

for Mr. Raju
4523
POINTS NOTED BY MR. PARAMESWAR
DURING THE GENERAL COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY
HELD AT MADRAS ON 1.6.1968.

4 P.M.

Mr. B.P. Singh on the Resolution moved by Mr. S. Saran.

Reason for moving the Resolution - In no way should reflect on the National Executive - Only seeks to supplement the decision that we have already taken - No personal grudge against HM Patel or CC Desai. - The leadership in Gujarat has failed to bring harmony between the State Workers and the Central Leaders - State Workers are the links of Central Office - If this is not done they have no business to remain in office - Gujarat leaders did not persuade the State Workers to carry out the Central Directive -

No pledge was given by Masani - Understanding was at the instance of the Gujarat leaders - Serious allegations against State Leaders by the Gujarat M.L.As in the explanations received - Extracts read.....from Mr. Natvarsingh Solanki's and Chunilal Vasave's explanations -

Point of Order by Col. H.R. Pasricha:

The papers from which the extracts are quoted have not been circulated to the members of G.C. I object to this. -

Chairman: Point of order negatived.

Mr. B.P. Singh: We cannot brush aside the allegations if we take pledge of the loyalty. I propose that a Committee of Enquiry should be set up and it should find out how much is true and how much is not true and suggest action, if any. When a question was put by Rajaji to Mr. C.C. Desai he admitted that ^{he} worked against our official candidate. He said that he acted because his conscience told him to do like that - I would have....

Mr. C.C. Desai: Leave my conscience to me.

Mr.B.P.Singh:

If the M.L.As are really sorry then they should address a letter to Babubhai Vaidya to that effect for their misconduct and giving their personal assurance to get him elected in 1970 biennial election from Gujarat.

ANSWER FROM MANY: "NO"

4.25 P.M.

Piloo Mody: Really pained and hurt. Discussion on this subject is extremely irrelevant - Very unfortunate such a Resolution was moved - In order to prove of what I say now, I am making a written speech -
(read)

Mr.P.K.Deo: It is very difficult to build a Party - So far Gujarat is one of the best strongholds because of large number of M.Ps and M.L.As from there. We all plead there should be more discipline in the Party - In this respect as far as Gujarat is concerned, we are perturbed at the news of what happened - We are not after their blood - We do not wish to expel them - The only thing to do in this regard is to give them punishment as the situation demands. - They have pleaded guilty - We do not want another Kerala or U.P. - The matter should be closed and there should be no discussion on this - Take the case of Orissa - Only in the name of discipline though majority of the M.L.As were against the candidate, the directive issued by the Centre was respected - The man of the trouble i.e. Mr.Mahida has already been punished and therefore no further action should be taken - I request the mover of the Resolution to withdraw it.

5.00 P.M.
After Tea.

Col. H.R.Pasricha: Now the question before us should be how to save the Party - The meaning of pledge should be interpreted properly; otherwise this will be beginning of the end - Therefore cut out a few words of the Resolution and make it mild - The decision of today at this meeting will determine the future of the Party. — ?

Mr.R.M.Sheshadri: Mr.Masani should offer himself for the vacancy created by his resignation - It is a sin to go against the wishes of the founder leader Rajaji - Should take a realistic view - Since all feel sorry for all that happened, the matter should be dropped - Accept the assurance of H.M.Patel - I find that the National Executive Members have not been given all the connected papers with the explanation of the M.L.As - The resolution of 1965 is not there -

Mr.Masani: It is there in the article written by me for Swarajya Annual.

Mr.Sheshadri: When it has already been decided to take action and to expel them what is the use of calling us here? The N.E. should have made recommendation and the G.C. should be asked to take a decision. The action proposed is rather severe - Make Mahida also a friend.

Mrs.Kailash Rekhee: The attitude towards the erring members should be in a motherly way - wrongs are and mistakes are committed by the children but mother takes them lightly and attempts to correct them . Even God forgives us - Request Masani to make a sacrifice at this stage.

Mr. Tribikram Tripathi:

One member has come out saying that he has defied the order of the Centre. I think nobody should defy the directives of the High Command - Better to have one Gem than 34 Junks.

