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PERSONAL

January 24, 1944.

My dear Rajaji,

* I have tried to analyse the scheme forwarded by you with your letter of January 20 and find that it involves amendments to the Constitution on the lines of the attached draft. This could be discussed by the General Council as a substitute motion to that recommended by the Central Organising Committee. As I mentioned in my letter yesterday, I think it would be better to try and get the C.O.C. scheme through and only fall back on this alternative as a last resort. I imagine that is your own thought also.

Yours sincerely,

Encl: 3

(M. R. Masani)

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mrn:pz

DRAFT

SWATANTRA PARTY

Alternate Proposals For Amendments To The Constitution

Clause 4 Membership

Substitute for the existing clause the following:

Any person over the age of 18 who subscribes in writing to the principles of the Party, pays the prescribed fee and expresses his readiness to work for the Party will be eligible to be enrolled in the Roll of Workers of the Party.

Work for the Party may be any of the following activities:

- (a) Recruiting and introducing new members;
- (b) Collection of funds;
- (c) Acceptance of executive responsibilities in the Party;
- (d) Preparation of literature;
- (e) Distribution of literature;
- (f) Organisation of study circles and meetings;
- (g) Helping to run Party offices;
- (h) Attending to public grievances on behalf of the Party and securing their redress;
- (i) Functioning, when called upon, as prospective candidate of the Party to an elective public body;
- (j) Any other approved activity.

Every person above the age of 18 who subscribes in writing to the principles of the Party will be eligible for membership of the Party.

Decisions in regard to enrolment of workers and members shall normally be taken by the State Executive Committee. Whenever the State Executive has doubts as to the desirability of enrolling a worker or member, it shall forward the application with its comments to the National Executive, which shall, after considering the application and the comments directly or through an appropriate body, decide whether or not the worker or member

should be enrolled, and such decision shall be final.

Clause 5

Subscription

- Every*
- (i) ~~Each~~ Worker of the Party will pay in advance a subscription of Rs. 5/- per year. Those Workers paying in advance the sum of Rs. 50/- will be enrolled as Life Workers of the Party. Persons already enrolled as permanent members of the Party by the end of 1963 will be entitled to claim exemption from paying any other fee as Life Workers.
- (ii) Every Worker will continue to be on the roll of Workers as long as he pays his dues. Each Worker of the Party will be issued an identity card.
- (iii) The National Executive of the Party will have the authority to expel a Worker or a member if in its opinion, which shall be final, his continued membership of the Party is undesirable.
- (iv) The subscription for Workers and Life Workers shall be divided between the various bodies of the Party in the following manner:
- Constituency 20 per cent, District 50 per cent, State of Region 25 per cent, Centre 5 per cent. Provided that the State or Regional Council may modify the proportion in which the membership subscription is to be distributed within the State or Region.
- Only Workers and Life Workers will be qualified to hold office in the Party and ~~have~~ membership ~~of~~ the Executive Committees in the constituencies, districts, states and ~~other~~ ^{all} centres.
- (v) Every unit shall maintain appropriate accounts of the receipts and expenditure, which shall be annually audited.

Clause 6

Substitute for the existing sub-clause (b) the following:

In every primary unit where there are not less than ²⁰~~250~~ Workers or Life Workers, the District Executive Committee will nominate a Constituency Committee

Clause 7

Substitute for the existing sub-clauses (b) and (c) the following:

The State Executive Committee will nominate the office bearers and Executive ^{Committee} for each district

Clause 8

State Or Regional Committees

For this clause substitute the following:

- one General Secretary*
- (a) For every State or any part thereof, as may be recognised by the General Council for this purpose, there shall be a Regional or State Executive Committee consisting of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, ^{one or more} ~~one or more~~ General Secretaries, one or more Treasurers and not less than 10 and not more than 20 other members.
 - (b) The office-bearers and Executive Committee for each State shall be elected by Workers and Life Workers of the Party in that State, provided that 3 members of the Executive Committee who are prepared to enrol themselves according to the rules as Workers or Life Workers of the Party, if not already so enrolled, will be elected by the members of the State Unit meeting for the purpose.

Such meetings of members of the Party in a State will also be competent to adopt resolutions in the form of recommendations to the State Executive Committee.

Clause 10

National Executive

For the existing sub-clauses substitute the following:

- (a) The National Executive shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, one or more Treasurers and not less than 10 and not more than 20 members, besides the co-opted or nominated members referred to in Clause 11.
- (b) The office-bearers of the Party shall be elected by the Life Workers of the Party meeting at the time of the Party's National Convention.
- (c) The other members of the National Executive will be elected from amongst themselves by the Workers of the Party, by a method of proportional representation, meeting at the time of the National Convention.

