane
New Delhi
Encl. 1.

Yours sincerely,
(Signature)
(Siddharaj Dhadha)

"GROUP DISCUSSION ON "RECONSTRUCTION OF INDIAN POLITY"

(VARANASI - 1ST TO 7TH JANUARY, 1960.)

LIST OF INVITEES

1. Acharya J.B.Kripalani
2. Sri Pyarelal
3. Prof. Gopinath Dhawan (Lucknow University)
4. Sri U.N.Dhebar
5. Sri Ashok Mehta
6. Sri Gangasharan Sinha
7. Sri Sriman Narayan
8. Prof. M.L.Dantwala (Bombay)
9. Lala Ferozechand (Punjab)
10. Dada Dharmadhikari
11. Sri K.Kelappan
12. Sri M.R.Masani
13. Sri Balwantrao Mehta
14. Sri S.K.Dey (Union Minister, Community Development)
15. Sri Dharendra Mazumdar
16. Sri Anna Sahasrabuddhe
17. Sri Shankarrao Deo
18. Sri Siddharaj Dhadda
19. Sri Navakrishna Chaudhury
20. Sri Vallabhaswamy
21. Sri Vaikunthlal Mehta
22. Sri Narayan Desai
23. Smt. Vimala Thakar
24. Smt. Nirmala Deshpande
25. Sri S.Jagannathan
26. Sri E.W.Aryanayakam
27. Sri Poorna Chandra Jain
28. Sri Achyutrao Patawardhan
29. Sri Ramachandra Gora
30. Sri Radhakrishnan
31. Sri Jayaprakash Narayan.