Mr. Narendrasingh Jhala:

My President will sum up everything - Only one thing should be seen as to whether the Resolution or decision is in furtherance of the Party's Cause. All the M.L.As have given an assurance to the new Leader H.H. Baria that there will not be any such indiscipline. In view of this no further action should be taken. If action is taken the Party in Gujarat will be ruined. We always accept that Swatantra Party is one. The Resolution should be withdrawn unconditionally

Mr. Viren J. Shah:

Referred to Rajaji's statement in the June 1st issue of Swarajya - Gujarat Politics is a cancer to the Centre - Pálloo Mody referred to the damage done by the letter of Mr. Masani and Dr. Munshi which appeared in the Press - Cannot say how these papers reached the hands of Press people - Since these letters have been circulated to all the members someone may have leaked to the press - It would be worthwhile to enquire "whether people will have faith in Swatantra Party"

Mr.C.C.Desai:

Although I have already spoken at the N.E. I think I must speak here also to make my position clear; otherwise there will be misunderstanding. Regarding the question put to me by Rajaji yesterday at the N.E. there is no record of that conversation. I do not attach much importance - I did go to Ahmedabad and attended the meeting - I was not asked by the CPB to speak for one side or the other - I straight went to that place from the Airport - I found all the Members have already decided of whom to vote. - They were upset with the official candidate who was not a member of Swatantra Party - Mr.Babubhai Vaidya was reported to have said that if elected to Parliament, he will oppose the Swatantra Party ideologies -

Mr.Masani: It is not true.

Mr.Desai:

I was a witness to the situation - It was useless to persuade the members to vote for Vaidya - You cannot dictate to them; they are not cattle - You can only persuade - I went to Bhaikaka and requested him to withdraw the candidature of Babubhai but he did not agree - I expressed my view that he will be defeated. There was no obligation on me to persuade anyone - There was no question of defying any order of the High Command - I am in service since 35 years where the first consideration is discipline and no one can say that I left in disgrace. I have enforced discipline in myself - It simply amuses me that a Show Cause Notice for indiscipline will have to be served on me. Who went to the Press? Why all this? Mr.Masani is responsible for all this. I am not afraid to say about the indiscipline of Bhaikaka.

I appeal even at this late stage to Mr.Masani to come back and play his part. I shall reply the Show Cause Notice, if ~~received~~ received.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari:

I want this matter to be disposed off now.

Mr. Dandeker:

In view of what has been said I wish to move a Resolution requesting Mr. Masani to offer himself for re-election to the N.E.

Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao:

There is a pertinent point - Dr. Anthani who has been elected with the help of Babubhai Vaidya's Group is still in Parliament - We cannot go back and break the promise. We took help to keep out Congress - Before Mr. Masani withdraws his resignation we must create conditions for the same - Otherwise how can we approach Mr. Masani?

Mr. Paikada: I have not been given sufficient opportunity to speak.

Chairman Do you want your Resolution to be put for vote?

Mr. Paikada: Yes.

The Resolution was put to vote - 12 voted in favour of the Resolution and the rest against it.

Mr. Irani: I would like to assure Rajaji and the members that there are no motives in Mr. E. P. Singh's Resolution - 5 individuals were left in considerable doubt - The pledge was given by the Gujarat Party - There was no objection to the decision taken by CPB on Babubhai's candidate - Gujarat did not come forward with the facts to explain their position even at the N.E. held at Cochin.

I do not agree with Rajaji's remarks of "Rash Pledge". The pledge was genuine. It was specifically to win the seat and defeat Congress. Therefore the pledge is not at all rash. We do not stand for power at all. We stand for some principles. Here is a moral issue.

Mr. B. P. Singh:

I do not propose to withdraw my Resolution - Pledges should be honoured - Sardar Patel gave a pledge to the princes and "SWARAJYA" is in furtherance of this cause - Even U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. who are opposed to each other agreed to honour the pledges entered into. Just one poster displaying Bhaikaka's remarks "ONLY FOOLS WILL TRUST SWATANTRA PARTY - SD/- Bhailalbhai Patel" is enough to kill the Swatantra Party.

The Resolution was put to vote - 15 votes in favour and the rest against. - Motion lost.

Mr. Masani:

I think that what we do now is going to be against the growth of this Party, the very survival and existence in the months and years to come. The Swatantra Party's aim was the last hope for democracy. I have explained my views in my article to the SWARAJYA ANNUAL 1968. This was based on my experience as the General Secretary of the Party for a long number of years. Since then the trouble arose in Gujarat; we miserably lost in Bombay Municipal Elections; we lost the two sure seats in Rajasthan; a serious setback in Haryana mid-term elections. The reasons for them are given in my article. Our Principles are very good. ^{At least} we can stick to 50% and it will bring success.

Our President describes the Resolution of the N.E. as a scrap of paper. There are many bad limbs and they should be amputated -

Re: Criticisms for rushing to the Press - Mr. Dandekar had a Press Conference - Hindustan Times wrote an article after the Press Conference. What am I to do? To Keep silent? It is essential to explain my position in response to the request of Mr. Dandekar

to withdraw my resignation. I purposely kept this pending for the election results of Haryana. My resignation has held the honour of our Party. It was essential for me to tell why I did not withdraw my resignation. Is it a free Party or a totalitarian Party? There is a lot of Badmasi in the Party. As a democrat it is my duty to make others know of the position.

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(Rest of the portion recorded by Mr.Srinivasan)