Clause 13

For sub-clauses (b) and (c) substitute the following:

The National Convention of the Party shall be constituted of the Workers and Life Workers of the Party throughout the country.

Swatantra Party



Constitution



*Adopted at the National Convention
in Patna on March 19 & 20, 1960*

Swatantra Party

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Party shall be the Swatantra Party.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Party shall be to further and endeavour to put into effect the principles adopted by the Convention in Bombay on August 1 and 2, 1959, and such policies and programmes as the Party may from time to time adopt in furtherance of those principles.

3. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Party shall be located at such place as may from time to time be decided by the General Council.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Every person above the age of 21 who shall subscribe to the principles of the Party and pay the prescribed annual fee shall be eligible to be a member of the Party.

5. SUBSCRIPTION

- (a) The subscription for membership shall be divided between the various bodies of the Party in the following manner:

Constituency 20 per cent, District 50 per cent, State or Region 25 per cent, Centre 5 per cent. Provided that the State or Regional Council may modify the ratios of distribution for the State or Region as it may deem fit.

- (b) Every unit shall maintain appropriate accounts of the receipts and expenditure, which shall be annually audited.

6. PRIMARY UNITS

- (a) A primary unit of the Party shall be formed in respect of every Legislative Assembly constituency in the State.
- (b) Every such primary unit shall elect a Constituency Committee provided there
- Subs*

are not less than 250 members in that constituency.

Provided that the State or Regional authority may for more convenient discharge of the Party's work authorise the formation of a Committee for any area comprising more than one constituency or for any area smaller than one constituency.

7. DISTRICT COMMITTEE

- (a) For every revenue district of the State, there shall be a District Committee constituted of such number of members as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the State or Region.
- (b) Such members of the District Committee shall be elected by the elected members of the primary bodies of that district by proportional representation.
- (c) Each District Committee shall elect a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries and one or more Treasurers.

8. STATE OR REGIONAL ~~COUNCILS~~ Committees

- (a) For every State or any part thereof, as may be recognised by the General Council for this purpose, there shall be a State or Regional Council.
- (b) Every such State or Regional Council shall be constituted of such a number of members as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Executive. Such members of the State or Regional Council shall be elected by the elected members of all the District Committees in the State or Region by the method of proportional representation.
- (c) Each State or Regional Council shall elect an Executive Committee consisting of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, one or more Treasurers and not less than 10 and not more than 20 other members.

9. GENERAL COUNCIL

- (a) There shall be a General Council consisting of not more than 250 members.

- (b) The General Council shall be constituted of not less than 3 and not more than 20 members from each State or Region as the case may be.
- (c) The number of members allotted to each State or Regional Party between the minimum and the maximum mentioned in sub-clause (b) shall be determined in proportion to the number of members enrolled in the State or Region as the case may be.
- (d) The members of the General Council allotted to a State or Region shall be elected by the members of the appropriate State or Regional Council by proportional representation.

10. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

- Subs*
- (a) The General Council shall elect the National Executive of the Party.
 - (b) The National Executive shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, one or more Treasurers and not less than 10 and not more than 20 members, besides the co-opted or nominated members referred to in Clause 11.
 - (c) *Subs* The election of office-bearers and members of the National Executive shall take place at a meeting of the General Council and, if possible, such meeting may be held on the eve of the Annual Convention.

11. CO-OPTION

- (a) The General Council shall be entitled to co-opt members who shall not be more than one-tenth of the number of its elected members.
- (b) The President shall, for giving representation to unrepresented States or Regions or for other reasons, have the power to nominate not more than 7 members elected under Rule 10.
- (c) The State or Regional Councils shall be entitled to co-opt a number of members

not more than one-tenth of the respective numbers of their elected members.

- (d) A State or Regional Council as the case may be shall have the power to authorise a District or Constituency Committee to co-opt members in number not more than one-tenth of the number of elected members of such bodies.

12. TERM OF OFFICE

- (a) The first elections to the primary bodies, District Committees, State or Regional Councils and General Council shall be held before the end of 1960 and thereafter by the end of every alternate year.
- (b) Members duly enrolled by 30th September 1960 will be entitled to vote in the first elections to the bodies referred to in sub-clause (a).
- (c) The elections to the State and Regional Executive Committees and the National Executive referred to in clause 8 and 10 shall be held as soon as practicable after the elections to the Committees and Councils are held as provided in sub-clause (a).

13. NATIONAL CONVENTION

- (a) The National Convention of the Party shall be held at least once every year.
- Amended* (b) The Convention shall be constituted of delegates elected on the basis of direct election by primary members of the Party in such manner as may be prescribed by the General Council.
- (c) The appropriate strength of delegates from each State shall be determined by the General Council.

14. STATE OR REGIONAL CONVENTION

- Amended* (a) Every State or Region as the case may be shall hold an Annual Convention of the Party for making recommendations in regard to the policy of the Party and for deciding policy in respect of matters relating to the State or the Region concerned.

- (b) Delegates to such Conventions shall be elected on the basis of direct election by primary members in the State or Region in such manner as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the State or Region.

15. RULES

- (a) The General Council shall have the power to prescribe by rules such matters as are herein provided to be so prescribed and such other matters which may be necessary for or incidental to carrying out the objects of the Party.
- (b) Subject to the rule making powers of the General Council, the National Executive shall have the power to frame such rules as may be necessary for or incidental to carrying out the programme or activities of the Party.
- (c) Every State or Regional Council shall have the power to prescribe by rules such matters as are herein provided to be so prescribed and such other matters as may be found necessary to carry out its functions and duties in accordance with the Constitution.

16. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at the Annual Convention

- (a) on the recommendation of the General Council by a majority of delegates present and voting at such Convention, or
- (b) on a proposal by 200 members of the Party by a three-fourths majority of the delegates present and voting, provided 30 days clear notice thereof had been given to the National Executive.

17. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Central Organising Committee shall have power to make transitional arrangements for purposes necessary for, or incidental to, the functioning of the Party.

Swatantra Party

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION *Recommended by the Central Organising Committee*

1 *Clause 4. Membership*

Substitute for the existing clause the following:

5 Every person above the age of 18 who subscribes in writing to the principles of the Party, pays the prescribed fee and expresses his readiness to work for the Party will be eligible for membership of the Party.

Work for the Party may be any of the following activities:

- (a) Recruiting and introducing new members;
- (b) Collection of funds;
- (c) Acceptance of executive responsibilities in the Party;
- 10 (d) Preparation of literature;
- (e) Distribution of literature;
- (f) Organisation of study circles and meetings;
- (g) Helping to run Party offices;
- 15 (h) Attending to public grievances on behalf of the Party and securing their redress;
- (i) Functioning, when called upon, as prospective candidate of the Party to an elective public body;
- (j) Any other approved activity.

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Decisions in regard to enrolment of members shall normally be taken by the State Executive Committee. Whenever the State Executive has doubts as to the desirability of enrolling a member, it shall forward the application with its comments to the National Executive, which shall, after considering the application and the comments directly or through an appropriate body, decide whether or not the member should be enrolled, and such decision shall be final.

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1 **Clause 5. Subscription**

The clause shall read as follows:

- 5 (i) Each member of the Party will pay a subscription of Rs. 10/- per year, or a life membership fee of Rs. 100/-. The State Unit will be at liberty, in special cases, to collect the fee in reasonable instalments. Persons already enrolled as permanent members of the Party by the end of 1963 will be entitled to claim exemption from paying any further fee as Life Members.
- 10 (ii) Membership of the Party will continue as long as a member pays his dues. Each member of the Party will be issued an identity card.
- (iii) The National Executive of the Party will have the authority to expel a member if in its opinion, which shall be final, his continued membership of the Party is undesirable.
- 15 (iv) The subscription for membership shall be divided between the various bodies of the Party in the following manner:
- 20 Constituency 20 per cent, District 50 per cent, State or Region 25 per cent, Centre 5 per cent. Provided that the State or Regional Council may modify the proportion in which the membership subscription is to be distributed within the State or Region.
- (v) Every unit shall maintain appropriate accounts of the receipts and expenditure, which shall be annually audited.

Clause 5 A: Associates:

Add a new clause 5 A as follows:

- 25 Every person above the age of 18 who subscribes in writing to the principles of the Party will be eligible to be an Associate of the Party. No fee will be payable by an Associate. An Associate of the Party will have no right to vote in any Party elections. Meetings of such Associates may be convened from time to time
- 30 by the State, District or Constituency Committees so that they may be given opportunities to be consulted and associated with the work of the Party.

Clause 6: Primary Units

In sub clause (b), substitute for the figure 250 the figure 20.